HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales · Charity number 1161247

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	09476111
Registered	2015-04-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Home-Start Newcastle Borough c/o Bowcock & Pursaill Llp 2 Ridge House Ridge House Drive Stoke-On-Trent ST1 5SJ
Phone	01782938912
Email	info@hsnb.org.uk
Website	www.hsnb.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY ARE:A TO SAFEGUARD, PROTECT AND PRESERVE THE GOOD HEALTH, BOTH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF CHILDREN;B TO PREVENT CRUELTY TO OR MALTREATMENT OF CHILDREN;C TO RELIEVE SICKNESS, POVERTY AND NEED AMONGST CHILDREN AND PARENTS OF CHILDREN;D TO PROMOTE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN BETTER STANDARDS OF CHILD CAREWITHIN THE AREA OF NEWCASTLE BOROUGH AND ITS ENVIRONS.

Activities: Voluntary organisation supporting families with at least one child under the age of 8 in Newcastle Borough.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

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Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NEWCASTLE BOROUGH AND ITS ENVIRONS
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£149,382	£183,465	-	-
2024-03-31	£126,452	£190,750	-	-
2023-03-31	£131,889	£200,136	-	-
2022-03-31	£340,221	£322,442	-	-
2021-03-31	£269,806	£272,133	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Carole Dawn Johnson	Chair	2019-10-28
DILYS BEARD		2005-10-04
David Williamson		2021-01-14
Julie Cooper		2025-12-02
Neil Dudley		2018-04-16

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HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1161247

Accounts

Company registration number: 09476111
Charity registration number: 1161247

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

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Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair Dilys Beard - Vice Chair David Williamson - Treasurer Julie Cooper (resigned 13 November 2025) Neil Dudley Yvonne Flood Timothy Wolley Katrina Alcock (appointed 28 May 2025 resigned 14 November 2025)
Senior Management Team	Wendy Hocking - Scheme Manager
Registered Office	c/o Bowcock & Pursaill Solicitors 2 Ridge House, Ridge House Drive Festival Park Stoke-on-Trent ST1 5SJ
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hope Street Stoke on Trent ST5 1DD
Bankers	CAF 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Charity Registration Number	1161247 The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	09476111

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 6th March 2015. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited through a variety of advertising channels, including personal recommendations from current trustees, advertising, posters displayed promoting the scheme's work in public places and disseminating information via our partnerships in the locality, and the VCSE advocacy organisations such as VAST (Voluntary Action Stoke on Trent), SCVYS (Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Organisation) and Support Staffordshire.

Expressions of interest are followed up by the Chair. Interested individuals are invited as guests to observe the management committee meetings and subject to a successful meeting with the Chair and Scheme Manager and agreement that they wish to be nominated for a position on the trustee board, they are invited to complete a formal application, provide references, undergo a DBS enhanced level check and sign up the scheme's code of conduct.

With reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a third of the committee is required to stand down at the AGM and if they wish to continue in their role as a trustee and a director of the organisation, they can be re-elected by the committee.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objects of the charity are:

a) To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
b) To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
c) To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
d) To promote the education of the public in better standards of child care, principally but not exclusively within the area of Newcastle Borough and its environs.

The aims of the charity are to provide support for local families and to give these families the means to cope with the difficulties they are experiencing. We aim to build better lives for both the child or children of the family and their parents by improving their confidence, health, mental wellbeing and to improve and encourage better family relationships.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough oversee the governance of the scheme which works within the local community supporting families with children under 12 across Newcastle-under-Lyme, where there are many deprived areas. With over 26 years of experience, providing crucial support during the critical formative early years of childhood, reaching out early on to parents facing difficulties, with homelife and parenting, aiming to prevent family crises and mitigate the potential negative impacts on children.

The Home-Start approach is supporting families early on, with no predefined level of need; instead, Home-Start believe that any family seeking help does so because they need it at that moment. The aim is to help parents build better lives for their children by helping them to tackle issues that they face such as loneliness and isolation, coping with multiple children, children's behaviour that challenges and ill health, disability or special needs.

Charitable Activities undertaken for public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides front-line family support services within Newcastle-under-Lyme. Our expert staff and lived-experience volunteers support parents with children under 12.

Newcastle has pockets of deprivation; 19 neighbourhoods within the top 30% and Knutton, our location; in the top 10% most deprived. (IMD 2019).

Newcastle Borough is an old coalmining area, an industrial town encompassing disparate areas, with pockets of deprivation, alongside more affluent streets and estates. This characteristic mask the bleak reality for many residing in our most deprived areas. Whilst we have neighbourhoods within the 30% most deprived in England (2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation) .A vast number of our beneficiaries reside in Knutton, our base, and neighbouring wards Cross Heath and Holditch and Chesterton. Living in the top 10 most deprived areas of the county disadvantage is exacerbated as

5.24% of residents receive PIP due to mental health conditions
25.62% of children are income deprived
16.3% are involuntarily excluded from employment
27.71% have no qualifications
34.75% are claiming DWP benefits
There is higher than average housing in poor condition (IoD score of 0.231)

With limited affordable/free community facilities for families with only 2 family hubs. Poverty and hardship prevent parents meeting their children's basic needs or provide developmental opportunities, they are at risk of the worst life outcomes.

To support families in overcoming these challenges Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides free one-to-one tailored support at home.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

As a local Home-Start, at our core is delivering home-visiting support via our volunteers, often parents themselves, there is a great deal of evidence highlighting the distinctive value of volunteer-led support, for a comprehensive support offer, we also have an experience staff team, who are more able to support alongside statutory agencies, or with parents who have more complex needs, who we are able to engage with successfully, building relationships and helping them access the service and support they need. Our service brings real impact to the lives of families.

Home-Start Services

We provide practical and emotional support for families in their own homes and in the community. Our support is tailored to the individual needs of our families who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges including poor emotional wellbeing of parents or children, child development and learning needs, isolation, and financial worries.

The earliest years make the biggest impact, and we work to make sure those years count.

Through our family support service, we deliver weekly contact with families through home visits or telephone calls. Families are personally matched to a volunteers or staff members based upon the level of need a family may have.
The earliest years make the biggest impact, and we work to make sure those years count. For example, our service supports parents to

• manage children's behaviour that challenges
• help their child sleep safely and soundly in their own bedroom
• introduce positive parenting and rewards
• set boundaries and consequences.
• encourage children to eat a healthy and varied diet
• introduce a good bed-time routine, so children go to bed at a regular time
• help with their child's anxiety, which may be about leaving them to go to nursery or school
• encourage sharing and taking turns, not grabbing or hitting other children
• manage their journey / walk to school or nursery in the morning
• improve parents' confidence
• reduce parents' isolation and help them go to groups and meet other parents
• help with their child's confidence and social skills with others
• With support to access SEND services and other challenges.

The success of our support is rooted in the non-judgemental, compassionate relationship that a family develops with their support worker hence their matched worker will remain with them throughout their time with us in all but exceptional circumstances. Out and about we support families to:

• Join local stay and play groups
• Attend medical appointments
• Attend and support parents in meetings with education
• Support families in safeguarding meetings
• Support parents to take children to parks and local activity centres
• Meet families in venues when families cannot meet at home

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

In line with Staffordshire County Council's Early Help Strategy "Right Help, Right Time, Right Place" effective early help relies on collaboration with organisations being able to play to their strengths, and as a trusted provider; a wide range of people rely on the Home-Start service which includes local schools, nurseries, social prescribing teams, Health & midwifery services, social care teams and parents themselves. They access our services via our easy accessible online referral forms on our website.

