

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 08301552 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1153287 (England and Wales)**

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**(A company Limited by Guarantee)**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

## **HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**

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## **HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**

### **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Trustees**

J Gregory	Chair	
G Christey		
A Earnshaw	Treasurer	Appointed 5 July 2024
R Firth		Resigned 27 September 2024
B Gould		
D Humble		
S Morgan		
R Taylor		
M Tyree		Appointed 27 September 2024
S Whittaker		
C Wilson		
Z Wright		Appointed 18 November 2024
S Hawley		Resigned 26 April 2024

#### **Chief Executive Officer**

S Moody (left December 2024)

#### **Charity Commission**

Registered Charity Number 1153287 (England & Wales)

#### **Companies House**

Registered Company Number 08301552 (England and Wales)

#### **Registered office**

5 Bedwell Park, Stevenage, Herts, SG1 1NB

#### **Accountant**

Beyond Profit, Bolton Arena, Arena Approach, Horwich, Bolton, BL6 6LB

#### **Independent Examiner**

Neil C Harding, Bradshaw Johnson Chartered Accountants, Croft Chambers, 11 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts, SG5 1JQ

#### **Bankers**

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

#### **Solicitors**

DAS Law, DAS Parc, Greenway Court, Bedwas, Caerphilly, CF83 8DW

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Directors' Report)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

The Trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019). The charity Trustees have complied with 'duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their duties or powers'.

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**Governing document**

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

**Structure**

Home-Start Hertfordshire was incorporated on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2012 as a company limited by Guarantee not having Share Capital and was registered as a charity with the Charities Commission on 7 August 2013.

The charity is governed by a Board of Trustees led by the Chairperson. The Trustees must hold at least four meetings a year with at least one meeting being held in person. Every trustee has one vote on each issue.

The Trustees all contribute their time voluntarily and have confirmed that they have no interest that conflict with the interests and activities of the charity. The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

J Gregory	Chair	
G Christey		
A Earnshaw	Treasurer	Appointed 5 July 2024
R Firth		Resigned 27 September 2024
B Gould		
D Humble		
S Morgan		
R Taylor		
M Tyree		Appointed 27 September 2024
S Whittaker		
C Wilson		
Z Wright		Appointed 18 November 2024
S Hawley		Resigned 26 April 2024

**Recruitment and appointment of Trustees**

Trustees are elected by the Members or co-opted by the Trustees. A Trustee's initial term of office after election shall be for a period of four years (being the period between each annual general meeting rather than calendar years). A Trustee may be elected for another term of four years, totalling a maximum consecutive term of eight years. The Chair has the power to allow elected Trustees to stand for a third term in exceptional circumstances. The Trustees may at any time co-opt an individual as a trustee to fill a vacancy in their number or as an additional trustee, but a co-opted Trustee holds office only until the next AGM.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Directors' Report)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**WHAT WE DO**

**Scheme Objectives**

HSH operates on a simple yet profound belief—that every child deserves a safe and supportive start in life, and every parent should have the guidance needed to make that possible. Home-Start Hertfordshire covers the boroughs of Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire (excluding Royston), Stevenage, St Albans and Welwyn Hatfield.

Our objectives are:

- to safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
- to prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
- to relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
- to promote the education of the public in better standards of child-care within their respective areas.

**The Service**

The Home-Start network consists of Home-Start UK and affiliated local Home-Starts throughout the UK. Together they form the Home-Start Service, delivering one-to-one practical and emotional support to young families. Each Local Home-Start is an independently registered charity that supports families in a way that reflects the needs within the community they serve.

Home-Start Hertfordshire provides bespoke support to families dealing with diverse challenges, such as isolation and loneliness, disability, abuse, and poor mental health, as well as the overwhelming demands of parenting. Their work is not just about immediate relief but empowering parents, building their confidence to create a stable and nurturing environment for their children. The core of Home-Start Hertfordshire's work lies in its volunteer-led approach. These volunteers are not just people from the community; they are the cornerstones of the charity, extensively trained to provide tailor-made support. They visit family homes weekly, for up to 6-9 months, offering not only practical assistance and advice but a listening ear and a shoulder to lean on - elements that are often as vital as any physical aid.

