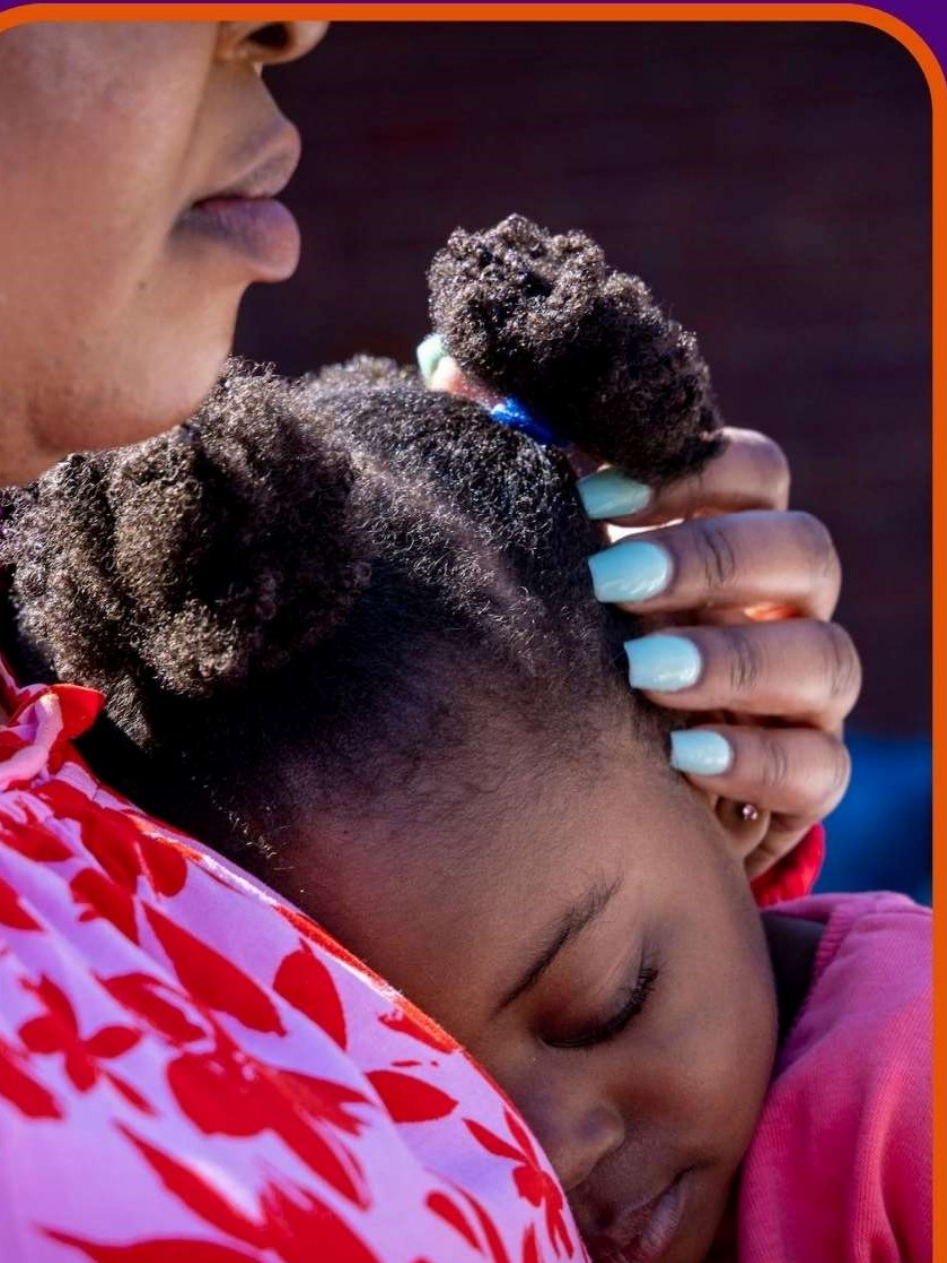


# ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS

## 2024-2025



**HOME  
START**  
Merton

## 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:

Clare Courtney (Chairperson). **Appointed 04/02/2025**

Danny Lawrence

Adam Flacks (Deputy Chairperson)

Diane Holmes (Deputy Chairperson and Treasurer)

Vikrant Bhuskute

Manuel Boger

Marian Ridley

Yang Li. **Appointed 25/02/2025**

Faye Brann.

Company Secretary: Sharon Ashby

#### Staff:

Sharon Ashby - Managing Director

Heather Ford – Family Support Coordinator

Silvia Romani – Business Support Administrator. **Joined: 01/10/2024**

Debbie Magee – Senior Family Support Co-ordinator. **Leave date: 31/05/2024**

*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](http://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 2024-2025 was made up of nine 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 OF TRUSTEES & MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

This report sets out some of our successes and challenges through the last financial year and sets out why Home-Start Merton is more important than ever to support those families struggling in our communities.