We have a dedicated Family Support Advisor (FSA) who complements our volunteer service, they address the more complex needs of families, they use their professional knowledge and excellent familiarity with other available services and working relationships to provide comprehensive, holistic support to the entire family including direct support to the children.

The FSA supports.

o Families who require short but intense intervention
o Children who require direct work.
o More complex needs families, (3 or more identified needs)
o Families that require more than 1 visit a week.

We are also lucky to have a specialised Family support Worker (FSW) for families who have a child with additional needs or special educational needs or disability. (SEND). They support;

o Parents to implement strategies and routines specific to children's needs
o Supporting referrals to specialist organisations
o Assistance to navigate application processes to secure support such as Disability Living allowance, Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and specialist equipment.
o Identifying and securing correct support in educational settings.
o Parents attend medical appointments.
o The provision to help parents with learning needs understand correspondence from bodies such as Schools and Social Workers.
o Assistance to parents with physical disabilities to engage and play with children or take them out.

Our SEND support is helping families to break down the obstacles that physical and learning needs often present which can prevent them from participating in community life. Helping parents develop confidence to manage their child(ren) outside the home; become less isolated and more able to access groups, service's, people and facilities in their community.

Helping families access the right equipment, advice and provide reassurance so parents can provide a nurturing a positive home environment in which children can flourish and meet their potential because every child matters

Our main goal is to provide extra support and resources to local families facing challenges. We aim to level the playing field, giving everyone a fair chance to strengthen their resilience and engage fully in their community.

We draw on the strengths of the people in our local community building the assets in the community, one family at a time. Those with parenting experience can utilise their knowledge and enhance their skill set through our training opportunities and personal development opportunities volunteering with Home-Start. We are not only helping to increase the resilience of families at home by helping them to connect with others, but it also improves the community for all. Helping the volunteers and families actively participate and benefit from and with a wide range of community-based support and to move forward as contributors to their communities.

Our Approach

Having a staffed delivery service alongside our volunteer service, enables us to respond to the needs of Newcastle families more effectively. Our traditional placed based approach aims at local empowerment pairing local volunteers, parents themselves with lived experience who embody local knowledge and parenting experience, with local families in need. Often having previously received support themselves our volunteers have an intimate understanding of the challenges families face and the obstacles in accessing support and shape their support to harvest trust and non-judgemental approach to promote open communication.

We provide timely support to parents, and children preventing issues escalating into crises, fostering resilience and independence, and reducing strain on statutory services through:

- One-on-one support in families' homes
- Peer to Peer groups
- Information, Advice, and Guidance
- Stay-and-Play community group sessions.

Family Support;

Over the year we supported 71 families, 139 children and 21 volunteers. Within our supported families;

- 87% felt more able to manage their household budget
- 70% experienced improved access to community services
- 82% experienced improved parental mental health and wellbeing
- 95% reported improved self esteem
- 96% of parents saw improvements in their child's health and wellbeing
- 93% credited our support for combatting their child's social isolation with improved social networks
- 100% felt better able to support their child's learning and Development

Parenting Together

We were lucky enough to gain further funding following a successful 3 year grant, for the ‘Parenting Together’ project. provided by The National Lottery's Reaching Communities grant.

The funding awarded in October 2024 enabled us to continue our work when we had financial uncertainties.

The funding continues funding a volunteer home-visiting service and the three Stay and Play community group sessions.

The Parenting Together Project aimed at providing comprehensive support to families facing various challenges and recognising the value that volunteering brings to the community. We provide a versatile hybrid approach to support which includes a mix of home-visiting and telephone support, tailored to each family's specific needs.

We are extremely grateful to The National Lottery for their extra funding for external support to help us achieve the outcomes in our Financial Sustainability Plan.

Enhanced Referral Process:
Families specify their preferred method of support; the majority want home visiting with a few opting for telephone support only. However, we often provide a hybrid solution, primarily based on home-visiting and supplemented with telephone support when necessary.

Triage and Welcome Process:
Following a referral, which is increasingly facilitated through our streamlined online system, our weekly triage team ensures that we can meet the needs of the families as indicated in the referral form. Communication often begins with a comprehensive welcome letter, acknowledging their placement on a waiting list while assuring them that we will maintain regular contact which we call Keep In Touch (KIT) calls,

Managing Waitlists and KIT Calls:
We understand the anxiety that being on a waiting list can evoke, and to alleviate this, we promptly assign each applicant to a KIT team member who contacts them weekly or fortnightly based on their circumstances. The objective is to provide continuous support, monitor changes in their needs, and address any safeguarding concerns or urgent support requirements.

Matching Process:
Our Family Services Coordinator meticulously matches parents with a suitable volunteer or staff member after engaging in a discussion with both parties. This ensures a harmonious partnership that is instrumental in achieving the goals set during the initial meeting.

We provide personalised support for each family, completing a simple assessment of needs with them, and identify areas where they want change. Together with their volunteer or support worker, they can be helped to gain the outcomes identified.

The length of the support needed to meet their needs can vary from family to family, depending on what outcomes are identified. The support given to each family is regularly reviewed until the outcomes have been met and there is a positive change for the children and parents in the household.

Personalised Support and Outcome Plans:
Every family we serve benefits from personalised support, including a needs assessment, goal identification, and a detailed outcome plan. Our volunteer or support worker collaborates with the family to help them achieve the specified outcomes, addressing areas identified in need of change.

Ongoing Review and Duration of Support:
The support provided to each family is regularly reviewed until the agreed outcomes are met, as a family's journey to success is not always a linear one, we adjust as we go along to ensure positive changes for both children and parents in the household. The duration of support varies but on average, families receive support for approximately nine months.

Information Advice and Guidance

Where families do not require full family support, we have our IAG element to or service. This element of the service is primarily delivered by the family support team, due to the need for extensive knowledge required about the range of services, referral gateways and information required for the variety of families supported under the IAG service. The IAG service allows parents to access support on a more personalized, flexible basis, especially when specific concerns arise, without the need for a comprehensive outcome plan or a family-wide assessment.

As this element of the service is less intensive, it has enabled us to support more families, as the support offered through telephone or email takes less time than a home visit or support phone call. Our experienced staff have developed and learnt how to support families with many varying needs. Learning how to support them effectively by working closely with them, listening to them regarding the difficulties they were facing, and hearing what they felt would help them. The staff team deal with a higher number of families than our volunteers, and as such gain and develop a higher level of skills, utilised, by sharing information and guidance with the volunteers.

Parenting Together / Home-Start Together

Our Family Support Service is complemented by the delivery of community groups, and mainly concentrating on delivery to the 0-4, under school age children fitting with Home-Start UK's focus and our early years support offer. Accessed free to anyone with a child under 4 residing in Newcastle, we also signpost our families with young children into our groups, assisting our family support work with the family.

Our aim is to provide a free, local group in a friendly, accessible venue to counter the inequity they are likely to experience "socially isolated children tend to have lower subsequent educational attainment, be part of a less advantaged social class in adulthood and are more likely to be psychologically distressed in adulthood" (Lacey, Kumari & Bartley, 2014)". The sessions provide opportunities for parental engagement and age-appropriate play to support learning and development.

During the year, over 1000 attendances were recorded at our Stay and Play sessions. The groups are a place for parents to engage in developmental and fun activities with their baby or pre-school toddler. We held 108 FREE sessions, including the delivery of Rhyme and Craft in Kidsgrove library and Newcastle Family Hub, (originally at Clayton Library) these are 45-minute sessions encouraging story time, rhymes and craft activities.

