

**HOME
START**
Southern
Oxfordshire



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2024-25

Supporting families in Oxfordshire since 1989

www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk



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ABOUT US

We work with families who are going through challenging times, and who have a child/children aged five years or under. We recruit and train volunteers to spend time with families, aiming to increase their confidence and independence by:



Offering friendship, support, and practical assistance, with a flexible approach to take account of different needs



Developing a trusting relationship with the family, to establish an understanding of their circumstances



Reassuring parents that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual, and encouraging enjoyment in family life



Encouraging parents' strengths, emotional wellbeing and parenting skills, for the ultimate benefit of their children



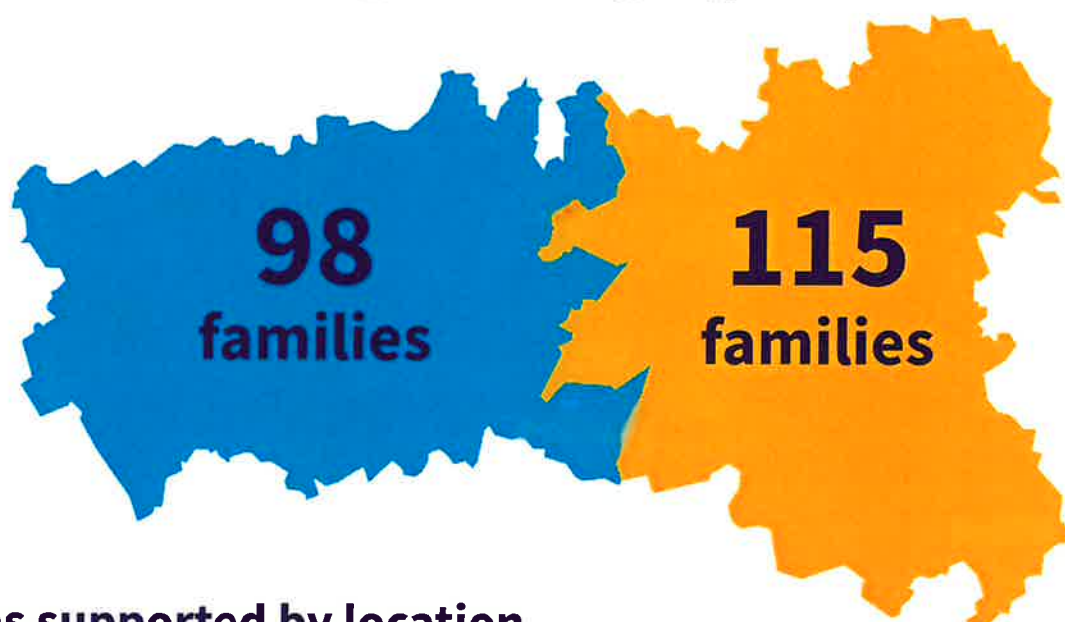
Encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to effectively use the support and services within the local community.

In the year 2024 – 2025, we also supported families through a paid worker, and two groups, described later in this report.

We are an independent charity within the Home-Start federation, with our own board of trustees, and responsible for our own fundraising. We have a legal agreement with Home-Start UK, the charity that centrally supports local Home-Starts through influencing policy, supporting quality improvement, brokering national partnerships and working to enhance our impact for families.

THE AREA WE COVER

Providing support across South Oxfordshire
& the Vale of White Horse



Families supported by location



Abingdon 23	Cholsey 2	Sutton Courtenay 4
Benson & Crowmarsh 6	Didcot 90	Thame 3
Berinsfield 2	Drayton 1	Wallingford 4
Blewbury & Harwell 39	Faringdon 9	Wantage & Grove 19
Chalgrove 3	Henley 2	Watchfield & Shrivenham 2
Chinnor 1	Steventon & The Hanneys 1	Watlington 2

**153
referrals**

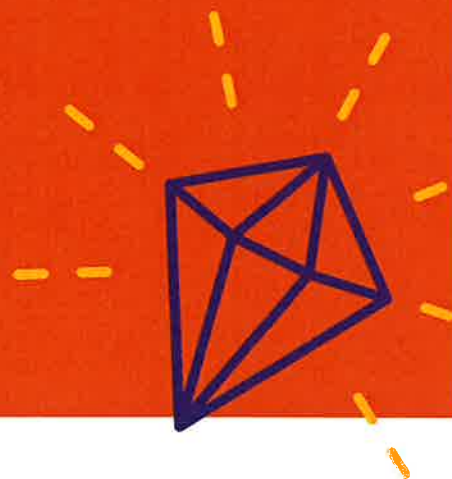
Referrals for our support continue to rise and have increased by **21%** over the last year.