Positive outcomes:

1. Two parents have gained employment.
2. Two parents have been supported to navigate their own ongoing domestic abuse and court hearings. Both parents feel more empowered.
3. A parent has been empowered to work through being on a child protection plan and as part of the step down process was referred to Home-Start. The parent is now able to self-advocate for herself through the court process she is currently navigating.
4. Child has been through a long period of being diagnosed with complex health issues.
5. Children and parents have benefited from attendance at our group setting with school readiness, access to external professionals, (specialist perinatal health visitor, Oral health hygiene, winter wellbeing workshops).
6. Two volunteers have started a new career pathway. One as an ESOL teacher and one as a counsellor.

This has been a year of struggle for those who need support the most. The cost-of-living crisis continues to make 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 of children is rising. Children of statutory education age are the children of 2025 born during the covid pandemic years with many of the children we support showing signs of delayed development. There has been an increase in domestic abuse, which impacts negatively on children and whilst the new government strategy is trying to address this it is unlikely to be fast enough to support those struggling now. 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. Thankfully our willing volunteers continue to persevere through challenging circumstances to go the extra mile for other people when they are struggling.

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 (WDNMBS), Wimbledon High School for Girls, Kings College Junior school, AELTC (All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club) and our regular donators. 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. Bec Yusef, fundraising manager, joined us as a freelancer to help us with a concise fundraising strategy and to help improve our financial situation and to help to secure our sustainability. This has started to show some positive results, but we will need to continue to need to look for new revenue streams to thrive.

It has been our first full year with Danny as Chair of Trustees, and it has been both fulfilling and challenging in equal measure. Before the next AGM Danny will have completed a full nine years as a trustee (three terms of three years) so decided it would be best to ensure some continuity, and we advertised for the next Chair of trustees over the winter. In a very competitive process, we were lucky to be able to bring Clare Courtney onboard. She has a wealth of experience in start-ups to bring that energy and lean thinking at a time when we need to innovate to survive. She started as a

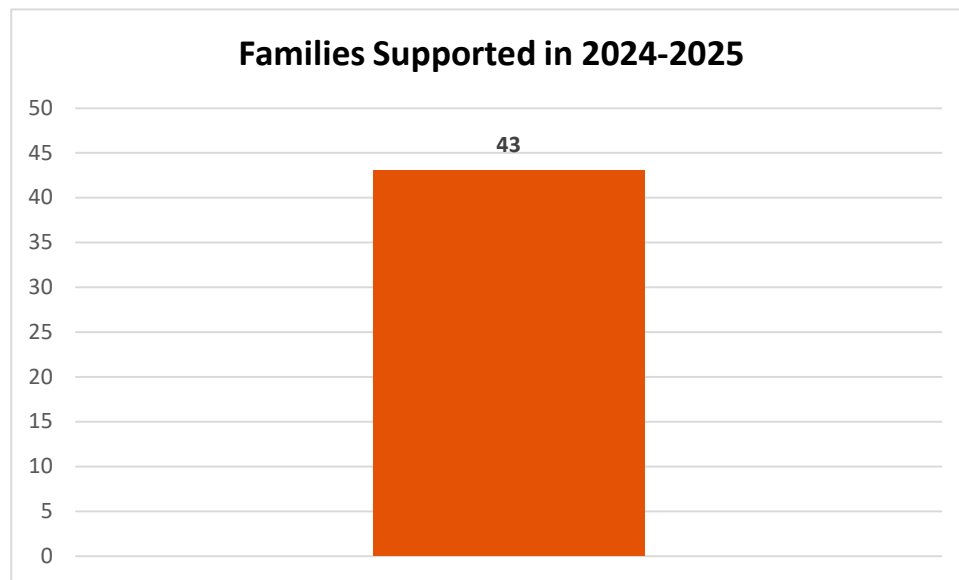
trustee in February 2025 and took over as the Chairperson May 2025. Furthermore, we welcome Yang Li to the Board February 2025 who has a wealth of experience in finance which will ensure the Board continues to ask the difficult questions on our financial position.

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.

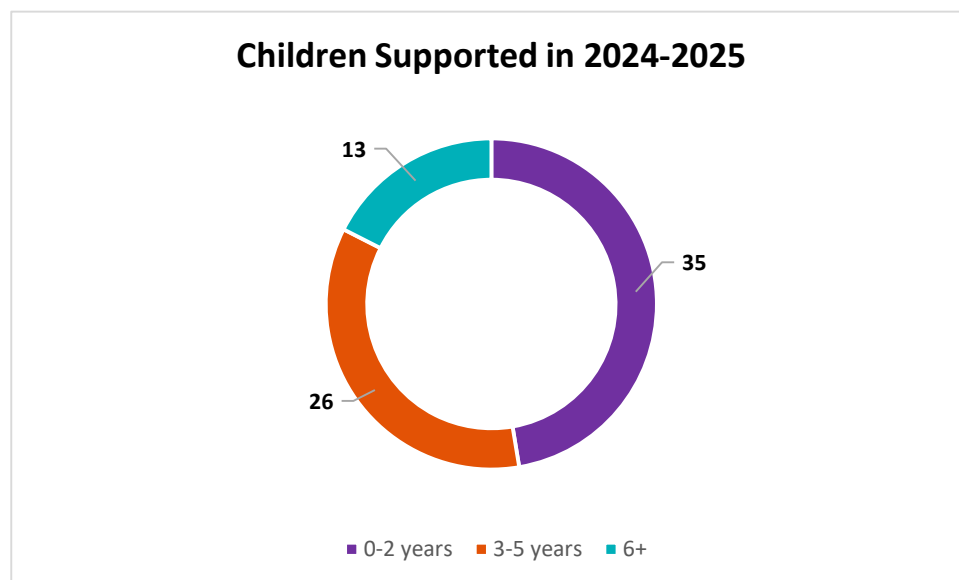
Thank you to all the volunteers, staff, donors, funders, and supporters who have helped Home-Start Merton provide support to families within Merton this year. You have all made a difference. We would particularly like to thank all the hard work of the team of staff and trustees for making my two years as Chair of trustees as fulfilling as it was. Your teamwork and support have been what has kept us going through the more difficult moments. We are grateful to the continued support of all of you in the years to come!

