

ANNUAL REPORT 2020-2021



Contents

- 1. About Home-Start
- 2. Staff, Trustees & Volunteers
- 3. Chair's Report
- 4. Treasurer's Report
- 5. Scheme Manager's Report
- 6. Our Work
- 7. What families say about our support
- 8. Our volunteers
- 9. A Celebration of our Year
- 10. Thank you to our supporters
- 11. Join Us



About Home-Start

Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times. Last year 13,500 volunteers supported 56,000 children in 27,000 families, in over 180 communities in the UK.

Home-Start South Warwickshire offers a home-visiting service in which volunteers provide non-judgemental, compassionate, confidential support, friendship and practical help to families with at least one child under 5, and where there are difficulties or stresses in the home.

Set up in September 2019, we offer peer-led support to families living in South Warwickshire, recognising that the foundations of good health throughout life, lies in early childhood and that parents play the key role in giving their children a good start in life.

Our vision is that every parent has the support they need to give their children the best start in life, because childhood can't wait.

Whilst all Home-Start schemes are guided by the same principles, each is an autonomous unit, individually registered with the Charities Commission, and with their own local management committee responsible for their own funding. Home-Start UK provides advice and support together with a stringent Quality Assurance review process to ensure the scheme operates effectively.

The charity is run by a board of Trustees who are responsible for the management and direction of the scheme. The team is made up of five part-time members of staff together with a network of trained volunteers who carry out the home visiting service.



Staff, Trustees and Volunteers

Staff

Marie Ashford - Scheme Manager
Emma Gurdag - Senior Coordinator
Mel Pritchard - Family Coordinator
Jemma Bonner - Community Partnerships Manager
Caroline Pepperell - Admin and Finance Manager

Trustees

Deirdre Edwards - Chair
Selina Kermode - Treasurer
Lin Griffiths
Ally Purchon
Peter Botsoe
Alex Anderson
Sarah Brittain-Jones, Nick Ellison and Helen Keast - resigned during the year

Volunteers

Caroline, Annamarie, Vivien, Sally, Jan, Heather, Angela, Jemma, Tracy, Emma, Kate, Janine, Claire, Amanda, Yvette, Mary, Sue, Ros, Lynn, Sue, Linda, Fiona, Helen, Su, Sarah, Liz, Amy, Rachel, Patrice, Rosie, Saby, Claire, Jane, Viv, Sue, Emma



Chair's Report

Our second year of operation, has seen continual growth and development despite the changing and ongoing constraints imposed during the COVID pandemic. The Pandemic has impacted all sectors of the country and communities therein, rendering relentless change and adaptations for everyone. The enforced restrictions and isolation affecting even the heartiest whilst further marginalising struggling families, especially the families with the vulnerable under 5s, limiting whatever family support they may have due to the conditions of the pandemic. We are yet to understand the full impact on young children; however, Home Start South Warwickshire embraced the challenges with innovative ideas to support families safely in the local community.

The first part of the year involved an extensive audit from Enjoy Digital, resulting in a full Sustainable Holistic Development Assessment report mid year. The assessment addressed nine organisational elements contributing towards development capabilities. Commendations included

'the Board, management and staff have an incredibly positive relationship and work effectively to the priorities of the organisation.'

The recommendations have been acknowledged, initiated and implemented where possible, including recruitment for the Board as well as the Operations team. The board of trustees has strengthened with the inclusion of 3 new trustees with a diverse range of experience and skills to assist in the next phase of development and with regular zoom and face to face meetings to keep abreast of plans and events. These included successful personnel recruitment as well as sourcing and relocating to new office premises. The new premises has provided a central office, which has addressed many of the recommendations set out in the audit mentioned earlier, as well as providing on site facilities for training and other events.

Thank you to all our benefactors, their help has enabled our growth, new offices, additional personnel, training and professional advice and fundraising support. The income has enhanced our position for the year ahead. May we continue to develop and grow, whilst maintaining the safe professional delivery of the services we provide.

Thank you must also go to to all past trustees for their generosity of time and expertise and our new trustees for giving their time and strengths to the Board. Thank you to our Scheme Manager for her momentous input, in guidance, training and inspiration to the Operations

team. To the Operations and Administration team who have successfully navigated the successful changes within HSSW, despite uncertainty with the pandemic. And last but by no means least, heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers; those who support families in our community, as well as those who have supported behind the scenes.