Additionally the Lunch and Play session, in Kidsgrove Children's Centre, which includes and a make and take craft activity and a messy play area, gratefully acknowledged by parents, is held around lunch time, so we can provide a healthy children's meal, and parents with tea and toast, utilising it as an opportunity to highlight healthy eating and energy efficiency, providing food cooked with a slow cooker.

In the last 12 months, over 130 parents/carers, and 160 children, have enjoyed the activities at our weekly 0-4 Stay and Play groups, registering over 1000 attendances, we are proud to have provided 493 healthy meals.

We constantly review the sessions, to ensure that we meet our community's needs. Using the feedback and listening to parents' comments and discussions with the Family engagement Worker, when asking what they would like included in the next sessions; they enjoy the opportunity to engage and mix with others within their local community and widen their social networks, and for many these are the stepping-stones to gaining the self-confidence to access other support and services available in the community.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Holiday sessions including the under 12's

During the school holidays, we hold various play and stay groups which include older children and siblings (up to 11 years), We held five sessions in Newcastle under Lyme this year, and for many families this is the first time they have attended one of our sessions.

- Easter fun session
- Summer Fun
- Beach party
- Halloween Spooktacular
- Christmas Party (0-4 only)

- We had 88 families and 151 children who enjoyed these five larger group sessions plus the extra-special Christmas Party, which this year was held for the under 5's while the older children were still in school which was due to the timing of the Christmas school holidays.

We consistently receive lots of positive feedback for the sessions, families stating that they valued them being free, that they were fun, and helped keep the children entertained in the holidays. We are happy to see many families returning for the other sessions, indicating how much the family has benefited from the sessions.

Summer Fun Holiday group Session - July 2024.

Peer to Peer

We hold a weekly parents Peer Support Group where the parents can get together and provide support for each other. The sessions are chosen by the group themselves, who love to do cooking more than anything else. We support the parents to join in with activities such as baking, crocheting, quizzes, bingo, walks and many other crafts. We arranged for a First Aid session to be held, which the parents found also arrange for visitors to come and share.

The group's aim is for parents to

- Feel less isolated
- Make connections with others
- Experience improved wellbeing

20 parents attended the sessions this year, with six parents attending for many weeks, making lasting friendships and thoroughly enjoying the difference that the group has made in their lives.
These sessions are currently being devolved so that our staff are less involved, and they become truly volunteer led.

Sam, Becky and volunteers undergoing First Aid Training

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The National Lottery – Reaching Communities Fund

This grant supports our volunteer service, their training, supervision and expenses and support by the Family Services Coordinator, as well as our successful Play and Stay groups delivered by our Family Engagement Worker who developed a partnership with the Salvation Army in Chesterton, and now holds a weekly Play group in their premises every Tuesday. This is a wonderful partnership enabling local families to continue to get support and attend our FREE play groups for the under 5's. The photo depicts our Scheme Manager Wendy Hocking and Samantha Hinks our Family Services Coordinator, being overjoyed with the award.

The award from the National Lottery also has provided a level of security for our future, along with extra funding for external organisational development support, to help us achieve and sustain the outcomes outlined in our financial sustainability plan.

Home-Start UK/ Cadent Warmth Programme

The Cadent partnership has provided us with extra funding towards helping keep our community warm, safe and connected. They have provided us with resources and materials to help us keep the community safer, so we can help prevent fuel poverty, providing energy efficiency awareness, carbon monoxide alarms and awareness to highlight the risk and dangers of CO. We hand out Cadent energy saving packs, and the project has provided us with blankets and heated throws as well as the slow cookers encourage energy efficient cooking, every item from Cadent is provided free to the families who we provide them to.

Coalfields Regeneration Fund

As our service operates in an area that once had a working coal mine, we are eligible for support from the Coalfields Regeneration Fund. We gain support and access to the Coalfields Community Investment Program, providing access to many guidance documents for research and support, as well as regular updates from the service which highlights training and grant funding opportunities, sent out by their regional grant manager.

Children in Need Grant

The Children in Need grant ended during this financial year in October 2024, they fund Charities who support disadvantaged children, and their support has been invaluable as we work across many areas within Newcastle affected by significant deprivation and they funded our core costs, supporting back office administration and core staff costs for 3 years.
The project's aim was that

- Children will have improved social skills
- Children will feel more confident
- Children will feel less worried.

At the end of the project, we applied for further funding but unfortunately we were unsuccessful they cited this was due to the high number of applications that they received. We must now wait another year before we can apply again.

Awards for All

Increasingly families are experiencing more complex needs; a combination of challenges including low income; fuel poverty; social isolation; poor mental health and behavioural problems; impeding families ability to cope and flourish. Awards for All funding for 12 months, provided us with the means to provide these families with more intensive; immediate 1-1 support, sometimes before our volunteer support in the home can begin.

We offered holistic and comprehensive support via our experienced Family Support Advisor (FSA)

Working alongside families with children under the age of 12, our FSA intervenes early, before problems escalate; providing tailored, compassionate support that helps families build resilience, confidence, and practical skills to manage everyday life.

Last year our FSA supported 35 families with 72 children.

- 87% of families saw improvements in routines and day to day running of the home,
- 78% of families saw improvements in parent's mental health and social isolation,
- 81% of families saw improvements in coping with child's emotional wellbeing and
- 84% of families saw improvements in managing children's behaviour and keeping children safe.

With Awards for All funding we have been able to continue delivering this service, benefitting families who do not meet the threshold for statutory intervention but whose initial needs require more intensive support than can be delivered through volunteer home-visiting.

Our Family Support Advisor (FSA) complements our volunteer service, providing comprehensive, holistic support to the entire family including direct support to the children.

The FSA supported.

- Families who require short but intense intervention
- Children who require direct work.
- More complex needs families, (3 or more identified needs)
- Families that require more than 1 visit a week.

Severn Trent Community Fund

We were delighted to be awarded Severn Trent funding towards the essential core costs of running costs our service including management, administration and rent.

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire – VCSE Supportive Communities

This grant funded the delivery of our Home-Start Health Happy Homes projec. Supporting Staffordshire County Council's 'Better Health Staffordhsire' encouraging people to live their happiest, healthiest lives in Staffordshire. Food and Nutrition and Food affordability

Through the unique connections and relationships that we share with the families in Newcastle Borough, as part of our support we will help families to introduce and adopt healthy, nutritious meals into their daily routines through one to one and group cookery sessions, nutritional advice and the distribution of slow cookers (in partnership with Cadent)

Volunteers

21 volunteers supported us during the year. Our volunteers commit to support, one or occasionally two families at a time, donating 3-4 valuable hours per week. Volunteers usually parents or grandparents themselves, are recruited from our local community and provided with a quality training schedule to support the families in a non-judgemental, empathetic way; The Home-Start approach.

We are here to ensure that children thrive, and we do this by being alongside families, in the children's early years providing.

- relational support to parents and families
- volunteer home-visiting
- a focus on the early years
- primarily an offer of 'early help'
- accessible and inclusive
- community-centered

Babies, infants, and children develop within the relationships and environments that are created around them. By prioritising strong attachments, loving caregivers and a focus on their whole development needs, children can be protected from the extreme impacts of adversity and the challenges and difficulties experienced by families from time to time.

We provide earliest help, supporting parental and child wellbeing with a listening ear, a volunteer is that friendly, non-judgemental person, who families can confide in, not a family member, to remove the worry of 'what will they think' or 'will this be held against me'.
Parents tell us that having someone they trust alongside them is often the most significant factor in our support being effective. Volunteers, with their understanding and experience, help build trust and good relationships with parents.

