



Dear Friends

On Saturday 13 April, Liz Jenkin and I took the Freecycle donations from Little Steps and Tiny Toes over to the **Fenland Family & Baby Bank** in Wisbech. Facebook link [HERE](#). It was a very humbling experience, as we listened to the founder and director of the project, Rachel Green, and some of the many volunteers, telling their story.

The project is a Community Interest Company, whose aim is to help relieve child poverty for families with children of 0-5 years old, where their parents/guardians are experiencing financial hardship. Fenland continues to rank as more deprived than other areas in Cambridgeshire and is in the most deprived 20-30% of local authorities in England. Unsurprisingly, health and educational outcomes for Wisbech, a medium-sized town (based on population) has some of the highest levels of deprivation in the country.

We are clear that the primary commitment of the Freecycle is to our groups and our local area, especially where we can support friends from Ukraine and other very difficult situations. We also know that in a relatively well-resourced area, there are individuals who need support, as the cost of housing increases.

However, Liz and I are happy to go over once a term (more if needed) with contributions for Wisbech. As you can see, items are clean and beautifully displayed, and there are plans to expand as the second shop (they are next door to one another) is being refurbished by volunteers. That will house equipment: baby baths, cots, prams, pushchairs, highchairs and even car seats. There are even plans for the second shop to house a family support centre – and we are sure that this will happen. The energy and compassion of those working so hard at this venture was astonishing.

I asked about needs:

- clothes for 12-18 months and 12-24 months
- highchairs -buggies
- cots -baby baths
- stairgates -new soft toys
- car seats -new toiletries
- unopened baby milk powder -larger nappies (5+)



Nappies can be part-bags, as these will be checked and bags re-sealed. The bank also accepts school clothes for children 0-13 years. However, **IF YOU ARE BRINGING EQUIPMENT, PLEASE ASK US FIRST.**

**If in doubt, contact Rachel Green
07985 727025.**

ALL ITEMS DO NEED TO BE CLEAN AND IN GOOD OR EXCELLENT CONDITION.