Support to parents is free, confidential and non-judgemental. Families report a huge and positive improvement in their lives and the lives of their families, because of the service. The stories of change are both heart-wrenching and heartwarming. Picture a young mother, overwhelmed and isolated, her partner working long hours, her family miles away. When her Home-Start volunteer steps through the door, it's not just help that arrives, but hope. There's also the tale of the single father, battling depression, who found in his volunteer not just a guide, but someone who gave him the belief that he could be a good dad. These are the everyday victories of Home-Start Hertfordshire.

**ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE**

**The Business Plan**

In November 2022, we launched our five-year strategic plan 'Moving Forward with Families', where our vision is that 'every parent has access to the support they need to give their children the best start in life'.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

We have made great progress against this plan and the foundations we secured in year 1 remain in place:

- Ensuring the governance of the charity is robust with the Board comprising a diverse group of Trustees with a variety of appropriate skills.
- Appropriate systems, policies and procedures, enable all staff to work safely, efficiently and effectively within their boundaries.

However, economic challenges have significantly impacted UK charities, especially smaller ones like us through reduced public and government funding, increased operational costs due to inflation, and a rise in demand for services. This economic strain has led to reduced income, increased and more complex referrals and workloads, and operational challenges.

We have managed this situation effectively with increased scrutiny of our monthly cashflow and laser focus on our costs which came in £78k under budget as a result of:

- Non replacement of our CEO post her resignation, with Trustees picking up strategic leadership
- Non replacement of the rolling Business Support Officer vacancy
- Delaying the introduction of a CRM system
- Movement of a proportion of the work undertaken by Beyond Profit back to our inhouse Finance Officer
- Savings against utilities as we sought to move to the lowest cost providers
- The contingency cost instigated to support us against inflation remained unused as we steered our way through the cost savings

Going forward we will continue to review our operating costs to ensure that our funding projection is higher than our expenditure to support growth of our reserves.

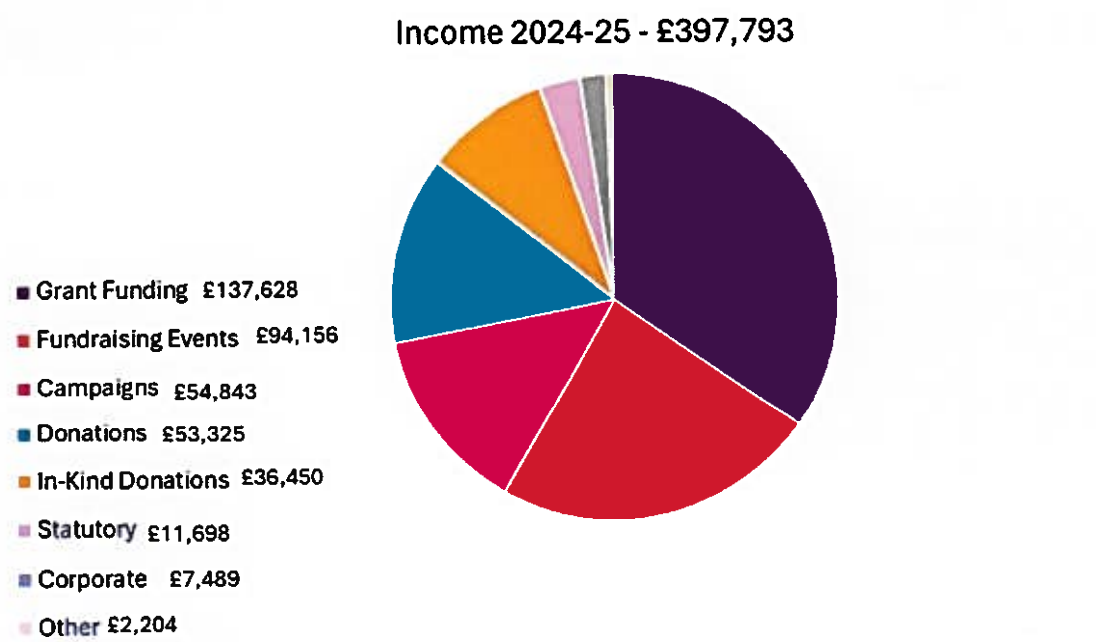
**Funding**

We have faced increased financial pressure due to falling individual donations, declining public funding, and intense competition for grants, despite the growing level and complexity for the service we offer.

