



ANNUAL **REPORT** AND ACCOUNTS

2023-2024

MISSION STATEMENT

Home-Start Merton is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support, helping children pre-birth and up to 5 years. We help families through their challenging times. We are there for parents and children when they need us the most because childhood can't wait.

WHO WE ARE:

TRUSTEES:

Danny Lawrence (Chairperson)
Adam Flacks (Deputy Chairperson)
Diane Holmes (Deputy Chairperson and Treasurer)
Vikrant Bhuskute
Manuel Boger
Marian Ridley
Faye Brann
Henrietta Jenner. **Leave date: 31.12.23.**
Company Secretary: Sharon Ashby

STAFF:

Sharon Ashby - Managing Director
Debbie Magee - Senior Family Support Co-ordinator
Madeleine Jarratt - Family Support Co-ordinator. **Leave date: 7.12.23.**
Heather Ford - Business Support Administrator

REGISTERED CHARITY NAME: Home-Start Merton
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05359862
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1108937
REGISTERED OFFICE: All Saints Resource Centre, 44 All Saints Road,
Wimbledon, SW19 1BX
T: 020 8646 6044
E: admin@homestartmerton.org
W: www.homestartmerton.co.uk

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:

Kana Velupillai
KV & Co.
18 Morton Gardens
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 8EX

BANKERS:

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
ME19 4JQ

WHAT WE DO

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Home-Start Merton is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 10 February 2005. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The governance is vested in our Board of Trustees who have six scheduled meetings each year and additional meetings on other occasions as business requires. The board is responsible for the charity's long-term objectives, for its strategic priorities and for providing overall financial management and control. The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Managing Director of the scheme who reports to the Board of Trustees. Our Board of Trustees for 2022-2023 was made up of eight members who bring with them a range of skills and experience. Under the terms of the Articles of Association, board members are appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Under the Articles, one third must retire in rotation at each AGM. Trustees who retire are eligible to be re-appointed at the same AGM. The Trustees may co-opt any person to be appointed as a Trustee during the year and that person will hold office until the next AGM.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The objectives of Home-Start Merton are to safeguard, protect, and preserve the good health, both mental and physical, of children and their parents. It also aims to prevent emotional and physical abuse of such children. Home-Start Merton believes that:

- Children need a happy and secure childhood.
- Parents play the key role in giving their children a good start in life.
- Every parent should have the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life, helping them to achieve their full potential.
- The best people to help parents are other parents, who have themselves had experience of bringing up children and are able to provide the kind of support that only another parent who has lived experience can.

The service offered by Home-Start Merton is provided by a team of trained and supervised parent volunteers who give tailored family support to families in their own homes, specific to their individual needs supported by our trained staff.

STANDARDS AND METHODS OF PRACTICE

Home-Start works with families who are experiencing difficulties and who have at least one child under the age of five. Home-Start is an independent voluntary organisation which works towards the increased confidence and independence of the family by:

- Offering support and practical assistance.
- Visiting families in their own homes where the dignity and identity of everyone can be respected and protected.
- Reassuring parents that difficulties bringing up children are not unusual and encouraging enjoyment in family life.

- Developing a relationship with the family in which time can be shared and understanding can be developed; the approach is flexible to take account of diverse needs.
- Encouraging the parents' strengths and emotional wellbeing for the ultimate benefit of their own children.
- Encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to effectively use the support and services available within the community.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The Board of Trustees regularly undertakes a detailed review of our risk management procedures to ensure that appropriate systems are in place to mitigate those risks. The Trustees consider that a major risk is one which has a high likelihood of occurring and would, if it occurred, have a severe impact on operational performance. The Trustees expect all staff and volunteers, when engaging in any activity on behalf of Home-Start Merton, to consider the risks posted and to act in accordance with the risk management procedures. Whilst it is important that the Board of Trustees remain risk alert, they do not wish to be averse to taking reasonable risks as part of their strategy to achieve the objects of the organisation. All key policies within the organisation are reviewed regularly and updated as appropriate to reflect any legislative changes and the latest developments and thinking in relation to best practice.

TRUSTEES

Trustee application forms are available on request. All applications require approval by the Trustees. Trustees can decline an application if they feel that the application is prejudicial to the ethos of the organisation.

CHAIR AND MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This has been a year of struggle for those who need support the most. The cost-of-living crisis has made it harder for families to make ends meet; the numbers of parents and children that are struggling with mental health have increased; and the level of need around special education and disabilities of both parents and children is rising. The number of families facing complex issues and the demand for our services is increasing. This has made what we do even more important but also stretched our current resources as far as they will go.

Our work endures thanks to our continued partnerships with The Dorus trust, The Taylor Family Foundation, The Generations Foundation, John Lewis and Waitrose, Wimbledon District Nurses Midwifery and Benevolent Society (WDMBS), Wimbledon High School for Girls, Kings College Junior school, AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club), Shona Moth, who led a team of volunteers for our 30th anniversary ball and our regular donors. Thank you all. We cannot have the impact we do in Merton without the support these philanthropic trusts and donors provide.

However, resources continue to be spread very thinly and so this year, we have sought to bring renewed vigour to our fundraising strategy. Ruth Seymour, fundraising consultant worked with us to help us with a concise fundraising strategy and to support us to recruit a fundraising manager to help improve our financial situation and to help to secure our sustainability. Alongside this our new trustee Faye Brann has put together a new marketing strategy and her experience and communication skills are a real coup and wonderful addition to the existing skills and experience on the board.

There have been some losses. During 2023/24 we said goodbye to Henrietta Jenner, Trustee and Treasurer for Home-Start for 12 years, Madeleine Jarratt, Family Support Coordinator for 3 years and Debbie Magee, Senior Family Support Coordinator for 7 years. Our Little Steps group in Wimbledon, closed in December 2023, due to staff capacity, but in 2024/25 we aim to reopen this group with new staff in place. Our Little Stars group in Mitcham, has continued to thrive and our free counselling service continues to benefit the families who need it the most.

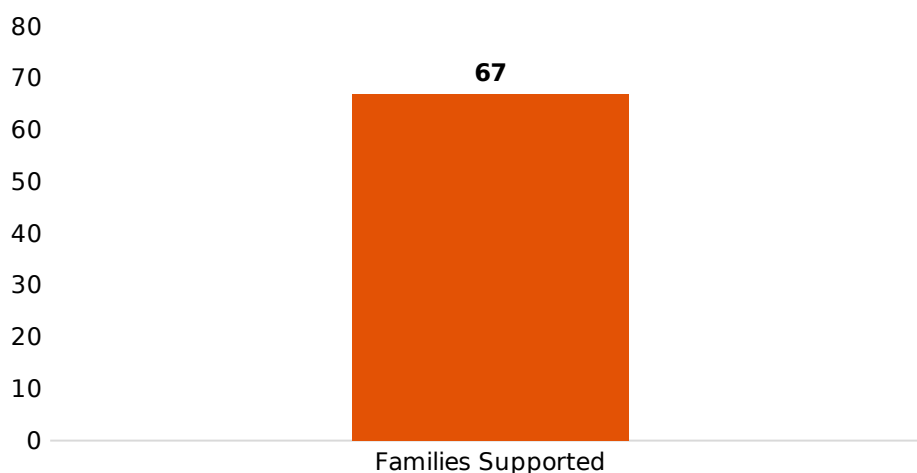
There have also been successes. Our annual day trip to Littlehampton, funded by WDMBS, was a triumph and without too much rain, and our 30th anniversary ball took place at the AELTC led by Shona and her team including Julie, Kellyann, Andrew, Yuzi, Kate and Lisa. The evening was sponsored by Wimbledon Homes, CC Construction, Sean McInnes Sports Coaching, Peacock & Co Solicitors, Belderbos Landscapes, Elite Private Fitness & SKIN by Anel Lamine. Together they helped to raise over £48,000.00.

Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, Trustees, donors, funders and supporters who have helped Home-Start Merton provide support to families within Merton this year. You have all made a difference.

**Danny Lawrence, Chair of
Trustees
Sharon Ashby, Managing
Director**

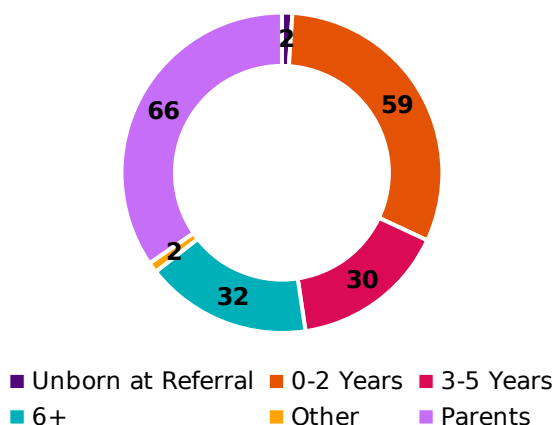
FAMILIES SUPPORTED

Families Supported 2023-2024



This year, Home-Start Merton has supported 66 parents and 125 children. Due to the nature of the support Home-Start Merton provides, older children and other adults who live in the home are also indirectly supported.

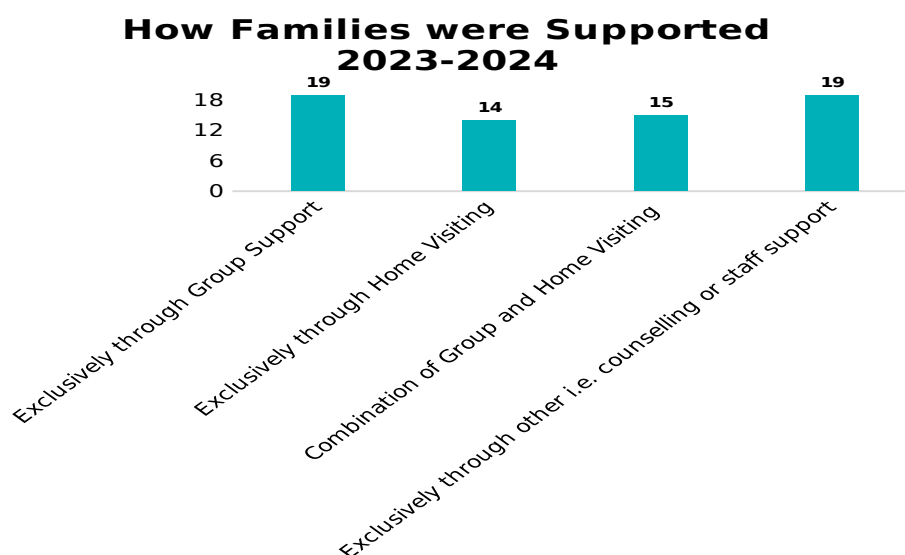
Children and Parents Supported 2023-2024



SUPPORT TO FAMILIES

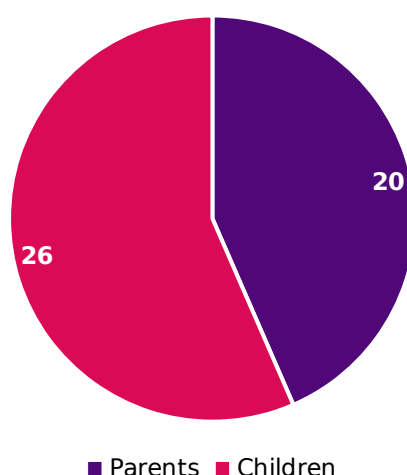
Home-Start Merton offers counselling and group support in addition to the core service of home visiting support. Many families are supported by all three

services. Group support has helped support families who would otherwise be placed on a waiting list or who have different needs to those requiring a home visiting volunteer.

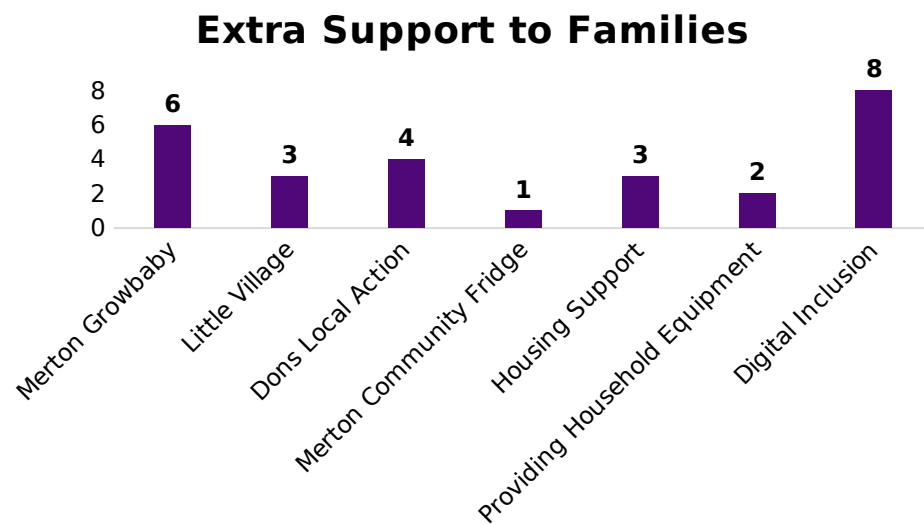


In 2023, Home-Start Merton delivered 2 groups, one in the West of the borough and one in the East. Home-Start's Happy Steps closed in November due to staff capacity. Home-Start's Little Stars Group began in March 2023. The group runs every week on a Wednesday, 11am-1pm, during term time. It provides a safe environment which encourages socialisation, peer support, activities, and a lunch. The group is for parents and children from pregnancy up to 5 years old. See the graph below.