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

## **FAMILIES SUPPORTED**

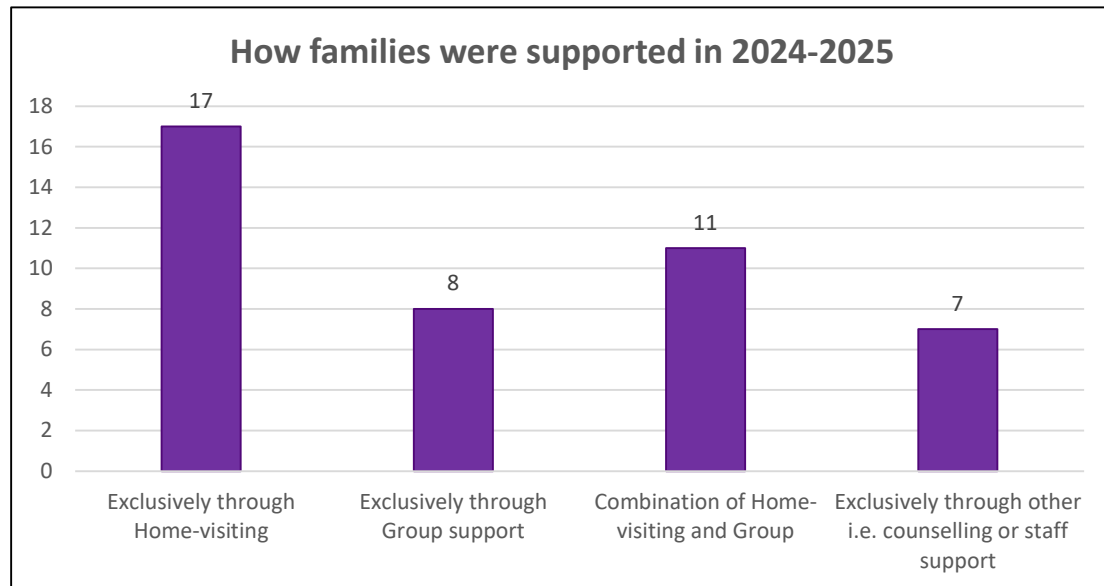


This year, Home-Start Merton has supported 43 families and 74 children. Due to the nature of the support Home-Start Merton provides, older children who live in the home are also indirectly supported.



## **OUR SUPPORT TO FAMILIES**

Home-Start Merton provides counselling and group support alongside its core home visiting service. Many families benefit from a combination of all three services. Group support has proven especially valuable for families who might otherwise face a waiting list or whose needs differ from those suited to home visiting volunteers.