Despite this the charity managed to deliver income levels just shy of 23-24 levels but £139k behind our budget. Key areas:

- The largest miss came from fundraising events at -£66k, as we struggled to secure local corporate support to support our planned events, notably the golf days
- Our Corporate funding stream also missed budget by -£42k as we saw our Ambassador Group deliver services to the charity in kind but struggled to engage longer term charity funding synergy.
- Grant funding missed budget by -£22k, which was a -£10k reduction on 23-24 despite grant applications surging by a reported 30-50%, with some foundations seeing their number double.
- Donations missed the budget by -£6k reflecting the financial struggles across the board

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Directors' Report)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**



We continue to review our fundraising capabilities and are looking to build on our areas for success next year with our Gala dinner moving to a bigger venue as we have reached capacity with our current location, and growth of our Pancake Festival.

In summary our income levels of £397,793 fell £53,606 short of covering our expenditure of £451,399, eating into our reserves, with future savings identified for next year

### **The Families and Volunteers**

The core focus of Home-Start Hertfordshire's work remains its volunteer-led home visiting service, supported by community-based Family Groups. During the financial year 2024/25, the charity facilitated 9 Family Groups across Hertfordshire, providing direct support to 217 families, including 341 children under the age of five, through the involvement of up to 88 trained volunteers.

The referral needs of families have continued to grow in complexity, with mental health emerging as the predominant issue. Increasing levels of anxiety, isolation, and low confidence among parents have been observed. The cost-of-living crisis has further exacerbated these difficulties, particularly for families already facing financial hardship. In some cases, families were forced to make difficult choices between essential needs. The charity provided assistance through signposting and referrals to other organisations offering targeted financial or practical support.

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Volunteers, supported and guided by the staff team, remain central to the charity's service delivery and success. Volunteer recruitment and retention presented ongoing challenges during the year, reflecting national trends and the continued economic pressures on households. Some volunteers were required to take on caring responsibilities for grandchildren or return to employment for financial reasons. Despite these challenges, volunteers continued to provide high-quality, consistent support to families throughout Hertfordshire, helping to ensure that children have the best possible start in life and are supported to thrive.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our amazing team and volunteers, alongside our ambassadors, fundraisers, donors, corporate partners, Trustees and our former Patron for their ongoing commitment and generosity, without which our achievements would not be possible.

### **Quality Assurance**

During FY 2024/25, Home-Start Hertfordshire commenced participation in Home-Start UK's Quality Assurance Programme. This is a comprehensive two-year process of self-assessment against national quality standards. This programme supports the charity in systematically reviewing its governance, management and service delivery practices. It emphasises continuous improvement and organisational learning, ensuring that we maintain the highest standards of effectiveness, accountability and support for families across the county.

At the date of reporting, Home-Start Hertfordshire has achieved strong results, with our submissions assessed as robust and of a high standard, demonstrating excellent outcomes across key practice areas. These findings reflect the charity's ongoing commitment to quality service, responsible practice and meaningful support to families throughout Hertfordshire.

### **Looking to the Future**

As we look to the future, our 2025/26 Business Plan focusses on realigning our cost base to ensure we can operate successfully within the realms of the funding we have consistently delivered across the last few years.

The impact of Home-Start Hertfordshire stretches beyond the immediate family to the broader community. It fosters an environment of mutual support and collective growth, ensuring children grow up in communities that care, and where parents have the network, they need to thrive, not just survive. However, like many charities, HSH faces its own challenges. Family's needs have been exacerbated by ongoing socioeconomic issues, resulting in an increase in families in crisis. Funding and resources cannot keep up with the demand and with the current financial instability the usual sources of funding are no longer available, leaving the charity relying heavily on donations, corporate support and community goodwill to sustain its essential services.

Whilst it has been a tough year, the actions taken this year have been about securing a positive future for the charity, recognising the value of our staff and putting into place the extra investment required to move the charity forwards to grow our income stream in order to meet the growing demands for the services offered. Our Ambassadors Group continues to be a route where we



**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Directors' Report)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

seek to work with them to diversify our income sources and develop new areas of funding. Home-Start Herts is also looking at the ways in can work in partnership with other organisations who have similar aims and objectives.