Together we make a difference.

Deirdre Edwards - Chair of Trustees



Treasurer's Report

Despite the ongoing pandemic and still only in our second year of operation we have had a very successful financial year.

Our income of £115,963 was more than double that of the previous year (£53,924) and despite our expenditure increasing nearly four-fold, we ended the year with a surplus of £31,970, a slight increase on last year (£29,638).

Nearly 85% of our income came from Grants, Trusts and Foundations, with a quarter of these funds coming through Home-Start UK. Overall, we received a slightly higher percentage of restricted grants compared to unrestricted, with ongoing support from our local councils as well as the Stella Symons Trust, Wilmcote Charitrust and the Dumbreck Charity.

Donations rose by nearly 200% to £8,783 up from £2,998 – our thanks to the individuals and organisations for their generous support including Keysoft Solutions Ltd and Blackburn Chemicals.

Fundraising activities were on hold for most of the year, however, between lockdowns and as we started to return to some normality, we were able to hold a couple of fundraising events – the Captain Tom 100 challenge and a Family Fun Day were both hugely successful and these together with smaller activities raised £8,714.

Our second year of operation saw a huge growth phase in our development and hence our expenditure – the biggest increase by far being salary costs as we improved our staffing structure to cope with the upsurge in referrals. We recruited 3 new team members and also ensured that existing staff were compensated for the hours they worked rather than relying on goodwill.

Staff and volunteer expenses rose as we provided support to more families and also made doorstep deliveries of food and medications during lockdowns.

Costs for staff training increased as 2 team members gained accreditation to deliver the PEEPS parenting programme with volunteer training costs reducing slightly as preparation courses were delivered online rather than face to face.

We were fortunate this year that the fundraising events we held incurred minimal expenditure, whilst a grant from Home-Start UK provided 8 days of professional support to develop our fundraising strategy and look at multi-year funding opportunities.

The purchase of a new CRM system as well as essential equipment for staff all contributed to the increase in Management and Administration costs.

Our long-term target for reserves is that they should cover approximately 6 months' expenditure so that, in the event of an unexpected and abrupt drop in income, we would not have to discontinue support for existing families in a sudden and disruptive way. As a new charity we understand that this will take some time to build up, but we were able to transfer £8,500 from our surplus of unrestricted funds to start the process.

We ended the year in a strong financial position, however, we are acutely aware of the increase in expenditure over the next few years as we ensure we have the correct structure in place to support and build our offering.

Financial Accounts 2020/21

		T OF RECEIPTS A AR ENDED 30 SE			
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	30/09/21 Total	30/09/20 Total
	NOTES	£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Grants, Trusts and Foundations	2a	47,915	50,551	98,466	42,979
Donations	2b	8,783	-	8,783	2,998
Fundraising Activities	2c	8,714	-	8,714	7,947
TOTAL		65,412	50,551	115,963	53,924
EXPENDITURE					
Cost of Charitable Activities	3a	32,773	36,951	69,724	16,944
Fundraising costs	3b	1,057	3,200	4,257	6,056
Management and Administration	3c	5,724	2,256	7,980	1,286
Governance Costs	3d	2,032	-	2,032	-
TOTAL		41,586	42,407	83,993	24,286
NET INCOME		23,826	8,144	31,970	29,638
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		23,826	8,144	31,970	29,638
Transfer of funds		-81	81	-	-
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total Funds brought forward		20,706	8,932	29,638	-
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		44,451	17,157	61.608	29.638

	ETS AND LIABILITIES 30 SEPTEMBER 2021	
	2020/21 Total £	2019/20 Total £
ASSETS		
Cash funds:		
Debtors		-
Cash at bank	61,608	29,638
The funds of the Charity		
General Funds	35,951	20,706
Restricted funds	17,157	8,932
Reserves	8,500	
	61,608	29,638
LIABILITIES		
Rent	150	-
Salaries	5,453	-
Staff training and development	200	-
Fundraising costs	274	-
1:1 counselling	120	-
Independent examiner's fee	600	360
	6,797	360

