



2023

SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT



Message from our Founder

2023 has been a momentous year for Uniform Exchange. Thanks to a combination of grant funding, donations, and the time and energy of our wonderful volunteers, Uniform Exchange has grown its impact exponentially.

In 2023, we were able to support 10,188 children, which is over ten times more than we supported in 2018. In doing so, we saved families in Kirklees almost £1 million.

This is a HUGE ACHIEVEMENT which would not have been possible without all the support we have received over the past year.

Looking to the future, we know that there will continue to be significant need for this service, especially as the cost-of-living crisis continues to pinch families' budgets. Our priority is therefore to ensure that we identify sustainable income streams that will facilitate our continued impact over the coming years.

This service has made a difference for thousands of children in the Kirklees area. We are so grateful for everything we have been able to do to date, and we are excited to see what further impact we can make in the future.

Thank you for supporting our charity. Please continue to spread the word so that we can carry on our charitable activities and meet the needs of our community.

*Thank you,
Kate France
Founder, Uniform Exchange*



Our Vision

Our vision is for second-hand school uniform to be the first choice for parents.

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide second-hand school uniforms to local children, free of charge, supporting our community

Our Key Aims

- Social Impact:** Identify and help those in greatest need
- Sustainability:** Actively promote the reuse of school uniform to every child
- Stability:** Generate a sustainable income to support the charity

Our Objectives

Our Charity's strategic objectives are designed to guide and structure our future activities. By focusing on these five key objectives, we'll be able to develop and execute our strategy with clarity and purpose.



Development

Uniform Exchange is a child focused, community driven charity which provides second-hand school uniforms to local children in Kirklees free of charge. We provide a service that meets the needs of the community by using a circular economy approach to alleviate the financial burden of purchasing school uniforms.

By operating in line with an environmentally sustainable and impact-led ethos, we help a greater number of families in the community. Facilitating this work through engagement with schools and families creates greater engagement than we have ever had before, whilst also reducing stigma.

We are delivering a service to our community which is aligned with many of the values of the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations, and we fundamentally believe that alleviating poverty and prioritising sustainability are interlinked.

This is why Uniform Exchange is committed to work towards operating a zero waste, circular economy model to deliver its social impact.

Sustainable development goals we have supported



How it Works

Uniform Exchange operates based on the REUSE ethos, as most school uniform items still have life left even after children grow out of them. High-quality, second-hand alternatives save money for families and are better for the environment.

Our charity utilises a zero-waste model, sorting donated items into three categories: reused, recycled, or repurposed. We rely on the generosity of Kirklees families passing on outgrown uniform items and Kirklees schools and others passing on lost property to facilitate a circular economy approach.



Donations: These come in via donation boxes and school collections



Stock Management: The stock goes through a number of processes within the warehouse



Request Processing: Requests for uniforms are received via email and picked by our volunteers



Delivery: Completed requests are delivered to schools, libraries and community spaces

How it works

We work with **95%** of the **182 schools** in Kirklees, as well as key support workers, social workers, family workers, charities, community centres, and school hubs, to help deliver this service to local families in need.

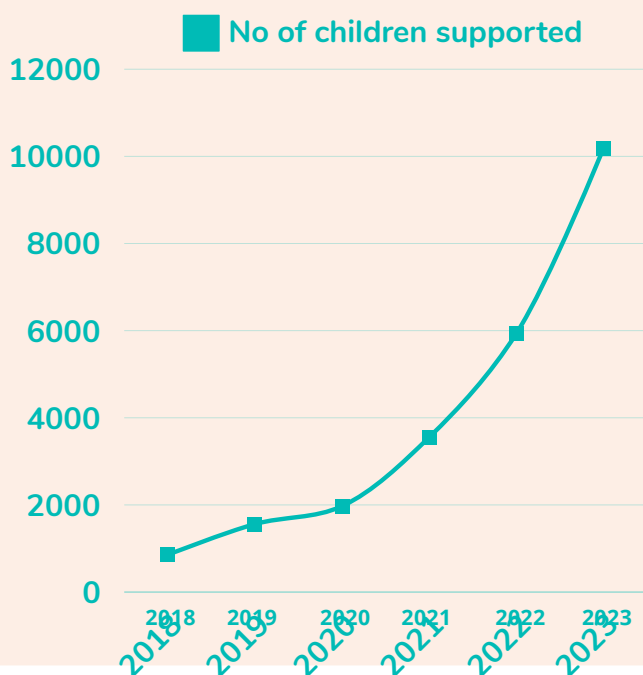


Our Journey

Uniform Exchange was founded following the end of Kirklees Council's school uniform grant in 2010. The primary focus of Uniform Exchange has always been to alleviate the financial pressure of purchasing school uniforms for vulnerable families.