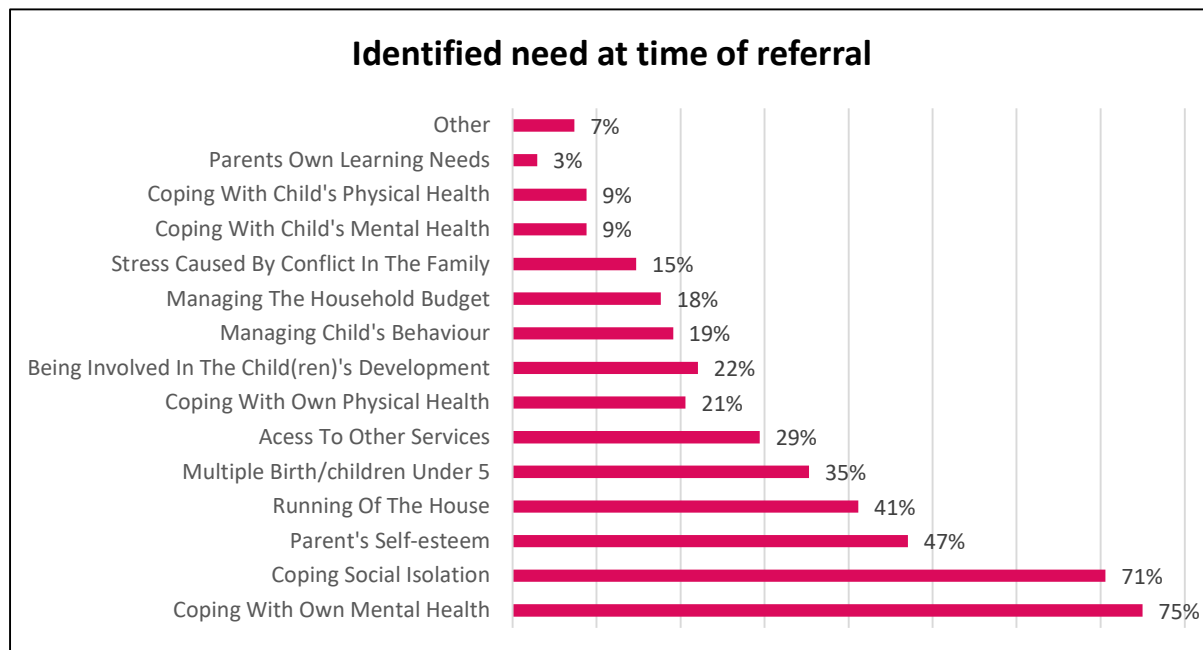


In addition to the core service of home visiting support, referrals for additional support have been completed.



## REFERRALS

The information below outlines the wide-ranging and complex needs experienced by families referred to Home-Start Merton during 2024/2025. These needs are assessed by professionals at the time of referral and documented on the referral forms provided.



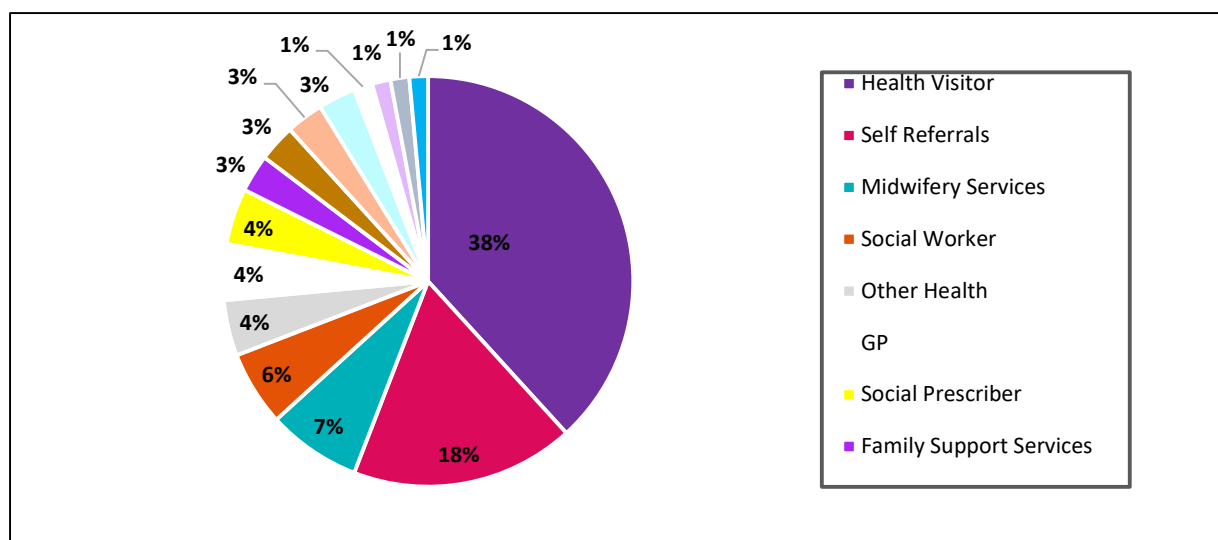
The three main themes we have identified for parents/carers that is affecting children's wellbeing and development are:

- Poor mental health
- Isolation
- Poor self- esteem/lack of parenting confidence

Other continuing emerging needs:

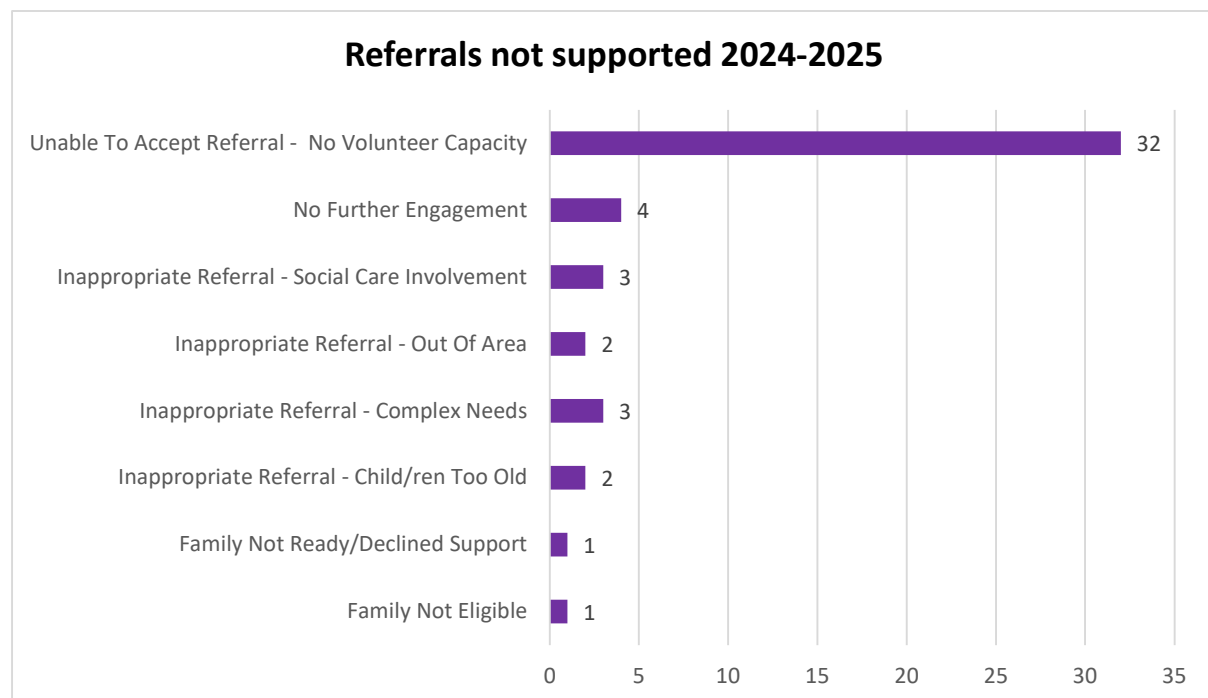
- Poor housing
- Financial Deprivation
- Relationship Breakdown/Domestic Abuse