Feature £<	2021 30/09/20	30/09/2021	Restricted	Unrestricted	
The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust		Total	Funds	Funds	a) GRANTS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS
The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust 2,250 - 2,25 Stella Symons Trust 8,000 - 8,000 Willmorte Charitrust 1,000 - 1,000 Dumbreck Charitry 2,000 - 2,000 DCMS Pears / Home-Start UK 8,000 3,200 11,21 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 665 3,325 3,99 Persimmon Homes 1,000 - 1,000 Arnold Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 1,000 Arnold Clark Community Fund 20,000 - 20,000 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust 0,1075 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 731 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 5,000 4,700 DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 0 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 0 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Warburtons - 0 5,000 3,000 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Warburtons - 0 5,000 3,000 Warburtons - 0 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Warburtons - 0 5,000 3,000 Michael Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 2,000 2,000 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Michael Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 2,000 2,000 Mactional Lottery - 2,000 2,000 Mactional		£	£	£	
Stella Symons Trust 8,000 - 8,00 Willmocte Charitrust 1,000 - 1,00 DcMs Pears / Home-Start UK 8,000 3,200 11,2 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 665 3,325 3,99 Persimmon Homes 1,000 - 1,00 Arnold Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 1,00 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 20,0 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - 10,175 10,17 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 731 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,87 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 4,70 CMGK / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,00 5,00 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00 4,00		4,000	-	4,000	The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust
Wilmote Charitrust		2,250	-	2,250	The Misses Barrie Charitable Trust
Dumbreck Charity 2,000 - 2,00 DCMS Pears / Home-Start UK 8,000 3,200 11,20 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 665 3,325 3,395 Persimmon Homes 1,000 - 1,00 Arnold Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 20,00 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 20,00 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - 10,175 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 731 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 150 155 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00	10,500	8,000	-	8,000	Stella Symons Trust
DCMS Pears / Home-Start UK 8,000 3,200 11,21 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 665 3,325 3,99	500	1,000	-	1,000	Wilmcote Charitrust
John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 665 3,325 3,99 Persimmon Homes 1,000 - 1,000 Arnold Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 2,000 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 2,000 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - 10,175 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 7,875 7,875 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,700 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,600 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 2,000 Methael Marsh Trust - 200 2,000 Heart of England - 3 - 3 National Lottery - 3 - 3 Tesco - 4,7915 5,551 98,41 B) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,100 Commonweight - 3,600 - 2,000 Commonweight - 3,600 - 3,600 Commonweight	2,000	2,000		2,000	Dumbreck Charity
Persimmon Homes 1,000 - 1,00 Arnold Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 1,00 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 20,00 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - 10,175 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 781 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,00 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,19 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - - - Heart of England - - - National Lott	0 -	11,200	3,200	8,000	DCMS Pears / Home-Start UK
Arnoid Clark Community Fund 1,000 - 1,000 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 20,00 William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 731 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,87 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 MCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warvickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Warvickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England		3,990	3,325	665	John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK
William Cadbury Trust 20,000 - 20,00 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust - 10,175 10,175 John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK - 731 731 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 150 15 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 4,000 4,00 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael Anna Wix Charitable Trust - - - Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - Tesco - - - -		1,000	-	1,000	Persimmon Homes
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust		1,000	-	1,000	Arnold Clark Community Fund
John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK 731 731 731 732 Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust - 7,875 7,88 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,700 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 5,000 150 Blakemore Foundation - 150 155 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,19 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,600 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 2,000 Heart of England Mational Lottery Tesco Home-Start Covid IT Grant Tesco Tesco Donations Donations Donations Donations	.0 -	20,000	-	20,000	William Cadbury Trust
Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust 7,875 7,875 Stratford Town Trust - 4,700 4,70 OCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,00 Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 4,00 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 20 20 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - Tesco - - - - - Home-Start Covid IT Grant - - - - 5 DONATIONS - 2,106 - 2,10	5 -	10,175	10,175		Postcode Neighbourhood Trust
Stratford Town Trust 4,700 4,700 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 5,000 150 150 150 150 150 150 150 160 4,000	4.1	731	731		John Lewis Partnership / Home-Start UK
DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund - 5,000 5,000 Blakemore Foundation - 150 155 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Comic Rellef - 3,600 3,600 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - Tesco - - - - - Home-Start Covid IT Grant -		7,875	7,875	-	Robert and Felicity Waley-Cohen Charitable Trust
Blakemore Foundation - 150 150 Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,00 Warburtons - 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,600 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - Tesco - - - - - Home-Start Covid IT Grant - - - - - - b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10 - - -		4,700	4,700		Stratford Town Trust
Brook Trust (HS UK) - 4,000 4,000 Warburtons - 400 400 Warburtons - 5,195 5,19 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - - Tesco -	5,000	5,000	5,000		DCMS / Home-Start Covid 19 Loneliness Fund
Warburtons 400 400 Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust 2,000 2,000 Comic Relief 3,600 3,600 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust 200 200 Heart of England - - - National Lottery - - - Tesco - - - Home-Start Covid IT Grant - - - b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10	-	150	150		Blakemore Foundation
Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund - 5,195 5,195 Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,000 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - - Tesco - <		4,000	4,000		Brook Trust (HS UK)
Michael Marsh Trust - 2,000 2,00 Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - - Tesco -		400	400		Warburtons
Comic Relief - 3,600 3,60 Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England - - - - National Lottery - - - - - Tesco -	5 11,588	5,195	5,195		Warwickshire CC County Councillors fund
Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust - 200 200 Heart of England National Lottery Tesco Home-Start Covid IT Grant b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10	0 -	2,000	2,000		Michael Marsh Trust
Heart of England - - - National Lottery - - - Tesco - - - - Home-Start Covid IT Grant 47,915 50,551 98,44 b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10		3,600	3,600		Comic Relief
National Lottery		200	200		Michael and Anna Wix Charitable Trust
Tesco	3,500	-	-		Heart of England
Home-Start Covid IT Grant	9,141	-	-		National Lottery
b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10	500	-	-		Tesco
b) DONATIONS Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10	250	-	-		Home-Start Covid !T Grant
Individual giving 2,106 - 2,10	6 42,979	98,466	50,551	47,915	
					b) DONATIONS
Corporate giving 6.677 - 6.67	5 258	2,106	-	2,106	Individual giving
	7 2740	6,677	-	6,677	Corporate giving

