



Support and friendship
for families

Annual Report 2016-2017 Home-Start Cotswolds Limited

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 Home-Start Cotswolds

Company no. 5468592

Charity no. 1110632



Message from the Chair

Welcome to our 2016-2017 Annual Report. As you will see, it has been a very busy year for Home-Start Cotswolds.

The celebrations of our 10th Anniversary were lively and much fun was had by all who attended. Games, craft, bouncy castles and cake were all enjoyed by parents, children, volunteers, staff, funders and trustees alike. The Trustees join me in enormous thanks to all who contributed not only to the success of the celebrations but also for the continuing provision by Home-Start Cotswolds and its valuable support of families across our region.

You will probably know that we are now in our new office at the Cirencester Baptist Church in their wonderful building in Chesterton Lane. Our staff have settled happily into a light and sunny office where we also have the use of many training and meeting rooms. We are very grateful to the Baptist Church for their continuing support.

We are looking forward to an exciting new development in 2017 as our Management Committee have agreed to fund a pilot for a Mum's Wellbeing Group to be run in the North Cotswolds.

Finally, Home-Start UK are undergoing restructuring and during the next year we will be considering how that might affect us on a local level. It is healthy to reappraise our services regularly and look for new possibilities for our scheme which will be addressed at our annual Trustee and Staff Away Day.



Chris Hall
Chair, Home-Start Cotswolds

What does Home-Start do?

Home-Start is a national family support charity that helps parents to build better lives for their children. Each year trained volunteers provide support and friendship to more than 33,000 families and 70,000 children across the UK.

Home-Start Cotswolds is one of more than 260 local Home-Start schemes. Our scheme supports families with children under the age of 5 throughout the Cotswolds from our office in Cirencester. Volunteers work alongside parents in their own homes to improve parenting skills, boost confidence and well-being, help with family management and establish social networks.

Home-Start's monitoring and evaluation system (MESH) captures families' needs at the beginning of support and then every 3 months until support ends, measuring the impact of how Home-Start has helped in specific areas.

With Home-Start a family can be sure of support that is non-judgemental and confidential. There is no stigma attached to Home-Start's help which is why so many referrers and parents contact us to ask for support. Once contact has been made, families meet a Home-Start Co-ordinator who will carefully match them with a trained volunteer and oversee the support.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to offer friendship and home support to parents of young children in the Cotswolds

OUR VISION

Home-Start wants to see that every parent in the Cotswolds has the support they need to give their children the best start in life

"In my opinion Home-Start is such a worthy charity, it gave me a lifeline (literally!) when I needed it most. Being at rock bottom and feeling like I did was horrendous. Hopefully none of you will ever have the misfortune to feel that way, but thanks to Home Start I've moved on. Life is still far from perfect but I'm happier."

Supported family 2016

STRUCTURE and ORGANISATION

Trustee Directors:

Chris Hall	Chair	Kate Hicks Beach (until Dec 2016)
Antony Jones	Company Secretary	Katrina Harrison (until Sept 2016)
Joanne Verey	Treasurer	Fiona Blacker (co-opted Jan 2017)
Phil Tubbs	Minutes Secretary	Rebecca Somers (co-opted Mar 2017)
Clare Baker	Safeguarding Adviser	Steve Kaufmann (co-opted Mar 2017)
Hilary Morris		Mike Hellens (co-opted Mar 2017)
Carolyn Ford		

Advisers

Sarah Smithson	Health Visitor
Trish Dodridge	Volunteer Representative
Lisa Mace	Family Representative (until Mar 2017)

Staff:

Janice Gibson	Senior Coordinator, Cirencester	Sally Mason	Administrator
Katharine Campbell	Senior Coordinator, Cirencester	Kate Rhodes	Administrator
Lynn Hurley	Coordinator, North Cotswolds		



Home-Start Staff 2017
Back – Lynn and Katharine
Middle – Sally and Janice
Front - Kate

The Trustees are responsible for governance, financial and strategic planning and the staff are responsible for running the day-to-day operation of the scheme and report to the Trustees on a regular basis.

Trustees are unpaid volunteers from a variety of backgrounds. The Trustees meet bi-monthly with advisers and they form the Management Committee; Personnel, Finance, PR and Fundraising sub-committees meet regularly and report back to the full committee. It is Home-Start policy that a Trustee should only serve for a maximum of three years before being subject to an election.

