

Annual Report

1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018

Home Start

Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start Daventry &
South Northants

1st Floor Victoria House
138 Watling Street East
Towcester, Northants NN12 6BT
t. 01327 353139
e. admin@homestart-davsn.org.uk
w. www.homestart-davsn.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1105831
A Company Limited by Guarantee
Company No: 5199639
Patron: Lord Boswell of Aynho



Review of the year – Jean Morgan, Chair of Trustees

Welcome to our Annual Report for the period April 2017 to March 2018. Home Start Daventry & South Northants has had another successful year, supporting local families with home visiting volunteers and at our new Stay & Play Groups in Daventry and Towcester. We supported 67 families with 141 children. And we have 28 professionally trained volunteers who make the Home Start magic happen.

Stay & Play Groups are new for us: we started the first ones in January 2018. Supported families asked us for somewhere different to meet up, because existing groups can feel “cliquey and exclusive.” Chris & Judy worked with Daventry and Towcester Children’s Centres and we are now running weekly groups for up to around ten families each Group a week. Some families attend with their home visiting volunteer, some just come to the Groups to meet others. Chris or Judy go most weeks in case a family needs extra support or signposting. Some weeks the Groups are led by one of our volunteers.

Funding is a bigger challenge than ever and the impact of local government reform in Northamptonshire is unclear at the moment. In 2017/8 we were funded by Big Lottery as part of our five-year award, by South Northamptonshire Council via New Homes Bonus (to recruit and train volunteers over three years), and by Daventry District Council. A full list of our funders and supporters is on the back page.

South Northants Homes generously gave us new electronic tablets which make it easier for Chris and Judy to stay in touch when they are out and about working with families and volunteers.

Our Scheme Manager, Kay Baul left in April 2018 after two years with us, and we were lucky to recruit Phil Hickson to take Kay’s place and focus on fundraising in order to secure the future of the organisation. Kay cut costs by some 20% a year, which has been an important part of our continuing existence. The team at Victoria House – Chris, Judy, Karen, Nicki and Sophia – have shown their dedication and professionalism by working together to ensure that Kay (and now Phil) could concentrate on bringing in donations and grants.

Our Big Lottery funding ends in September 2018 and we have to find alternative funding streams. However, some major funders told us that this area is “not deprived enough” to qualify for support. This is very disappointing, as we all know local families affected by poverty, isolation and vulnerability who are behind the veil of affluence and rolling countryside. In 2017/2018 we gave 10 food bank vouchers to families.

I would like to thank all Trustees and supporters who play a huge role in keeping us going, and are critical and supportive as appropriate. We are always interested in finding new ways of working in partnership so we can be more effective, reduce costs and work with more families.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has supported us this year, especially our funding partners and our wonderful, indomitable, dedicated volunteers.

Treasurer's Report – Bill Dearns

On behalf of the Trustees/Directors I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Report of Home-Start Daventry & South Northants for the year ended 31st March 2018.

The year has again been a challenging one with demand for our service continuing to be far greater than the Scheme's capacity.

As in the previous year, the majority of our **Incoming Resources** are of a restricted nature and are therefore designated as Restricted Funds and amount to some 86% (2017 92%). These funds are subject to us achieving the outputs set down by our grantors. The Restricted Income for 2017/18 was £92,299 (2017 - £97,456) and comprises: -

1. Big Lottery- Reaching Communities-£67,097 (2017-£64,886). A grant covering the 5 years to 30th September 2018, drawn quarterly on the basis that we achieve matched funding of approximately £60,000 per annum, and also meet the operational levels of both families supported and volunteers recruited.
2. Home-Start UK/Action for Children-£21,816 (2017-£28,901). A grant administered through Home-Start UK (as lead agency) covering the peer mentoring element of the Action for Children contract with Northamptonshire County Council. This contract was terminated on 31st March 2017 and the income shown in 2017/18 was in respect of a prudent deferral of income at that date.
3. South Northamptonshire Council (SNC - Community Grant) – £3,386 (2017-£3,394). A grant covering a period of 3 years from September 2016 to provide financial assistance with volunteer recruitment and training over the period of the grant. The total grant amounts to £10,182 and was received in September 2016 and is being deferred over the 3 year period.