Over the past six years since Uniform Exchange became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), with our impact growing exponentially. The pandemic and cost-of-living crisis have put significant pressures on local families, and our volunteers have worked hard to keep up with the growing demand.

Growth of Impact



Not having to worry to clothe my child for school has been a huge relief

Family Member

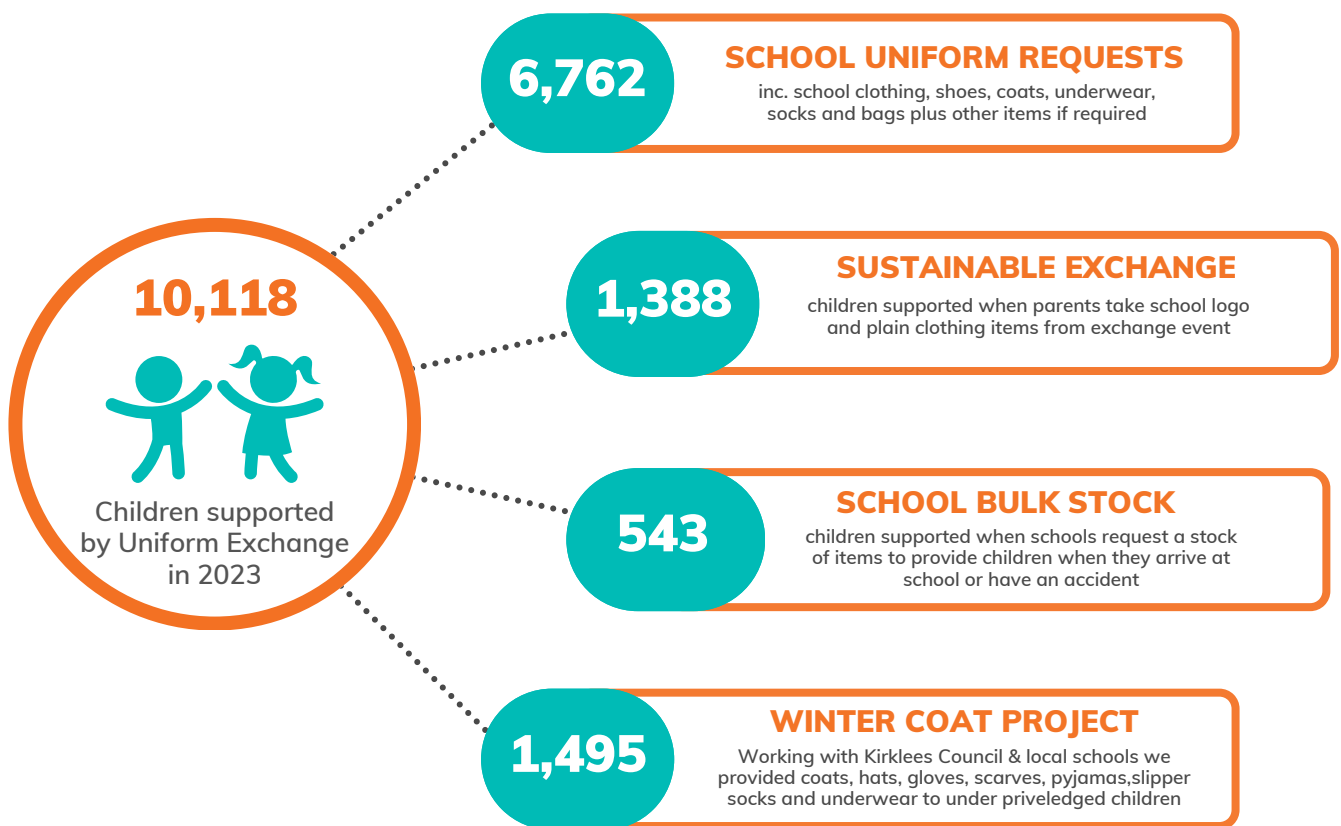
In recent years, Uniform Exchange has shifted its focus to also support environmental sustainability and encourage all families to consider the environmental impact of purchasing new uniforms.

