LOTTERY FUNDED

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HOME START

Wokingham District



Annual Report 2022/2023

Our Main Aims



Early Intervention and Prevention

Our emphasis is on supporting families at an early stage to ensure the support we offer has the best possible impact on children. We support families, to give their children the opportunities they need to thrive and develop in the earliest years. Identifying and addressing problems early, is one of the strongest themes of the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) Children's Plan and we support this.

Sustainability

We want to make sure Home-Start is here for parents and children now and in the future.

Diversity and Inclusion

We want to ensure that all parents are aware of what we can offer and feel confident in our approach. We want to ensure we reach those who are socially disadvantaged or those who do not find it easy to ask for help or access services for themselves or their children. We want to learn what works best for them and how we can shape our service to meet their needs.

Quality

We will ensure we have a continuous process of self-assessment and review, in every part of our work to ensure we continue to improve, develop and offer the highest quality service to families.

What We Do

Home-Start offers a unique service, recruiting and training volunteers – who are usually parents themselves – to visit families at home who have at least one pre-school child to offer informal, friendly and confidential support.

To help give children the best possible start in life, Home-Start supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the local community.



Our Team

We can be contacted
by email at
admin@home-startwd.org.uk
www.home-startwd.org.uk

Staff
Scheme Manager – Emma Roberts
Senior Co-ordinator – Mandy Özfiçıcı
Co-ordinator – Leanne Hill
Tools for Life Co-ordinator – Teresa Crandon
Group Worker – Kerry Lane
Administrator – Elaine Strange
Fundraiser – Amy Fennell

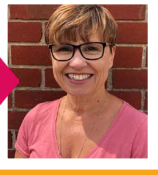
Honorary Officers – March 2022- April 2023
Chair – Chris Jack
Treasurer – Athena Guna
Company Secretary – Emma Roberts

Trustees
P Cannam
H Diffenthal
G Heard
S Heard
C Jack
R McCormack
A Guna
M Richards
S South
N Stubban

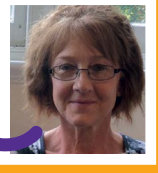
Trustees are elected and serve for 3 years. Re-election takes place at our Annual General Meeting.



Emma Roberts - Scheme Manager
I joined Home-Start Wokingham in July 2018 from a background in health, nutrition and humanitarian aid! Its been a steep but very interesting and enjoyable learning curve. Getting to know the team, volunteers and families has been a pleasure and knowing that together we can make a difference in the lives of families is very important. My role is to access the resources we need so our volunteers can provide the ongoing support, with guidance from the team.



Mandy Özfiçıcı - Scheme Coordinator
I joined Home-Start Wokingham District in March 2012 as a Co-ordinator, having been a home visiting volunteer for a couple of years. I really enjoy the variety each day brings, from meeting with families to find out how we can help, to meeting with volunteers to see how their relationship has developed with the family they support. Seeing families gain confidence in their abilities is amazing.



Elaine Strange - Administrator
I have been with Home-Start Wokingham District since August 2009. I currently work 24 hours per week providing administrative support to the office team and board of trustees. This work includes maintaining office records, banking and the monthly reconciliation of our accounts.



Teresa Crandon - Project Manager
I joined Home-Start Wokingham in October 2018 as the Tools for Life Project Co-ordinator. I have developed the training and resources for the project to train our existing volunteers and also new volunteers on the Volunteer Preparation Course. I look forward to developing and supporting more family groups across the borough with the team.



Kerry Lane - Group Worker
I joined Home-Start in November 2020 as a Group Worker to run and support toddler groups for Home-Start families. I have a background working in care as a support worker to adults with learning disabilities and complex needs. I also have experience in managing my own family with seven children, and of being a family who received Home-Start support.



Leanne Hill - Scheme Coordinator
I joined Home-Start Wokingham in November 2020, as a Scheme Co-ordinator having come from a background in the emergency services, children's safeguarding and a short time working in education. I have also previously been a Home-Start volunteer, which has given me a great insight into the diverse needs of the families we support.