Referral sources include: self referrals (29), Health Visitors (28), Social and Family Support Services (16), education professionals (15), other health services e.g. GP, midwifery & mental health (15), community organisations (4).



OUR IMPACT

Because Childhood Can't Wait



213

families
supported

350

children
supported

291

children
aged 0-5
years

59

children
aged over
5 years

13

families supported
by our Family
Support Worker

78

families supported
by our home-visiting
volunteers

122

families supported
at our groups

***“Home-Start is such a
fantastic idea, and I
would recommend any
parent that is struggling
to reach out.”***

- Supported family

51 valued
volunteers
supporting
families!



80%

of parents felt
better able to cope
with their child's
mental health

**Our outcomes show that of the families we supported
with a home-visiting volunteer over the last year...**

88%

of parents felt
more involved in
their children's
learning and
development

81%


of parents felt
less isolated

76%

of families
experienced
improved
wellbeing

75%

of families felt
better able to
cope with
parenting in the
earliest years



"Having a Home-Start volunteer, to help with my twins, made a huge difference to how I coped postpartum. Without the 2 hours every week to catch up on tasks, the reassurance received, and the new friend I gained with our volunteer, my mental health would have suffered."

- Supported family



CHAIR'S REPORT

DOREEN MCNULTY

I am pleased to present this year's annual report. It gives an excellent representation of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire's work.

We started the year with a new 3-year Strategic Plan in place. One of our early objectives was to adopt a new governing document, as our existing documents required minor updates to bring them into line with Home-Start UK. We hope to complete this during 2025.

We submitted our Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan to Home-Start UK as required, in April. Our Manager, Linda, developed this with a small group of trustees who continued to meet to further the work set out in the plan.

Once again, I am proud to mention that at our AGM in September 2024 we celebrated our 35-year anniversary of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. We had as guest speaker the then CEO of Home-Start UK Peter Grigg. Peter congratulated us on reaching this outstanding milestone achievement.



"[My volunteer] has been an absolute staple to our week and has helped me in so many positive ways. I almost owe my life to her. I suffered with severe anxiety and agoraphobia to the point I did my shopping online. Now I go to groups, we go for walks, I do my shopping in the supermarket and I feel like such a better person mentally and physically."
- Supported family

In May 2024, we submitted our first self-assessment (on 'Protecting Families') to Home-Start UK, as part of the ongoing Quality Assurance process. We continued to work on other standards throughout the year, and there is more detail on these later in this Annual Report.

Towards the end of the year Colin, our long-standing Treasurer, let us know that he would be retiring in March. We started the long search for a replacement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Colin for his outstanding contribution to the work of the charity. Colin has steered us through many challenges with his professionalism and integrity. We cannot thank him enough and wish him a very happy retirement!

Linda also advised us that she planned to retire in June 2025, so we began the recruitment process for her role too. My thanks go also to Linda, whose year was personally difficult with serious health issues. Even during this time Linda did her utmost to ensure everything in the organisation ran as smoothly as possible. I am pleased to say Linda has made an excellent recovery.

Thank you to the wonderful staff team and the amazing volunteers. The volunteers who work so closely with families, giving their time, care, life experiences and empathy. Volunteers should be really proud, that they can, and do, make a significant difference to the lives of the families they support!

My final thank you is to my colleagues on the Trustee Board, who bring a wealth of expertise, professionalism and compassion. I would like to thank Gill Bodey, Vice Chair, for her enormous contribution to the charity's smooth running. In December 2024, I am pleased to say we welcomed a new trustee, Jan Rimmer. Jan comes from a teaching background and brings lots of additional knowledge, including specialist dyslexia training. She has also been a Home-Start home-visiting volunteer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

COLIN CAMPBELL



The scheme had an overall surplus of £58,000.94 in the year to 31st March 2025.