By also focusing on the environmental benefits of the programme, Uniform Exchange is further reducing the stigma around wearing pre-loved clothing.

Our Journey

In 2023, Uniform Exchange supported 10,188 students - nearly double the number of children compared with 2022. Support provided includes items of clothing, shoes, underwear, and socks, as well as bags and coats.

Uniform Exchange provided 6,762 children with school uniforms and 1,495 children with winter coat packs. An additional 1,388 children were supported via Sustainable Exchange, and some 543 children were supported through School Bulk Orders. In 2023, Uniform Exchange provided £961,017 in social value to the families of Kirklees through the various offerings.



“ I can breathe a bit easier knowing that my child doesn't go without a meal or heating. Uniform Exchange is just like getting a Uniform from your best friend. ”
Parent

“ Having 4 children it's taken off the financial strain due to rising costs. They have been so supportive and taken the stress out of providing uniform for my children. ”
Parent

“ I have used Uniform Exchange to get a sustainable option for private school clothing. It's enabled me to look after the planet (which is so important to me) ”
Family Member

Our Journey



The Sustainable Exchange, which was first launched in late 2022, marking its first full year of operating in 2023.

This programme educates children, schools, and parents on the need to reuse school uniforms by passing on items of clothing to others. By promoting a “make second-hand first choice” ethos in a school, it reduces the stigma for families who are unable to otherwise afford a uniform.

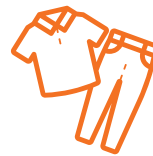
22 schools participated in the programme and 50 events were held. At these events, 46 children volunteered their time to support the project. By making pre-loved uniform the norm, we encourage everyone to reuse and recycle, which makes financial and environmental sense for all.

1,388 children were supported by this programme, with £26,812 worth of school uniforms given to families



22

Schools involved in the project



2950

Items of school clothing taken



11,904

Equivalent plastic bottles saved from landfill



£26,812

saved by parents by using the Sustainable Exchange



Our Journey

Our volunteers donated an incredible 10,227 hours of their time in 2023, which is the equivalent of 1,278 workdays. Volunteers support Uniform Exchange with a range of activities, such as sorting items of clothing, sewing, driving, running our Charity Shop, and supporting the Sustainable Exchange programme.

The operations of the charity would not be possible without the time dedicated by individual and corporate volunteers.

The value of free school uniforms cannot be overstated. By providing free school uniforms to children, Uniform Exchange have saved the families of Kirklees nearly £1 million.

However, there are other benefits beyond the social value of this service.

Providing free school uniforms helps to **reduce social isolation** and poverty-related bullying in local schools, which in turn helps every child to **focus on learning**.

Reusing school uniforms also minimises the environmental impact, thereby helping to **protect the planet** for future generations.



At a Glance



**Worked with 95%
of Kirklees Schools**



**£961,017 social
value delivered**



**286 individual
volunteers**



**10,227 volunteer
hours**



**4,157 coats
provided**



**6,122 pairs of
shoes provided**



**92,273 items of
clothing given
away, supporting
10,188 children**



**14 companies
volunteered their
staff to support
Uniform Exchange**

Feedback

"It's a great charity that not only helps children and families, but helps to re-use perfectly good uniform, avoiding the need for buying new and to stop it going to landfill"

Parent

"Don't be embarrassed about using second hand uniform. It's in great condition, no one has to know. Staff are lovely"

Family Member

"The best initiative in Huddersfield I think. Saves me a fortune and is fantastic for the environment. Gives kids a starting understanding of reusing and recycling"

Parent

"Financially it's saved me a lot of money and has greatly helped me emotionally"

Family Member

"Massive positive impact"

Parent

"If you ever need anything this is a place to visit an staff are all friendly"

Parent

"It's an excellent and helpful service with no judgement"

Parent



The Future

Looking to the future, our plan is to support over 25,000 children and prevent over 50 tonnes of uniform waste going to landfill in the next three years.