Amy Fennell - Fundraiser
I spent four years visiting families as a volunteer for Home-Start Wokingham which gave me real insight into the challenges facing young families and how much our support can help. I wanted to use my skills as a lawyer to do more so was thrilled to join the team, part-time, in 2019. As our Fundraiser my role is to help raise the money we need to fund our work. I also work to raise our profile within Wokingham Borough through social media and involvement in community events. I love the challenge of the role and knowing that, together, we are making a real difference to local families.

Gallery


Welcome to Morrisons Wokingham
24 Hr
Supporting parents when they need us most
ENTRANCE








HOME START
Wokingham District
Recruiting
Volunteers n
Our volunteers come from all
of life, but they all have one thing
common, a desire to help give children
the best start in life.
Our volunteers visit families
in the home once a week
to provide practical and
emotional support.
Volunteer Preparation Course
starting soon, one session
a week over 6 weeks.
Contact us today to find out more:
















3/5/2022
Wokingham District
1000—00
Graeme Walton



Report from the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Our most significant event in the last year was the loss of our long-standing Trustee, Susan South, who died in December 2022. Sue initially served Home-Start as a volunteer, supporting many of our families, for over 16 years before becoming a much respected and knowledgeable Trustee. Sue worked tirelessly for Home-Start on our main Board and specialist sub-groups and is greatly missed.

My thanks to our sponsors, our fund-raising team and supporters who organised and ran our various fund-raising events, including a very successful golf day organised jointly with WADE, another excellent Vintage Clothes Sale and a new Ladies' beauty and pamper event! We look forward to being able to continue with these popular events.

Our families are facing increasing and different challenges to those that we have been used to supporting in the past. We are seeing more cases relating to depression, anxiety and financial worries, as well as the cases of isolation that we have seen in the past. We care deeply about all of the families we support and we are indebted as always to all of our excellent volunteers who give their time so generously to share their wisdom and experience.

Our thanks also to Mandy Ozficici who wanted a break from Home-Start but volunteered to act as interim scheme manager until Kate Lang started with us last year, at which time we said goodbye to Mandy.

With a gap in Scheme Managers during our year to March 2023, and with a commensurate reduction in successful funding applications, we had forecast a difficult financial challenge for the final quarter of the year and the Board was seriously concerned for the future of the charity. An in-depth review of our finances and, in particular, our financial liabilities to our permanent staff, led to the development of a new financial plan to ensure that HS could survive with a minimum operational budget for the immediate future.

We reviewed our family support activities and had to make a decision as to whether our family visiting or our groups activities could both continue. Our significant four-year funding for Tools for Life ended and were unable to secure further National Lottery funding at that time.

The Board took the difficult decision to suspend the group activities for the time being and focus on our core function of family visiting, which has been our key focus for over 25 years. In parallel, we had to review our costs and a reduction in roles and hours for our staff was a difficult but necessary decision and at the end of the financial year we said goodbye to Teresa and Kerry and we thank them for their service to Home-Start over recent years. We also consolidated our office costs and started to consider other office alternatives for review and decisions in Q2/2023.

Given the difficulties we that faced at the end of 2022, we were strongly supported by Home-Start UK and by Wokingham Borough Council and we thank them for their confidence in us to re-establish ourselves financially. Accordingly, we started the year 2023/24 in a much stronger position and we look forward to expanding our services again in the community.

Attracting funding to support our operation remains our biggest challenge and we have renewed our focus on grant applications and fund-raising. References to us for family support continue to increase and we are confident that we can provide that support through our families co-ordinator and our excellent volunteers.