Home-Start's Little Stars



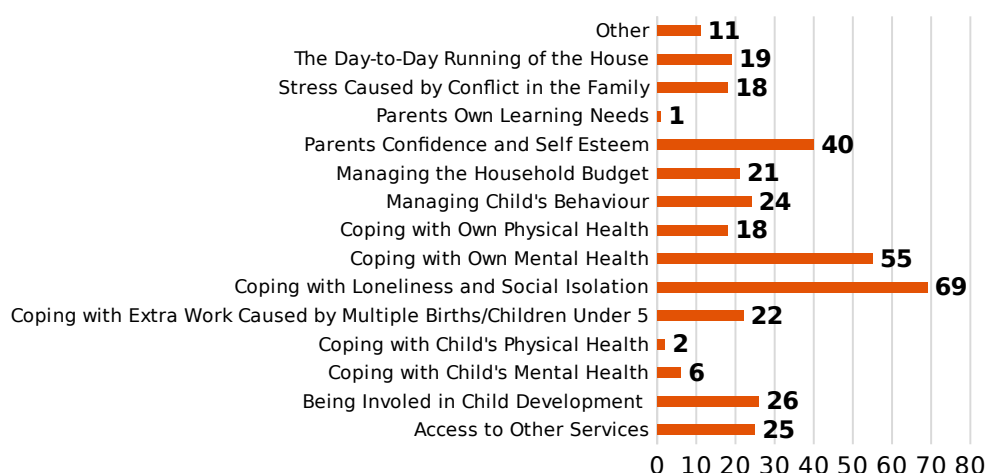
In addition to the core service of home visiting support, referrals for additional support have been completed as evidenced below. Digital inclusion through the provision of Chromebooks to families, tablets and mobile telephones have been provided to volunteers through Home-Start's partnership with BT.



REFERRALS

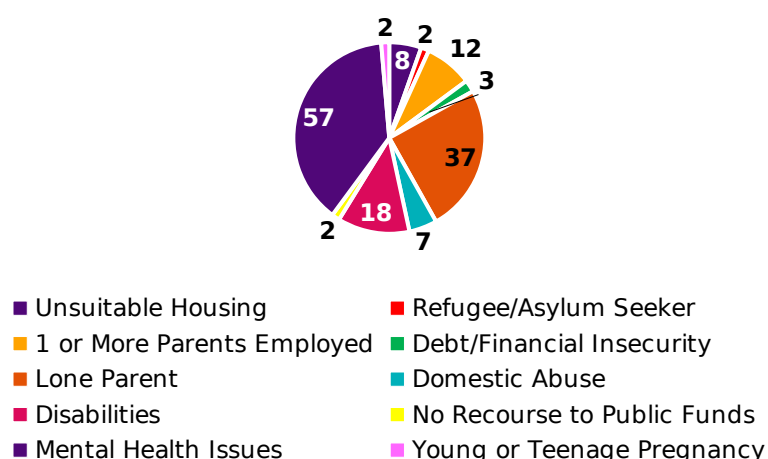
The graph below shows the needs of families identified at referral. The needs have risen significantly from last year, particularly around coping with mental health, self-esteem, and coping with loneliness and isolation. Often, increased need is identified during an initial visit with the family.

Needs Identified at Referral



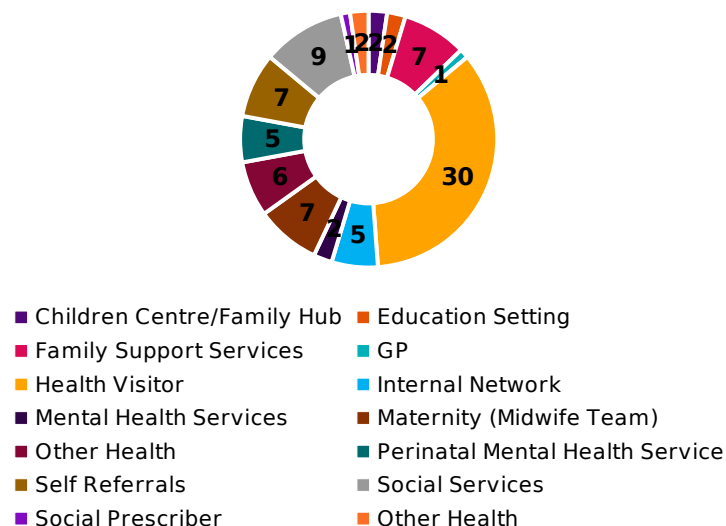
Families that are referred to Home-Start Merton often have multiple circumstances which can be counted multiple times per referral. Comparable to needs, we have seen an increase in families being referred with diagnosed mental health difficulties and increased cases of domestic abuse.

Circumstances of Referred Families 2023-2024



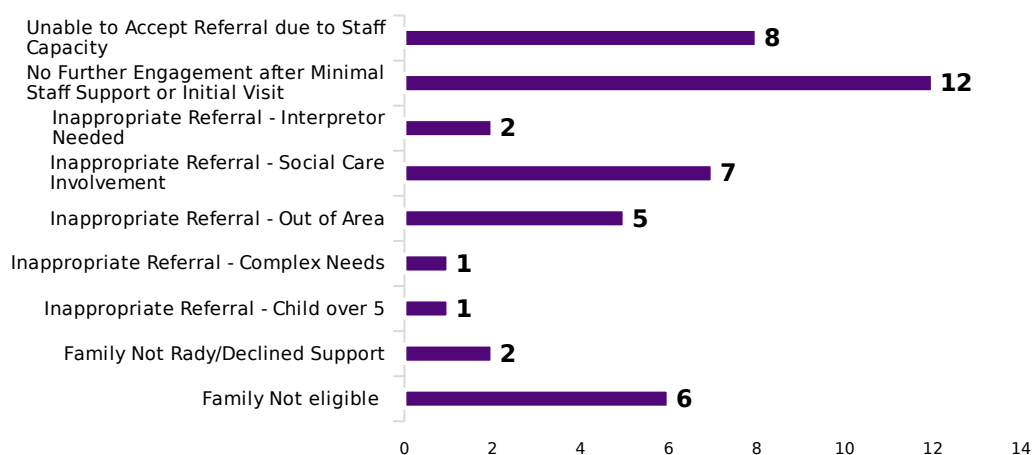
The graph below indicates those from whom we receive referrals. Other Health includes mostly Social Prescribers that work within GP surgeries.

Who Refers to Home-Start Merton



Unfortunately, we are unable to accept all referrals that we receive. Often the families we are unable to accept do not meet our criteria. Referrals that did not lead to support but were either signposted elsewhere or received some guidance/informal support totalled 26 for the year 2023-2024.

Referrals Not Supported 2023-2024



VOLUNTEERS

Our core service of Home-visiting volunteer support provides emotional and practical within the family's homes. The average length of support is 1 year. The 3 volunteers who help at group are part of the 23 active volunteers.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

TREASURERS REPORT

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to present the Treasurer's Report for Home-Start Merton (HSM) for the financial year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. A Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the financial year 2023/24 is shown within this Annual Report.

Income Review 2023/24

HSM's total income for the year was £124,282. HSM received a total of £69,329 from its charitable funders and the Board of Trustees is extremely grateful to its funders for their continued generosity during this year and wishes to thank the following:

- The Generations Foundation
- The Taylor Family Foundation
- The Dorus Trust
- Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society
- London Community Foundation
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
- The Paul Strank Charitable Trust
- Home-Start UK
- Waitrose
- John Lewis
- The NHS

The remainder of HSM income came from gifts and donations, with a small amount in addition from returns on investments. It is clear that the cost-of-living challenges continue to impact the charity's ability to generate sufficient interest in fundraising events to make them viable. The exception this year was in relation the HSM 30th Anniversary Ball, the success of which was entirely due to the hard work of dedicated HSM volunteers for which HSM is enormously grateful. In addition, the Board also wishes to thank all the private individuals who regularly contributed towards fundraising and to those friends and supporters who continue to support the charity with much appreciated donations.