We are pleased to recognise the fantastic support from our largest donors:

- The Henry Smith Charity of £48,100.00;
- Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust of £38,086.00;
- BBC Children In Need of £30,000.00;
- The National Lottery Community Fund of £27,409.58

We have received funding from many town and parish councils, as well as grant-giving trusts, organisations and individuals. We thank them all. Expenditure was above budget, but this was partly due to additional staffing being recruited to provide the increased level of service available from new sources of funding.



Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient reserves to cover potential liabilities if the scheme was to close, plus anticipated funding requirements for the forthcoming year, plus a general reserve of no more than 12 months of annual income.

We had reserves at the financial year end totalling £193,662.03.

This is represented by two reserves:

- a designated reserve of £41,000 - to cover a Pension Trust liability and potential liabilities from redundancy payments and closing down costs.
- a free reserve of £152,662.03, which represents about 8.6 months of the budgeted expenditure for 2025/26.

Once again, we offer our sincere thanks to all the organisations, individuals and trusts that have supported us throughout the year, together with all our dedicated staff and volunteers.

In particular, our thanks must go to Faye, whose fundraising endeavours have been outstanding this year, enabling us to receive a record level of income in 2024/25 and funding in 2025/26 sufficient to meet the budget.

However, the uncertainties of funding from 2026/27 onwards and the increasing challenges, as we try to maintain the much higher level of service we are supplying, means it would be prudent to maintain this higher level of reserves.



MANAGER'S REPORT

LINDA CHEONG



This year has been a year of growth. We started this financial year in a brighter place financially from the previous year and we have been able to build and manifest some very exciting developments throughout the year. Faye, our Development Manager has been successful in several funding bids, including multi-year core funding from Children in Need, the National Lottery Community Fund, Step Change Fund and Home-Start UK's partnership with SGN.

We have also worked more closely with our sister Home-Starts in Oxford and Banbury, Bicester & Chipping Norton. We were successful in a collaborative bid to be part of the Oxford Health 0-19 tender and for the first time we have received funding from health services towards our home-visiting work.



Collaboratively, we were also successful in receiving funding from Active Oxfordshire to promote YouMove, which has given us the opportunity to play a pivotal role in their target of rolling out the YouMove card to families with under fives. The card gives access to free or low cost activities at leisure centres and local attractions.

Again, this year there was greater demand for our service and we received 153 referrals, up from 126 the previous year. Of the 153 referrals we received we had to decline 42, due to either no volunteer capacity, no staff capacity, lack of engagement from the family or the family declining support. More than 60 of the referrals we received were for families with increased needs, either in Child Protection Plan (CP), Child in Need (CIN) or Team Around the Family (TAF).

81%
**of parents reported
improved confidence in
managing their
daily life**

***“I just want to say thank you. Having a
volunteer has made such a huge
difference. We go with her to Rhyme Time
now and R has come out of his shell - he’s
talking more and doesn’t scream around
strangers. I’m getting out for a walk
every day.”
- Supported family***

In May, we said farewell to Lydia, who retired from being a Family Co-ordinator after 5 years of working with us. We like to encourage and allow growth and personal development within our team and Kelly, who was our Administrator and Group Worker, expressed a wish to become a Family Co-ordinator. We provided training, and with support from the rest of the team, Kelly has successfully taken up this role. This move within the team meant we needed to recruit a new Administrator and we were overjoyed when our previous Administrator Gill applied again!

Our volunteers are the backbone of all that we do and we certainly would not be able to offer the support we do without them. We recruited a Volunteer Development Co-ordinator, Janet, who had recently retired from a career within the NHS. The role, focusing on recruitment and stewardship of our volunteers, is already proving successful as we have trained 17 new volunteers this year, compared to 9 the previous year. We now have 51 volunteers. Unfortunately, 7 volunteers retired this year.