In 2017/2018 our **Resources Expended** totalled £112,291 (2017-£110,924). We continue to monitor our expenditure on a very regular basis to ensure as far as possible it remains in line with our expected income and reserves position. Our expenditure for 2017/2018 can be summarized as follows: -

1. Direct Charitable Activity Costs	£97,218	(2017 - £100,511)
2. Support Costs	£11,682	(2017 - £7,983)
3. Governance Costs	£3,392	(2017 - £2,430)

Summarising the overall financial information, I am reporting a small deficit for the year of £4,880 (2017-£5,436), which decreases our Balance Sheet Reserves at 31st March 2018 to £75,388 (2017-£80,268), of which £32,420 (2017-£4,288) are Restricted Reserves. The Net Assets representing these Reserves include some £87,000 (2017-£112,000) held in liquid funds at the balance sheet date.

As Trustees/Directors we meet at least bi-monthly to review both the financial and operational position together with an up-date on the fundraising expected. We aim, as far as possible, to ensure we hold sufficient contingency reserve funds to meet approximately 6 months operating costs, including estimated closure costs.

Finally, I cannot end my report without my personal thanks to the staff team at Victoria House. As always they have coped admirably with the ever increasing work-load demands and additional reporting, statistics and financial information required by our main funders.

Statement of financial activities

		Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £	Total 2016 £	Total 2015 £	Total 2014 £
Incoming Resources	Grants	102066	100914	141816	130503	88199
	Donations	3919	3285	1825	11174	4311
	Fund-raising	525	661	758	401	1675
	Interest	904	628	52	116	112
	Total Income	107413	105488	144451	142194	94297
Charitable	Charitable Activities	97218	100511	127692	111829	78671
	Support/Governance Costs	15074	10413	10355	12168	11829
	Total Expenditure	112292	110924	138047	123997	90500
Surplus/(Deficit)		(4880)	(5436)	6404	18197	3797

**Our accounts are printed separately and are available on request.
Our grateful thanks to Bernard Wilkins of AIMS Business Accountants.**



A special Christmas visitor

24 pre-school children enjoyed meeting Father Christmas at our annual festive party, which had to be swiftly re-arranged due to the heavy snow. They enjoyed a party lunch before receiving their gifts, delivered to Father Christmas courtesy of St George's Church, Evenley!

Quote from a Health Visitor:

"Home-Start is a very worthwhile and supportive service offering help to young families in our community"

Home-Start Daventry & South Northants is an independent voluntary organisation which works towards the increased confidence and independence of the family by:

- offering support, friendship and practical assistance
- visiting families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of each individual can be respected and protected
- reassuring parents that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual and encouraging enjoyment in family life
- developing a relationship with the family in which time can be shared and understanding can be developed; the approach is flexible to take account of different needs
- encouraging the parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their own children
- encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to use effectively the support and services available within the community

The Importance of families

Stable, loving families are at the heart of strong societies. The first five years in the home are vital for children's development, and strongly influences their life chances. Children who are raised in a caring and stimulating family environment are more likely to lead fulfilling, healthy lives, and to be economically productive, active citizens.

It is not easy to be a parent. Life can throw many obstacles at family life - bereavement, disability, illness, multiple births, drug and alcohol dependency, divorce, postnatal depression and so much more.

What a home visiting volunteer meant to this family....

I can honestly say that Home-Start has been a blessing: everybody is so kind and friendly and everyone gets treated equally. If any other families are given the opportunity to have a volunteer from Home-Start, I suggest they grab it with both hands.

Judy, Home-Start Co-ordinator has been a God-send: she has made me feel so much more comfortable and more confident. My volunteer, Sandra, has become a friend who I love and respect like one of my own family.

All that is left for me to say is "thank you" for everything from the bottom of mine and Alfie's (my son) heart.

What supporting this family meant to the volunteer

As a volunteer, I gain a sense of achievement and satisfaction when working with families. Through regular visits to the family I am able to build positive relationships with parents and children alike. It is great to see the families blossom as I continue to work with them to promote confidence and empower change. As a volunteer, I have built-up wider friendship groups with other volunteers while at the same time upgrading my own training/work skill-set. Volunteering for Home-Start is both fun and enjoyable!