		Omestricted	Restricted	30/03/2021	30/03/2020
3. RESOURCES EXPENDED		Funds	Funds	Total	Total
	Notes	£	£	£	£
a) Charitable Activities Costs					
Salaries		28,830	27,927	56,757	5,601
Staff expenses		622	1,148	1,770	498
Staff training and development		325	948	1,273	257
Volunteer expenses		1,627	1,848	3,475	163
Volunteer training and development		240	120	360	382
Recruitment costs		158	-	158	-
Direct family support		889	2,080	2,969	10,043
Group work		82	-	82	
1:1 counselling		-	2,880	2,880	-
		32,773	36,951	69,724	16,944
b) Fundraising Costs					
Fundraising costs		1,057	3,200	4,257	6,056
		1,057	3,200	4,257	6,056
c) Management and Administration					
Office costs - postage, printing,					
stationery		328	-	328	14
IT - software subscriptions and costs		3,403	211	3,614	200
Insurances		909	-	909	1,072
Bank charges		54	-	54	
Premises - rent		150	-	150	-
Equipment		880	2,045	2,925	
		5,724	2,256	7,980	1,286
d) Governance Costs					
Independent Examiners Fee		360	-	360	-
HS UK fee		1,672	-	1,672	-
		2,032		2,032	
Grand Total		41,586	42,407	83,993	24,286

al	65,412	50,551	115,963	53,924

Fundraising events and Initiatives

Full audited annual accounts can be found on the Charities Commission website

Scheme Manager's Report

As is the case for the whole of the country, 2020-2021 has been a year like no other, with the coronavirus pandemic continuing to have a substantial impact on the families we are here to support, and on our staff and volunteer team too. I am immensely proud of how our staff and volunteers adapted their ways of working and responded to make sure that vital support to isolated families could continue. Throughout this year, we have been able to maintain predominantly face to face support to families, alongside some digital support where necessary.

Though restrictions have now eased, we are still dealing with the impact of the pandemic in our communities and no doubt we will be for some time yet. We are seeing increasing demand for our support and have a big role to play in helping families and our communities to recover. I have no doubt that our staff and volunteers will rise to the challenge and I want to thank them all for their continued dedication.