Families tell us that having someone close who cares is important to them and the positive feeling of people who give their time freely helps build a trusting relationship. Volunteers give their time, experience and understanding to help ensure we can be there when needed most.

Because Home-Start is invited into the homes and lives of families with young children, it remains critical that our offer is a voluntary relationship for families, on their terms. This is part of building a mutually respected relationship between Home-Start volunteers and staff and the families we work with, therefore volunteer recruitment remains an issue within the sector and as a volunteer led service it presents a key challenge to us.

Our volunteering opportunities and roles are designed to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation for those choosing to work with us whilst building our community activity. We provide fantastic training, and support and many opportunities for people to volunteer to improve their employability, skills and support their local community and we have many volunteering opportunities within Home-Start.

During 2024-2025, 21 volunteers used their valuable time for Newcastle families. Our intensive home-visiting support which can last an average of 7 months, supported 71 local families, and 139 children.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

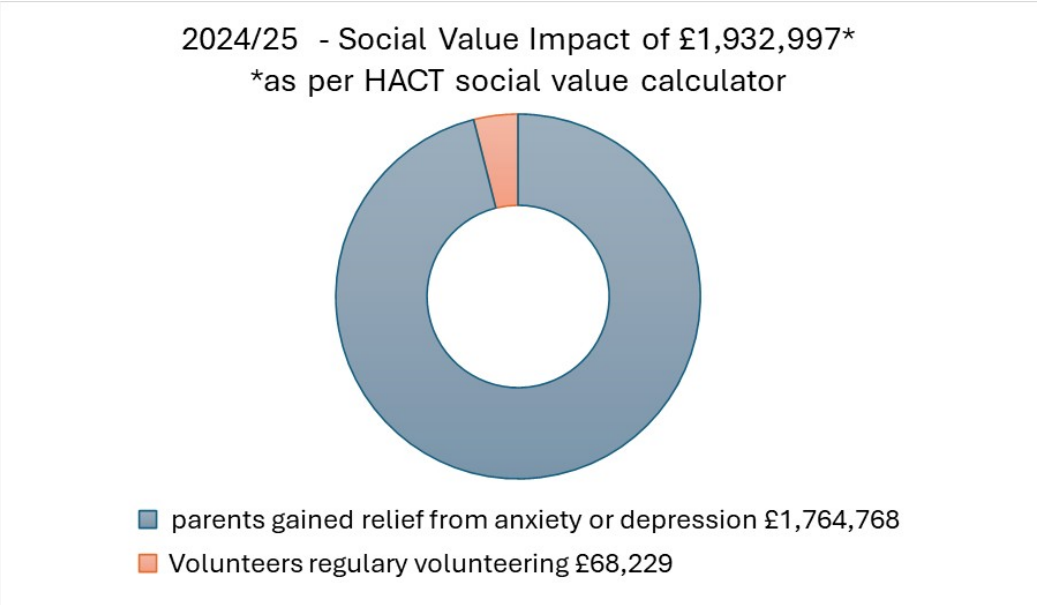
Following our home-visiting support, families responses showed that

• 70% had improved access to community services
• 82% experienced improved parental mental health and wellbeing
• 95% reported an increase in self esteem
• 96% reported improvements in child(ren)s' health and emotional wellbeing
• 93% credited our support with combatting their child(ren)s social isolation through improved social networks
• 87% improved management of their household budgets/finances.
• 100% feeling better able to support their child's learning and development

During December, the volunteer help us collect and wrap up the doated Christmas gifts for the children that they support. It is aways a fun time to get together. This year we also provided some families with the ingredients for Christmas Dinner!

Our Social and Added Value

Measuring just 2 indicators of the HACT social value calculator, in 2024/25 the social value impact this year was just under £2 million: £1,932,997. Counting the 48 parents who gained relief from anxiety or depression, and the 21 volunteers who were regularly volunteering.



We take pride in our comprehensive approach to delivering family support services. Through our partnerships, we gain access to specialised services that excel in their respective domains, benefiting the families we serve in ways that one organisation alone couldn't do.

Relationships with related parties

Home-start UK
Home-Start Newcastle Borough is a local, independent charity operating within the ethos, guidance and policies of the Home-Start UK as part of its international network of schemes.

Working in Partnership
The premises we work in are under the management of Elim Church, which granted us the flexibility to collaborate with Newcastle Foodbank. Together. Newcastle Foodbank operate a foodbank service from our offices on Wednesday afternoons, offering a convenient and local venue for residents in the area to seek assistance and collect their essential food parcels. We view this partnership as a valuable opportunity, mutually benefiting both organisations. Families who visit the foodbank for their parcels can access support from Home-Start and discover the range of services we provide.

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

We again had a year with significant challenges in raising funds and generating income. With some previous funders being unsuccessful applications, we then had to wait to apply again. Sourcing income has become the trustees' main priority. Trustees prioritised resources to increase grant writing efforts and enhanced their scrutiny of our finances and forecasting.

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At the start of this financial year, the charity's financial position had improved considerably, as we experienced grant funding successes, notably with support from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and secured three years of funding from The National Lottery, also funding us with external organisational development support to help us achieve and sustain the outcomes outlined in our financial sustainability plan. However, we have had less success in the latter months, with financial sustainability remaining a major priority.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:
1) Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
2) A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily attainable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers:
1) Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
2) Planned activity level
3) Organisation's commitments

When reviewing the financial policy in September 2023, and having considered the risk, activity and commitments of the organisation trustees have agreed that the scheme need to retain a level of reserves not dropping below £52,000 which equates to scheme closure costs. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted, the planned activity level and the organisation's commitment.

At the year end the charity holds £29,000 (2024: £52,000) in a designated fund to be used in event of the scheme closing, £20,407 (2024 £17,209) in general unrestricted funds and £12,706 (2024: £26,287) in restricted funds.

Risks arising and management of those risks

Our Risk Register persisted in highlighting a significant financial risk due to our continual reliance on trusts and grant funding for income generation. We commenced actions to mitigate this risk and initiated efforts to improve our income diversity through the development of a financial sustainability plan, which included the development of an Income/Fundraising sub-committee. Our external organisational development support will play a crucial role in minimising this risk

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 02/12/2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough ('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 purposes 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

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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

28/11/2025
Date:.....

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	34,612	111,698	146,310
Other trading activities	4	1,157	-	1,157
Investment income	5	1,915	-	1,915
Total income		37,684	111,698	149,382
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(57,317)	(126,148)	(183,465)
Total expenditure		(57,317)	(126,148)	(183,465)
Net expenditure		(19,633)	(14,450)	(34,083)
Transfers between funds		(169)	169	-
Net movement in funds		(19,802)	(14,281)	(34,083)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		69,209	26,987	96,196
Total funds carried forward	17	49,407	12,706	62,113

The notes on pages 22 to 36 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2025 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	6,450	116,534	122,984
Other trading activities	4	1,166	-	1,166
Investment income	5	2,302	-	2,302
Total income		9,918	116,534	126,452
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	6	(58,609)	(132,141)	(190,750)
Total expenditure		(58,609)	(132,141)	(190,750)
Net expenditure		(48,691)	(15,607)	(64,298)
Net movement in funds		(48,691)	(15,607)	(64,298)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		117,900	42,594	160,494
Total funds carried forward	17	69,209	26,987	96,196

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(Registration number: 09476111)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	717	1,742
Current assets			
Debtors	13	1,145	195
Cash at bank and in hand		94,016	110,824
		95,161	111,019
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	14	(33,765)	(16,565)
Net current assets		61,396	94,454
Net assets		62,113	96,196
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		12,706	26,987
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		49,407	69,209
Total funds	17	62,113	96,196

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.