In March we sadly said good bye to Gill Jones, who had worked with us for a number of years as a Family Support Worker. We also said goodbye to Janet, who decided to embrace retirement.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers, from our Board of Trustees to our Home-Visiting and our Group Volunteers. Also, a huge thank you to the staff team who have worked hard and gone above and beyond to support the charity during a turbulent year with staff illness and changes.



FAMILY STORY

We began support for Mum in November 2024. Mum had self-referred as she was really struggling with her mental health, isolation and looking after her two children. At the start of her support Mum said:

"I have severe mental health problems. Depression and anxiety. My children are the only thing keeping me alive. My daughter has suspected autism, however we have been on the waiting list for an assessment for over 4 years. Her behaviour is very challenging on a daily basis. Financially, I am struggling. My UC does not cover my monthly outgoings anymore. Since moving areas and moving doctors I feel like all of my mental health history and support has just been forgotten about as I seem to be getting nowhere. I don't know anyone in this area now I've moved, so I don't leave the house unless I do the school runs. I'm extremely isolated and lonely."

We matched Mum with one of our trained home-visiting volunteers. Our volunteer's weekly visits have helped Mum improve her self-esteem and increase her confidence. After 7 months of support, Mum recently told us:

"My volunteer, R, is absolutely amazing!! She has helped me leave the house, access medical services and food banks which I would never have done by myself! Before, I literally didn't leave the house. I even got my food shopping delivered. I didn't even go in my own garden! Now ...sometimes... I do go to the shop and for a walk with the children by myself. And we are always in the garden :) My mental health is still pretty awful but with the help of Home-Start I have actually contacted the medical centre to start getting it sorted. I'm very appreciative of the help they have all given me"

MAKE A **MEANINGFUL** IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING
FOR HOME-START



> VOLUNTEER Q&A <



Why did you choose to start volunteering?

After facing my own challenges as a parent, I was incredibly fortunate to receive support from another dad . Family dynamics have evolved dramatically over the years, with men now playing a much more active role in childcare and running the household, sometimes even without a partner. My hope is to offer the same vital support I received, creating a positive impact for dads, children, and families across the board.

Describe your volunteering experience in three words?

Purpose, helpfulness and accomplishment.

What is the most rewarding part of your volunteering role?

It's truly rewarding to know you're making a tangible difference with every visit. Sometimes, it's as simple as lending an ear over a cuppa, helping with everyday tasks like folding laundry or doing the washing up, or just pushing a child on the swings at the local park. For some families, your visit might be the only adult company they've had in days. These small acts of presence and kindness can mean the world.

What would you say to someone who was thinking about becoming a Home-Start volunteer?

We, as humans, inherently feel better when we help others. Sacrificing some of my time for Home-Start has brought immense personal benefit, while simultaneously supporting other families. In turn, if you choose to volunteer with Home-Start, it could make a profound difference for you, just as it has for me, and for even more families in our community.

VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

In September 2024 we were awarded funding from the Step Change Fund to recruit a Volunteer Development Co-ordinator. This new role was introduced to help us recruit, train and support our volunteers.

Janet attended events at libraries in Didcot, Wallingford and Wantage and schools in Grove and Didcot. Janet also attended events at the leisure centres in Abingdon and Thame, often teaming up or networking with partners such as Active Oxfordshire, SODC Active Communities Team and Reducing the Risk.

Our January Volunteer Preparation Course was one of our most well-attended courses. We also attracted sufficient interest from Janet's buzz-creating hard work to be able to hold another course after Easter. This role also gives us the capacity to hold more volunteer meet-ups, organise further training and ensure our volunteers are taken good care of.

Thank you to the Step Change Fund!

