

## Backpacks for SHAX in Dumfries.

The charity supplies starter packs to people who have been homeless, their children may have nothing belonging to themselves due to the circumstances of their homelessness.

Following discussions with staff it was agreed that we would supply backpacks for the children, the packs being age and gender relevant (baby, 2 – 5, 6 -10, 11 – 15) and contain the following items:- A water bottle, lunch box, a Ball - tennis or small football, 2-5 yr. olds receive 3 knitted soft balls, safer in the house

Stationary items – Pencil case, pencils, pens, eraser, pencil sharpener, coloured pencils or crayons, Books, Toiletries – shampoo, soap, body wash, sponge, toothpaste and toothbrush and Assorted toys and games, this enables the children to have something that belongs to them personally. The baby packs contain baby lotion, cream and white towel or wrap they do not include pencil case etc, but we do add any extra baby items we may have such as baby grows, feeding cups, bibs etc. Some backpacks are too small to get everything in, especially for the younger children so we have toy bags made from pillowcases to contain the extra items. The toiletries are placed in a waterproof nylon drawstring bag in case of leakages and the bag can be used later for swimming costumes or sports kits.

The charity has included us in their Annual Report.

### **Soroptomist International South Scotland**

Thanks to our long serving volunteer Janet and her colleagues at Soroptomist International South Scotland for helping expand our Starter Packs to include backpacks for children. Their kind donations have helped SHAX provide a bit of extra comfort for young children in crisis – thank you!





Some backpack contents.