Expenditure Review 2023/24

Total resources spent were £189,238 (previous year £182,720). Our experienced and dedicated staff are our greatest assets, and a large proportion of expenditure is on staff salaries and associated employment costs which amounted to £150,678. The increase in expenditure on salaries during the year was due to the decision to award a fair pay increase to all staff. A pension deficit of £8,658 (down from £22,533 last year) remains and which the Board is committed to continuing to reduce in accordance with a recommended plan.

Additional expenditure was committed during the year to develop a Fundraising strategy in order to make a step-change impact on our ability to raise funds from all sources. HSM considers the recommendations from this exercise as being incredibly valuable will form the basis of our approach to fundraising in the challenging but interesting financial year to come.

Reserves & Investment Strategy

The trustees have set a reserves policy, reviewed annually, which requires that reserves be maintained at a level which ensures that HSM's core activities can

continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty. The trustees agree that 6 months normal running costs which equates to approximately £100,000.

Approximately half of those reserves are kept as cash in the banks, the remainder of reserves are invested on a medium-term, but accessible basis, in a discretionary portfolio managed by Charles Stanley Investment Fund. The investments are in medium-high risk investment classes with the objective being balanced, to produce a balance between capital growth and income.

Looking to the future, the charity also has renewed insight into funding that we may become eligible to apply for, given our reduced reserves.

The staff and trustees remain committed to improving and diversifying income streams, improving the ease by which donations may be made, increasing visibility of the charity within the Borough, increasing engagement with the number of friends and supporters of the charity so that it remains a going concern; it is a sustainable charity able to continue to provide a much-needed service to the community.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank our independent Examiner, Mr K Velupillai of K V & Co. for reviewing the HSM accounts which have been approved by the Board of Trustees.

Diane Holmes
Treasurer

The following summarised accounts are an extract from the Reports and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The full accounts can be obtained from Home-Start Merton, All Saints Resource Centre, 44 All Saints Road, Wimbledon, SW19 1BX. Copies of the certified accounts will be lodged with the Charities Commission and Companies House. You are welcome to inspect the

documents at our office, please contact the Business Support Administrator for an appointment.

HOME-START MERTON

Company Number 5359862 2024 2023
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2024

Current assets

Current Asset Investments	301,185	385,512
Cash at bank and in hand	102,368	56,675
Total current assets	403,553	442,187

Creditors:-

amounts due within one year	7 (13,551)	(9,767)
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Net current assets 390,002 432,420

Total assets less current liabilities 390,002 432,420

Creditors:-

amounts due after more than one year	-	-
Net assets excluding pension asset / liability	390,002	432,420

Net assets including pension asset / liability 390,002 432,420

The funds of the charity :

Unrestricted income funds

Unrestricted revenue accumulated funds	31,154	39,487
Pension Deficit Fund	8,658	22,533
Designated revenue funds	100,000	100,000

Unrestricted capital funds

Designated fixed asset funds		270,400
Designated Investment Funds	270,400	

Total unrestricted funds 410,212 432,420

Restricted revenue funds

Restricted revenue accumulated funds	- 20,210	
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Restricted fixed asset funds

Total restricted funds - 20,210 -

Total charity funds 390,002 432,420

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, the accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner whose report appears on page 7.

The director(s) acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

D Lawrence

Trustee / Director

Approved by the board of trustees on 8 / 6 / 2024

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to the kind generosity and support of our funders, fundraisers, and those who give their support in kind, we have been able to help many local families over the last year, providing a reliable, empathetic source of connection and understanding during a challenging time it has been for so many. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us over the

- The Dorus Trust
- The Taylor Family Foundation
- The Generations Foundation
- Wimbledon Foundation
- Wimbledon High School
- Kings High School
- Wimbledon District Nursing & Midwifery Benevolent Society
- Paul Strank Charitable Trust
- London Community Foundation
- John Lewis & Partners
- Waitrose & Partners
- Ghana Nurses Association SW London
- Amita Kronsten
- Gregory Kronsten
- Sylvia Marland
- Mike Short
- Barbara Cluer
- Sue Kirby
- Simon Lloyd
- Sally Cunliffe
- Lisa Wyatt
- Health Champions (DLUHC MVSC)
- David Rhodes

last year and helped us to provide such vital support to families.

Together with those listed above, we are indebted to the many donors whose generosity and ongoing support through this year has been especially important in enabling us to respond quickly to families in need. Thank you.

Finally, without the support of the following people, we would not be able to support our families. They are our home-visiting volunteers, trustees, and staff:

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| • Mary | • Yuzi | • Jenny |
| • Rebecca | • Katie | • Sue |
| • Lucy | • Jen | • Silvia |
| • Bronte | • Annette | • Shona |
| • Vikrant | • Silvia | • Mariya |
| • Debbie | • Natasha | • Nicholas |
| • Diane | • Iris | • Judith |
| • Emma | • Lucy | • Lisa |
| • Lesley | • Silvia | • Manuel |
| • Marian | • Danny | • Sharon |
| • Madeleine | • Adam | • Heather |

Registered Charity Number
1108937

Registered Company Number
5359862

HOME-START MERTON

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 March 2024

HOME-START MERTON
Report and accounts
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HOME-START MERTON

Company Information

Directors

D Lawrence	Chair
A Flacks	Deputy Chair
D Holmes	Deputy Chair & Treasurer
H Jenner	Resigned 31/12/2023
M Boger	
V Bhuskute	
M Ridley	
F Brann	Appointed 05/03/2024

Secretary

S P Ashby

Accountants

K V & CO
Chartered Management Accountants
18 Morton Gardens
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 8EX

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Registered office

All Saints Resource Centre
44 All Saints Road
Wimbledon
London SW19 1BX

Registered Charity number

1108937

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Name, registered office and constitution of the charity

The full name of the charity is Home-Start Merton.

The legal registration details are :-

<i>Date of incorporation</i>	10th February 2005
<i>Company Registration Number</i>	5359862
<i>The Registered Office is</i>	All Saints Resource Centre, 44 All Saints Road, London SW19 1BX
<i>Charity Registration Number</i>	1108937
<i>The telephone number is</i>	0208 646 6044

Objectives and Activities of the Charity

A summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document.

The principal activity during the year was to support families with young children living within the London Borough of Merton.

Public benefit that is provided by the charity

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

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 Merton and its environs.

Achievements and Performance of the Charity

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of the Governing Document and constitution of the charity

The results for the period, and the charity's financial position at the end of the period are shown in the attached financial statements.

The Charity is Company Limited by Guarantee which is incorporated in United Kingdom on 10 February 2005 was formed for charitable purpose. The liability of its members is limited to a guarantee of £1 each. The companies governing documents are its memorandum and articles of association. The company is established to further those purposes which are recognised as charitable and the registered charity number is 1108937.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Home-Start Merton recruits trustees who demonstrate interest in valuing the family and following recommendations made in respect of people with particular skills and expertise in working with children and families, or the voluntary sector.

All new trustees receive an induction pack of information about the work of Home-Start Merton and how it operates, and guidance as to their responsibility as charity trustees and company directors. Induction and training of new board members is delegated to the scheme Manager in consultation with the Chair. New members also receive information about Home-Start UK including a copy of the signed agreement.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to manage and minimise risks.

