

Mission Statement

Home-Start Daventry and South Northants offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children who are experiencing stressful or difficult situations.

We offer a unique service, recruiting and training volunteers - who are parents themselves - to visit families with at least one child under 5, at home, to offer informal, friendly and confidential support.

We help parents to grow in confidence, to strengthen and enjoy their relationships with their children and to widen their links with the local community.

We recognise the real, mutual and personal benefits gained from sharing the realities of parenting in so many positive and constructive ways within their own communities.

Home-Start's Operational Objectives

To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical, of children and parents of children.

To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children.

To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children.

To promote the education of the public in better standards of childcare within the area of Daventry and South Northants and its environs.

Annual Report



1st April 2020—31st March 2021

Review of the year – Jean Morgan, Chair of Trustee Board

Welcome to our Annual Report for the period April 2020 to March 2021.

Of course, the main story of the year is the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on local communities. Our volunteers and staff found new ways to support local families with young children, whilst ensuring that everyone remained safe.

We supported 46 families with 107 children, and we have over 36 professionally trained volunteers who make the Home-Start magic happen.

In Summer 2020, Courteenhall Estate approached us and we are proud to have them as our corporate sponsor. This is a long-term partnership, providing funding for a Co-ordinator role: we are very grateful to Johnny Wake and the whole organisation for this support.

In November, John Lewis announced a national programme to support Home-Start and Fair Share charities. At Christmas, we made up bags of Christmas food and toys, all distributed to families across our area. Bell Plantation in Towcester very generously donated toys and meals, and Waitrose made sure everyone had mince pies and satsumas.

Home-visiting was not possible for much of the year. Our coordinators and volunteers supported families by phone, FaceTime and Zoom calls as well as WhatsApp messaging. What a steep learning curve it was for many of us!

As lockdowns came and went and came back again, volunteers and families went for buggy walks together, did some healthy cooking over Zoom, read stories and played games – anything to help keep young children occupied and active.



One volunteer regularly cooked food for a family which was shielding and couldn't get out to shop, leaving meals on the doorstep.

Using our existing partnerships with foodbanks in Brackley, Daventry and Towcester, we helped families access fresh food and store cupboard staples. And we supported families who needed laptops and tablets in order to home-school older children.

New issues emerged for families as lockdown continued, with parental isolation and loneliness growing. Volunteers were a valuable sounding board for isolated families. Often regular short chats via WhatsApp were just what a family needed.

We furloughed Judy, Kate and Sophia in April 2020, and in the summer took the difficult decision to make Kate and Sophia redundant. Chris, Karen and Matt worked from home to ensure we could still support families with volunteers. In September 2020, we closed the office in Towcester, and everyone is now home-based.

Funding is still our biggest challenge, and in April 2020 we had just two months funds in our reserves: we came within a whisker of closing. However, the pandemic did bring some good news: we were able to access funding from Big Lottery to develop our web presence, to further promote the charity.

We welcomed new trustees Caroline, Richard, Maria, Denise and Karen. They are already making a big contribution to developing our work.

All our staff have been professional and dedicated throughout this extraordinary time: huge thanks to Karen, Judy, Chris and Matt.

I would also like to thank our Patron Lord Boswell, Carol Liepa our safeguarding advisor, and all the trustees and supporters who play a huge role in keeping us going. In particular, I would like to mention Bill Dearn, who actually retired as Treasurer in 2019, and handed over to Mark Chitty. However, problems with banking meant that Bill was made honorary trustee, and oversaw payments for another 15 months – true commitment to the charity.

Finally, a huge thank you to everyone who has supported our work this year, especially our funding partners and our incredible, indomitable dedicated volunteers.

Staff Team

Matt Foreman	Scheme Manager (p/t)
Judy Wheatland	Coordinator (p/t)
Chris Batchelor	Coordinator (p/t)
Karen Johnson	Administrator (p/t)
Laura England	Isolation Project Worker (p/t) (sept – Dec 2020)
Helen Longdon	Digital Communications Officer (p/t)
Jackie Knott	Casual worker (p/t)
Kate Batchelor	Stay & Play Organiser (p/t) contracted to July 2020
Sophia Maddison	Administrator (p/t) redundancy July 2020

Board of Trustees

Jean Morgan	Chair
Kathy Crook	Co Vice-Chair (resigned 4/20)
Margaret Walgate	Co Vice-Chair (resigned 4/20)
Bill Dearn	Treasurer (retired Nov 2020)
Caryl Billingham	Trustee
Ruth Curzon	Trustee
Mark Chitty	Trustee
Bob Wingerath	Trustee
Maria Taylor	Trustee
Caroline Neale	Trustee
Denise Jones	Trustee
Richard Auger	Trustee
Gillian Murray	Trustee (retired Nov 2020)



A big THANK YOU to all our Volunteers



Amanda, Amy, Antonia, Carolyn, Claudia, Doune, Fiona, Gail, Gillian, Gita, Hannah, Heidi, Jackie, Jayne, Jenny, Jo, Kate, Kayleigh, Lucinda, Lynda L, Lynda N, Natalie, Nicola S, Nicola, Pam, Pat, Sally, Sandra, Sarah C, Sarah, Sharon, Shirley, Theresa & Zoe

WELCOME to our newest volunteers who completed the Prep Course in Dec 2020:

Elaine, Gerry, Jayne & Sue



Our grateful thanks also go to...