This rise in demand for our service resulted in a year of increased workloads for staff and the need to start thinking about new ways of supporting struggling parents. I am proud of the way we have adjusted, taken up new opportunities and developed our offer to families.

Aside from Covid, the biggest challenge this year has been recruiting and training sufficient numbers of volunteers to keep up with our referral rate - the delivery of three preparation courses trained 25 new volunteers to support 1:1 home visiting. It is clear from discussions with other local charities that recruiting and retaining volunteers has become harder because of the coronavirus pandemic. We will need to continue to use our resources carefully and to be creative in how we recruit, retain and use our volunteers. Good training programme and providing ongoing training and supervision is vital to ensure our volunteers feel they have the necessary skills to support families and can safeguard effectively. This year, in addition to the volunteer preparation course, the volunteers also received further training in safeguarding, first aid and mental health training from the Samaritans.

Growing our volunteer base and increasing the number of families we support brought another challenge - finding the best and safest way of storing data and for that data to be easily retrieved and to accurately show our impact. After a lot of consideration we decided to use Charitylog, a cloud based management system, which is already helping us to be more efficient and as we learn more about using it I believe it will provide greater clarity around our impact.

In addition to using Charitylog this year we have been able to provide individual mobiles and iPads to coordinators and use Microsoft Office 365.

Increasing our use of technology has helped staff work more efficiently, especially during the pandemic.

We have enjoyed working alongside Barnardo's, the Parenting Project and By Your Side in the development of the Dad Matters project, which aims to support dad's mental health and

strengthen the relationship between fathers and children. As we end the year, we are ready to start sourcing suitable funding with the hope that next year will bring the project to fruition.

We have been fortunate to work with three amazing counsellors this year. Parents have been able to access 1:1 counselling; some of whom have been waiting for an NHS appointment and others who have needed to build a trusting relationship with their volunteer before feeling ready to set out on their counselling journey.

Through funding, we have also benefited from the knowledge and support of experienced fundraisers, who have been invaluable in helping us as we have grown and developed.

Lastly, a heartfelt 'Thank you' to our Trustee board who have provided myself and all the staff with excellent governance, expert advice and considerable motivation. We said goodbye to Nick Ellison, Sarah Brittain-Jones and Helen Keast who were instrumental is helping set up the charity and we welcomed Selina Kermode, Peter Botose and Alex Anderson who bring a wealth of experience and skills.

Exciting times lie ahead as next year's plans include the setting up of a toy library and further developing our group work - following a successful pilot we will extend the offer of PEEP sessions (supporting parents and children to learn together) as well as piloting an 8-week Freedom Programme (supporting women who are, or have been, affected by domestic abuse).

Marie Ashford - Scheme Manager





Our work

54 referrals received

14 parents received 1:1 counselling

48 families
received 1:1
home-visiting
support

7 families supported online after leaving 1:1 home visiting

17 children attended our pilot PEEP sessions

214 beneficiaries supported

3456 volunteer hours delivered

25 new volunteers trained

62% of referrals are lone parents

67% of our families feel isolated

93% of our families suffer with their mental health

43% of our families have experienced domestic abuse

What our families say about us......

'I would say the most helpful part is feeling like you're listened to, being supported and not judged at all. My volunteer help has for me been the difference between being able to leave the house with all three children and being stuck at home. Even being able to have an hour or two on my own, whilst my lively four year old goes for a walk, has benefitted my studies and my mental health too. It's wonderful to be able to sit down for five minutes and have a cup of tea in peace. Accessing the counselling has been fantastic. I'm looking forward to my next session and hopefully that can benefit me, as I'm still waiting on the NHS.

1:1 home-visiting support

'The PEEP course helped fill in gaps in my knowledge of child development and, at the same time, boost my confidence that I am doing the right things to help my children develop.

We participated in different activities, such as the messy food tasting, that I might not have tried myself at home as I don't have the creativity or confidence to do it myself.

It was also great to socialise with other mums and their children after so much time spent playing on our own due to the pandemic'

PEEP sessions

'If I didn't receive this help I would be pulling my hair out, like I was before. Even just a couple of hours a week really does make a difference, especially when I struggle so much with my children's additional needs.

