

Ballynahinch Back to School Uniform Event August 2018

Background

The CYPSP Down Locality Planning Group in partnership with the Ballynahinch Community Collective, CAP (Christians against Poverty) County Down Rural Community Network, Homestart, Lisburn YMCA, & Newry Mourne and Down District Council hosted a **Back to School Uniform Fair** at the Edengrove Church Ballynahinch in August 2018. The event provided free uniforms to families preparing to return to school.

The **Back to School Event** was piloted in Downpatrick last year as a result of the expressed needs from the community. The Downpatrick Back to School Project engaged with over 126 families locally over the course of the project with 96% of families reported the positive benefits of the events. This year, the project extended to the wider Down sector. Ballynahinch was the second in a series of three Back to School Fairs hosted by the CYPSP Down Locality Planning Group, Downpatrick and Newcastle also hosted events.

The partnership met in the spring 2018 to plan the events and reflect on the valuable lessons learned from last year. Parents and schools were encouraged to donate clean good quality uniforms, the uniforms were sorted and offered to families at the beginning of August, a time parents begin to prepare for Back to School.

Find Out More:

For more information on the role of the CYPSP Down Locality Planning Group please visit: www.cypsp.org/locality-planning-groups/down-locality-planning-group

Contact Us:

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CYPSP's Strategy for NI High Level Outcome Contributions

All Children and Young People experience economic and environmental wellbeing.

All Children and Young People live in safety and stability

All Children and Young People Learn and Achieve

Contributing to the Newry Mourne and Down Community

All people in Newry Mourne and Down enjoy good health and wellbeing

All people in Newry Mourne and Down fulfil their lifelong potential



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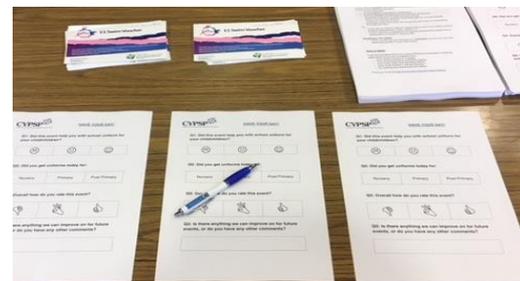
How much did we do?

- A partnership of 7 Down LPG members; Ballynahinch Collective, Christians Against Poverty (CAP), County Down Rural Community Network, Lisburn YMCA, NMDDC, SEHSCT and HSCB worked in partnership to host the Back to School Uniform Event alongside 19 volunteers who contributed their time to the project
- 3 Primary Schools and 3 Post-Primary Schools participated on the project
- Over 300 items of school clothing including blazers, trousers, shirts and skirts were donated to the project in Ballynahinch
- 1 Back to School Uniform Fair held over one full day with a number of additional local events contributing to the project
- Over 1000 flyers were distributed to schools, churches, parents groups, community centres prior to the events, 1 press release published in the Down Recorder and a social media reach of over 1770 individuals via Twitter and 2,239 individuals via Facebook.



How well did we do it?

- The project was delivered in kind; contributions included room hire and catering by the Edengrove Church, printing of project flyers by Ballynahinch Community Collective, swim passes by NMDDC and dry cleaning via Lisburn YMCA.
- Over 49 families attended the Back to School fair in Ballynahinch of which 96% of families reported the events helpful for their children. 4% of families reported the event was not helpful. This was due to their school's uniform not being present at the fairs or unavailability of uniform sizes.
- A total of 140 items were given back out to families at no cost.. An approx. total of £1,800.00 savings to families was reflected on the day with an approx. £37 saving per family.
- 40 swim passes to swimming facilities across the NMDDC area were provided to families



Families that attended the event completed a short evaluation on how helpful the events were

Is anyone better off?

26 evaluation reports of the 49 families attending the event were completed during the back to school fair of which the results demonstrated the following;

- 96% of families attending the Ballynahinch Back to School Fair rated the event helpful and were able to get suitable uniforms and school items including lunch boxes, school bags, coats and health and wellbeing information
- The most popular age range of school uniforms from the fair were;
 - 3% of parents were able to avail of nursery school uniform items
 - 47% of parents were able to avail of primary school uniform items
 - 50% of Parents were able to avail of post primary school uniform items
- A total of 10 healthy tooth brushing packs were distributed to families by the SEHSCT Dental Team and healthy lunch box information was provided to all 49 families



Ballynahinch Back to School Fair providing health and wellbeing information and support to families

Is anyone better off?

More events like this please!

I was able to get my Grandson a few things for School

Thank you!

Excellent, really helpful as secondary school uniform so expensive, thank you.

Very good event!

I think its great what you have done!

Excellent idea, certainly helped me get 4 kids back to school

Everything was fine