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial Review

Policies on reserves

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves, which are those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty

a proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

Having considered the risk, activity and commitments of the organisation Trustees have agreed that the scheme need to retain a level of a minimum of 6 months running costs which equates to approximately £ 100,000.

This policy is reviewed annually by the board of Trustees.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 7 to 13. The financial statements have been prepared implementing the 2005 Revision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net outgoing resources (deficit) for the year of a revenue nature of £42,418 (prior year net outgoing resources of £115,086).

The total reserves at the year end, stand at £390,002 (prior year £ 478,707).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves is in surplus and amounted to £410,212 (prior year surplus £432,420)

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity during the year ended 31st March 2023 were :-

D Lawrence	(Chair)
A Flacks	(Deputy Chair)
D Homes	(Deputy Chair & Treasurer)
H Jenner	(Resigned 31/12/2023)
M Boger	
V Bhuskute	
M Ridley	
F Brann	(Appointed 05/03/2024)

Trustees of the charity, and their responsibilities include all the responsibilities of directors under the Companies Acts and of trustees under the Charities Acts.

The directors/trustees are all members of the charity.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity at the date of the report and accounts were approved were:-

M Boger
V Bhuskute
F Brann
M Ridley
D Lawrence
D Holmes
A Flacks

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Investment Policy:

The assets should be managed to achieve growth, of both capital and income, from an investment portfolio with the best financial return with an acceptable level of risk. Withdrawals from the investments are made to provide a source of income for Home Start Merton to cover situations where there is an operational deficit and to ensure the continuity of Home Start Merton's charitable purposes.

-The assets can be invested widely according to the general power of investment and should be diversified by assets class and by security. Assets classes could include cash, bonds, equities, investment funds, property and any other assets that are deemed suitable for the charity.

The Trustees require ethical considerations to be taken into account in the choice of investments. Direct investments in companies predominately involved with the production of alcohol, gambling activities and the provision of domestic sub-prime lending are not acceptable.

Independent Examiner

K Veluppillai ACMA, CGMA, ACPA

K V & CO

Chartered Management Accountants

18 Morton Gardens

Wallington

Surrey

SM6 8EX

Statement of Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Acts and the Companies Acts require the Board of trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Method of preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 8 / 8 /2024.

S P Ashby

Company Secretary



HOME-START MERTON

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees

on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the financial statements of the Charity on pages 7 to 13 for the year ended 31 March 2024 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102), as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, effective April 2005 as modified in May 2008. (The SORP), under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on page 4, the Charity's trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

The trustees are satisfied that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, and that there is no requirement in the governing document or constitution of the Charity for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, or otherwise, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the accounts under section 43 of the Act; and;
- b) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act;

Basis of opinion and scope of work undertaken

I conducted my examination in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales setting out the duties of an independent examiner issued by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act) in relation to the conducting of an independent examination, referred to above. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and of the accounting systems employed by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of the Charities legislation and that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtain written assurances from the trustees of all material matters.

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, in connection with my examination, I can confirm that

1) In accordance with Regulation 31 of The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the accounts of this incorporated charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

2) this is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and in accordance with any directions given by the Commission under subsection (7)(b) of that section which are applicable;

and that, no matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

(i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;

(ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and;

(iii) that the financial statements be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in my report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached;



K Velupillai ACMA, CGMA, ACPA
K V & CO
Chartered Management Accountants
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 8EX

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is :-

24 / 9 / 2024

HOME-START MERTON
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary Income	41,329	28,000	69,329	73,914
Activities for generating funds	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Investment Income	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total incoming resources	96,262	28,000	124,262	77,489
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
<i>Costs of charitable activities</i>	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
Total resources expended	144,143	48,210	192,353	182,720
Net outgoing resources before transfers between funds	(47,881)	(20,210)	(68,091)	(105,231)
Gross transfers between funds			-	
Net outgoing resources before Other recognised gains and losses	(47,881)	(20,210)	(68,091)	(105,231)
Other recognised gains and losses				
<i>Gains/(losses) on investment assets</i>	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
Net movement in funds	(22,208)	(20,210)	(42,418)	(115,086)
Reconciliation of funds				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	432,420	-	432,420	593,793
Total Funds carried forward	410,212	(20,210)	390,002	478,707

The net movement in funds referred to above is the net incoming resources as defined in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales and is reconciled to the total funds as shown in the Balance Sheet on page 10 as required by the said statement.

All activities derive from continuing operations

HOME-START MERTON**Company Number**

5359862

2024**2023****Balance Sheet****as at 31 March 2024****Current assets**

Current Asset Investments	301,185	385,512
Cash at bank and in hand	102,368	56,675
Total current assets	403,553	442,187

Creditors:-

amounts due within one year	7 (13,551)	(9,767)
-----------------------------	------------	---------

Net current assets

390,002 432,420

Total assets less current liabilities

390,002 432,420

Creditors:-

amounts due after more than one year	-	-
--------------------------------------	---	---

Net assets excluding pension asset / liability

390,002 432,420

Net assets including pension asset / liability

390,002 432,420

The funds of the charity :**Unrestricted income funds**

Unrestricted revenue accumulated funds	31,154	39,487
Pension Deficit Fund	8,658	22,533
Designated revenue funds	100,000	100,000

Unrestricted capital funds

Designated fixed asset funds		270,400
Designated Investment Funds	270,400	

Total unrestricted funds

410,212 432,420

Restricted revenue funds

Restricted revenue accumulated funds	- 20,210	
--------------------------------------	----------	--

Restricted fixed asset funds

Total restricted funds	- 20,210	-
-------------------------------	----------	---

Total charity funds

390,002 432,420

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, the accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner whose report appears on page 7.

The director(s) acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

D Lawrence**Trustee / Director**

Approved by the board of trustees on 8 / 6 / 2024

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and all other applicable accounting standards, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales. The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the Companies Act 2006, and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Insofar as the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales requires compliance with specific Financial Reporting Standards other than the FRS102 then the specific Financial Reporting Standards have been followed where their requirements differ from those of the FRS102.

Advantage has been taken of Section 396(5) of The Companies Act 2006 to allow the format of the financial statements to be adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's operation and in order to comply with the requirements of the SORP.

The particular accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are accounted for on a receivable basis deferred as described below where appropriate.

All grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Investment Income

Bank Interest received is included on an actual receipts basis.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets (less their estimated residual value) over their estimated useful economic lives.

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Equipment	10% straight line

Taxation

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the company, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable in respect of operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Finance leases are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102).

Funds structure policy

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the board of trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Any other proposed transfer between funds would be considered on the particular circumstances.

