

**Issue 38**  
**November**  
**2023**

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*We are currently  
supporting...*

*... 24 families with 1-  
2-1 family support,*

*... 13 families in our  
perinatal groups,*

*... 7 families with  
Freedom,*

*... 4 families with  
PEEP,*

*... 2 families with  
SALT.*

*We have 10 families  
on our waiting list for  
1-2-1 support*

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**What a busy year it has been!**

**Throughout 2023 we have supported over 130 families through both 1-2-1 and group services, including 4 PEEP groups, 2 Freedom Programmes, 5 perinatal groups, 3 stay and play groups and 1 Mum 2 Mum Support group.**

**We have trained 24 new volunteers over 3 training courses and said goodbye to 17 volunteers whose time with us has come to an end. We have also said farewell to Ted and welcomed Marie back into the fold.**

**We have raised over £250,000 through a variety of funding streams to ensure we are able to continue providing the support that families need.**

**Next year we hope to build on this to support even more families going through difficult times, by recruiting more 1-2-1 volunteers and developing our group provision.**

**None of this would be possible without the kindness, dedication and passion that you lovely volunteers give towards families in your role with us. So, a huge thank you to you all and we wish you all best wishes for the festive season. We hope to see you at the Christmas party! Read on for more details...**

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*Due to the limited space we have at HSSW HQ, we are now unable to accept any donations of toys, books, clothes etc. If a family requests an item, please put a message on the WhatsApp group or contact your Coordinator for information about how they can find what they need.*

*You can also find details of other sources of all sorts of provisions on the signposting page of the Volunteer Resources pages on our website.*

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## Senior management Christmas message

*Dear Volunteers,*

*As we approach the festive season, we wanted to take a moment to express our gratitude and thanks to each and every one of you. Your dedication and selflessness to the families you support is amazing, and you know that without you, Home Start South Warwickshire would not be able to offer help to parents and children.*

*Your willingness to give your time and energy to support our initiatives has made a significant difference to the lived experience of parents and children. Whether it's lending a helping hand, offering a listening ear, or offering friendship, your contributions have touched the hearts of those we support.*

*And you, our volunteers, are a cherished part of our Home Start family – your kindness, dedication and generosity are the greatest gifts we could ask for this festive period.*

*Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and peaceful Christmas.*

*Thank you,*

*Marie and Caroline*

## Welcome to our newest volunteers!

In October we welcomed 6 new volunteers to our wonderful team after they completed the volunteer prep course. This was our 14<sup>th</sup> cohort, taking our volunteer team to 59!

I am sure you will join us in welcoming Alex, Lynn, Hazel, Hannah, Caitlin and Amanda to the team. It has been great getting to know you all and we know you will be amazing volunteers!

Thank you for your commitment and passion for supporting families going through challenging times.

# Thank you!

**Arty and Stretchy Monkeys groups in Southam are now being run by the Graham Adams Centre, but HSSW families are still able to access the groups free of charge.**

**They can book a space in either group on this link,**

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whatson/warwickshire/the-graham-adams-centre>

**or contact [gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk)**

## PEEP

Our current PEEP group in Stratford will be ending this month. In the new year, we will be running more groups alongside our existing one in Stratford, as Gemma becomes our newest PEEP facilitator.

We are looking for some volunteers to support at all these groups, and help Mel and Gemma with set up and tidy up, as well as playing with the children and supporting the parents in the group. If you are interested in helping at one of these groups, please contact Gemma on [gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk).

**Stratford** – Stratford Children and Family Centre, dates and times, tbc.

**Lighthorne Heath** – Lighthorne Children and Family Centre, Mondays from 15<sup>th</sup> Jan, 10am-11am, 8 week course (excluding half term).

**Lillington** – Lillington Children and Family Centre, Tuesdays from 20<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9.30am-10.30am, 5 week course.

## Dad Matters

Dad Matters South Warwickshire now enters its second year with some exciting changes afoot!

Thanks to generous funding we will now be focusing support in Stratford-upon-Avon and Warwick, which gives us the opportunity to make a real difference in these areas. And we need your help!

We are looking for Dad Champions to provide support to local new dads. There is not a big time commitment, and full training and ongoing support is given. If you know any dads who might be interested, please ask them to contact Abi.

Please also like the Dad Matters Warwickshire Facebook page and share anything of interest within your networks.

**DAD MATTERS WARWICKSHIRE**

**HOME START**  
South Warwickshire

**DADS! WE NEED YOU!!**

Dad Matters South Warwickshire are looking for dads to join our team of volunteers to use your experience to provide support to new dads locally.

We do not ask for a big time commitment, even an hour a month would be amazing. Full training and ongoing support is provided.

To find out more email Abi - [abi@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:abi@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk) or message/call 07783 426359

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*“Working with the families, staff and volunteers in the creche for (Freedom) has been among the most rewarding experiences of my life. To play a small part in the life progress of the children and parents is very worthwhile.”*

*“It’s wonderful to see how mums and their children gain in confidence each week as relationships are established, and the children learn how to play with others in a safe, fun and stimulating environment.”*

*Quotes from our lovely Freedom Programme creche volunteers.*

## Freedom Programme

Our latest Freedom Programme will be ending this month and next year, we will be running more of these for Mums who have experienced domestic abuse. These are primarily for Mums who have children under 5 years of age, but there are also spaces for Mums with older children.