Supporting Hertfordshire is more than charity; it is an investment in the future of the community and its families. To donate visit [www.home-startherts.org.uk](http://www.home-startherts.org.uk) .

## **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

### **Treasurers Report**

The financial year 2024/25 was our ninth year as a fully operating organisation, supporting families in the boroughs of Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Hertfordshire, North Hertfordshire (excluding Royston), Stevenage, St Albans and Welwyn Hatfield.

2024/2025 was another difficult year as small charities continue to be impacted by economic challenges, impacting the cost of living and directly impacting public and private funding whilst inflation drives up costs.

Our diligent cost control alongside facing into tough decisions not to replace some vacancies supported us to partially offset some of this miss to funding. We secured income of £397,793 and had to draw on our reserves but remain within our 2-4 month plus redundancy costs policy.

Combining both the actual income and expenditure, our final position for 2024/2025 was a deficit of £53,606. We continue to consolidate in line with economic predictions with plans in place to further reduce costs and deliver income higher than expenditure to build back our reserves and recover our position as we move through 2025/2026. My personal thanks, along with the board, goes to all staff, volunteers, Trustees and board members for all the support and help in achieving the level of support we have provided.

### **Financial Summary**

	2024-25	2023-24
Income	£397,793	£419,249
Expenditure	£451,399	£500,879

The charity is hugely grateful to the companies, funders and donors who continue to support us through their donations and fundraising. An extensive list of supporters can be found in the 2024-2025 impact report. We would especially like to thank the following:

- The many individual donors and especially those who have signed up to regular monthly giving. We appreciate the support from local community groups such as Rotary clubs, Inner Wheel, Round Tables, Sorooptimists, Schools, Freemasons, and churches including Sunnyside Church, St. Albans Cathedral & Abbey and St Mary's Welwyn.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

- Our supporters who have undertaken fundraising challenges and those who have sponsored them and all those who pledged and donated to our Big Give Christmas match funded campaign and other appeals during the year. We were also a beneficiary of the county-wide Helping Herts campaign which included a matched funded sponsored walk last year.
- Our grant funders, borough and county councils and individual county councillors who have supported us with grants and donations enabling us to continue and expand the work we do.
- All who took part in our fundraising events including our Great Gatsby Gala dinner and annual St Albans Pancake Festival, and the companies who provided sponsorship to enable them to be successful.

We have benefitted from generous corporate donations and in-kind expertise from companies and individuals based in Hertfordshire. These include No Nonsense Design, Heart Radio, Holiday Inn Express and Taylor Walton - whose team fundraised and refurbished/transformed our Stevenage Office - and the support of our patron Ken Follett and The Follett Trust.

**Reserves policy**

At the end of the financial year, the charity held £74,582 in reserves (2024: £128,188) of which £68,909 were unrestricted reserves (2024: £111,450)

The Trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

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

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

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of Home-Start Herts planning, budget and forecast cycle and takes into account:

Having considered the risk, activity and commitments of the organisation, Trustees have agreed that Home-Start Herts needs to retain a level of reserves between 3- and 6-months running costs, plus redundancy and unspent restricted funds. If reserves are consistently above 6 months running costs, the Trustees will discuss how the excess could be spent in line with the charity's aims.

Subsequent to the year end the Trustees have reviewed the reserves policy and have determined that the reserves should be between 2 to 4 months of running costs.

The free reserves of the charity at the end of the period are £68,909 (this is calculated by taking the unrestricted funds and deducting any fixed assets).

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES (including Directors' Report) continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**Trustees' Responsibilities in Relation to the Financial Statements**

The Trustees (who are also the directors of Home-Start Hertfordshire for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles of Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to 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 prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In addition, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies' exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

This Annual Report was approved by the Board of Trustees on ..... 28.11.2025 .....  
and signed on their behalf by:

.....  
Julia Gregory – Chair

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF  
HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**

**Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of Home-Start Hertfordshire ('the Company')**

I report to the charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's Trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purpose of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under Section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under Section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

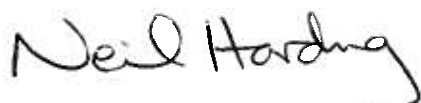
**Independent examiner's statement**

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102)).

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.