The financial statements on pages 19 to 36 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 02/12/2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair and Trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Home-Start Newcastle Borough meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Reclassification of comparative amounts
The prior year figures have been retated to adjust for grant income which was previously accrued into the period for the full 3 year period but has now taken advantage of implied time contraints to recognise the grants over the 3 year life of the projects.

Income and endowments
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Deferred income

Deferred income represents amounts received for future periods and is released to incoming resources in the period for which, it has been received. Such income is only deferred when:

- The donor specifies that the grant or donation must only be used in future accounting periods; or
- The donor has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets costing £300 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	Straight line method over four years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line method over four years

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	3,082	-	3,082
Donations from individuals	530	-	530
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	76,794	76,794
Grants from other charities	31,000	34,904	65,904
	34,612	111,698	146,310

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	6,100	-	6,100
Donations from individuals	350	-	350
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	72,676	72,676
Grants from other charities	-	43,858	43,858
	6,450	116,534	122,984

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,157	1,157
	1,157	1,157

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,166	1,166
	1,166	1,166

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	1,915	1,915
	1,915	1,915

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,302	2,302
	2,302	2,302

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2025 £
Support for Families	57,317	126,148	183,465

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Support for Families	62,537	128,213	190,750

	Activity undertaken directly £	2025 £	2024 £
Gross Salary Costs	82,685	82,685	81,082
Temporary Staff and Recruitment Costs	557	557	798
Family Activity Costs	1,853	1,853	5,018
Training for Staff and Volunteers	104	104	383
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	2,786	2,786	3,416
Other Expenses	470	470	739
Allocated Support Costs	95,010	95,010	99,314
	183,465	183,465	190,750

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Support costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Salary costs	68,698	68,698	73,390
Recruitment	-	-	6
Staff training	32	32	234
Travel expenses	193	193	92
Rent, insurance and office costs	16,170	16,170	19,065
Professional fees	3,224	3,224	1,206
Affiliation fees	2,278	2,278	(1,026)
IT costs	1,573	1,573	1,553
Marketing and promotion	439	439	908
Governance costs	900	900	900
Depreciation	1,025	1,025	2,629
Other costs	478	478	357
	95,010	95,010	99,314

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2025 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

8 Government grants

In the year ended 31 March 2025 the charity received a National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All grant of £19,989 to fund support for complex families and £56,805 from the National Lottery Community Fund Reaching Communities to fund the Parenting Together project.

In the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity received National Lottery Community Fund RC Midlands Region £72,677 (2023: £69,854) grant funding for the Parenting Together project.
The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £76,794 (2024 - £72,676).

There were no unfulfilled conditions at the year end.

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Julie Cooper (resigned 13 November 2025)
£14 (2024: £35) of travel expenses were reimbursed to Julie Cooper (resigned 13 November 2025) during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	136,573	139,910
Social security costs	5,407	5,545
Pension costs	9,403	9,017
	151,383	154,472

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2025 No	2024 No
Scheme Manager	1	1
Finance and Administration Co-ordinator	1	1
Administration Assistant	1	1
Family Support Service Co-ordinator	1	1
Family Support Advisor	1	1
Family Engagement Worker	1	1
SEND Family Support Worker	1	1
	7	7

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £31,302 (2024 - £30,894).

11 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Examination of the financial statements	900	900

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	2,298	14,361	16,659
At 31 March 2025	2,298	14,361	16,659
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2024	1,006	13,911	14,917
Charge for the year	575	450	1,025
At 31 March 2025	1,581	14,361	15,942
Net book value			
At 31 March 2025	717	-	717
At 31 March 2024	1,292	450	1,742

13 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Accrued income	1,145	195

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	2,549	9,384
Other taxation and social security	2,369	4,761
Other creditors	1,872	1,133
Accruals	3,134	1,287
Deferred income	23,841	-
	33,765	16,565

	2025 £
Resources deferred in the period	23,841

The income deferred in the year relates to multi year grants received in advance.

15 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Within one year	1,652	1,652
In two to five years	2,891	4,543
	4,543	6,195

16 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £9,403 (2024 - £9,017).
Pension costs are apportioned between unrestricted and restricted funds depending upon which project the employee works on.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	17,209	37,684	(57,317)	22,831	20,407
Designated					
Scheme Closure	52,000	-	-	(23,000)	29,000
Total unrestricted funds	69,209	37,684	(57,317)	(169)	49,407
Restricted funds					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	15,583	-	(15,850)	267	-
BBC Children in Need	5,585	5,450	(11,035)	-	-
Home Start UK - Cadent Grant	4,315	4,375	(8,119)	-	571
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	81	19,989	(19,987)	(83)	-
Home Start Warm Spaces	828	-	(828)	-	-
Tesco Community Grants	573	-	(403)	-	170
Home Start UK - Breathing Space Fund	22	5,143	(4,577)	(22)	566
Comic Relief	-	3,435	(3,435)	-	-
The National Lottery Community Fund- Reaching Communities	-	56,805	(44,889)	-	11,916
The Community Foundation for Staffordshire – VCSE Supportive Communities / Better Health	-	7,600	(7,607)	7	-
Severn Trent Community Fund	-	8,901	(9,418)	-	(517)
Total restricted funds	26,987	111,698	(126,148)	169	12,706
Total funds	96,196	149,382	(183,465)	-	62,113

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	52,900	9,918	(58,609)	13,000	17,209
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	(13,000)	52,000
Total unrestricted funds	117,900	9,918	(58,609)	-	69,209
Restricted					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	25,089	72,677	(82,183)	-	15,583
BBC Children in Need	8,976	23,982	(27,373)	-	5,585
Home Start UK - Cadent Grant	-	4,375	(60)	-	4,315
The National Lottery Community Fund - Awards for All	7,701	-	(7,620)	-	81
Home Start Warm Spaces	828	-	-	-	828
Tesco Community Grants	-	1,000	(427)	-	573
The Knutton Quarry Community Projects Fund	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Home Start UK - Breathing Space Fund	-	10,500	(10,478)	-	22
Total restricted funds	42,594	116,534	(132,141)	-	26,987
Total funds	160,494	126,452	(190,750)	-	96,196

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region
Parenting Together is a 3 year project and funds Time 4 You - Telephone befriending, Parent to Parent - Family support, Home-Start Together; Community Group and Bookstart sessions.

BBC Children in Need
This grant funds core costs, supporting back office administration and core staff costs for 3 years.

National Lottery Awards for All
This grant funds SEND Support for Families.

Home Start UK - White Stuff's Warm Spaces Friendly Faces
This grants funds community-based activities for families in heated spaces during the colder months.

Home Start UK - Breathing Space Fund
This funding is support Home-Start services that are most at risk by providing much needed breathing space in order to keep key services open.

Home Start UK - Cadent Centre for Warmth
This funding is to give have access to a warm space and support.

Tesco Community Grants
This funding is to help children with special needs.

The Knutton Quarry Community Projects Fund
This funding is a contribution towards the volunteer costs.