Courteenhall Estate (Corporate Sponsor), Big Lottery Community Fund, John Lewis and Partners, White Stuff, Segro, Anglian Water, NCF, MKCF, Thomas Brington, The 26th May Charity, Daventry District Council, Daventry Town Council, Easy Fundraising, Amazon Smile, Home-Start UK, St George's Church, Evenley, Waitrose Community Matters, Jean Morgan, Caryl Billingham and Lord Boswell. We would also like to thank all our Volunteers, and members of the Board Trustees, who willingly devote their time and expertise along with practical help and donations for the benefit of the scheme and the families we support.



Scheme Manager's Report



This year has been a year like none before, as we have all found out in our own lives. For us at Home Start Daventry and South Northants it has been much more than our response to the pandemic, associated lock-downs and restrictions.

Facing up to the environment that we operate in, where government money, from a wide range of sources, for charities has not been as available as in the past, where competition for grants and trusts is fiercer and the needs of our beneficiaries is increasing in both numbers and complexity, has not been easy for us as an organisation.

We come out of 2020-2021 stronger and more resilient, with work still to do.

Treasurer's Report



On behalf of the Trustees/Directors I am pleased to present the Annual Financial Report of Home-Start Daventry & South Northants for the year ended 31st March 2021.

The year was certainly challenging as detailed in our Chair of Trustees report, with Covid substantially affecting our working practices. Financially we are in a far more secure position thanks to the success of our joint bid with HS Northampton for grant funding. We are now at the end of this 2 year award and are in the process of applying for an additional year covering 2022. We also are proud to now have Courteenhall Estate as our corporate sponsor. We continue to endeavor to forge a working relationship with West Northamptonshire Council and the new Children's Trust.

As in previous years, the majority of our incoming resources are of a restricted nature and are therefore designated in our Financial Statement as Restricted Funds and amount to 73% of total income. These funds are subject to us achieving the outcomes set down by our grantors. The Restricted Charitable Grant Income for 2020/21 was £193,335 (£66,000 of this amount had to be paid to HS Northampton due to the terms of the joint bid) – (2020 - £55,594) and comprises –

- Big Lottery – joint bid (£159,050)
- Big Lottery – Weedon & Deanshanger (£9,453)
- Combined Training (£1,994)
- HSUK – Loneliness Project (£20,000)
- MK Community Foundation (£2,838)

In 2020/21 our Resources Expended totaled £181,838 (2020 – £128,014). We monitor our expenditure on a monthly basis following an Annual budget approved by the Trustees. Our expenditure for 2020/21 can be summarized as follows:

- Direct Charitable Activity Costs £96,542 (2020 - £111,368)
- Support Costs £83,199 (2020 - £14,941)
- Governance Costs £2,097 (2020 - £1,705)

On a positive note, I am reporting a surplus for the year of £95,288 (2020 - £30,562 deficit) which increased our balance sheet reserves at 31st March 2021 to £166,286 (2020 - £20,998) with 39% of these monies now designated as restricted funds. The Net Assets representing these Reserves include some £120,219 (2020 - £37,658) held in liquid funds at the balance sheet date.

By my constantly monitoring our expenditure against the budget we aim to ensure we hold sufficient 'unrestricted' reserve funds to meet approximately 6 months operating costs, including estimated closure costs. We also now operate a Fundraising Group as a Sub Group from the Board of Trustees/Directors with the aim of endeavoring to diversify our income streams.

With this income diversity in mind, I would ask all of you, if you who have not done so already, to download the 'Easy Fundraising' App on to your mobile phone and nominate Home-Start Daventry & South Northants as your chosen charity to support.

If you then go through this App to purchase goods on-line, we as the nominated charity will get a percentage of the purchase price of anything you buy. A huge number of major high street names are part of this scheme including M & S, John Lewis, Boots, Amazon etc., etc., and the good thing is it does not cost a penny to those of us who participate but our charity benefits hugely!

Summary Statement of financial activities

		Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
Incoming Resources	Grants	253959	85436	85297	102066	100914
	Donations	6989	6938	2775	3919	3285
	Fund-raising	0	0	647	525	661
	Interest	19	673	774	904	628
	Other Income	16159	3050	0	0	0
Total Income		277126	97452	92542	107413	105488
Resources Expended	Charitable Activities	96542	111368	113991	97218	100511
	Support	83199	14941			
	Governance	2097	1705	2379	15074	10413
Total Expenditure		181838	128014	116370	112292	110924
Surplus / (Deficit)		95288	(30562)	(23828)	(4880)	(5436)

Our accounts are printed separately and are available on request

Our Impact



What a home visiting volunteer meant to a family....

"Natalie (my volunteer) and Judy (Co-ordinator) have helped so much. Thank you for everything you have done, you helped me rebuild my life. I honestly can't thank you both enough. I can finally be the mother my girls deserve".

What supporting a family meant to a Volunteer...

"Since becoming a volunteer for Home Start Daventry and South Northants I have worked with numerous families with different needs and offered help ranging from form filling, sign-posting, practical help or a listening ear, to name but a few.

By being consistent, non-judgemental and taking the time to listen to families, a trusting relationship grows and more needs can be identified and worked through.

I feel that on a personal level my confidence and self-esteem has improved due to feeling needed and making a positive difference, however small it may seem, to someone's life and them knowing someone cares. Surely there is no better feeling than that".

What did we achieve this year?

Our **volunteers supported 46 families** across Daventry District & South Northamptonshire.

These families included **107 children: 84 under five years old and 23 over five years old.**

Our volunteers supported **6 children** who were **considered disabled by their main carer.**

We supported **13 families who were on a Child Protection Plan**

Our **volunteers spent over 1230 hours of their time** visiting families for the scheme (home visiting when possible), phone and video calls, along with weekly walks and catch ups.

Fitness & Fun Outdoor : 36 sessions ran in Daventry and Towcester 3 times a week. These were limited due to the pandemic.