Neil C Harding

Bradshaw Johnson  
Chartered Accountants  
Croft Chambers  
11 Bancroft  
Hitchin  
Hertfordshire  
SG5 1JQ

Date:.....3-12-25.....

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

	Note	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>							
Donations and legacies	2	256,307	45,126	301,433	238,360	144,142	382,502
Other trading activities	3	94,156	-	94,156	34,290	-	34,290
Investments	4	1,795	-	1,795	2,306	-	2,306
Other income		409	-	409	151	-	151
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>352,667</b>	<b>45,126</b>	<b>397,793</b>	<b>275,107</b>	<b>144,142</b>	<b>419,249</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>							
Raising funds	5	91,418	-	91,418	106,175	-	106,175
Charitable activities	6	301,176	58,805	359,981	247,687	147,017	394,704
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>392,594</b>	<b>58,805</b>	<b>451,399</b>	<b>353,862</b>	<b>147,017</b>	<b>500,879</b>
<b>NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME</b>		<b>(39,927)</b>	<b>(13,679)</b>	<b>(53,606)</b>	<b>(78,755)</b>	<b>(2,875)</b>	<b>(81,630)</b>
Transfer between funds		(2,704)	2,704	-	-	-	-
<b>NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS</b>	15	<b>(42,631)</b>	<b>(10,975)</b>	<b>(53,606)</b>	<b>(78,755)</b>	<b>(2,875)</b>	<b>(81,630)</b>
Fund balances brought forward		111,540	16,648	128,188	190,295	19,523	209,818
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b>68,909</b>	<b>5,673</b>	<b>74,582</b>	<b>111,540</b>	<b>16,648</b>	<b>128,188</b>

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of the financial statements

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

Company number: 08301552

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>					
Tangible assets	11		-		-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>					
Debtors	12	2,146		3,828	
Cash at bank and in hand		94,263		152,848	
		<u>96,409</u>		<u>156,676</u>	
<b>CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<u>(21,827)</u>		<u>(28,488)</u>	
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<u>74,582</u>		<u>128,188</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<u>74,582</u>		<u>128,188</u>
<b>FUNDS</b>					
Unrestricted	15	68,909		111,540	
Restricted	15	5,673		16,648	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<u>74,582</u>		<u>128,188</u>

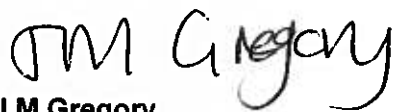
The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but as this company is a charity, it is subject to independent examination under the Charities Act 2011.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP FRS102.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on .....28.11.2025..... and signed on its behalf by:

  
J M Gregory  
Chair

The notes on pages 14 to 25 form part of the financial statements

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

**a. Basis of preparing financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (SORP FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

**b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis**

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The Trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

**c. Income recognition**

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity are recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE  
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**d. Donated gifts and services**

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

**e. Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**f. Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

**g. Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified as the aggregate of all costs related to a category under the following headings:

- Costs of raising funds includes the Costs in relation to fundraising events, seeking and following up voluntary contributions and donations from supporters and grant writing consultants.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

**h. Allocation of support costs**

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly relate to either cost of raising funds or charitable activities. These costs are all allocated to charitable activities.



**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**i. Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight-line basis as follows:

Computer equipment	-	33% straight-line basis
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**j. Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**k. Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**l. Creditors and provisions**

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**m. Financial instruments**

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**n. Pensions**

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9.

**o. Corporation Tax**

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

**p. Legal status of the charitable company**

Home-Start Hertfordshire is a charitable company incorporated in England. The registered office is 5 Bedwell Park, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 1NB.

The members of the charitable company are the Trustees named on page 2.

In the event of the charitable company being wound up, each Trustee has undertaken to contribute to the assets of the charitable company such amounts as required, but not exceeding £1. This guarantee extends until one year after a Trustee ceases to be a member. The Trustees control the charitable company.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Donations	52,825	500	53,325	43,244	-	43,244
Donated gifts and services	36,450	-	36,450	52,104	-	52,104
Fundraising activities and campaigns	54,843	-	54,843	58,871	-	58,871
Grants	104,700	32,928	137,628	38,051	108,778	146,829
Statutory funding	-	11,698	11,698	-	35,364	35,364
Corporate funding	7,489	-	7,489	46,090	-	46,090
	<u>256,307</u>	<u>45,126</u>	<u>301,433</u>	<u>238,360</u>	<u>144,142</u>	<u>382,502</u>