During the year there were some small transfers between funds to clear small over/underspends when the grants have been completed.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2025
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	436	-	281	717
Current assets	24,709	29,000	17,611	71,320
Current liabilities	(4,738)	-	(5,186)	(9,924)
Total net assets	20,407	29,000	12,706	62,113

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,235	-	507	1,742
Current assets	29,443	52,000	29,576	111,019
Current liabilities	(13,469)	-	(3,096)	(16,565)
Total net assets	17,209	52,000	26,987	96,196

19 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1161247

Accounts

Company registration number: 09476111
Charity registration number: 1161247

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

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Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
	Dilys Beard - Vice Chair
	David Williamson - Treasurer
	Gillian Burnett-Faulkner (appointed 27 June 2023, resigned 9 October 2023)
	Julie Cooper
	Neil Dudley
	Yvonne Flood
	Timothy Wolley
Senior Management Team	Wendy Hocking - Scheme Manager
Registered Office	Cornerstone High Street Knutton Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 6BX
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hope Street Stoke on Trent ST5 1DD
Bankers	CAF 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Charity Registration Number	1161247
	The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	09476111

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 6th March 2015. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited through a variety of advertising channels, including personal recommendations from current trustees, advertising, posters displayed promoting the scheme's work in public places and disseminating information via our partnerships in the locality, and the VCSE advocacy organisations such as VAST (Voluntary Action Stoke on Trent), SCVYS (Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Organization) and Support Staffordshire.

Expressions of interest are followed up by the Chair. Interested individuals are invited as guests to observe the management committee meetings and subject to a successful meeting with the Chair and Scheme Manager and agreement that they wish to be nominated for a position on the trustee board, they are invited to complete a formal application, provide references, undergo a DBS enhanced level check and sign up the scheme's code of conduct.

With reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a third of the committee is required to stand down at the AGM and if they wish to continue in their role as a trustee and a director of the organisation, they can be re-elected by the committee.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objects of the charity are:

a) To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
b) To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
c) To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
d) To promote the education of the public in better standards of child care, principally but not exclusively within the area of Newcastle Borough and its environs.

The aims of the charity are to provide support for local families and to give these families the means to cope with the difficulties they are experiencing. We aim to build better lives for both the child or children of the family and their parents by improving their confidence, health, mental wellbeing and to improve and encourage better family relationships.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough oversee the governance of the scheme which works within the local community supporting families with children under 12 across Newcastle-under-Lyme, where there are many deprived areas. With over 26 years of experience, providing crucial support during the critical formative early years of childhood, reaching out early on to parents facing difficulties, with homelife and parenting, aiming to prevent family crises and mitigate the potential negative impacts on children.

The Home-Start approach is supporting families early on, with no predefined level of need; instead, Home-Start believe that any family seeking help does so because they need it at that moment. The aim is to help parents build better lives for their children by helping them to tackle issues that they face such as loneliness and isolation, coping with multiple children, children's behaviour that challenges and ill health, disability or special needs.

Charitable Activities undertaken for public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides front-line family support services within Newcastle-under-Lyme. Our expert staff and lived-experience volunteers support parents with children under 12.

Newcastle has pockets of deprivation; 19 neighbourhoods within the top 30% and Knutton, our location; in the top 10% most deprived. (IMD 2019).

Family needs are unique and individual, this year the following circumstances were affecting their ability to parent and provide the best opportunities for their children:
- 81% of parents suffered poor mental health which was affecting their ability to provide stable nurturing homes and the ability to go into the local community and provide opportunity for their children to socialise.
- 61% of children had poor mental health including low confidence, poor self-esteem, and few friendships.
- 66% of the families accessing our support had complex needs*
- 18.4% of all Newcastle households are experiencing fuel poverty (Public Health Outcomes Framework).

As a local Home-Start, at our core is delivering home-visiting support via our volunteers, often parents themselves, there is a great deal of evidence highlighting the distinctive value of volunteer-led support, for a comprehensive support offer, we also have an experience staff team, who are more able to support alongside statutory agencies, or with parents who have more complex needs, who we are able to engage with successfully, building relationships and helping them access the service and support they need. Our service brings real impact to the lives of families.

We provide practical and emotional support for families in their own homes and in the community. Our support is tailored to the individual needs of our families who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges including poor emotional wellbeing of parents or children, child development and learning needs, isolation, and financial worries.

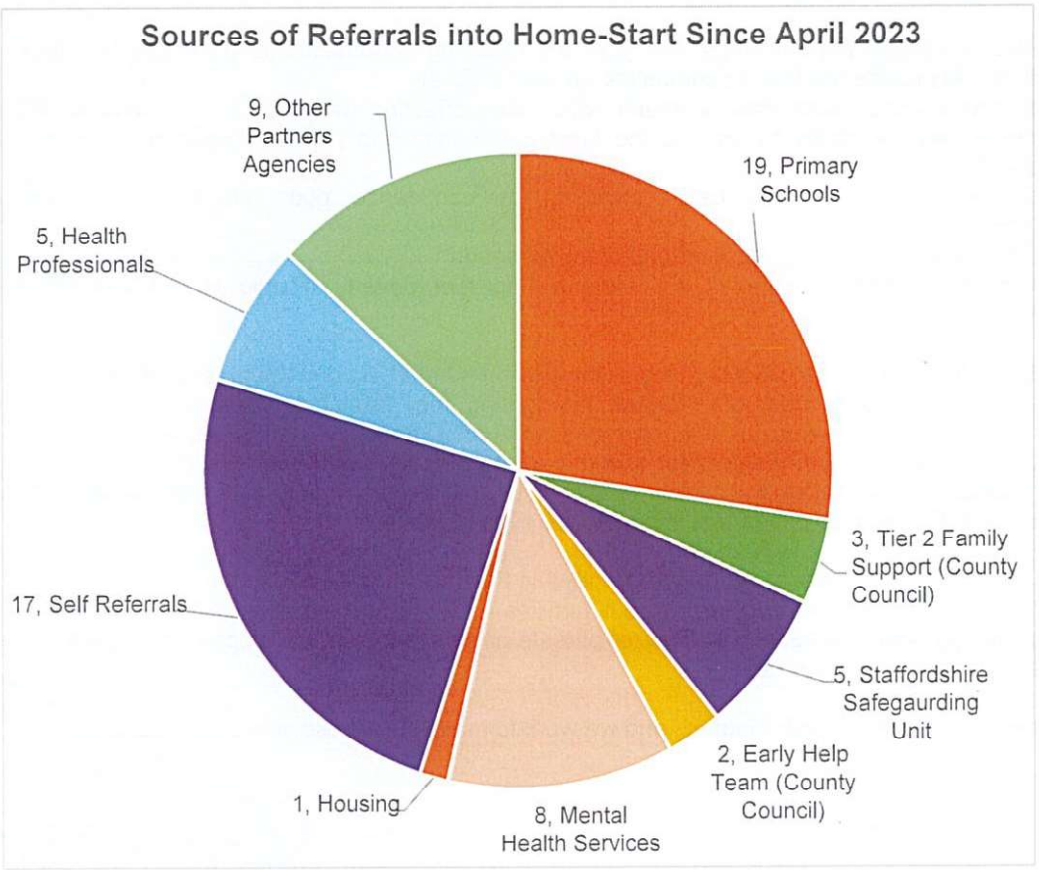
The earliest years make the biggest impact, and we work to make sure those years count.