2 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

3 Deficit for the financial year	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after crediting :-		
Revenue Turnover from ordinary activities	124,262	77,489
and after charging:-		
Pension costs	6,540	5,765
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	1,150

4 Staff Costs and Emoluments	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Salaries	130,795	127,007
Employer's National Insurance	13,343	8,762
Pension Contributions	6,540	5,765
	<u>150,678</u>	<u>141,534</u>

There were no fees or other remuneration paid to the trustees

There were no employees with emoluments in excess of £60,000 per annum

5 Trustees' remuneration

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration, either in the current year or the prior year.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Tangible functional fixed assets

	Plant, Machinery & Vehicles £
Asset cost, valuation or revalued amount	
At 1 April 2023	4,840
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,840</u>
Accumulated depreciation and impairment provisions	
At 1 April 2023	4,840
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,840</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses	9,703	5,657
PAYE and NI	<u>3,848</u>	<u>4,110</u>
	<u>13,551</u>	<u>9,767</u>
8 Pension Commitments and pension scheme details	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined Contribution Scheme	Nil	Nil
Defined Benefit Scheme		
Due to be paid	8,658	22,533

HOME-START MERTON
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Period Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income	16,412		16,412	11,601
Grants, legacies and donations			-	
Government and public bodies				
Incoming resources of a revenue nature				
Non government and non public bodies				
Incoming resources of a revenue nature - grants, donations and legacies				
Generation Foundation		15,000	15,000	25,000
Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benovolent Society	-	1,021	3,000	2,620
The Taylor Family Foundation		10,000	10,000	10,000
Dorus Trust	10,000		10,000	8,000
Wimbledon Foundation			-	-
London Community Foundation	1,000		1,000	10,000
DLUHC			-	2,500
Paul Stranks Charitable Trust	13,000		13,000	500
John Lewis			-	1,000
Home Start UK	938		938	938
Waitrose			-	750
NHS	500		500	
Total	24,417	28,000	52,417	61,308
Total Grants, Legacies & Donations Received	40,829	28,000	68,829	61,308
Other voluntary income				
Other Income	500		500	1,005
Total other voluntary income	500	-	500	1,005
Total Voluntary Income	41,329	28,000	69,329	73,914
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising activities	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Total of activities for generating funds	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Investment Income				
Bank deposit interest received	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total Investment Income	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total Incoming Resources	96,262	28,000	124,262	77,489
Gains on investment assets				
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
Costs of generating funds				
<i>Costs of generating voluntary income</i>				
Fundraising event cost	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
Total costs of generating voluntary income	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
Charitable expenditure				
<i>Support costs of charitable activities</i>				
<i>Direct support costs</i>				
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	88,805	41,990	130,795	127,007
Travel and Subsistence - Charitable Activities			-	-
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	9,243	4,100	13,343	8,762
Pension contributions charitable employees	4,420	2,120	6,540	5,765
Volunteers' Costs	524	-	524	369
Learning & Development Staff	341	-	341	-
Home Start- UK Consultancy	(989)	-	(989)	2,291
Staff Training & Expenses	1,780	-	1,780	3,044
	104,124	48,210	152,334	147,238

HOME-START MERTON
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Management and administration costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
<i>Premises Costs</i>				
<i>Office Premises Cost</i>				
Rent payable	16,283	-	16,283	11,640
Insurance	1,228	-	1,228	1,074
Total Office Premises Costs	17,511	-	17,511	12,714
Building works & Refit				
Rent Payable				
Rates				
Insurance				
Utilities				
Service Contract/ Leases				
Total Charity shop premises costs	-	-	-	-
Total Premises Costs	17,511	-	17,511	12,714
<i>General administrative expenses:</i>				
Telephone and fax	466	-	466	1,454
Postage	7	-	7	-
Stationery and printing	1,327	-	1,327	1,357
Affiliation and Membership fee	1,427	-	1,427	26
Service Contract/ Leases	5,167	-	5,167	6,349
Equipment expenses	1,297	-	1,297	3,062
Payroll costs	526	-	526	505
IT support	887	-	887	2,346
Advertising and PR	183	-	183	-
Bank charges	60	-	60	69
Sundry expenses	236	-	236	2,447
	11,583	-	11,583	17,615
<i>Professional fees in support of charitable activities</i>				
Legal and professional fees	6,660	-	6,660	2,641
	6,660	-	6,660	2,641
Total Support costs	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
Total Expended on Charitable Activities	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
<i>Governance costs that are not direct management functions inherent in generating funds, service delivery and programme or project work</i>				
<i>Specific governance costs</i>				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
Total governance costs	1,150	-	1,150	1,150

Registered Charity Number
1108937

Registered Company Number
5359862

HOME-START MERTON

REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31 March 2024

HOME-START MERTON
Report and accounts
Contents

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HOME-START MERTON

Company Information

Directors

D Lawrence	Chair
A Flacks	Deputy Chair
D Holmes	Deputy Chair & Treasurer
H Jenner	Resigned 31/12/2023
M Boger	
V Bhuskute	
M Ridley	
F Brann	Appointed 05/03/2024

Secretary

S P Ashby

Accountants

K V & CO
Chartered Management Accountants
18 Morton Gardens
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 8EX

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited
25 Kings Hill Avenue
Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

Registered office

All Saints Resource Centre
44 All Saints Road
Wimbledon
London SW19 1BX

Registered Charity number

1108937

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Name, registered office and constitution of the charity

The full name of the charity is Home-Start Merton.

The legal registration details are :-

<i>Date of incorporation</i>	10th February 2005
<i>Company Registration Number</i>	5359862
<i>The Registered Office is</i>	All Saints Resource Centre, 44 All Saints Road, London SW19 1BX
<i>Charity Registration Number</i>	1108937
<i>The telephone number is</i>	0208 646 6044

Objectives and Activities of the Charity

A summary of the objects of the charity as set out in its governing document.

The principal activity during the year was to support families with young children living within the London Borough of Merton.

Public benefit that is provided by the charity

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

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 Merton and its environs.

Achievements and Performance of the Charity

Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of the Governing Document and constitution of the charity

The results for the period, and the charity's financial position at the end of the period are shown in the attached financial statements.

The Charity is Company Limited by Guarantee which is incorporated in United Kingdom on 10 February 2005 was formed for charitable purpose. The liability of its members is limited to a guarantee of £1 each. The companies governing documents are its memorandum and articles of association. The company is established to further those purposes which are recognised as charitable and the registered charity number is 1108937.

The methods adopted for the recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Home-Start Merton recruits trustees who demonstrate interest in valuing the family and following recommendations made in respect of people with particular skills and expertise in working with children and families, or the voluntary sector.

All new trustees receive an induction pack of information about the work of Home-Start Merton and how it operates, and guidance as to their responsibility as charity trustees and company directors. Induction and training of new board members is delegated to the scheme Manager in consultation with the Chair. New members also receive information about Home-Start UK including a copy of the signed agreement.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed and reviews and systems to mitigate risks

The trustees have examined the major strategic, business and operational risks which the charity faces and confirm that systems have been established to enable regular reports to be produced so that the necessary steps can be taken to manage and minimise risks.

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial Review

Policies on reserves

The trustees have examined the requirement for free reserves, which are those unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets, not designated for specific purposes or otherwise committed. The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty

a proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

Having considered the risk, activity and commitments of the organisation Trustees have agreed that the scheme need to retain a level of a minimum of 6 months running costs which equates to approximately £ 100,000.

This policy is reviewed annually by the board of Trustees.

Transactions and Financial position

The financial statements are set out on pages 7 to 13. The financial statements have been prepared implementing the 2005 Revision of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for Accounting and Reporting by Charities issued by the Charity Commission for England and Wales and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) issued on 16 July 2014.

