

Christmas Craft packs

Report Card

2020

Context and background

Northern Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership (CYPSP) locality groups (LPGs) carried out a needs survey with children/young people and parents in 2020. In this children/young people and parents identified mental health/emotional wellbeing as a need and arts and crafts as a way of meeting that need.

Christmas can be a difficult time for children that often puts extra pressure on them, and can affect mental health because they feel alone or left out because everyone else seems happy when they're not or feel frustrated by other people's views of a 'perfect' Christmas, if these feel different to their experiences (Mind, 2020). This is especially true this year with Covid lockdown reducing their social contacts and usual Christmas activities.

Being aware of this it was agreed by Causeway, Antrim/Ballymena and Mid-Ulster LPG's that developing 'Christmas craft packs' could support addressing some of these issues. These packs were filled with fun activities and crafts, and were targeted to those organisations supporting some of the most vulnerable primary school aged children across the Causeway, Mid-Ulster and Antrim/Ballymena areas.

The packs were funded, facilitated and coordinated by CYPSP LPG's in Causeway, Antrim/Ballymena and Mid-Ulster areas in partnership the NHSCT Physical activity Health and Wellbeing Manager to help support children's mental health and emotional wellbeing during Christmas.

How much did we do?



375 children received Christmas craft packs via 20 organisations across Causeway, Mid-Ulster and Antrim/Ballymena areas



How well did we do it?

The Christmas craft packs included various Christmas craft items to support children's mental health and wellbeing, for example:

- Colour Your Own Christmas Bag
- Christmas Elf Colouring Book with Sticker Sheet
- Christmas Countdown Activity Calendar
- Make Your Own Felt Christmas Tree
- Make Your Own Elf Decorations
- Make Your Own Pom Pom
- Make your own snowman
- Felt tip markers
- Colouring pencils
- Make your own foam Christmas tree
- Christmas reusable shopping bag
- Decorate your own wooden Christmas baubles



Staff from St Annes PS Corkey receiving Christmas craft packs via the Public Health Nursing Team

Is anyone better off?

“Thank you so much for the delivery of the ten Christmas Craft Packs - the children were delighted with them.

We decided to give them to children who worked in small withdrawal groups this term.

We had positive and enthusiastic feedback from parents about packs which were sent home with children. Parents commented on the quality of the packs and the benefit of having these type of creative activities to engage children at this festive time.”

Angela Quinn- St Mary's PS Greenlough

“Parents were very thankful and general opinion was that the children enjoyed using the various items, notably the colouring items and construction packs included in some packs. It's a tough time to be a young person and parents felt the provision of craft pack has helped with the boredom children are experiencing with the restrictions and lack of social opportunities they currently are being denied.”

“Overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity it will go a long way to brighten many needy families.”

Teresa

“The Christmas Packs went down a treat. Have had good feedback from the children who received them ...was something different for them and seasonal. I always find these art packs are always very popular.

I find a large number of children on the Spectrum are very interested in art ... so these packs are always welcomed.”