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibility to manage risks. They have identified and assessed our risks, ensure we take action as necessary and regularly review the matter.

Office address: Home-Start Cotswolds: c/o Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester GL7 1YE

Registered Office: 203 Alexander Drive, Cirencester, GL7 1UH

Bank: NatWest, Market Place, Cirencester, GL7 2NU

Accounts: Independently examined by Owen Accountants, Patch Cottage, Highbeech Road, The Pludds, Ruardean GL17 9UD.

Home-Start Cotswolds is a Registered Charity (since July 2005) and a Company limited by guarantee. Charity Registration number: 1110632; Company Registration number: 5468592. As an independent charity we work under the umbrella of Home-Start UK.

Trustee and Management Committee Changes

In 2016 we conducted a skills audit which identified the strengths of our current Trustees and also highlighted that finance and marketing were areas where we needed more expertise. In response to this audit we have recruited four new trustees with the relevant experience who are already in action publicly promoting our organisation and supporting the treasurer.

We are grateful to Kate Hicks Beach and Katrina Harrison, who stood down as Trustees in 2016, for the contributions they have made to the successful running of our scheme. We are particularly grateful to Kate Hicks Beach and her husband David for their fund raising activities. We wish Kate & Katrina every success in their new endeavours.

We also thank Lisa Mace who has been our Family Representative and is stepping down due to family commitments.

"I have recently become a Trustee of Home-Start Cotswolds and am excited to be involved with a charity that can really make a positive difference to families struggling with the many demands of parenthood."
Trustee 2017

"I wanted to become involved with community focused charity, in my local area, that supports children and families - and Cotswolds Home-Start is a fantastic organisation that does just that!"
Trustee 2017

SUMMARY OF 2016 - 2017

VOLUNTEERS

We have successfully recruited, trained and supported volunteers throughout the year as well as retaining the majority of our current volunteers. The volunteers have been matched with families who they visit on a weekly basis providing much needed support and encouragement.

"The Home-Start Training was excellent and prepared me well for the visits I have made". Volunteer 2016

Our volunteers, who come from every walk of life and bring a wide range of experience, are prepared for the family support role with 40 hours of training. The trained volunteer is then matched to a family, visiting them in the family home for up to 3 hours once a week for between three months and a year, offering non-judgemental, confidential, practical and emotional support.

"Volunteering for Home-Start" was a wonderful experience. It allowed me to meet some wonderful people & to feel like I was making a difference in someone's life"
Volunteer 2016

Currently we have 51 trained volunteers; 10 of these volunteers completed the preparation training course at the beginning of 2017. Volunteers are supported through regular one to one supervision with a Co-ordinator as well as receiving peer support at Volunteer Coffee Mornings and ongoing training at regular Support Group meetings. This year we have held: Mindfulness training by Mindfulness South West, Understanding Autism training by Child Behaviour Solutions and Safeguarding Update training run in-house.



Mindfulness Training
June 2016



New volunteers receive certificates after 40 hour training course- March 2017

The Trustees are aware that Home-Start could not function without the enormous commitment shown by our volunteers who give far more than the 3 hours a week family contact time. They commit to continued training, supervision and many go the extra mile in support of their family. We would like to extend our thanks to them all.

FAMILIES

Home-Start Cotswolds supported 53 families helping 121 children in their homes during this financial year.

Of these 53 families:

- 8 were lone parents
- 40 had issues around parent's mental health
- 17 had diagnosed mental health issues
- 2 had experienced situations of domestic abuse
- 5 had issues with substance abuse
- 5 had a child with health issues
- 18 children were on a Child Protection Plan

We receive referrals from professionals including Health Visitors, Social Care, Children's Centre, Education and P3 Charity as well as families who have self-referred. Our Co-ordinators are very active, networking and building links with referral agencies and other groups in the community to ensure the effectiveness of our service. We work closely with other professionals, community groups and local schools and signpost families to other agencies where necessary.

In addition to providing individual weekly volunteer support in families' homes, the staff arrange a variety of events throughout the year for families and their volunteers to attend together. This year we held 3 Coffee & Cake events and a 10th Year celebration party (see below).