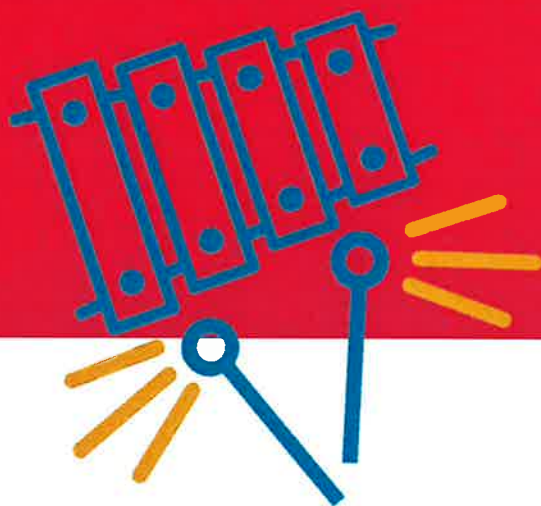
"I really enjoyed the course and didn't want it to end! I'm going to miss seeing everybody each week."



**The heart of
Home-Start**

OUR GROUPS

We held two weekly groups this year which supported **122** families.



Home-Start Parenting Group

This is a small group for referred families who would find attending larger groups difficult. It allows for support tailored to the needs of the individual. Support is provided on topics such as child development, behaviour, diet, weaning, the importance of play, budgeting and meal planning. The aim is to reduce isolation, improve parent-child relationships and increase self-esteem.

CASE STUDY

A young mum who was living in supported accommodation with a baby boy was experiencing low self-esteem and anxiety. She felt unable to access public transport and was feeling anxious about attending any group. Although initially shy and withdrawn, she attended the group every week. She soon began speaking to the other attendees, took onboard advice and information and even referred the group to some of her housemates! Her confidence grew and she began helping others, referring them to the community larder and offering to meet them there, and even sharing tips for batch cooking! She also began travelling using the bus and the train! She and her son have now moved into their own place near to family!



"The staff are really helpful and friendly. It's been a real lifeline as I was finding being home alone difficult and most other groups are too expensive"



"As the first of our friends to have children, groups like Home-Start have been vital for my mental health. Without it, I wouldn't know anyone going through the same things as me right now."
- Parent who attended group



Home-Start Baby & Me

First Babies group started the year at Ladygrove Community Centre and then relocated to the District Community Centre at Great Western Park in Didcot; a new, modern playroom with lots of parking.



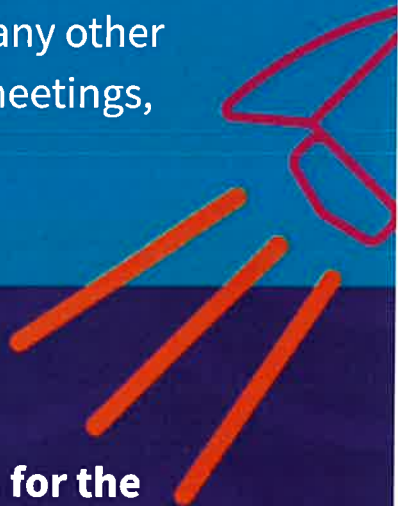

We re-launched the Group as 'Baby & Me' - no longer just for first-time parents. This meant we could welcome back parents who previously attended with their first child. This group continues to offer a safe place for babies to play and give parents and caregivers an opportunity to connect, improving isolation and wellbeing.

We welcomed Kath from Didcot Baby Monday who attended 6 sessions and gave advice around feeding, sleep and self-care. We also began holding twins sessions on the first Tuesday of each month. Our two group volunteers, Gill and Helen, continue to be a great support, warmly welcoming parents, carers and babies.

FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER

During 2024-25 we continued to deliver 1-to-1 support via our Family Support Worker, Gill, in family homes across South Oxfordshire and the Vale of White Horse. The support was flexible and varied to meet the individual needs of the family. On a few occasions we were able to work with children within their school setting.

Support was particularly centred around mental health, providing cognitive behavioural therapy, and family nurturing, using the Family Links Programme. Isolation, low confidence and low self-esteem were also areas of need. Practical help sourcing funds for items such as cookers, washing machines and other equipment was also given by our Family Support Worker, as well as signposting and making referrals to foodbanks and community larders. Working alongside many other agencies and professionals and attending multi-agency meetings, further ensured that the needs of the families were met.



“Thank you for being a massive part of our lives for the past year, it has made a huge difference to us, and we would not be where we are today without you!”

– Supported family

“I just wanted to say thank you for everything you have done for us. It really has made a difference to our lives. I feel so much more in control of my life and I am able to manage my anxiety a lot better, thanks to your help, support and understanding.”

– Supported family



OUR HIGHLIGHTS



Anonymous Coffee Co. in Henley raised £180 through donating a percentage of the sales from its Christmas 'Good Will' coffee blend! Thank you!



St Peter's Didcot raised £505 at their quiz night for Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire! We gave a talk, entered our own 'Home-Starters for 10' team and even enjoyed some fish and chips! A lovely night - thank you!



Medlock Grove Didcot Light Up chose us as its charity to support during its Christmas light display! We attended the switching on of the lights on 1 December and they raised more than £700 for us! Amazing! Thank you!



Tesco in Henley donated new school uniforms and essential household supplies for us to distribute to families in need! Thank you!

Thank you to Tesco in Didcot and local charity, Play2Give, who each donated new toys at Christmas to help families struggling over the festive period.

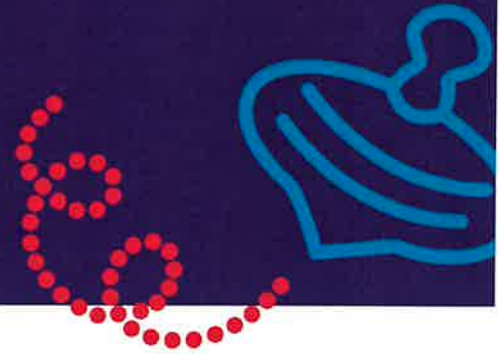


The inspirational girls at Didcot Girls' School took part in the school's First Give Project, with one team choosing us as its charity to support through a cake sale and teachers race! Thank you for your support!

We had a great day at the Abingdon Air & Country Show! Thank you to everyone who came by our stall, donated, picked up a leaflet or took one of our free children's books!



A BIG THANK YOU!

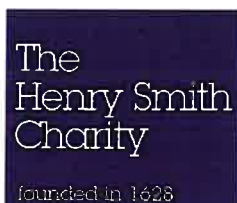


Thank you to all the grant-giving trusts and foundations; Town and Parish Councils including Didcot Town Council, Abingdon Town Council, Wantage Town Council and Henley-on-Thames Town Council; and individual donors who have generously helped fund Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire this year!

SUPPORTED BY



Listening Learning Leading



Thank you to all the families, volunteers past and present, and supporters who donate their expenses, make donations in lieu of birthdays, fundraise and/or make regular donations to the charity often boosted by Gift Aid.

We wouldn't be able to support and help struggling families without people like you!



If you would like to
donate to or
fundraise for
Home-Start Southern
Oxfordshire, we'd
love your support!



homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk/fundraise

BECAUSE
CHILDHOOD
MATTERS

TRUSTEES & STAFF

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025



TRUSTEES

Doreen McNulty, Chair
Colin Campbell, Honorary Treasurer
Gill Bodey, Vice Chair
Helen Conway
Caroline Couldrick
Abi Reynolds
Christine Grandison
Jan Rimmer (from December 2024)



STAFF

Linda Cheong, Manager
Anita Davidson, Family Co-ordinator
Lydia Davison, Family Co-ordinator
Gill Jones, Family Support Worker
Faye Golding-King, Development Manager
Kelly Summers, Administrator (until June 2024), Family Co-ordinator (from June 2024) and Group Worker
Gill Rose, Administrator (from June 2024)
Janet Porter, Volunteer Development Co-ordinator (from September 2024)

Independent Examiner:
Sue Scane, CIPFA



HOME-START SAFEGUARDING

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults, and expects all trustees, staff, volunteers and members to share this commitment. Our policies on safeguarding children and adults are available on our website.

PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees have a duty to report on the scheme's public benefit. They have taken into account the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in planning the year's activities. This report demonstrates how Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire fulfils its charitable objectives.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

We are proud to be part of the Home-Start network. As well as giving us wider publicity and access to specialist support, our membership ensures we are assessed under the Home-Start Quality Assurance Standard.

This encompasses ten areas of work: Protecting Families; Governance & Leadership; Family Support; Operating a Home-Start; Money & Funding; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Quality & Impact; Staff & Volunteers; Brand, Communication & Digital; Partnership & Influence.

