

Background

The South Belfast Locality Planning Group in partnership with LORAG hosted a back to school uniform event on 7th August 2019. The event took place as part of Féile na hAbhann/Festival of the River and provided pre loved uniforms to families preparing to return to school.

The pilot developed as a result of expressed needs from the community, it was well attended and feedback from the participants has been positive. The partnership met as a subgroup initially in January, given some transitions the decision was taken in April to make contact with schools regarding encouraging parental donations. A letter were circulated to schools in June 19. There was a good response from a few schools and through a partnership approach with the Scaffold Project (East Belfast) regarding unused items, we enabled the August pilot to take place.

Using the CYPSP toolkit, uniforms were cleaned, sorted and presented to families at no cost during a time when parents begin to prepare for Back to School.



Children and Young People's Strategy 2017 – 2027 Eight Parameters of Wellbeing

- 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
- Promotion of equality and good relations
- Respect of their Rights

South Belfast LPG Action Plan 2017 – 2020 (Priority 2)



How much did we do?

- Letter circulated to all South Belfast Schools. Return contact from 3 primary schools and 2 post primary schools across Controlled, Maintained and Integrated streams.
- Developed links with the Scaffold Project in East Belfast – additional items donated.
- Contact with voluntary, community & statutory partners in regards to supports for families. Spreadsheet of items provided at June LPG.
- Individual contact with parents via CYPSP email, as schools circulated opportunity.
 - Leaflet developed

How well did we do it?

“My work role has changed due to caring responsibilities – with three children things are tight. Therefore I’m so thankful. Many people are too proud to ask and I would’ve been the same but this year I have found it increasingly difficult”. (Parent)

“Thank you so much for the items I received it has helped me out; it has saved me so much as uniforms are so expensive”. (Parent)

“This is a great initiative to help families and the environment”. (Teacher)

“I’m a mum of five and this is great. Whilst kids sorted this year, I will definitely avail next year”. (Parent)

“We are so glad to be a part of the pilot”. (Teacher)

Is anyone better off?

- Schools acted as drop off points donating directly to the South Belfast LPG and have developed their awareness.
- Over 100 items were distributed on the day skirts, pinafores, trousers, blazers, ties, jumpers, shirts, polo shirts and cardigans.
- 15 items were requested through the CYPSP email address and delivered to parents at a time and place that suited them.
- Items were free but with a notional value of £1,360
- 5 volunteers from the Locality Planning Group staffed the event