"My volunteer listened and built a bond of trust with our children, she understood our isolation and allowed me time to talk through my feelings and cook and do jobs I needed to get on top of and most importantly it was weekly so something to look forward to." -
Family 2016

"I've never felt a burden to my volunteer... She doesn't judge me. Doesn't expect anything from me but encourages me to be the best of me."
- Family 2017

10TH YEAR CELEBRATION

To celebrate 10 years of Home-Start in the Cotswolds we held a party for families, volunteers, trustees, staff and funders who have been involved with Home-Start between 2006-2016. 150 guests attended our party in August 2016. We provided craft, games, bouncy castle, soft play, coffee & cake, table top stall and a light lunch. As you can see from the pictures it was appreciated by all!



NEWSLETTER

Regular newsletters are sent out to our funders, supporters, volunteers, referrers and families to keep them informed about all we do in the scheme.

QUALITY ASSURANCE REVIEW

Every 3 years the quality of all Home-Start schemes' practice is assessed under the Home-Start Quality Assurance System. This is a robust, bespoke system developed in collaboration with Charities Evaluation Service. It is based on a programme of self-assessment against Home-Start's nationwide quality standards. The ongoing development of our services is looked at, as well as the continuous improvement of all our practice areas relating to governance, management and service delivery. Our evaluation was completed in 2016 and we successfully met all the criteria. The final report is held in the Home-Start office.

NEW OFFICE LOCATION

In December 2016 Home-Start Cotswolds moved to an office within the new Cirencester Baptist Church building. This has been a positive move which has brought many benefits to the scheme. We are in a venue that is much used by the local community, thus raising our profile, there is onsite parking, and there are lots of accessible meeting rooms.

HOW IS HOME-START COTSWOLDS FUNDED?

Home-Start Cotswolds is funded mainly by grants from charitable trusts, local fundraising and donations from businesses and private individuals. This year the scheme received no statutory funding.

This financial year our expenditure was £74,293. Income was £69,564. There was a deficit of £4,729 which will be covered by our reserves which are maintained at 75% of running costs.

We are a not-for-profit organisation and our Directors, Trustees and Volunteers are all unpaid.

During this financial year we have benefited from support from the following organisations and individuals. The Trustees are extremely grateful for their support which enables our work in the community to continue.

John Armitage Trust
Peter Lang Children's Trust
Summerfield Trust
Sobell Foundation
Steppes Travel
KD Winstone Trust

Essex Trust
Bibury with Winson PCC
N&L Prince Charitable Trust
Bridget Plant
Coln St Aldwyns Children's Group

Various local events and initiatives have helped to raise funds for, and awareness of, Home-Start Cotswolds during the year including: Hayman-Joyce Estate Agents, Bagendon PCC, Coln Church Choir, Cold Aston School, South Cerney Football & Cricket Club, Waitrose Green Tokens, George, Duke of Kent Lodge, Coln Cinema, Sir Edward Horsfall Toddington WI and Siddington School.

Our thanks to all those who supported our two main fund raising events this year. The annual 10km Hike raised over £3,500. We would like to thank Lord and Lady Vestey for allowing us walk across the beautiful Stowell Park and to Kate and David Hicks Beach for organising the event. The Christmas Concert in St Mary's Church, Bibury raised over £2,000. Our thanks to the readers, Coln Choir and Bibury Primary School Singers for a wonderful performance. We are also very grateful to Tim Hastie-Smith and Jackie Colburn for their support and to Strutt and Parker for their sponsorship.



Hike for Home-Start - Stowell Park
May 2016



Hayman-Joyce sky dive for Home-Start
September 2016

The Trustees would like to extend their thanks and gratitude to all those who have made a contribution, financial or in kind, to Home-Start Cotswolds.

A copy of the audited Annual Accounts for 2016-17 is attached to this Annual Report. It is the policy of Home-Start Cotswolds to seek to maintain a reserves balance of at least 75% of the annual running costs.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE COMING YEAR

During 2017 we will be continuing our core work which will also include:

- A new group for the North Cotswolds
 - First Aid Training for all volunteers
 - Safeguarding training for Trustees
- The next preparation training course for new volunteers will be run in January 2018.
 - We will continue to research and approach charitable trusts and businesses to build a varied range of funding, alongside running community fundraising events including our annual Hike and the Christmas Concert.

2017-2018 looks like being an exciting year ahead in which we hope to see Home-Start Cotswolds continue to support families and develop our provision across the area. We can only do this valuable work with the support of our funders and volunteers to whom we are indebted once more.

Christine Hall
Chair of Trustees
For and on behalf of the Trustees
20 June 2017