

Home-Start
Gosport & Fareham
Annual Report
2016 - 2017

Home
START
Support and friendship
for families



For every parent
to have the
support they need
to give their
children the best
start in life.

Many thanks to the following who supported us in 2016 to 2017:-

Big Lottery
Royal British Legion
Crofton Church
Alverstoke WI Bridge Club
Oddfellows

Delta House
Salterns Lane
Fareham
Hants
PO16 0QS
Tel: 01329 825858
E-mail: info@homestartgosportandfareham.org.uk
Website: www.homestartgosportandfareham.org.uk

Gosport Borough Council
David Miles-Berry
Waitrose
Donations in Memory of Mrs Prentice
Mrs S Matthews

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Salterns Lane
Fareham
PO16 0QS
Registered charity no. 1118012

Chairman's Report

Andy Stevens

Welcome to the Annual Report for Home-Start Gosport & Fareham.

I am pleased to report upon a period of stability, thanks to the Big Lottery funded Minds Matter Project and once again, funding from the British Legion to support service families in our area. This cushion of guaranteed funding has an immeasurable positive impact on a small charity and the morale of all involved.

This means that full concentration can be given to our core business of supporting families, ensuring that they receive help when needed and children are given the best possible start in life.

Much of this year has been spent discussing the proposed merger of the Home-Start schemes in Hampshire. This is to ensure a more sustainable working model and ensure the longevity of Home-Start. The reality of the 'third sector' these days is to bid for funding when in direct competition with much larger organisations; to be successful we must have the necessary expertise and skills to bid for tenders and offer a county wide service. Much discussion and soul searching has been done to decide upon this exciting and at the same time important decision.

The loss of what is seen as a local service based in the community and supported by the community has been a major concern, however should the decision to merge be made the impact upon families and volunteers locally will be negligible.

Another driver for the merger is the ability to support more families; plus such is the reality of the voluntary sector, that the decision is being made against a background of closures and potential closures, as the ongoing impact of less money to go around affects schemes throughout Hampshire.

Following on from last year, the recruitment of volunteers has become more challenging, something being experienced by many voluntary organisations. The staff have become very inventive and pro-active to solve this problem and have certainly done all they can to remedy this state of affairs.

We have had 3 new trustees join our board, which has had a very positive effect, bringing in skills we had previously lacked. We welcome Charlotte, Sally and Paul.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, Louise, Jacky, Caroline and Debbie and our trustees, Roger, Georgina, Sandra, Charlotte, Sally and Paul, also Janet our volunteer representative on the board. Plus our advisors who also give their time and knowledge. Without all of them we would not be able to operate and ensure our governance.

Finally, I would like to thank our volunteers who make a difference through the support they give to families across Gosport & Fareham.

Directors	Advisors	Advisors/Directors Resigned
Andy Stevens	Paul O'Beirne	Marian Ellerton
Georgina Boase	Sarah Hands	Sally Turrell
Roger Facer	Piers Bateman	David Miles
Sandra Regnard	Tina Ellis	Susan Bayford
Paul Rann	Lorraine Morgan	
Charlotte Britton-Stevens	Gosport Voluntary Action	
Sally Langham-Brown		

Scheme Team Report

Louise Wheeldon
Senior Co-ordinator

This has been a year of building and growth. With a fully funded structure, a complete staff team and a clear plan for our service delivery, the focus this year has been on 'making it happen'. Volunteer recruitment has proved a bigger challenge than any of us ever imagined and speaking to our Home-Start neighbours and other local charities, it is a problem faced by the charitable sector in general. We have met this challenge head on and developed lots of new ways to spread the word about how rewarding the role of a Home-Start volunteer can be. Both staff and volunteers have been out and about in the community letting people know how they can get involved. We attended Collingwood Family Day, Stubbington Fayre, Community Showcase event at Fernham Hall, The Older Persons Forum at Thorngate Hall, School Christmas Markets and additional professional events as well as promoting the service at local supermarkets and on the High Streets. We have really worked hard to get out there and meet new people and the result has been a fantastic 70% rise in volunteers trained compared to the previous year and next year is looking even better as we are just about to deliver our biggest course in over 2 years!