Lockdown has certainly made life 100% more difficult for us, so I think I can speak for many when I say thank you very much for all you do for us, because without the support I've received during this difficult, time life would be much harder indeed.'

1:1 home -visiting support





During this past 6 weeks I've learnt so many things to do with him. I didn't know how to play with my little one but now we play play-doh and do arty things.'

PEEP sessions

I felt comforted knowing that there was someone offering me their time each week, sometimes just sitting in the kitchen chatting or taking my little one out for a walk. I could just be me. No one else could have done that, especially during lockdown. There's only so many times you can tell your friends and family the same problems every time you talk to them! Thank you to my wonderful volunteer and to Home-Start'.

1:1 home-visiting support

I found that the course really helped with my confidence and not feeling so alone with being a mum and having support and help. And for my daughter for her social skills and interacting with other children of a similar age was amazing for her also, as she doesn't get many opportunities to meet children, other than nursery. So this really helped us both'

PEEP sessions

Our Volunteers

There are many benefits to volunteering - here are what a few of our volunteers say about their experience.....

I feel like I'm only doing a tiny bit to help my family but I accept that this is the best way to support them at the moment. The volunteer training prepared me for this. It can be a slow process but I know that whatever I do, however small, it is making a difference

Volunteering with Home Start has been given me a sense of purpose and fulfillment, knowing that I am positively impacting someone else's life and in particular the lives of the young children in the family. I have loved meeting new people on the training course and have really enjoyed having access to other training. Home-Start South Warwickshire made me feel valued and appreciated, I would encourage anyone thinking about volunteering to go for it!

Being a Home-Start volunteer has been so rewarding, especially when you start to see the positive impact you make to your family's wellbeing through even the smallest of gestures and support. The training to get started is fantastic and it's a lovely team to be part of with a great ethos."

Volunteering with Home-Start helps me use all my parenting, life skills and experience to really help a family having a difficult time.

It may be emotional support or practical support, but seeing the difference you can make in often very small ways is really rewarding"

With two young children myself I know how hard the early days of parenting can be, so being able to provide extra support to a family when they really need it is so rewarding and fulfilling. Home-Start South Warwickshire support their volunteers with fantastic training and guidance so I've learnt a lot too, and I have the flexibility to fit volunteering around my other commitments. I'm so proud be a Home-Start South Warwickshire volunteer"

Training our wonderful volunteers via Zoom





A celebration of our year......











Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, grants, HS UK and members of the public we were able to distribute gifts to our families for **Christmas and Easter and wellbeing packs for** our supported mums.



them









A new website thank you Harry Richardson!





Waitrose Kenilworth supplied five ingredients to 3 families over 10 weeks to encourage family cooking





Celebrating Volunteers week with a picnic



Our first PEEP course









Moving into our first office!

Thank you to

Our TRUSTEES who have had to give more time than usual to support staff as we develop through a pandemic;

Our STAFF who are so supportive of each other and who have been able to adapt to constant changes;

JENNA WILLS of Finding Starfish, for her continued support and mentorship;

ALLY AND SIMON PURCHON for organising the brilliant Storytelling tent at the family fun day, as well as many other amazing fundraising events;

Our counsellors, MARY HITCHINGS, SUE DAVIES AND LYNN NAIDOO for supporting our parents so ably.

Our REFERRERS for trusting us to support their clients

And a special thank you to all our VOLUNTEERS who are at the centre of everything we do.

And to our funders, donors and individuals who have made our work possible



Stella Symons Charitable Trust















The Misses Barrie
Charitable Trust









Dumbreck Charity

20th May 1061

The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust

The Michael Marsh
Charitable Trust

A Transoft Solutions

A Transoft Solutions company

Join us.....

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our amazing team, and have a number of exciting opportunities available;

1:1 Home-visiting volunteers
Group support volunteers
Volunteer trustees
Volunteer drivers
Volunteer fundraisers

Could you spare some time to support local families who are struggling?

If so please contact us at

office@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk

Tel: 07564 543 806

One of the greatest gifts you can give is your time





Home-Start South Warwickshire has a variety of volunteering roles and are looking for people to make a difference to young families across South Warwickshire.

For more information please head to www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk

