

VODA: Backpack Buddies



The North Tyneside Partnership helped ensure deprived children didn't go hungry over the school summer holidays.

Backpack Buddies is a new SAINT (Social Action in North Tyneside) project launched in collaboration with The Bay Foodbank. The project provides bags of healthy and nutritious snacks to children to take home from school at the weekend when free school meals aren't available.

The scheme now delivers 12 bags each week and since launched in May 190 Buddy Bags has been delivered to children in North Tyneside.

Generous staff filled two large food bins of dried food in support of Backpack Buddies in July, which provides food for children at a local primary school when free school meals are not available.

Ann Morgan, Karen Burton and Jen Chamley subsequently attended food packing sessions at Meadow Well Connected in North Shields. In September, another five staff took part in a 'packing party' organised by North Tyneside VODA at the Quadrant.

They sorted donated food items into over 50 packs in September, which will go to children who live in households that are uncertain of having enough money to meet basic needs.

North Tyneside Partnership Director Margie Burdis said: *"I'm delighted that our staff supported North Tyneside VODA and this very important programme for the children of North Tyneside. As well as the obvious benefits that volunteering brings to local communities, we know that it's great for staff in terms of personal development and mental health."*



Over 12 hours donated in staff time

Over 70 bags filled by Capita staff and donations



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