We are currently submitting self-assessments of our practice in the above areas, for monitoring by Home-Start UK, and all four submitted so far have been approved.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is exposed, in particular those relating to finances and operations, and believe that arrangements are in place to mitigate those risks.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

(A company limited by guarantee)

Charity information and reference details

Registered Charity Number	1113941
Registered Company Number	05443274 (England and Wales)
Trustees (Directors)	The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 24
Staff	The staff who served during the year are also listed on page 24
Registered office	197 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire. OX11 8RU.
Website	www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk
Independent examiner	Susan Scane CIPFA 151 Lydalls Road, Didcot, Oxfordshire. OX11 7EA
Bankers	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent. ME19 4JQ,



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No: 1113941

Company Registration No: 05443274

Governing document	Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a company limited by guarantee (No. 05443274) and a registered charity (No. 1113941) governed by its articles of association. Previously Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire operated as charity number 1006230. The existing charitable company was formed on 4 May 2005.
Directors and trustees	The Directors of a charitable company stand in place of the Trustees for the purposes of Charity Law, and throughout the above pages of the Annual Report and Financial Statements are collectively referred to as the Trustees. The Trustees who served during the year are listed on page 24.
Charitable objects	<p>The charitable objects of the Charity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- to safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical, of children and parents/carers of children;- to prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children;- to relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents/carers of children;- to promote the education of the public in better standards of child care; <p>within the area of southern Oxfordshire and its environs.</p>
Activities	The Charity fulfils its objects by means of the activities listed on page 2
Achievements and performance	For a description of our achievements and performance during the year, and our impact, see pages 3 to 21
Report of the Chair of the Trustees	See pages 6 to 7
Treasurer's report and reserves policy	See pages 8 to 9
Manager's report	See pages 10 to 11
Public benefit statement, quality assurance, safeguarding and risk management	See page 25
Plans for the future period	<p>The charity seeks to assist increasing numbers of families through home-visits in the coming period, undertaken by its network of trained volunteers. In addition, we aim to help families access groups and resources in their local communities, either providing these ourselves or through close links with other like-minded organisations.</p> <p>We are aware that some current multi-year funding grants will come to an end from 2026/27 onwards, and we are making contingency plans to cover projected funding shortfalls.</p>



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No: 1113941

Company Registration No: 05443274

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

Company and charity law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the surplus or deficit of the Charity in that period.

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees have:

- Selected suitable accounting policies and applied them consistently;
- Made judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Stated whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepared the financial statements on a going-concern basis.

The Trustees have overall responsibility for ensuring that the Charity has an appropriate system of controls, financial and otherwise. They are also responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the Charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the detection and prevention of fraud and other irregularities.

This report is prepared in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small charitable companies.

This report was approved by the Trustees on 1 October 2025 and signed on its behalf, by:



Robert Fraser

Treasurer and Company Secretary

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No: 1113941

Company Registration No: 05443274

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

I report to the Trustees on my examination of the accounts of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire ('the Charity'), for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 31 and 32.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

As the Charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Act and that an independent examination is needed. Having satisfied myself that the Charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act
- follow all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Independent examiner's statement

The Charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Susan Scane CIPFA
Independent examiner

Date: 24.9.25

151 Lydalls Road,
Didcot, OX11 7EA

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No: 1113941

Registered Company No: 05443274 (England and Wales)