The graph below shows the **sources** from which we receive referrals:



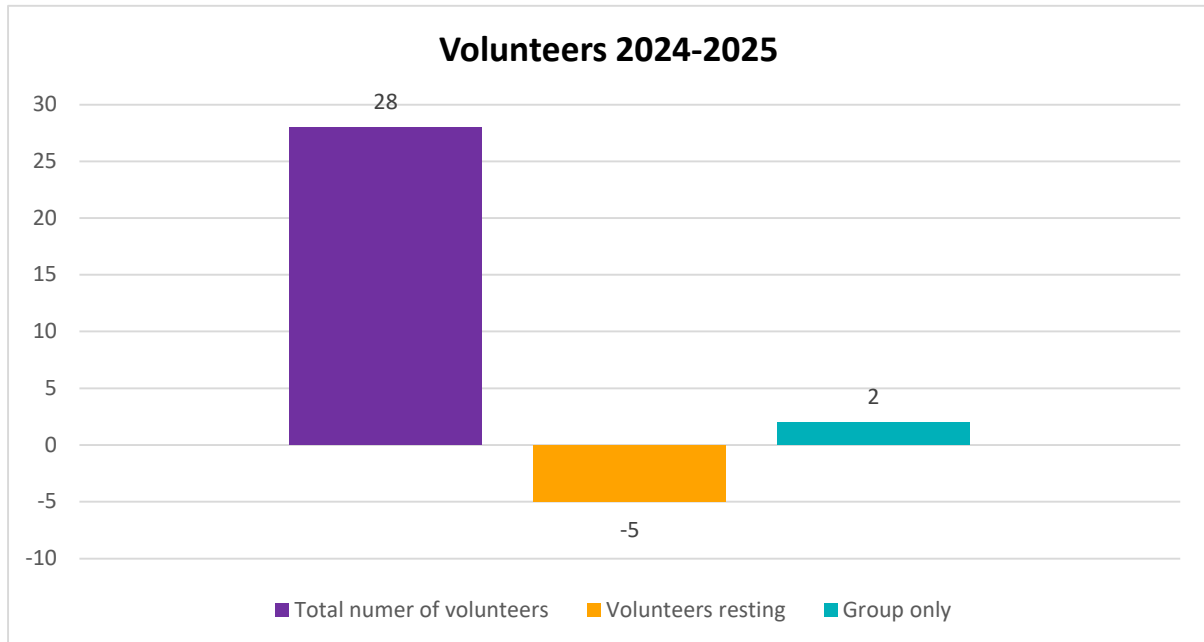
The majority of our referrals last year have come from health visitors, who play a vital role in connecting individuals with the support they need. Self-referrals have also been a significant source, demonstrating the growing awareness and trust in our service. The diversity of referral sources highlights the broad reach of our services and the collaborative effort to ensure individuals receive the appropriate care.

During the 2024–2025 period, we were unable to provide support to 48 referrals due to limited capacity. While we aim to respond to every referral, the demand for our services continues to exceed the resources available. In these instances, we did our best to offer alternative forms of support, such as signposting to other services or providing informal guidance where appropriate.



## **VOLUNTEERS**

This year, 28 dedicated volunteers worked alongside parents—in their homes and/or in a group setting—to help them navigate life’s challenges. Through their compassionate support, they empowered families with the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to nurture their children and build brighter futures.



## **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 2024 to 31st March 2025. A Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet for the financial year 2024/25 is shown within this Annual Report.

#### Income Review 2024/25

HSM's total income for the year was £92,401. The Board of Trustees is extremely grateful to its funders for their continued generosity during this year and wishes to thank the following continuing donors:

- The Taylor Family Foundation
- The Dorus Trust
- Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benevolent Society
- London Community Foundation
- The Paul Strank Charitable Trust
- John Lewis
- NHS Southwest London and Merton Connected.