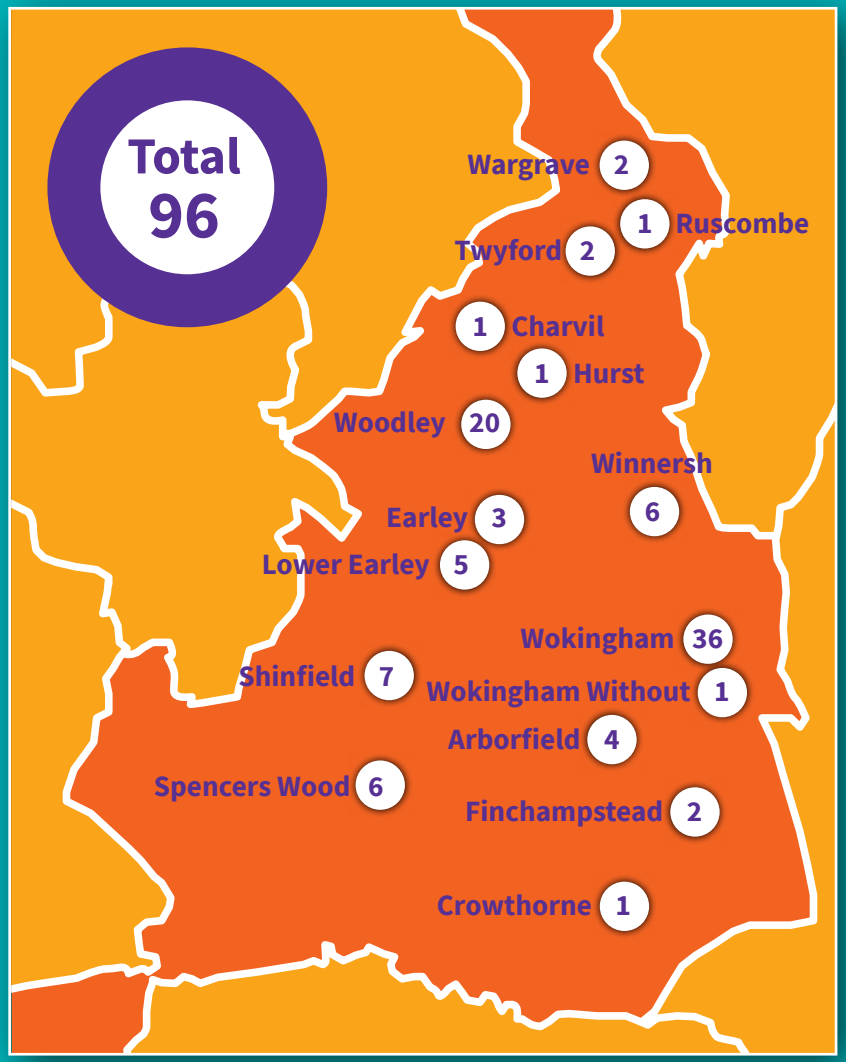
We concluded our discussions to agree a new contract with Home-Start UK (HSUK), our national organisation. HSUK itself is not isolated from the financial challenges facing the charitable sector this year and is reviewing its own organisational structure and financial model. We acknowledge and appreciate their ongoing support.

Finally, my thanks to all of our team, our volunteers and the Trustees who continue to work tirelessly to make a difference for all of the families that we support.

Chris Jack - Chair of Trustees
Home-Start Wokingham District,
30 August 2023

Where our supported families live

Map of Wokingham Borough.
Showing families supported by
Home-Start Wokingham District

