

Shipley Area School Uniform Bank is a not-for-profit uniform bank for the Shipley, Windhill, Wrose and Baildon areas, providing uniform and school supplies to families experiencing financial hardship. They collect donations from the local community and distribute to those in need. Confidential referrals are made by organisations and the uniform or supplies are then sent back to the organisation to distribute to the individual.

### **What does Shipley Area School Uniform Bank do?**

We are a charitable organisation trying to reduce poverty in the District. We distribute great quality school uniforms, including shirts, jumpers, trousers, PE kits etc, as well as stationery. When speaking to parents and families locally they expressed that they were struggling with the financial burden of school; especially parents with more than one child, whether it is because of low income jobs, high bills or the Universal Credit changeover which is affecting lots of families in Bradford.

### **What you most are proud of?**

We are most proud that we are helping local families in a time of hardship; we are helping the environment as donations go to those in need as opposed to landfill. We are proud of the community response we have received since setting up this project in May, we already have thousands of items ready to distribute.

We are also extremely proud of the volunteers that are a huge part of this project, they have helped with quality checks, picking up of the donations and helping with the laundry, we couldn't do this without them.

### **Tell us about a time you worked collaboratively in the district, what was the outcome –**

We have been working closely with local churches, community centres and incommunities who have supported us by becoming drop off points, housing our charity deposit boxes and helping to advertise our services. People in need can contact this kind of organisation to refer in to us.

### **What is your greatest challenge and how could others help you overcome it –**

Getting people to use our service, lots of families may be embarrassed or too proud to admit they need support, others could help us by letting them know that they are completely unidentifiable and it is a confidential service with a very short [referral form](#). Our criteria is intentionally broad so as many people as possible can make use of the service.

### **Have you received any support from Community Action along the way? What did you receive and what was the outcome?**

Sarah (our VOSO) has sent us paperwork and policies to help us get started and set our structure. This has been massively helpful to us, and eased the complication of setting up. We have also booked onto some of the training in the next few weeks.

### **Our drop off points are:**

Windhill Community Centre | Kirkgate Community Centre | Incommunities Shipley Hub  
St Pauls Church, Shipley | Shipley Salvation Army | St Cuthberts Church Wrose