

Annual Report 2009-10

Home-Start Borehamwood & District

The BECC
Shakespeare Drive
Off Furzehill Road
Borehamwood
Herts WD6 2FD

“ Today we can boast of training courses up to full capacity, a board full of hard working, capable local people, an advertising group who successfully help our recruitment and organised our **10th Anniversary** for us.

And 40 wonderful home-visiting volunteers who work on a weekly basis with our families to give them their friendship, understanding and experience. ”

Bridget Shaw
Snr Coordinator

Home-Start Borehamwood & District is a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital.
Registered in England and Wales -
Companies House, Cardiff
No. 5303117
Registered Charity
No. 1107308

Home START

Support and friendship
for families

Help us by becoming a Volunteer?

- Support a family by visiting them at home two hours a week.
- Join our free Volunteer Preparation course and enjoy ongoing support.
- All you need is a friendly and caring attitude and parenting experience



We are generously
supported by

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust and
East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust



Who are the Volunteers?

Volunteers come from many different backgrounds and vary in age, but all are either parents or have parenting experience.

They are carefully selected for their friendliness and understanding. Every volunteer is CRB checked, home visited and supplies references. All volunteers attend a course of preparation, this is run by the scheme's Senior Co-ordinator - Bridget Shaw, before being linked to a family in the areas we cover: Borehamwood, Elstree, Shenley, Radlett, Potters Bar, South Mimms.

Our Volunteers are...

Debbie, Corinna, Pam B, Dorrett, Samantha, Anne, Maria, Kate, Geraldine, Janet, Sue, Tania, Jane C, Jenny, Stefania, Jane S, Amanda S, Catherine, Jacqui T, Michelle, Elaine, Susan, Sandra, Gloria, Marianne, Pat, Sheila, Jacqueline, Pam F, Danielle, Sue.

Those who have left us during the year who we would like to thank:

Eva, Wendy, Denise, Tanya, Marie, Melissa

Board of Trustees

Jack Debnam - Chair/Treasurer
Fran Thompson - Vice
Samantha Davis
Jacqui Ledwith - Trustee (resigned 26.05.10)
Jacqui Temple (appointed 22.07.10)

In addition there are 4 advisors who sit on the board

Testimonials

"I never imagined the satisfaction of helping a family and watching them grow in confidence - it's enormously rewarding."

Volunteer Marianne

"Definitely feel that I have recovered quicker from post natal illness than might have done without the help & support of a home start volunteer. Now feel that I am able to cope on my own."

Home-Start Family

"I became aware of my needs & asked for help when needed. I became stronger & got my confidence back to stand up for myself & be the full support for my children; ready to face everyday difficulties."

Home-Start Family

"Mum coping much better & I know the Mum was so grateful for your help."

Comment from health visitor after support ended

"I fully support Home-Start; I think what it does is absolutely fantastic. Some families need added support and, in my work, I've referred a lot of families to Home-Start because they are so good at providing help where it is needed. I'm keen to do all I can to promote awareness of what the charity does."

Jo Frost (aka Super Nanny)



Chair's Report

I wonder how many of the public have any idea of the wonderful work of Home-Start? I am constantly surprised and pleased as I hear more about the work our enthusiastic, organised and professional staff and volunteers do on a routine basis.

Professional? Not necessarily a word we might associate with a voluntary organisation, but as I assure anybody who is willing to listen, our scheme is possibly more effective, more willing and yes, in these especially difficult financial days, more cost-effective than many of the commercial and governmental organisations that I have experienced.

And, sadly, we will have to work even harder over the next few years to justify our existence as cut-backs and value for money become the buzzwords of the day. Fortunately for us, there is a new phrase tripping off the lips of the people in power: *The Big Society* is in. Well, as one of our trustees said the other day, if you want a definition of *The Big Society* then look at Home-Start. It's what we do. Hard-working and probably underpaid professional staff recruit, train and match volunteers from the public to bringing their help to society. They supervise them and maintain standards at the highest level. Home-Start fills a gap in the support of those who need help at a fraction of the cost of a fully-financed Government agency.

There is likely to be huge pressure next year to cut corners; do more for less. But we are justifiably proud of our dedication to quality in our service and quality doesn't come cheap. Readers of the National press will know how cutting corners can cause dangers to the vulnerable in our care. So let's hope that, when the funding is reviewed, our paymasters give us more and not less. For the benefit we volunteers bring in helping the young and their families is an investment in society that will pay huge dividends in the future.