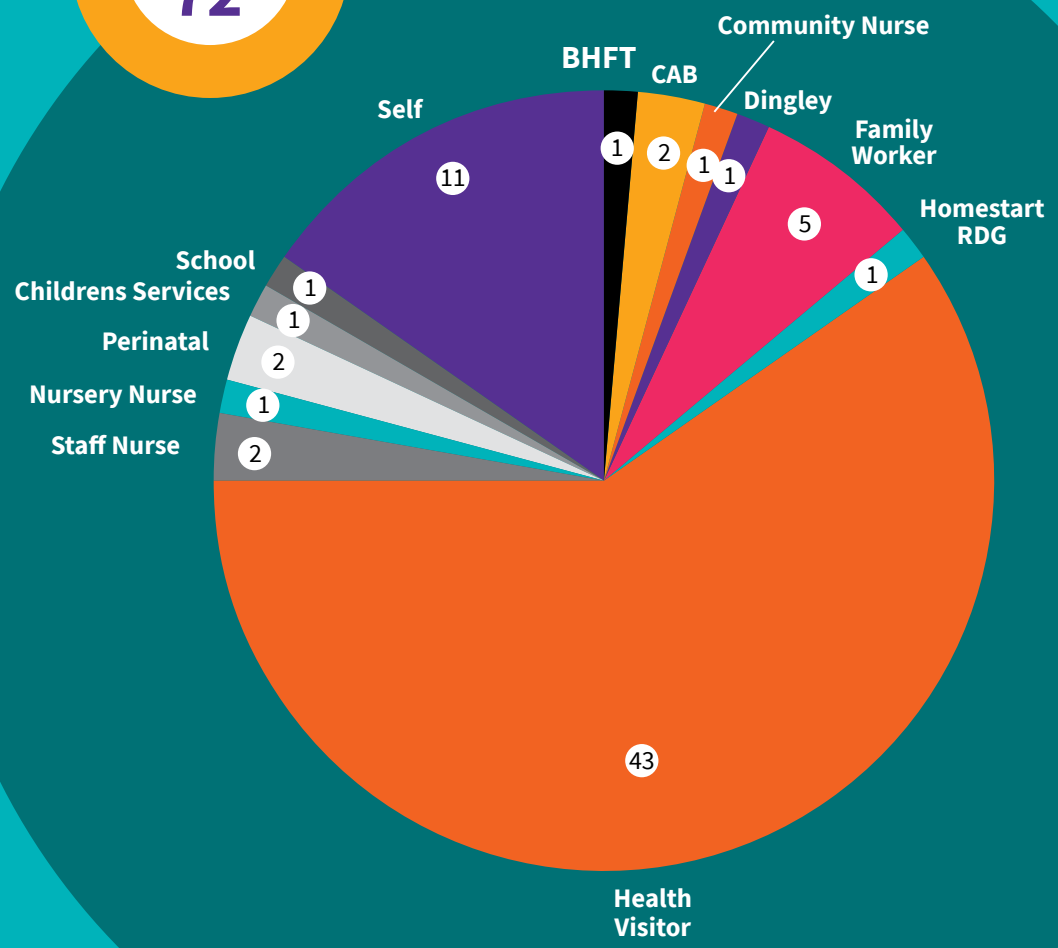


Source: CHARITY LOG (supported families 2022- 2023)

Source of referral

Total 72

Source: CHARITY LOG (new referrals from 2022-2023)



Total number of families supported through our groups during the year.

- 24 Mums the Word – Wokingham
- 29 Mums the Word – Winnersh
- 21 Mums the Word – Woodley
- 10 Baby & Me

Annual Financial Report 2022/2023

A summary of the Home-Start Wokingham District (HSWD) accounts for the year ending 31 March 2023 are detailed below and reflect the day-to-day operations of the scheme. The financial statements have been independently examined by Mt Tim Kingcott ACMA ATT.

Financial Status

HSWD received funding from a variety of sources during the year including Wokingham Borough Council (£48,248); The Big Lottery for the last six months of the Tools for Life project (£21,536) and The Berkshire Community Fund (£10,000) together with contributions from local Trusts, Foundations and Parishes of £14,350. In addition, our fundraising efforts raised a further £33,696 from individual and community events and we received donations of £12,159. These contributed to our total income for the year of £119,296, against which we incurred expenditure of £122,208 resulting in a net shortfall of £2,912. Our net assets excluding pension liability total £73,758. This year was financially more challenging resulting is the utilisation of our reserves due to the turnover of staff and fewer successful funding applications. However, through careful monitoring of expenditure and restructuring fixed costs, the organisation has been able to avert a financial crisis and reach a near breakeven position. Nevertheless, the trustees and staff will endeavour to secure long and short-term funding to ensure the long term viability of the scheme.