The Statement of Financial Activities show net outgoing resources (deficit) for the year of a revenue nature of £42,418 (prior year net outgoing resources of £115,086).

The total reserves at the year end, stand at £390,002 (prior year £ 478,707).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves is in surplus and amounted to £410,212 (prior year surplus £432,420)

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity during the year ended 31st March 2023 were :-

D Lawrence	(Chair)
A Flacks	(Deputy Chair)
D Homes	(Deputy Chair & Treasurer)
H Jenner	(Resigned 31/12/2023)
M Boger	
V Bhuskute	
M Ridley	
F Brann	(Appointed 05/03/2024)

Trustees of the charity, and their responsibilities include all the responsibilities of directors under the Companies Acts and of trustees under the Charities Acts.

The directors/trustees are all members of the charity.

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity at the date of the report and accounts were approved were:-

M Boger
V Bhuskute
F Brann
M Ridley
D Lawrence
D Holmes
A Flacks

HOME-START MERTON

The report of the trustees

for the year ended 31 March 2024

Investment Policy:

The assets should be managed to achieve growth, of both capital and income, from an investment portfolio with the best financial return with an acceptable level of risk. Withdrawals from the investments are made to provide a source of income for Home Start Merton to cover situations where there is an operational deficit and to ensure the continuity of Home Start Merton's charitable purposes.

-The assets can be invested widely according to the general power of investment and should be diversified by assets class and by security. Assets classes could include cash, bonds, equities, investment funds, property and any other assets that are deemed suitable for the charity.

The Trustees require ethical considerations to be taken into account in the choice of investments. Direct investments in companies predominately involved with the production of alcohol, gambling activities and the provision of domestic sub-prime lending are not acceptable.

Independent Examiner

K Velupillai ACMA, CGMA, ACPA

K V & CO

Chartered Management Accountants

18 Morton Gardens

Wallington

Surrey

SM6 8EX

Statement of Directors' and Trustees' Responsibilities

The Charities Acts and the Companies Acts require the Board of trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of the surplus or deficit of the charity. In preparing those financial statements the Board is required to :-

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.
- state whether applicable accounting standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

The trustees are also responsible for maintaining adequate accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and which are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and comply with regulations made under the Charities Act. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are also responsible for the contents of the trustees' report, and the responsibility of the independent examiner in relation to the trustees' report is limited to examining the report and ensuring that, on the face of the report, there are no inconsistencies with the figures disclosed in the financial statements.

Method of preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board of trustees on 8 / 8 / 2024.

S P Ashby

Company Secretary



HOME-START MERTON

Report of the Independent Examiner to the trustees

on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2024

I report on the financial statements of the Charity on pages 7 to 13 for the year ended 31 March 2024 which have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 1993 and with the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102), as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, effective April 2005 as modified in May 2008. (The SORP), under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on page 10.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As described on page 4, the Charity's trustees, who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.

The trustees are satisfied that the audit requirement of Section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply and that the accounts do not require an audit in accordance with Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, and that there is no requirement in the governing document or constitution of the Charity for the conducting of an audit. As a consequence, the trustees have elected that the financial statements be subject to independent examination.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law, or otherwise, and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:-

- a) examine the accounts under section 43 of the Act; and;
- b) to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act;

Basis of opinion and scope of work undertaken

I conducted my examination in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales setting out the duties of an independent examiner issued by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act) in relation to the conducting of an independent examination, referred to above. An independent examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Charity and of the accounting systems employed by the Charity and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning such matters. The purpose of the examination is to establish as far as possible that there have been no breaches of the Charities legislation and that the financial statements comply with the Statement of Recommended Practice issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.

The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and information supplied by the trustees in the course of the examination is not subjected to audit tests or enquiries, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the financial statements, and in particular, I express no opinion as to whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the affairs of the charity, and my report is limited to the matters set out in the statement below.

I planned and performed my examination so as to satisfy myself that the objectives of the independent examination are achieved and before finalising the report I obtain written assurances from the trustees of all material matters.

Subject to the limitations upon the scope of my work as detailed above, in connection with my examination, I can confirm that

1) In accordance with Regulation 31 of The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, the accounts of this incorporated charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006;

2) this is a report in respect of an examination carried out under section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 and in accordance with any directions given by the Commission under subsection (7)(b) of that section which are applicable;

and that, no matter has come to my attention in connection with my examination which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

(i) to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;

(ii) to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and;

(iii) that the financial statements be prepared in accordance with the methods and principles set out in the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in my report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached;



K Velupillai ACMA, CGMA, ACPA
K V & CO
Chartered Management Accountants
Wallington
Surrey
SM6 8EX

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is :-

24 / 9 / 2024

HOME-START MERTON
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £
Incoming resources				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary Income	41,329	28,000	69,329	73,914
Activities for generating funds	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Investment Income	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total incoming resources	96,262	28,000	124,262	77,489
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
<i>Costs of charitable activities</i>	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
Total resources expended	144,143	48,210	192,353	182,720
Net outgoing resources before transfers between funds	(47,881)	(20,210)	(68,091)	(105,231)
Gross transfers between funds			-	
Net outgoing resources before Other recognised gains and losses	(47,881)	(20,210)	(68,091)	(105,231)
Other recognised gains and losses				
<i>Gains/(losses) on investment assets</i>	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
Net movement in funds	(22,208)	(20,210)	(42,418)	(115,086)
Reconciliation of funds				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	432,420	-	432,420	593,793
Total Funds carried forward	410,212	(20,210)	390,002	478,707

The net movement in funds referred to above is the net incoming resources as defined in the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commission for England & Wales and is reconciled to the total funds as shown in the Balance Sheet on page 10 as required by the said statement.

All activities derive from continuing operations

HOME-START MERTON**Company Number**

5359862

2024**2023****Balance Sheet****as at 31 March 2024****Current assets**

Current Asset Investments	301,185	385,512
Cash at bank and in hand	102,368	56,675
Total current assets	403,553	442,187

Creditors:-

amounts due within one year	7 (13,551)	(9,767)
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Net current assets

390,002 432,420

Total assets less current liabilities

390,002 432,420

Creditors:-

amounts due after more than one year	-	-
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Net assets excluding pension asset / liability

390,002 432,420

Net assets including pension asset / liability

390,002 432,420

The funds of the charity :**Unrestricted income funds**

Unrestricted revenue accumulated funds	31,154	39,487
Pension Deficit Fund	8,658	22,533
Designated revenue funds	100,000	100,000

Unrestricted capital funds

Designated fixed asset funds		270,400
Designated Investment Funds	270,400	

Total unrestricted funds

410,212 432,420

Restricted revenue funds

Restricted revenue accumulated funds	- 20,210	
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Restricted fixed asset funds

Total restricted funds	- 20,210	-
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Total charity funds

390,002 432,420

The directors are satisfied that for the year ended on 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that no member or members have required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 43 of the Charities Act 1993, the accounts have been examined by an Independent Examiner whose report appears on page 7.

The director(s) acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008).

