Middlewich & District Foodbank – Complaints Procedure

Middlewich & District Foodbank is committed to delivering a high standard of service to anyone who engages with our work. We believe that the best way to improve our service is by learning from the people who use it.

We welcome comments, compliments and complaints from the people who use our food bank, referral agencies, volunteers and anyone else we come into contact with in our work. These help us to see what we are doing well and where we can make improvements.

We aim to promote an environment where people are encouraged to raise and discuss issues informally and, where necessary, seek solutions to prevent them developing into problems or complaints. However, we recognise that there may be situations where people are not happy with the outcome of an informal discussion or feel that the issue needs to be taken further. In these cases, Middlewich & District Foodbank has a complaints procedure so that we can work towards a resolution in a fair and transparent manner.

Our Promise and Commitment

We recognise that there may be times when our services and activities do not meet your expectations. If this happens, it is important that we know about it as soon as possible so that we can deal with the situation effectively to try to prevent it from happening again and to learn from our mistakes. We promise to take all feedback and complaints seriously and to deal with them in a timely manner.

How to register a complaint or give feedback

If you have a complaint, or would like to share a concern, compliment or comment on any aspect of our service, you can contact us in one of the following ways:

- In person to staff/volunteers at the food bank
- By phone: 07712 279949
- By email: info@middlewichdistrict.foodbank.org.uk
- Write to the following address:

  Middlewich & District Foodbank
  Unit 7 – Holly House Estate
  Middlewich Road
  Middlewich
  CW10 9LT

Please tell us what your complaint or feedback is about and what you would like to see happen as a result. Please also tell us how we may contact you.

What will happen after I complain?

1. We will acknowledge your complaint within five working days of receipt and provide you with the name of the person responsible for investigating the matter on your behalf.
2. The person responsible for the investigation will write to you with their findings and proposed resolution within twenty eight days from receipt of the complaint*.
3. If you are dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation you may appeal or escalate your concerns to Simon Drew , Chair of Trustees, letters must be received within twenty one working days of the date on the correspondence notifying you of the outcome of the first investigation.
4. The complaint will be reinvestigated, and you will be informed of the outcome within 10 working days*.

** unless the complaint is particularly complex or time-consuming, in which case you will be kept informed of the progress of the investigation and notified of the expected date of completion.*

Wherever possible, Middlewich & District Foodbank will respect your confidentiality and keep your complaint confidential as far as possible. Any information about the complaint will usually only be shared with those who need to know in order to help resolve it.

There may, however, be occasions when we cannot provide absolute confidentiality, for example in circumstances where a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm.

Data Privacy Statement

Middlewich & District Foodbank is registered as a data controller with the UK Information Commissioner's Office under registration number ZA199112

We use the personal information that you provide in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018 to process your complaint. We have a legitimate interest in holding this information in order to be able to monitor and improve our services.

We will collect personal information including your name and contact details, including postal address, telephone number, email address and social media contact information, in order to be able to investigate your complaint and to communicate with you about it. We will also collect sufficient information about the situation that you are contacting us about to be able to understand what has happened and help you seek a resolution to your complaint.

Where your complaint relates to services involving our partners, for example a referral agency or the Trussell Trust, then we may need to share your information with a third party.

We keep this information for 12 months after your complaint has been closed, unless we have a requirement to keep it longer, in which case we will inform you of this. After this time the data will be aggregated and anonymised.

For further information about how we use your personal information see our Privacy Policy in the 'Policies & Procedures section of our website using the following link Middlewich & District Foodbank

Date Reviewed: 28th April 2026