**Analysis of receipts of government grants (included above)**

	2025 £	2024 £
Broxbourne Borough Council	-	2,000
East Herts Council	3,000	-
Herts County Council	2,440	2,500
Local Councillor grants	500	6,900
North Herts District Council	2,058	4,120
St Albans District Council	3,200	10,000
Stevenage Borough Council	500	-
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council	-	9,844
	<u>11,698</u>	<u>35,364</u>

**3. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Fundraising events	94,156	-	94,156	34,290	-	34,290
	<u>94,156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>94,156</u>	<u>34,290</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>34,290</u>

**4. INVESTMENTS**

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Interest receivable	1,795	-	1,795	2,306	-	2,306
	<u>1,795</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,795</u>	<u>2,306</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,306</u>

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**5. RAISING FUNDS**

	Unrestricted 2025 £	Restricted 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Fundraising costs	50,027	-	50,027	50,007	-	50,007
Consultancy costs	385	-	385	12,279	-	12,279
Staff costs	41,006	-	41,006	43,889	-	43,889
	<u>91,418</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>91,418</u>	<u>106,175</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>106,175</u>

**6. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	Charitable Expenditure 2025 £	Charitable Expenditure 2024 £
Staff costs	278,621	297,857
Premises costs	6,374	15,985
Admin costs	3,556	3,255
Family Group costs	12,365	15,626
Family Support costs	6,381	9,318
Trips and Activities	796	1,608
Subscriptions	591	582
Telephone	2,631	3,535
Training and recruitment	-	1,150
Travel	10,086	11,628
Volunteer costs	999	2,012
	<u>322,400</u>	<u>362,556</u>
Support costs (see note 7)	26,476	23,318
Governance costs (see note 7)	11,105	8,830
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>359,981</u>	<u>394,704</u>
Unrestricted funds	301,176	247,687
Restricted funds	58,805	147,017
	<u>359,981</u>	<u>394,704</u>

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**7. SHARE OF SUPPORT AND GOVERNANCE COSTS**

	Support Costs 2025 £	Governance Costs 2025 £	TOTAL 2025 £	Support Costs 2024 £	Governance Costs 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Accountancy fees	12,285	-	12,285	10,270	-	10,270
AGM fees	-	15	15	-	200	200
HSUK fees	-	7,546	7,546	-	6,328	6,328
Insurance	-	1,878	1,878	-	1,402	1,402
Independent examination fee	-	1,060	1,060	-	900	900
IT costs	14,191	-	14,191	12,548	-	12,548
Legal Fees	-	480	480	-	-	-
Professional fees	-	81	81	500	-	500
Trustee expenses	-	45	45	-	-	-
	<u>26,476</u>	<u>11,105</u>	<u>37,581</u>	<u>23,318</u>	<u>8,830</u>	<u>32,148</u>

All costs were for Charitable Activities.

**8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging

	2025 £	2024 £
Depreciation	-	2,603
Independent examiners fee	<u>1,060</u>	<u>900</u>

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**9. STAFF COSTS AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	293,918	312,378
Social security costs	17,145	19,145
Employer's pension costs	8,564	10,223
	<u>319,627</u>	<u>341,746</u>
<b>Allocated as follows:</b>		
Cost of raising funds	41,006	43,889
Charitable activities	278,621	297,857
	<u>319,627</u>	<u>341,746</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The average number of staff employed during the period was 16 (2024: 17).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees, the CEO, the Business Development Manager, the Service Delivery Manager and the Finance Manager. The Chief Executive left the organisation in December 2024. The Trustees have decided that currently they are not recruiting for the role. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £147,395 (2024: £170,850).

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**10. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES, AND RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

The Trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind. During the year one Trustee claimed expenses totalling £45 for attendance at a fundraising event where they were representing the charity (2024: £nil)

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year (2024: £nil).

Trustees indemnity insurance is covered in the Charity insurance policy.