D Lawrence**Trustee / Director**

Approved by the board of trustees on 8 / 6 / 2024

The notes on pages 9 to 11 form an integral part of these accounts.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation of the accounts

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014, and all other applicable accounting standards, as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales. The accounts have been drawn up in accordance with the provisions of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations and the Companies Act 2006, and include the results of the charity's operations which are described in the Trustees' Report, all of which are continuing.

Insofar as the Statement of Recommended Practice for Accounting and Reporting issued by the Charity Commissioners for England & Wales requires compliance with specific Financial Reporting Standards other than the FRS102 then the specific Financial Reporting Standards have been followed where their requirements differ from those of the FRS102.

Advantage has been taken of Section 396(5) of The Companies Act 2006 to allow the format of the financial statements to be adapted to reflect the special nature of the charity's operation and in order to comply with the requirements of the SORP.

The particular accounting policies adopted are set out below.

Accounting convention

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis, under the historical cost convention.

Incoming Resources

Incoming resources are accounted for on a receivable basis deferred as described below where appropriate.

All grants, including grants for the purchase of fixed assets, are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which they are receivable.

Investment Income

Bank Interest received is included on an actual receipts basis.

Fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets (less their estimated residual value) over their estimated useful economic lives.

Freehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Equipment	10% straight line

Taxation

As a registered charity, the company is exempt from income and corporation tax to the extent that its income and gains are applicable to charitable purposes only. Value Added Tax is not recoverable by the company, and is therefore included in the relevant costs in the Statement of Financial Activities.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Finance and operating leases

Rentals payable in respect of operating leases where substantially all the benefits and risks of ownership remain with the lessor are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred.

Finance leases are accounted for in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102).

Funds structure policy

The charity maintains a general unrestricted fund which represents funds which are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity. Such funds may be held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds have been provided to the charity for particular purposes, and it is the policy of the board of trustees to carefully monitor the application of those funds in accordance with the restrictions placed upon them.

Any other proposed transfer between funds would be considered on the particular circumstances.

2 Winding up or dissolution of the charity

If upon winding up or dissolution of the charity there remain any assets, after the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities, the assets represented by the accumulated fund shall be transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having similar objects to the charity.

3 Deficit for the financial year	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after crediting :-		
Revenue Turnover from ordinary activities	124,262	77,489
and after charging:-		
Pension costs	6,540	5,765
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	1,150

4 Staff Costs and Emoluments	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Salaries	130,795	127,007
Employer's National Insurance	13,343	8,762
Pension Contributions	6,540	5,765
	<u>150,678</u>	<u>141,534</u>

There were no fees or other remuneration paid to the trustees

There were no employees with emoluments in excess of £60,000 per annum

5 Trustees' remuneration

Neither the trustees nor any persons connected with them have received any remuneration, either in the current year or the prior year.

HOME-START MERTON
Notes to the Accounts
for the year ended 31 March 2024

6 Tangible functional fixed assets

	Plant, Machinery & Vehicles £
Asset cost, valuation or revalued amount	
At 1 April 2023	4,840
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,840</u>
Accumulated depreciation and impairment provisions	
At 1 April 2023	4,840
Charge for the year	-
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,840</u>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>

7 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	2024	2023
	£	£
Accrued expenses	9,703	5,657
PAYE and NI	<u>3,848</u>	<u>4,110</u>
	<u>13,551</u>	<u>9,767</u>
8 Pension Commitments and pension scheme details	2024	2023
	£	£
Defined Contribution Scheme	Nil	Nil
Defined Benefit Scheme		
Due to be paid	8,658	22,533

HOME-START MERTON
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds 2024 £	Restricted Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2024 £	Prior Period Total Funds 2023 £
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from generated funds				
Voluntary Income	16,412		16,412	11,601
Grants, legacies and donations			-	
Government and public bodies				
Incoming resources of a revenue nature				
Non government and non public bodies				
Incoming resources of a revenue nature - grants, donations and legacies				
Generation Foundation		15,000	15,000	25,000
Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benovolent Society	-	1,021	3,000	2,620
The Taylor Family Foundation		10,000	10,000	10,000
Dorus Trust	10,000		10,000	8,000
Wimbledon Foundation			-	-
London Community Foundation	1,000		1,000	10,000
DLUHC			-	2,500
Paul Stranks Charitable Trust	13,000		13,000	500
John Lewis			-	1,000
Home Start UK	938		938	938
Waitrose			-	750
NHS	500		500	
Total	24,417	28,000	52,417	61,308
Total Grants, Legacies & Donations Received	40,829	28,000	68,829	61,308
Other voluntary income				
Other Income	500		500	1,005
Total other voluntary income	500	-	500	1,005
Total Voluntary Income	41,329	28,000	69,329	73,914
Activities for generating funds				
Fundraising activities	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Total of activities for generating funds	53,417	-	53,417	3,131
Investment Income				
Bank deposit interest received	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total Investment Income	1,516	-	1,516	444
Total Incoming Resources	96,262	28,000	124,262	77,489
Gains on investment assets				
Unrealised Gains/(losses) on investments	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
	25,673	-	25,673	(9,855)
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income				
Fundraising event cost	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
Total costs of generating voluntary income	3,115	-	3,115	1,362
Charitable expenditure				
Support costs of charitable activities				
Direct support costs				
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	88,805	41,990	130,795	127,007
Travel and Subsistence - Charitable Activities			-	-
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	9,243	4,100	13,343	8,762
Pension contributions charitable employees	4,420	2,120	6,540	5,765
Volunteers' Costs	524	-	524	369
Learning & Development Staff	341	-	341	-
Home Start- UK Consultancy	(989)	-	(989)	2,291
Staff Training & Expenses	1,780	-	1,780	3,044
	104,124	48,210	152,334	147,238

HOME-START MERTON
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Total Funds
	2024	2024	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Management and administration costs in support of charitable activities</i>				
<i>Premises Costs</i>				
<i>Office Premises Cost</i>				
Rent payable	16,283	-	16,283	11,640
Insurance	1,228	-	1,228	1,074
Total Office Premises Costs	17,511	-	17,511	12,714
Building works & Refit				
Rent Payable				
Rates				
Insurance				
Utilities				
Service Contract/ Leases				
Total Charity shop premises costs	-	-	-	-
Total Premises Costs	17,511	-	17,511	12,714
<i>General administrative expenses:</i>				
Telephone and fax	466	-	466	1,454
Postage	7	-	7	-
Stationery and printing	1,327	-	1,327	1,357
Affiliation and Membership fee	1,427	-	1,427	26
Service Contract/ Leases	5,167	-	5,167	6,349
Equipment expenses	1,297	-	1,297	3,062
Payroll costs	526	-	526	505
IT support	887	-	887	2,346
Advertising and PR	183	-	183	-
Bank charges	60	-	60	69
Sundry expenses	236	-	236	2,447
	11,583	-	11,583	17,615
<i>Professional fees in support of charitable activities</i>				
Legal and professional fees	6,660	-	6,660	2,641
	6,660	-	6,660	2,641
Total Support costs	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
Total Expended on Charitable Activities	139,878	48,210	188,088	180,208
<i>Governance costs that are not direct management functions inherent in generating funds, service delivery and programme or project work</i>				
<i>Specific governance costs</i>				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
Total governance costs	1,150	-	1,150	1,150