We estimate that our social value over the next three years will equate to over **£3 million!**

Uniform Exchange has been fortunate to receive funding from a combination of grants and donations, however this funding is not guaranteed to continue. To ensure the project's continued **growth** and **development**, we recognise the importance of diversifying our funding sources.

Our focus moving forward is on stability and identifying diverse sources for income generation to ensure that **Uniform Exchange** can continue helping even more families in the future.



→ 13

→ 13 A



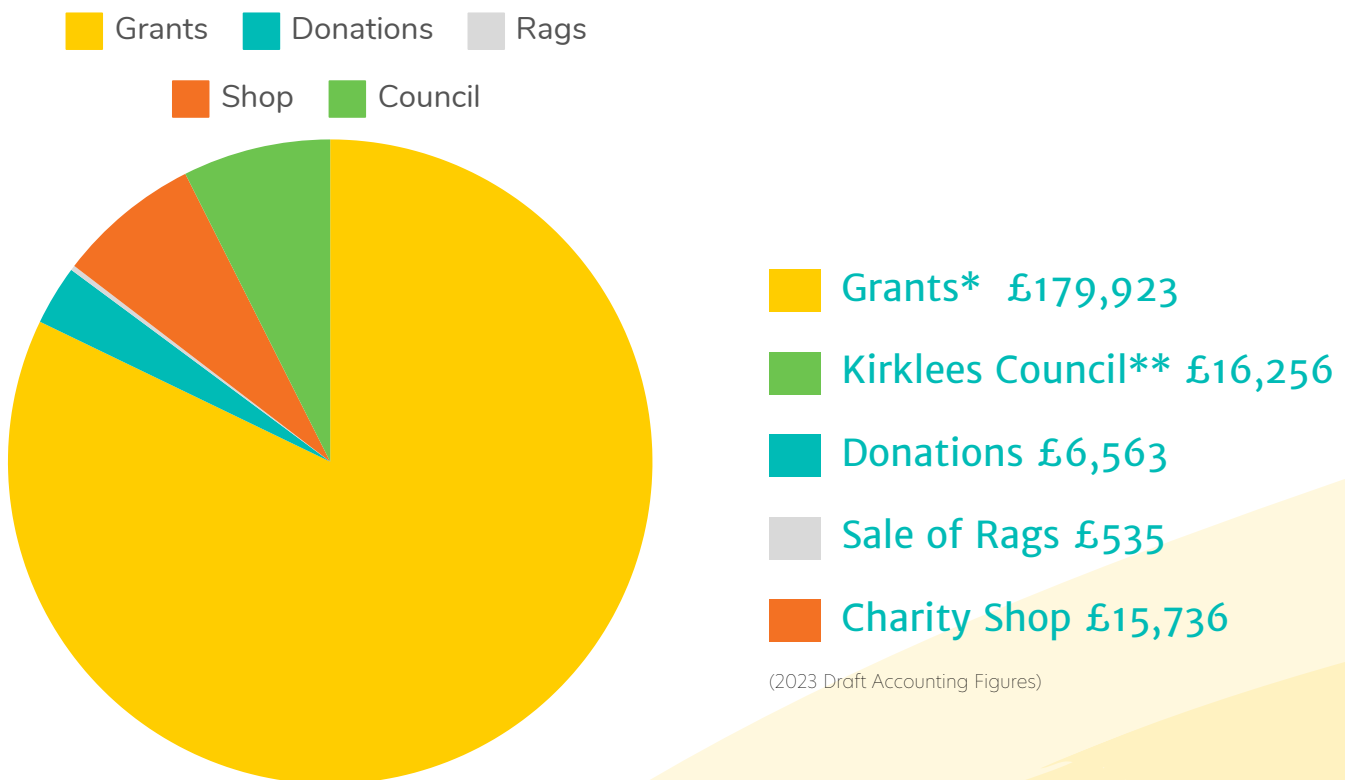
→ 14

→ 14 A

Our Donors, Funders, Partners and Supporters

Whilst Uniform Exchange focuses on utilising volunteering time to sort through donations and deliver these to families, there are still costs associated with the delivery of our services, such as storage and core administrative team costs.