Whilst the Mums take part in the group, we also run a creche to look after the young children and give the Mums that all important space. We usually have a rota of volunteers who support us in the creche, and if you would like to be part of this team for our upcoming groups, please contact Sarah for more details.

## Mum2Mum Support

Our group at Bewiched, Heathcote, is going strong and we are seeing more and more families coming along each week for a coffee and a chat. This will continue until 19<sup>th</sup> December before ending for the Christmas holidays. It will start again on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January. If you would like to support this group, chatting with parents and playing with the children, please contact Gemma.

## Perinatal groups

Our antenatal groups in Stratford and Warwick continue to build momentum on Tuesday evenings, welcoming expectant parents to meet others and support each other through this exciting but daunting period. If you know any families in either area who would like to attend, please signpost them to us.

Our postnatal groups in Lillington, Warwick and Stratford are also continuing up until Christmas and are for Mums and their babies (until they are mobile) to get together and meet others at a similar point in their parenting journey. If you know any Mums in these areas with little babies, please signpost them to us.

If you would like to support us in running any of these groups, chatting to parents, and offering emotional support, please contact Sarah, [sarah@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:sarah@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk).

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*The office will be operating a skeleton staff between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.*

*We would advise that no home visits take place during this time, and you enjoy the festive season with your own family.*

*If you are visiting your family at any other time during the holidays, and need to speak to us, please do so via the office email and telephone:*

[office@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:office@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk)

*or 07564 543 806.*

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## **Christmas!**

### **Family Christmas Party**

All families that we currently support will soon be invited to our family Christmas party taking place on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a relaxed session where the children can play, parents can socialise and there will be a small gift for each child attending. If you are able to help your family to get here, that would be wonderful, but if not, your family can get in touch with us for support. Places are limited so do encourage your families to RSVP using the link sent to them if they would like to come.

### **Volunteer Christmas Party**

We would like to invite you all to our Christmas party on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December from 7pm-9pm at Wellesbourne Village Hall, CV35 9NH (please note, this is not St Peter's Church Centre).

We will have drinks and nibbles and some festive fun!

We hope to see you there!

Please RSVP to

[office@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk](mailto:office@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk) with any dietary requirements by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December.

### **Christmas Fundraising Campaign**

This year we are asking our supporters to donate to HSSW instead of buying Christmas cards. Our Christmas campaign "Yule be the difference" is asking our supporters to raise money for us during the festive season to help us to be there when this time can be very difficult for families. Supporters can donate via our website and offer £20, or whatever they can afford, to help us raise as much as possible.

So, if you're looking for an alternative to Christmas Cards or would like to donate, please visit our website

[www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk/](http://www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk/)

And please spread the word about our campaign too!



## Contact us

Home Start South Warwickshire  
St Peter's Church Centre, Church St, Wellesbourne, Warwick, CV35 9LS

Your Family Support Coordinator will be able to help you with questions or advice about your HS family.

For any other questions, please see below:

Staff member and job role	Email and phone number	For questions about...	Working days
Marie Ashford Head of Operations	<a href="mailto:marie@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">marie@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07906 143 611	HSSW, Safeguarding	Mon, Weds, Thurs
Emma Gurdag Family Support Manager	<a href="mailto:emma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">emma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07907 616 922	General volunteering, Safeguarding	Mon - Fri
Ros Bishop Family Support Coordinator	<a href="mailto:ros@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">ros@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07857 041 578	General volunteering	Tues - Thurs
Kate Smith Family Support Coordinator	<a href="mailto:kate@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">kate@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07719 731 098	General volunteering	Mon - Weds
Gemma Proctor Group Coordinator	<a href="mailto:gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">gemma@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07783 427 145	PEEP, Mum2Mum support groups, group volunteer training	Mon, Tues, Thurs
Mel Pritchard Speech and Language Therapist	<a href="mailto:mel@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">mel@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07927 130 969	Speech and Language support and PEEP	Varies
Sarah Kaiper-Holmes Perinatal Coordinator	<a href="mailto:sarah@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">sarah@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07906 143 611	Perinatal support and Freedom Programme	Mon - Thurs
Abi Hall Dad Matters Coordinator	<a href="mailto:abi@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">abi@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a> 07783 426 359	Dad Matters	Tues-Thurs
Caroline Pepperell Head of Finance and Income Generation	<a href="mailto:caroline@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">caroline@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a>	Finances, Expenses	Mon - Weds
Lucy Ashley Admin Assistant	<a href="mailto:lucy@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">lucy@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a>	Charity Log, Expenses	Mon, Weds, Thurs
Jemma Bonner Community Partnerships Manager	<a href="mailto:fundraising@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk">fundraising@homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk</a>	Fundraising	Tues, Weds

Keep updated on our Volunteering news on the Volunteer Resources page of our website – the page just for you, our fabulous volunteers, to find all you might need on your volunteering journey with us.

[www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk/volunteerresources](http://www.homestartsouthwarwickshire.org.uk/volunteerresources)