In addition, our thanks are extended to new funders: The Rowlett Trust, Albert Hunt Trust, FB Coales No4 Family Trust, TK Maxx and Homesense Foundation and a SGN (Southern Gas Networks) grant through HSUK.

A small amount of HSM income was derived from returns on investments and the remainder from gifts and donations. The Board is very grateful to 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 2024/25

Total resources spent were £183,797 (previous year £189,238). Our committed and highly skilled staff remain our most valuable assets. Reflecting this, a significant portion of expenditure – totalling £139,605 – was allocated to salaries and associated employment costs. During the period we also had some staff changes – operating with fewer team members for a period of some months – and this is reflected in our slightly lower staff costs this year.

#### Reserves & Investment Strategy

The trustees reviewed and maintained an unchanged reserves policy. The policy exists to ensure we hold reserves at a level, £100,000, which ensures that HSM's core activities can continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty.

Approximately half of those reserves are kept as cash in the bank, 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.

We continue to deliver against our fundraising strategy, with a renewed emphasis on identifying and approaching funders whose criteria align with our current financial position. We continue to seek new funding avenues by crafting compelling funding proposals which demonstrate the charity's enduring value to the community.

The staff and trustees remain firmly committed to strengthening HSM's long-term sustainability. Key priorities include diversifying income streams, streamlining the donation processes, enhancing our charity's visibility across the Borough, and deepening engagement with our network of friends

and supporters. These efforts are vital to ensuring the charity continues to thrive and deliver its essential services to the community.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank our independent Examiner, Mr K Velupillai of K V & Co. for examining the HSM account and 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 2025. 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**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary Income	31,675	56,174	87,849	69,329
Activities for generating funds	2,640	-	2,640	53,417
Investment Income	1,912	-	1,912	1,516
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>36,227</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>92,401</b>	<b>124,262</b>
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	1,257	-	1,257	3,115
<i>Costs of charitable activities</i>	139,389	44,408	183,797	188,088
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>141,796</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>186,204</b>	<b>192,353</b>
<b>Net outgoing resources before transfers between funds</b>	<b>(105,569)</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>(93,803)</b>	<b>(68,091)</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	<b>(20,210)</b>	<b>20,210</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Net outgoing resources before Other recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>(125,779)</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>(93,803)</b>	<b>(68,091)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>				
<i>Gains on investment assets</i>	6,419	-	6,419	25,673
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(119,360)</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>(87,384)</b>	<b>(42,418)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	410,212	(20,210)	390,002	432,420
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>290,852</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>302,618</b>	<b>390,002</b>

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

2025

2024

Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2025

## Current assets

Current Asset Investments	247,604	301,185
Cash at bank and in hand	80,525	102,358
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>328,129</b>	<b>403,553</b>

## Creditors:-

amounts due within one year	6 (4,385)	(13,551)
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<b>Net current assets</b>	<b>323,744</b>	<b>390,002</b>
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## Total assets less current liabilities

<b>323,744</b>	<b>390,002</b>
----------------	----------------

## Creditors:-

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

<b>Net assets excluding pension asset / liability</b>	<b>323,744</b>	<b>390,002</b>
---	----------------	----------------

## Net assets including pension asset / liability

<b>323,744</b>	<b>390,002</b>
----------------	----------------

## The funds of the charity:

## Unrestricted income funds

Unrestricted revenue accumulated funds	- 67,858	31,154
Pension Deficit Fund	9,436	8,658
Designated revenue funds	100,000	100,000

## Unrestricted capital funds

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

<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<b>311,978</b>	<b>410,212</b>
---------------------------------	----------------	----------------

## Restricted revenue funds

Restricted revenue accumulated funds	11,766	-20210
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## Restricted fixed asset funds

<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>-</b>
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<b>Total charity funds</b>	<b>323,744</b>	<b>390,002</b>
----------------------------	----------------	----------------

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 470 of the Act. However, in accordance with section 40 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).

C Courtney

Trustee / Director

Approved by the board of trustees on 19/9/2025

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

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

At Home-Start Merton, the heart of our support lies in the incredible generosity of our volunteers, supporters, and donors. Their unwavering kindness and dedication enable us to provide vital assistance to families—helping to build resilience, nurture confidence, and create brighter futures.

Alongside those already acknowledged on this report, we extend our sincere thanks to the many individual and corporate donors whose ongoing generosity has been instrumental in allowing us to respond swiftly and effectively to families in need throughout the year.

Finally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to the people who make our work possible every day—our home-visiting, group and fundraising volunteers, trustees, and staff. Without their commitment and compassion, we simply could not support the families who rely on us.



The Rowlett Trust

FB Coales No4



THE DORUS TRUST

WDMBS -  
Wimbledon District  
Nursing & Midwifery  
Benevolent Society.