For example, our service supports parents:

o To help them manage children's behaviour that challenges
o To help their child sleep safely and soundly in their own bedroom
o To introduce positive parenting and rewards
o To help set boundaries and consequences
o To encourage children to eat a healthy and varied diet
o To introduce a good bed-time routine, so children go to bed at a regular time
o To help with their child's anxiety, which may be about leaving them to go to nursery or school
o To encourage sharing and turn taking, not grabbing or hitting other children
o To help manage their journey/walk to school or nursery in the morning
o To improve parents' confidence.
o To reduce parents isolation and help them go to groups and meet other parents
o To help with their child's confidence and social skills with others.

The success of our support is rooted in the non-judgemental, compassionate relationship that a family develops with their support worker hence their matched worker will remain with them throughout their time with us in all but exceptional circumstances.

As a trusted provider; the chart below shows the wide range of people relying on the Home-Start service since April 2023 which includes local schools, nurseries, social prescribing teams, health & midwifery services, social care teams and parents themselves:



Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Home-Start Services

In line with Staffordshire County Council's Early Help Strategy "Right Help, Right Time, Right Place" effective early help relies on collaboration with organisations being able to play to their strengths. One of Home-Start's strengths lies in the services flexibility and autonomy, essential for those families who do not meet the threshold for statutory intervention or who do not have a mental health diagnosis but who need help. The service bridges the gap and prevents difficulties escalating into crisis.

Following the introduction of the Family Support Advisor (FSA) post in 2022 to complement our volunteer service, it has provided extra capacity to support and address the more complex needs of families and providing us with a greater number of support interventions. As a fully trained, experienced support worker, they use their professional knowledge and excellent familiarity with other available services and working relationships to provide comprehensive, holistic support to the entire family including direct support to the children.

The FSA supports:

- Families who require short but intense intervention
- Children who require direct work
- More complex needs families (3 or more identified needs)
- Families that require more than 1 visit a week.

Additionally, we benefited from piloting a specialised Family support Worker (FSW) for families who have a child with additional needs or special educational needs or disability. (SEND). Funded by the National Lottery Awards for All grant.

This funding enabled:

- Parents to implement strategies and routines specific to children's needs
- Supporting referrals to specialist organisations
- Assistance to navigate application processes to secure support such as Disability Living allowance, Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and specialist equipment
- Identifying and securing correct support in educational settings
- Parents attend medical appointments
- The provision to help parents with learning needs understand correspondence from bodies such as schools and social workers
- Assistance to parents with physical disabilities to engage and play with children or take them out.

Our SEND support is helping families to break down the obstacles that physical and learning needs often present which can prevent them from participating in community life. Helping parents develop confidence to manage their child(ren) outside the home; become less isolated and more able to access groups, service's, people and facilities in their community.Helping families access the right equipment, advice and provide reassurance so parents can provide a nurturing a positive home environment in which children can flourish and meet their potential because every child matters. Our main goal is to provide extra support and resources to local families facing challenges. We aim to level the playing field, giving everyone a fair chance to strengthen their resilience and engage fully in their community.

We draw on the strengths of the people in our local community building the assets in the community, one family at a time. Those with parenting experience can utilise their knowledge and enhance their skill set through our training opportunities and personal development opportunities volunteering with Home-Start. We are not only helping to increase the resilience of families at home by helping them to connect with others, but it also improves the community for all. Helping the volunteers and families actively participate and benefit from and with a wide range of community-based support and to move forward as contributors to their communities.

Our Approach

Having a staffed delivery service alongside our volunteer service, enables us to respond to the needs of Newcastle families more effectively. Our traditional placed based approach aims at local empowerment pairing local volunteers, parents themselves with lived experience who embody local knowledge and parenting experience, with local families in need. Often having previously received support themselves our volunteers have an intimate understanding of the challenges families face and the obstacles in accessing support and shape their support to harvest trust and non-judgemental approach to promote open communication.

Aligning with the Early Help Strategy, "Right Help, Right Time, Right Place" we provide timely support to parents, and children preventing issues escalating into crises, fostering resilience and independence, and reducing strain on statutory services through:

- One-on-one support in families' homes
- Peer to Peer groups
- Information, advice and guidance
- Stay-and-Play community group sessions.

Parenting Together

This year was the final year of a 3-year funding grant, for the 'Parenting Together' project. provided by The National Lottery's Reaching Communities grant. It has made a significant impact on the lives of families and volunteers in our local community, funding a volunteer home-visiting service and the three Stay and Play community group sessions.

The Parenting Together Project aimed at providing comprehensive support to families facing various challenges and recognising the value that volunteering brings to the community. We provide a versatile hybrid approach to support which includes a mix of home-visiting and telephone support, tailored to each family's specific needs. We are grateful to The National Lottery for their flexibility in supporting our project's evolution, last year they agreed to allocate unused funds towards covering the costs associated with our invaluable Family Support Advisor. This adaptation recognises the significant impact this role has had on achieving positive outcomes for the families we serve.

Enhanced Referral Process:
Families specify their preferred method of support; the majority want home visiting with a few opting for telephone support only. However, we often provide a hybrid solution, primarily based on home-visiting and supplemented with telephone support when necessary.

Triage and Welcome Process:
Following a referral, which is increasingly facilitated through our streamlined online system, our weekly triage team ensures that we can meet the needs of the families as indicated in the referral form. Communication often begins with a comprehensive welcome letter, acknowledging their placement on a waiting list while assuring them that we will maintain regular contact which we call Keep In Touch (KIT) calls,

Managing Waitlists and KIT Calls:
We understand the anxiety that being on a waiting list can evoke, and to alleviate this, we promptly assign each applicant to a KIT team member who contacts them weekly or fortnightly based on their circumstances. The objective is to provide continuous support, monitor changes in their needs, and address any safeguarding concerns or urgent support requirements. The staff and our KIT call volunteers made 162 successful KIT calls to families in 2023/24.

Matching Process:
Our Family Services Coordinator meticulously matches parents with a suitable volunteer or staff member after engaging in a discussion with both parties. This ensures a harmonious partnership that is instrumental in achieving the goals set during the initial meeting.
We provide personalised support for each family, completing a simple assessment of needs with them, and identify areas where they want change. Together with their volunteer or support worker, they can be helped to gain the outcomes identified.
The length of the support needed to meet their needs can vary from family to family, depending on what outcomes are identified. The support given to each family is regularly reviewed until the outcomes have been met and there is a positive change for the children and parents in the household.

Personalised Support and Outcome Plans:
Every family we serve benefits from personalised support, including a needs assessment, goal identification, and a detailed outcome plan. Our volunteer or support worker collaborates with the family to help them achieve the specified outcomes, addressing areas identified in need of change.

Ongoing Review and Duration of Support:
The support provided to each family is regularly reviewed until the agreed outcomes are met, as a family's journey to success is not always a linear one, we adjust as we go along to ensure positive changes for both children and parents in the household. The duration of support varies from family to family, contingent on the outcomes identified. On average, families receive support for approximately nine months, although some complex cases may require longer-term assistance.

Information Advice and Guidance
Our Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG) service is often for specific issues, and usually for a shorter time span. We took the year to monitor the effectiveness of the service. The IAG element of our service allows us to support parents flexibly basis, especially when specific concerns arise, and often without the need for a comprehensive outcome plan or a family-wide assessment.
We specifically placed 12 families on the IAG service in 2023/24 as it was recognised that this service would suit their needs the best.
Our experienced staff have developed and learnt how to support families with many varying needs. Learning how to support them effectively by working closely with them, listening to them regarding the difficulties they were facing, and hearing what they felt would help them. The staff team deal with a higher number of families than our volunteers, and as such gain and develop a higher level of skills, utilised, by sharing information and guidance with the volunteers.