**11. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Computer Equipment £	Total £
Cost :		
At 1 April 2024	16,169	16,169
Additions	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2025	16,169	16,169
Depreciation :		
At 1 April 2024	16,169	16,169
Charge for the year	-	-
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2025	16,169	16,169
<b>NBV at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>NBV at 31 March 2024</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Net book value at 31 March 2025 represents fixed assets used for charitable purposes.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**12. DEBTORS**

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments & accrued income	2,146	3,828
	<u>2,146</u>	<u>3,828</u>

**13. CREDITORS : Amounts falling due within one year**

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	2,141	386
Social security and other taxes	2,627	3,877
Accruals and deferred income	15,588	22,244
Other creditors	1,471	1,981
	<u>21,827</u>	<u>28,488</u>

**14. PENSIONS**

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme for qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

At 31 March 2025, the amount outstanding was £1,471 (2024: £1,981).

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted Funds	111,540	352,667	(392,594)	(2,704)	68,909
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Big Hopes, Big Futures	536	-	(530)	-	6
North Herts	5,348	2,058	(4,399)	-	3,007
St Albans	-	4,840	(4,840)	-	-
Stevenage	3,151	11,000	(11,629)	-	2,522
Welwyn Hatfield	-	200	(200)	-	-
Dacorum	-	400	(400)	-	-
East Herts	-	8,700	(8,700)	-	-
Herts County Council	4,773	-	(4,635)	-	138
Hitchin Youth Trust	2,840	-	(2,840)	-	-
Letchworth	-	13,500	(16,067)	2,567	-
HCF - Stevenage Family Group	-	-	(137)	137	-
John Aphthorp	-	4,428	(4,428)	-	-
	<b>16,648</b>	<b>45,126</b>	<b>(58,805)</b>	<b>2,704</b>	<b>5,673</b>
Total Funds	128,188	397,793	(451,399)	-	74,582



**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)**

*Previous reporting period*

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds	190,295	275,107	(353,862)	-	111,540
<b>Restricted Funds</b>					
Big Hopes, Big Futures	-	2,500	(1,964)	-	536
North Herts	3,285	19,620	(17,557)	-	5,348
St Albans	500	13,250	(13,750)	-	-
Stevenage	518	7,500	(4,867)	-	3,151
Welwyn Hatfield	2,200	11,544	(13,744)	-	-
Dacorum	1,000	1,000	(2,000)	-	-
East Herts	300	3,950	(4,250)	-	-
Herts County Council	6,647	5,000	(6,874)	-	4,773
Hitchin Youth Trust	2,573	5,500	(5,233)	-	2,840
HCF - Stevenage Family Group	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
TNL Cost of Living	-	74,278	(74,278)	-	-
	<b>19,523</b>	<b>144,142</b>	<b>(147,017)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,648</b>
Total Funds	209,818	419,249	(500,879)	-	128,188

The purpose of each restricted fund is:

**Big Hopes, Big Futures**

To provide educational resources for use by the charity.

**North Herts**

To provide support to families living in the North Herts area of Hertfordshire.

**St Albans**

To provide support to families living in the St Albans area of Hertfordshire.

**Stevenage**

To provide support to families living in the Stevenage area of Hertfordshire.

**Welwyn Hatfield**

To provide support to families living in the Welwyn Hatfield area of Hertfordshire.

**Dacorum**

To provide support to families living in the Dacorum area of Hertfordshire.

**East Herts**

To provide support to families living in the East Herts area of Hertfordshire.

**Herts County Council**

To provide support to families living in Hertfordshire through the provision of supermarket vouchers and the purchase of goods and equipment on behalf of families who are suffering financial deprivation.

**HOME-START HERTFORDSHIRE**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

**15. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS (continued)**

**Hitchin Youth Trust**

To fund the running of the family group at the Hitchin Youth Trust, Hitchin.

**Letchworth**

To provide support to families living in the North Herts area of Hertfordshire.

**HCF - Stevenage Family Group**

To fund the running of the family group at the St Nicholas Community Centre, Stevenage.

**John Apthorp**

To support the charity with the purchase of laptops.

**16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	68,909	5,673	74,582
	<u>68,909</u>	<u>5,673</u>	<u>74,582</u>

***Previous reporting period***

	<b>Unrestricted Funds £</b>	<b>Restricted Funds £</b>	<b>Total Funds £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets/(liabilities)	111,540	16,648	128,188
	<u>111,540</u>	<u>16,648</u>	<u>128,188</u>