NHS - Winter  
Wellbeing Grant



*is grateful to have been supported by:*



**Registered Charity Number**  
**1108937**

**Registered Company Number**  
**5359862**

**HOME-START MERTON**  
**REPORTS AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED**  
**31 March 2025**

**HOME-START MERTON**  
**Report and accounts**  
**Contents**

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Independent Examiner's report	5
Statement of Financial Activities	7
Balance sheet	8
Notes to the accounts	9
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	12

**HOME-START MERTON**  
**Company Information**

**Directors**

C Courtney	Chair	Appointed 3 February 2025
A Flacks	Deputy Chair	
D Holmes	Deputy Chair & Treasurer	
D Lawrence		
M Boger		
V Bhuskute		
M Ridley		
F Brann		
Y Li		Appointed 24 February 2025

**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 2025

### Introduction

The trustees present their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31st March 2025.

### 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 2025**

#### **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 £87,384 (prior year net outgoing resources of £42,418).

The total reserves at the year end, stand at £302,618 (prior year £ 390,002).

Free unrestricted liquid reserves is in surplus and amounted to £290,852 (prior year surplus £410,212)

##### **The members of the Board of Trustees of the Charity during the year ended**

###### **31st March 2025 were :-**

C Courtney	(Chair)	Appointed 3 February 2025
A Flacks	(Deputy Chair)	
D Homes	(Deputy Chair & Treasurer)	
D Lawrence		
M Boger		
V Bhuskute		
M Ridley		
F Brann		
Y Li		Appointed 24 February 2025

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  
C Courtney  
Y Li



## HOME-START MERTON

### The report of the trustees

for the year ended 31 March 2025

#### 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 19/10/2025.

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 2025**

I report on the financial statements of the Charity on pages 7 to 13 for the year ended 31 March 2025 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 Veluppillai ACMA, CGMA, ACPA  
K V & CO  
Chartered Management Accountants  
Wallington  
Surrey  
SM6 8EX

The date upon which my opinion is expressed is :-

23 / 09 / 2025



**HOME-START MERTON**  
**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Last Year Total Funds
Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Incoming resources</b>				
<i>Incoming resources from generated funds</i>				
Voluntary Income	31,675	56,174	87,849	69,329
Activities for generating funds	2,640	-	2,640	53,417
Investment Income	1,912	-	1,912	1,516
<b>Total incoming resources</b>	<b>36,227</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>92,401</b>	<b>124,262</b>
<i>Costs of generating funds</i>				
Costs of generating voluntary income	1,257	-	1,257	3,115
<i>Costs of charitable activities</i>	139,389	44,408	183,797	188,088
<i>Governance costs</i>	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
<b>Total resources expended</b>	<b>141,796</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>186,204</b>	<b>192,353</b>
<b>Net outgoing resources before transfers between funds</b>	<b>(105,569)</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>(93,803)</b>	<b>(68,091)</b>
<b>Gross transfers between funds</b>	<b>(20,210)</b>	<b>20,210</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>Net outgoing resources before Other recognised gains and losses</b>	<b>(125,779)</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>(93,803)</b>	<b>(68,091)</b>
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>				
<i>Gains on investment assets</i>	6,419	-	6,419	25,673
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(119,360)</b>	<b>31,976</b>	<b>(87,384)</b>	<b>(42,418)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
<i>Total funds brought forward</i>	410,212	(20,210)	390,002	432,420
<b>Total Funds carried forward</b>	<b>290,852</b>	<b>11,766</b>	<b>302,618</b>	<b>390,002</b>

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

2025

2024

## Balance Sheet

as at 31 March 2025

### Current assets

Current Asset Investments	247,604	301,185
Cash at bank and in hand	80,525	102,368
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>328,129</b>	<b>403,553</b>

### Creditors:-

amounts due within one year	6	(4,385)	(13,551)
-----------------------------	---	---------	----------

### Net current assets

323,744	390,002
---------	---------

### Total assets less current liabilities

323,744	390,002
---------	---------

### Creditors:-

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

### Net assets excluding pension asset / liability

323,744	390,002
---------	---------

### Net assets including pension asset / liability

323,744	390,002
---------	---------

### The funds of the charity :

#### Unrestricted income funds

Unrestricted revenue accumulated funds	-	67,858	31,154
Pension Deficit Fund		9,436	8,658
Designated revenue funds	100,000		100,000

#### Unrestricted capital funds

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

### Total unrestricted funds

311,978	410,212
---------	---------

### Restricted revenue funds

Restricted revenue accumulated funds	11,766	-20210
--------------------------------------	--------	--------

### Restricted fixed asset funds

Total restricted funds	11,766	-
------------------------	--------	---

### Total charity funds

323,744	390,002
---------	---------

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).

C Courtney

Trustee / Director

Approved by the board of trustees on 19/9/2025

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 2025**

**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 2025**

***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.

<b>3 Deficit for the financial year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>This is stated after crediting :-</b>		
<b>Revenue Turnover from ordinary activities</b>	92,401	124,262
<b>and after charging:-</b>		
Pension costs	4,714	6,540
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	1,150

<b>4 Staff Costs and Emoluments</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Gross Salaries	105,274	130,795
Employer's National Insurance	11,076	13,343
Pension Contributions	4,714	6,540
	<u>121,064</u>	<u>150,678</u>
Number of Employees	3	2
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 2025**

<b>6 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accrued expenses	1,150	9,703
PAYE and NI	3,235	3,848
	<u>4,385</u>	<u>13,551</u>
<b>7 Pension Commitments and pension scheme details</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Defined Contribution Scheme</i>	Nil	Nil
<i>Defined Benefit Scheme</i>		
Due to be paid	9,436	8,658



