

How we have made a difference in our community

- Supporting families on low incomes to access opportunities –



About the project:

Support from the Start groups across East Lothian use an 'Asset based community development' approach to working with early years families to an agreed set of priorities or outcome areas which include – “Families on low incomes can access opportunities”.

A range of initiatives in this priority area have been developed by the cluster groups in partnership with local services including :-

- Bursary scheme in partnership with carefree kids and East Lothian Council sport and recreation service
- Uniform Bank in partnership with Carefree Kids
- Freecycle – a gifting service for referred families in partnership Stepping Out
- Piloted summer lunch clubs in the Prestonpans cluster in partnership with Pennypit Community Development Trust and Prestonpans infant school. Supported development of clubs in Tranent & Musselburgh
- Facilitated the development of Pans Pantry in partnership with EL foodbank, Aldhammer house and Area Partnership
- Supported the development of the Kindness Co-operative in partnership with North Berwick Community Learning & development service
- Piloted Xmas Advent book gifting for referred families in the Dunbar & Musselburgh areas
- Supported the development of Christmas Cheer gift packs for families in need in Prestonpans & North Berwick with a wide range of agencies and partners

What impact has it had?

In the calendar year 2017 :-

- **28 children received SFTS bursaries for recreational / educational activities**
- **33 Children received school uniform from the Uniform bank**
- **A wide range of items were provided by the Freecycle project to families in need**
- **34 children received Xmas advent book packs**
- **38 families received Xmas cheer packs**

The Future

Support from the Start leads are aware of a much greater need in the community than represented by the uptake of initiatives. Although this is partly felt to be due to stigma (particularly in rural communities) the greater reason is probably that professionals who identify need in families often find it difficult to have conversation about poverty related issues



East Lothian School Uniform Bank



Freecycle East Lothian



Xmas Advent Books