By the way, the trustee who produced the definition of *The Big Society* was Gerry Foster. Gerry has supported our Scheme for every year of our 10 years and for the three years before that when Fran was struggling to get us going. He has been a strong and hugely reliable friend and we are hugely grateful to him.

Jack Debnam

Senior Co-ordinator Report

Where have the last ten years gone? It seems only a minute ago that I walked into the Home-Start office in Berwick Road Borehamwood wondering if I had made the right decision. The office consisted of a desk, broken filing cabinet, no phone line and no administrator!! I wondered what had I let myself in for. It took a while to become accustomed to lone-working, with occasional Board members making an appearance.

If someone had told me then that in ten years time I would be working along side two very competent colleagues, have the first paperless office in Home-start and have a Board that support me rather than rely upon me, I would have been in shock. As it was back then, I looked at the computer in its box and resigned myself to the fact that I would have a lot of training courses to go on and a telephone would need to be installed if I were to do any work.

Today we can boast of training courses up to full capacity, a decent sized Board full of hard working capable local people and an Advertising Group who successfully help our recruitment and organised our **10th Anniversary Celebration**. And, of course, we have our wonderful Home-Visiting volunteers who work on a weekly basis with our families to bring friendship, understanding and knowledge of how caring for children can at times be hard work but is always well worth it.

It may have been an upwards struggle but I can say with confidence, having looked back over the ten years, it was worth the stress! And I have learnt that, if you take things slowly, it's easier to get things right the first time.

Bridget Shaw



Income and Expenditure Account 31 March 2010

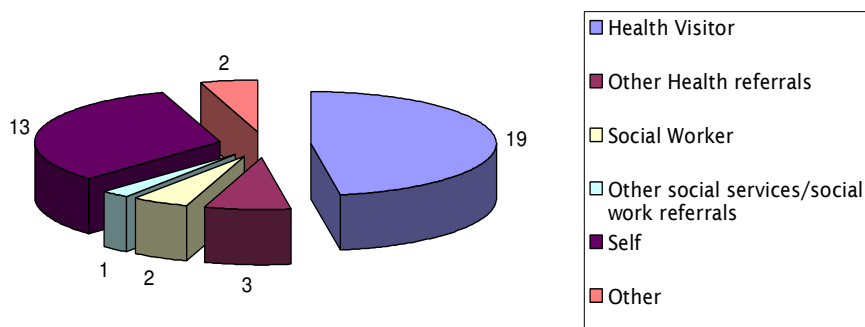
	Unre- stricted Funds £	Re- stricted Funds £	Total 2010 £	Total 2009 £
INCOMING RESOURCES	65,941	0	65,941	69,732
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Direct charitable exes	58,098	0	58,098	45,643
Administrative exes	12,456	0	12,456	10,178
NET (DEFICIT) SURPLUS	(4,613)	0	(4,613)	13,911
Fund balances bfwd	17,142	0	17,142	9,013
Less: Designated Fund	(2,558)	0	(2,558)	(5,782)
Fund balances 31 March 2010	9,971	0	9,971	17,142

Cash is always tight in Home-Start but we are doing well, keeping budgets in line and saving wherever possible. Our reserves are good enough to get us through a small predicted shortfall for this year. If anybody out there could help with fund-raising or a donation, please get in touch! *Jack Debnam. Treasurer*

Statistics worth knowing!

For the period of 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010,
78 children were supported in 40 families.

Source of Referrals April 2009 - March 2010



Donations

Huge thanks to the brilliant staff at Starbase Computer Services who donated £300!

2000

Scheme opened. Bridget Shaw joins as Co-ordinator. Fran Thompson & Gerry Foster on Management Committee. Administrator, Ceris Quickenden.

2001-02

Sue Friend becomes Chair
7 families supported including 15 children.

2002-3

Bridget becomes Senior Co-ordinator.
Sarah Harris joined as a Co-ordinator.

2003-4

25 families supported including 57 children.
New Treasurer - Patricia Clarke

2004-5

New Chair- Peter Hedges.

2005-6

Jack Debnam, joins as Treasurer.
Linda took over from Sue Davies as Regional Consultant.

2006-7

Move to The Former Family Centre.
Eileen joins as Scheme Administrator.

2007-8

Samantha takes on Chair
Home-Start has a new logo.

2008-9

31 volunteers supported 70 children in 36 families.
Moved to The BECC and became a paperless office!
Cherry LeRoy becomes Regional Consultant.

2009-10

Brand new Advertising Committee arrives
40 volunteers supported 78 children in 40 families.
Mar joined as a Co-ordinator.
Jack Debnam becomes Chair

2010-11

50+ volunteers and over 80 children will be supported.