The funding provided by grants, Council funding, donations, fundraising, and the charity shop proceeds all help us to cover these core costs which are required to continue delivering support to families.



*Kirklees Council - Government Household Support Fund, Kirklees Council Cllr Fund, King Charles III Fund, 52 Lives Grant, TSL Volunteer Grant, Key Fund, Sir George Martin Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund, West Riding Freemasons, Garfield Weston Foundation, Wharfedale Foundation, One Community Foundation - Community Grants, One Community Foundation - West Yorkshire Mayoral, One Community Foundation - Household Support Fund.

**Kirklees Council - Local Welfare Provision have been providing support for the past 8 years

Our Supporters

Uniform Exchange would like to say a massive thank you to all our volunteers, donors, and grant funders who have made this important work possible.

A big shout of thanks goes to all the families and schools across Kirklees.

Corporate Volunteers

- Kirklees Council
- Kirklees Libraries
- Kirklees College Students
- Vodafone
- Mormon Church
- Cummins Technologies
- TSL Community
- Kirklees Council
- BAM Construction
- Utilita
- Locala
- NHS
- Lubrizol
- Maximus
- Gas Safe
- Able & Ward Ltd
- Kimtrain Ltd

Grants Received

- Kirklees Council
 - Local Welfare Provision
- Kirklees Council
 - Household Support Fund
- Kirklees Council Cllr Fund
- King Charles III Fund
- 52 Lives Grant
- TSL Volunteer Grant
- Key Fund
- Sir George Martin Trust
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- West Riding Freemasons
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Wharfedale Foundation
- One Community Foundation
 - Community Grants
- One Community Foundation
 - West Yorkshire Mayoral
- One Community Foundation
 - Household Support Fund

Donations Received

- Towngate PLC
- Wynsors Shoes
- DYB3 Foundation
- Individual Donations

THANK YOU

Our Supporters



2023 Highlights

2023 was a year of exciting milestones for the charity! This year, Uniform Exchange gained traction thanks to growing media attention, including...

- Our Founder, Kate France, was recognised as a 'Coronation Champion'.
- We spoke on the BBC Breakfast red sofa and to BBC Radio Leeds to share our message and ask for volunteers.
- We also had the opportunity to speak at the 'Zero Waste: Enabling the Circular Economy' conference in February at the University of Huddersfield.
- Kate France was invited by The Schoolwear Association, to attend a Parliamentary Reception, which was held to celebrate the successful implementation of the Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021. This event was to highlight the positive impact the Government's legislation has had on families across the country.
- In this year, our charity shop moved to a larger premises.
- We became affiliates to the Giants Cash Bonanza Lottery, which launched in November 2023.
- We supported the Pennine Domestic Abuse Partnership and Hope Foodbank in Newsome with gifts collected during our Christmas Gift Tree event, which collects for local children who need a gift for Christmas.
- Uniform Exchange had a Social Fabric event in February where local menders came to the Thread Republic hub to help with the backlog of school uniform items needing mending prior to reuse. 102 repairs were completed, including sewing buttons back on, sewing seams closed, and sewing hems up. If you would like to support Uniform Exchange with your sewing skills by becoming a regular repair volunteer, please email office@uniform-exchange.org
- Uniform Exchange reached 4,000 followers on Facebook in 2023.

2023

How can you help us?

To support Uniform Exchange, so we can continue to help the Kirklees community, there are a few ways you can donate.



Join our Supporters Club

<https://www.uniform-exchange.org/supporters-club/>



Play our weekly £2 lottery

<https://giantcashbonanza.online/uniformexchange/>



Choose us as your Easyfundraising charity for a year:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/uekirklees>



One off donations, regular charitable giving, and support for our charity shop are all great ways to support Uniform Exchange.



Volunteer, both individual and corporate welcome

<https://www.uniform-exchange.org/volunteering/>