The Contingency Fund (Reserves)

Following the restructuring of costs and staff, the Charity holds £15,004 (a reduction of £33,102) in reserve within the general fund and is designed to help finance any situation that the scheme may find itself in at short notice. Closure would result in employment redundancy compensation being payable as well as employer debt on withdrawal from the pension scheme. The Charity aims to maintain the reserves in line with guidance from the Charity Commission on an ongoing basis. We review our reserves' fund on an annual basis.

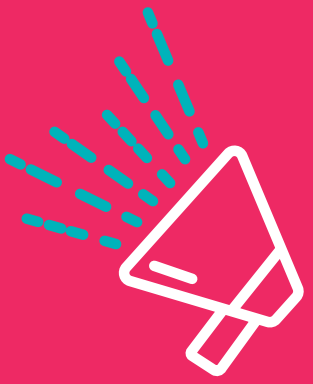
The Future

Fortunately, the Scheme's short term future is secure for the forthcoming two years on an as is basis. The trustees greatly appreciate all contributions which secure the future of the Scheme and believe HSWD offer tremendous value for money to local families who rely on our help so much that we make a major contribution to our local community. Unfortunately the demand for our services is increasing but we are unable to cope within our current resources. Nevertheless, we are committed to continuing our vital work in the community for as long as possible.

Our sincere thanks go to all those who have supported us during the year.

Arnold Clark
Berkshire Community Fund
Charlie Mather - Henley Clothes Sale
Charvil Town Council
Earley Town Council
First Days
Free Cakes for Kids
Fresh01 - the Creative Agency
Hennerton Golf Club
HSUK - Cost of Living
Junglemania
Local Giving
Loddon Lodge of Instruction
National Lottery
Rowse Trust
Shanley Foundation
St Marys Church
St Pauls Church
SureStore Wokingham
The Cowshed
The Foodbank
The Growth House
The Lions
WADE Wokingham
Waitrose Wokingham
Wellington College
Winnersh Town Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Wokingham Half Marathon
Wokingham Town Council
Wokingham United Charities
Wokingham Winter Carnival
Woodley Town Council

With thanks to the many volunteers, trustees and staff who made individual donations to our scheme and all who have supported our various fundraising activities.



A huge thank you to our wonderful Volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS 2022-23

Chris
Marjorie
Sally
Amreeta
Camille
Carleen
Caroline
Claire
Dhanisha
Hayley
Jennie
Jill
Julie
Kath
Katy
Kayleigh
Kelly
Lisa
Lorena
Loretta
Lucinda
Mandy
Mary
Mitzi
Prabha
Sally
Sue
Sue
Cathy
Sophie
Megan
Carolina
Jacqui
Mariam
Rosie
Brenda
Christina
Rebecca
Rosie
Sonia
Silvana
Caroline
Sally
Louisa
Rebecca
Heloise
Karen
Chris
Claudine
Esther
Frankie
Helena
Jenny
Julia
Kirsty
Liz
Lynn
Marie
Marie
Nicky
Rosie
Sarah
Shelly
Sue
Tara
Tricia

Home-Start Wokingham relies on funding and donations which are essential to our work with existing families and our vision for the helping more families in the future.

Donations

If you would like to make a donation to Home-Start Wokingham District, please visit our website: www.home-startwd.org.uk and follow the SUPPORT US link.

Corporate Fundraising

By raising funds for Home-Start's vital work you will help us to reach more struggling families and give their children the best possible start in life. Whatever amount you are aiming to raise and however you want to raise it, we are here to support you, so please contact: amy@home-startwd.org.uk for further information