INCOME & EXPENDITURE FOR 12 MONTHS TO 31 MARCH 2025 - £.p

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
INCOME				
Active Oxfordshire YouMove	10,584.58		10,584.58	
Albert Hunt Charity	6,000.00		6,000.00	
BBC Children In Need	30,000.00		30,000.00	4,157.00
Didcot Powerhouse Fund			0.0	5,518.00
Didcot Town Council	5,250.00		5,250.00	8,000.00
Henry Smith Foundation	48,100.00		48,100.00	47,200.00
J A Pye Charitable Settlement	5,000.00		5,000.00	5,000.00
National Lottery Community Fund	27,409.58		27,409.58	
OCF Better Mental Health Fund	3,520.33		3,520.33	
Oxford Health NHS (0-19)	38,086.00		38,086.00	
Oxfordshire Community Foundation	4,256.00		4,256.00	8,033.00
POD Charity Grant			0.0	22,994.74
SGN Fuelling Futures: Home-Start	4,302.00		4,302.00	
South Oxfordshire District Council	8,227.00		8,227.00	8,227.00
Step Change Fund		16,500.00	16,500.00	
The Beeching Trust	4,166.67		4,166.67	
The Tambour Foundation			0.0	25,000.00
Veterans Foundation		7,500.00	7,500.00	22,500.00
Small Council Grants (under £5k)	7,190.00		7,190.00	6,095.00
Other Donations & Fundraising	28,118.80		28,118.80	32,294.57
TOTAL INCOME	230,210.96	24,000.00	254,210.96	195,019.31
EXPENDITURE				
AGM	242.67	33.82	276.49	501.47
Computing	4,322.65	602.42	4,925.07	4,845.95
Home-Start UK Consultancy	4,016.10	559.70	4,575.80	3,306.76
Insurance	1,124.61	156.73	1,281.34	1,469.09
Rent / Service Charge	10,969.78	1,528.80	12,498.58	11,676.59
Room Hire	1,925.30	268.32	2,193.62	1,099.93
Staff Salaries	136,089.55	18,966.08	155,055.63	134,156.49
Staff Training	294.02	40.98	335.00	712.33
Staff Travel & Expenses	3,027.77	421.96	3,449.73	3,000.00
Stationery / Photocopier / Post / Telephone	3,331.47	464.29	3,795.76	3,419.11
Volunteers Travel & Expenses	1,749.76	243.86	1,993.62	1,896.33
Volunteers Training	375.73	52.36	428.09	340.00
Other Expenditure	4,740.62	660.67	5,401.29	2,593.97
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	172,210.02	24,000.00	196,210.02	169,018.02
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	58,000.94	0.00	58,000.94	26,001.29
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS				
Total funds brought forward	135,661.09	-	135,661.09	109,659.80
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	193,662.03	-	193,662.03	135,661.09



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

BALANCE SHEET

31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds	2024 Total funds
CURRENT ASSETS				
Debtors and Prepayments	847.57	-	847.57	412.10
Cash at Bank and In Hand	244,841.91	-	244,841.91	171,940.75
	<u>245,689.48</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>245,689.48</u>	<u>172,352.85</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Creditors, Accruals & Payments in Advance	<u>52,027.45</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,027.45</u>	<u>36,691.76</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	<u>193,662.03</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>193,662.03</u>	<u>135,661.09</u>
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds				
- Designated reserve to cover budgeted deficits in forthcoming years			-	-
- Designated reserve to cover Pension Deficit / Redundancy / Closing Down			41,000.00	41,000.00
- Free Reserves			152,662.03	94,661.09
Restricted funds				
Restricted funds			<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>193,662.03</u>	<u>135,661.09</u>

For the financial year ending 31 March 2025 the Charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the Charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 1 October 2025, and signed on their behalf by:



Robert Fraser
Treasurer and Company Secretary



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No: 1113941

Registered Company No: 05443274 (England and Wales)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. Accounting policies

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006 and on an accruals basis.

2. Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee with no share capital. The liability of members in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

3. Related party transactions

There were no related-party transactions during the year requiring disclosure under the Companies Act 2006.

4. Creditors and accruals

Included within creditors are amounts relating to grant income received in advance for the following financial year and accrued service charge costs relating to the year ended 31 March 2025 but invoiced after the year end.

5. Exemptions

The company has taken advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing these accounts.

6. Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the Charity.

7. Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity during the year.

8. Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs of staff employed during the year were £155,056 (2024: £134,156)

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2025	2024
Charitable activities	5	5
Fundraising & Communications	1	1
Support services	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	7	7

All seven members of staff were part-time. The full-time equivalent number of staff was 5 (2024: 5)





**HOME
START**
**Southern
Oxfordshire**

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Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a company limited by guarantee,
registered in England and Wales Number 05443274
Registered Charity Number 1113941