Staff Team

Kay Baul	Scheme Manager (to April 18)
Judy Wheatland	Coordinator (p/t)
Chris Batchelor	Coordinator (p/t)
Nicki Goddard	Finance Officer (p/t)
Sophia Maddison	Administrator (p/t)
Karen Johnson	Administrator (p/t)
Phil Hickson	Scheme Manager (from April 18)

Board of Trustees

Jean Morgan	Chairperson
Paul Bates	Vice-Chairperson
Bill Dearn	Treasurer
Caryl Billingham	Trustee
Kathy Crook	Trustee
Ruth Curzon	Trustee
Gillian Murray	Trustee
Abigail Hurrell	Trustee
Shirley Vaughan	Trustee
Margaret Walgate	Trustee

Advisor

Carol Leipa **Safeguarding**

Patron

Lord Boswell of Aynho

MISSION STATEMENT

Home-Start Daventry and South Northants offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children who are experiencing stressful or difficult situations. We offer a unique service, recruiting and training volunteers - who are parents themselves - to visit families with at least one child under 5, at home, to offer informal, friendly and confidential support.

We help parents to grow in confidence, to strengthen and enjoy their relationships with their children and to widen their links with the local community.

We recognise the real, mutual and personal benefits gained from sharing the realities of parenting in so many positive and constructive ways within their own communities.

Home-Starts operational objectives:

- To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical, of children and parents of children.
- To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children.
- To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children.
- To promote the education of the public in better standards of childcare within the area of Daventry and South Northants and its environs.

What did we achieve this year?

Our **volunteers supported 67 families** across Daventry District & South Northamptonshire.

These families included **141 children: 86 under five years old and 55 over five years old.**

Our volunteers supported **6 children** who were **considered disabled by their main carer.**

We supported **10 children** who were on a **Child Protection Plan** and **0 with Children in Need** status.

Over **60 children** attended our organised activities: **21st Birthday Party** and **Christmas party.**

Our **volunteers spent at least 1,600 hours** of their time visiting families for the scheme: at the minimum wage of **£7.50 per hour** this equates to some **£12,000.**

Stay & Play Groups (started in January 2018): **20 families** attended in Daventry and Towcester.

(Data taken from MESH system)

A big THANK YOU to all our Volunteers

Shirley, Sarah, Deana, Pat, Fiona, Kathy, Ruth, Helen, Samantha, Zoe, Tina, Nina, Lucinda, Sally, Gillian, Lynda, Claudia, Sandra, Ruth, Gita, Nicola, Pam, Gail, Kate, Sophia, Bill, Jean, Caryl, Paul, Hilary, Abigail, Doune, Heidi, Natalie and Stephanie.

WELCOME to our newest volunteers who completed the **Prep Course** in December 2017:
Kayleigh, Kelly, Nicola, Shirley and Theresa

Our grateful thanks go to:

- **Big Lottery - Reaching Communities**
- **Home-Start UK**
- **South Northants Homes**
- **Evenley Matters**
- **South Northamptonshire Council**
- **Faccenda, Brackley**
- **Miss Lillies, Towcester**
- **Janine and Dave Clark**
- **Barrie Morgan**
- **Waitrose Community Matters**
- **Caryl Billingham**
- **Paul Bates**
- **Lord Boswell**
- **Richard Tomalin, SNVB**
- **Daventry District Council**
- **Andrew & Jane Eastgate**
- **Brackley Photographic Studio**
- **Mini Poundland, Brackley**
- **Ann's Fish Bar, Brackley**
- **Easy Fundraising**
- **Local giving.com**
- **The Henry Smith Charity**
- **St George's Church, Evenley**
- **Joceline & Jeremy Hebblethwaite**
- **Banbury Digital Ltd**
- **Our Fund-raising Group**

And everyone who wishes to remain anonymous

We would like to thank all our volunteers and members of the Board of Trustees who willingly give their time, expertise, practical help and donations for the benefit of the scheme and the families we support.

Home-Start: the UK's leading family support charity