We have also looked hard at our on-line presence and what seemed like an impossible target of 2 Facebook and Twitter posts per week is now a matter of routine. This has been a successful way of extending our reach to new people and keeping in touch with our existing supporters. If you are able please visit and 'like' our page as the more people share our posts the more people learn of the important work we do. It is worth noting that our latest member of staff, Catherine, applied for the post after seeing it advertised on Facebook.

Talking of Catherine, we are just about to welcome our first paid support worker. This post has been created by the need to keep our service levels high despite reduced levels of volunteers and to reach out to as many families as ask us for support. She will be working on a part time basis visiting families in their own homes, offering emotional and practical support in line with our Big Lottery funded project, Minds Matter.

While we are excited about the growth of the scheme and the new people joining us we are still delighted to celebrate those volunteers that have been with us for some time. We remain extremely grateful to all our volunteers that continue to offer their time and their support to local parents and their children. Especially those celebrating long service awards - we have 6 volunteers who have been with us for over 5 years and 2 volunteers who have donated over 10 years of support to us. Thank you again to you all.

Family Needs Identified	% resolved or improved
Managing children's behaviour	85%
Being involved in children's development or learning	100%
Coping with physical health	100%
Coping with mental health	89%
Coping with feeling isolated	85%
Parent's self-esteem	100%
Coping with child's physical health	100%

Family Needs Identified	% resolved or improved
Coping with child's mental health	100%
Managing the household budget	87%
The day-to-day running of the home	100%
Stress caused by conflict in the family	100%
Coping with extra work of multiple children under 5	100%
Use of services	100%

Treasurer/Financial Report

Sandra Regnard

Accounts available on request

The position as at 31 March 2017 (compared to 2016) was an income of £97,280.27 (85,617.67) and expenditure of £108,201.76 (£66,876.44), leaving a loss of £10,921.49. This has therefore reduced our current assets which now stand at £82,387.74 (£93,309.23).

The reason that we have ended the year with a loss is because we were able to keep the balance of the Lottery funds that were not spent in year 1 (Dec 15 – Nov 16) and some of this has been spent in the period Dec 16 – Mar 17.

New computers were purchased in September 2016 and we were able to use funds from the Lottery budget to pay for these.

The Royal British Legion are awarding funding for a further year (April 2017- March 2018) so again we have our additional 10% funding as required per the Lottery bid.

Our reserves remain at £40,000.

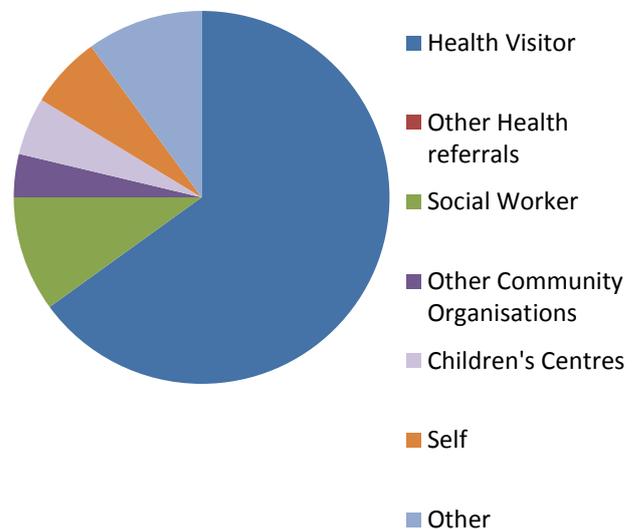
We supported 62 families (180 children) last year. Our home visiting volunteers visit their families once a week for 2-3 hours. They gave over 1880 hours to the scheme this year.

Family "Professional service, polite volunteers. They're welcoming, honest, thoughtful and caring. You can't ask for more than that!"

Family "My volunteer was invaluable to me and I am so lucky that you managed to find her so quickly"

Referrer "Mum rang me today and sounded transformed by the input given by the service. Big thanks to the team"

Source of Referrals



We thank our 45 home visiting volunteers for their support and commitment. We said goodbye to 16 volunteers but also trained 19 new volunteers. 37% of the volunteers who left went on to employment, training or further education.