**HOME-START MERTON**  
**Detailed Statement of Financial Activities**  
**for the year ended 31 March 2025**

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Prior Period Total Funds 2024 £
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Incoming Resources from generated funds</b>				
<b>Voluntary Income</b>	10,425		10,425	16,412
<b>Grants, legacies and donations</b>			-	
<b>Government and public bodies</b>				
<b>Incoming resources of a revenue nature</b>				
<b>Non government and non public bodies</b>				
<b>Incoming resources of a revenue nature - grants, donations and legacies</b>				
Generation Foundation			-	15,000
Wimbledon District Nursing and Midwifery Benovolent Society		1,500	1,500	1,979
The Taylor Family Foundation		10,000	10,000	10,000
Dorus Trust	10,000		10,000	10,000
The Rowlett Trust		4,800	4,800	
London Community Foundation		20,000	20,000	1,000
Albert Hunt Trust		6,000	6,000	
HSUK ( SGN )		8,604	8,604	
Paul Stranks Charitable Trust	10,000		10,000	13,000
John Lewis	750		750	
FB Coales NO4 (Family ) Trust		4,800	4,800	
Home Start UK			-	938
TK MAXX & Homesense Foundation	500		500	
NHS -South West London and Merton Connected#		470	470	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,250</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>77,424</b>	<b>52,417</b>
<b>Total Grants,Legacies &amp; Donations Received</b>	<b>31,675</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>87,849</b>	<b>68,829</b>
<b>Other voluntary income</b>			-	500
<b>Other Income</b>			-	500
<b>Total other voluntary income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>
<b>Total Voluntary Income</b>	<b>31,675</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>87,849</b>	<b>69,329</b>
<b>Activities for generating funds</b>				
Fundraising activities	2,640	-	2,640	53,417
<b>Total of activities for generating funds</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,640</b>	<b>53,417</b>
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Bank deposit interest received	1,912	-	1,912	1,516
<b>Total Investment Income</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,912</b>	<b>1,516</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>36,227</b>	<b>56,174</b>	<b>92,401</b>	<b>124,262</b>
<b>Gains on investment assets</b>				
Unrealised Gains on investments	6,419	-	6,419	25,673
	6,419	-	6,419	25,673
<b>Costs of generating funds</b>				
<b>Costs of generating voluntary income</b>				
Fundraising event cost	1,257	-	1,257	3,115
	1,257	-	1,257	3,115
<b>Total costs of generating voluntary income</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,257</b>	<b>3,115</b>
<b>Charitable expenditure</b>				
<b>Support costs of charitable activities</b>				
<b>Direct support costs</b>				
Gross wages and salaries - charitable activities	60,866	44,408	105,274	130,795
Travel and Subsistence - Charitable Activities			-	-
Employers' NI - Charitable activities	11,076	-	11,076	13,343
Pension contributions charitable employees	4,714	-	4,714	6,540
Redundancy Cost	7,350	-	7,350	
Volunteers' Costs	415	-	415	524
Learning & Development Staff	35	-	35	341
Home Start- UK Consultancy	2,237	-	2,237	(989)
Staff Training & Expenses	786	-	786	1,780
	<b>95,197</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>139,605</b>	<b>152,334</b>

HOME-START MERTON  
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities  
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Prior Period Total Funds
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	£	£	£	£
<b>Management and administration costs in support of charitable activities</b>				
<b>Premises Costs</b>				
<b>Office Premises Cost</b>				
Rent payable	17,667	-	17,667	16,283
Insurance	1,476	-	1,476	1,228
<b>Total Office Premises Costs</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>17,511</b>
Building works & Refit				
Rent Payable				
Rates				
Insurance				
Utilities				
Service Contract/ Leases				
<b>Total Charity shop premises costs</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total Premises Costs</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>19,143</b>	<b>17,511</b>
<b>General administrative expenses:</b>				
Telephone and fax	403	-	403	466
Postage	304	-	304	7
Stationery and printing	788	-	788	1,327
Affiliation and Membership fee	-	-	-	1,427
Service Contract/ Leases	5,730	-	5,730	5,167
Equipment expenses	565	-	565	1,297
Payroll costs	342	-	342	526
IT support	1,080	-	1,080	887
Advertising and PR	-	-	-	183
Bank charges	55	-	55	60
Sundry expenses	1,475	-	1,475	236
	<b>10,838</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>10,838</b>	<b>11,583</b>
<b>Professional fees in support of charitable activities</b>				
Legal and professional fees	14,177	-	14,177	6,660
	<b>14,211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>14,211</b>	<b>6,660</b>
<b>Total Support costs</b>	<b>139,389</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>183,797</b>	<b>188,088</b>
<b>Total Expended on Charitable Activities</b>	<b>139,389</b>	<b>44,408</b>	<b>183,797</b>	<b>188,088</b>
<b>Governance costs that are not direct management functions inherent in generating funds, service delivery and programme or project work</b>				
<b>Specific governance costs</b>				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,150	-	1,150	1,150
<b>Total governance costs</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,150</b>