Parenting Together / Home-Start Together

Our Family Support Service is complemented by the delivery of community groups, and mainly concentrating on delivery to the 0-4, under school age children fitting with Home-Start UK's focus and our early years support offer. Accessed free to anyone with a child under 4 residing in Newcastle, we also signpost our families with young children into our groups, assisting our family support work with the family.

Our aim is to provide a free, local group in a friendly, accessible venue to counter the inequity they are likely to experience "socially isolated children tend to have lower subsequent educational attainment, be part of a less advantaged social class in adulthood and are more likely to be psychologically distressed in adulthood" (Lacey, Kumari & Bartley, 2014)". The sessions provide opportunities for parental engagement and age-appropriate play to support learning and development.

During the year, just under 1700 attendances were recorded at our Stay and Play sessions. The groups are a place for parents to engage in developmental and fun activities with their baby or pre-school toddler. We held 113 FREE sessions, including the delivery of Rhyme and Craft in both Clayton and Kidsgrove libraries, these are 45-minute sessions encouraging story time, rhymes and craft activities.

Additionally the Lunch and Play session, in Kidsgrove Children's Centre, which includes and a make and take craft activity and a messy play area, gratefully acknowledged by parents, is held around lunch time, so we can provide a healthy children's meal, and parents with tea and toast, utilising it as an opportunity to highlight healthy eating and energy efficiency, providing food cooked with a slow cooker.

In the last 12 months, over 150 parents/carers, and 140 children, have enjoyed the activities at our weekly 0-4 Stay and Play groups, registering more than 1600 attendances, and we provided over 700 healthy meals.

We constantly review the sessions, to ensure that we meet our community's needs. Using the feedback and listening to parents' comments and discussions with the Family engagement Worker, when asking what they would like included in the next sessions; they enjoy the opportunity to engage and mix with others within their local community and widen their social networks, and for many these are the stepping-stones to gaining the self-confidence to access other support and services available in the community.

We have developed a local partnership arrangement with the local Children's Centre, a base for our community group Home-Start Together. The Children's Centre will support the ongoing development of our service and community sessions. The health visitors are regular attendees delivering services to the community at the centre, which builds on our recent project and partnership development, where Home-Start assist in the delivery of their 'Brushing for Life' oral health advice packs. Working in the same location aids us in building good relationships with other agencies.

Peer to Peer

In September 2023 we started a Peer Support Group where parents can get together and provide support for each other. During the sessions, we support the parents to join in with activities such as baking, crocheting, quizzes, bingo, walks and many other crafts. They have also had a speaker in a session to give a talk about finances.

They offer support, advice and guidance to each other. They agree on the activities for the meetings, with their favourite sessions involving learning about and cooking different foods.

We have had 12 parents attend the 25 sessions since it began in September 2023. We have 5 parents who attend regularly. The other parents come and go as a drop in.

These sessions are currently being devolved so that our staff are less involved, and they become truly volunteer led.

Home-Start UK/ Cadent Warmth Programme

The Cadent partnership has provided us with 2 years funding to help keep our community warm, safe and connected. They have provided us with resources and materials to help us keep the community safer, so we can help prevent fuel poverty, providing energy efficiency awareness, carbon monoxide alarms and awareness to highlight the risk and dangers of CO. The project has provided us with free slow cookers to encourage energy efficient cooking.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust

As our service operates in an area that once had a working coal mine, we are eligible for support from the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. We gain support and access to the Coalfields Community Investment Program, providing access to many guidance documents for research and support, as well as regular updates from the service which highlights training and grant funding opportunities, sent out by their regional grant manager.

Children in Need Grant

We are in the final year of our Children in Need grant, which has provided essential unrestricted funds towards our core costs for 3 years, which started in October 2021. By providing funding to Charities who support disadvantaged children, their support has been invaluable as we work across many areas within Newcastle affected by significant deprivation.

We advised that our support would assist children in the following ways.

- Children will have improved social skills
- Children will feel more confident
- Children will feel less worried.

82 children have directly benefitted from this project this year. Having the contribution to core costs has provided the stability to enable us to continue to deliver our family support service.

Holiday sessions including the under 12's

During the school holidays, we held six sessions which included older children and siblings (up to 11 years), For many families this is the first time they have attended one of our sessions.

- Easter fun session
- Holiday Madness
- Circus skills
- Beach party
- Halloween Spooktacular
- Christmas Party (0-4 only)

We had 114 families with 176 children attending the six larger group sessions plus an extra-special 0-4 Christmas Party. Due to the timing of the Christmas school holidays this year, most of the older children were still in school. We have consistently received lots of positive feedback for the sessions, families stating that they valued them being free, that they were fun, and helped keep the children entertained in the holidays. We are happy to see many families returning for the other sessions, which indicates their family has benefited from the sessions. The circus skills session was a great hit with the children.

Awards for All

We were lucky enough to gain 12 months funding from The National Lottery Awards for All funding, for our part time Family Support Worker (SEND) which commenced in January 2023.

Our part time SEN FSW helps parents navigate the many obstacles they face having a child in their family with Special Educational Needs, supporting families who have at least one child with additional needs, whether formally diagnosed or not. They are a SEN parent themselves and understand the differences and challenges that this brings to a household. They have supported 14 families and 26 children over the last 12 months, and is a great addition to our service, providing expert assistance on SEN and disabilities to our whole team.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Over the course of the year, families have been supported to:
- make referrals to other agencies to support a diagnosis.
- understand and reply to correspondence for these and other agencies and to attend appointments.
- contact and liaise with health and education professionals.
- find and access information regarding diagnosis, the diagnosis process, support groups and local groups.
- improve the parents' wellbeing.
- join local play activities, by being an extra hand.
- identify if a child has SEN or if the challenges experienced are helped with effective parenting.
- put positive and flexible routines in place in the home, or for specific times that are more of a challenge.
- use visual aids such as timetables, and now and next boards.
- effectively manage any difficult behaviours and 'big' emotions.

Our SEND support has helped peer families to break down the obstacles that physical and learning needs often present which can prevent them from participating in community life. Helping parents develop confidence to manage their child(ren) outside the home; become less isolated and more able to access groups, services, people and facilities in their community.
We help families access the right equipment, advice and reassurance so parents can provide a nurturing a positive home environment in which children can flourish and meet their potential because every child matters.

Volunteers

Our volunteers commit to support, one or occasionally two families at a time, donating 3-4 valuable hours per week. Volunteers usually parents or grandparents themselves, are recruited from our local community and provided with a quality training schedule to support the families in a non-judgemental, empathetic way; The Home-Start approach. We are here to ensure that children thrive, and we do this by being alongside families, in the children's early years providing:

- relational support to parents and families
- volunteer home-visiting
- a focus on the early years
- primarily an offer of 'early help'
- accessible and inclusive
- community-centered

Babies, infants, and children develop within the relationships and environments that are created around them. By prioritising strong attachments, loving caregivers and a focus on their whole development needs, children can be protected from the extreme impacts of adversity and the challenges and difficulties experienced by families from time to time. We provide earliest help, supporting parental and child wellbeing with a listening ear, a volunteer is that friendly, non-judgemental person, who families can confide in, not a family member, to remove the worry of 'what will they think' or 'will this be held against me'.

Parents tell us that having someone they trust alongside them is often the most significant factor in our support being effective. Volunteers, with their understanding and experience, help build trust and good relationships with parents.
Families tell us that having someone close who cares is important to them and the positive feeling of people who give their time freely helps build a trusting relationship. Volunteers give their time, experience and understanding to help ensure we can be there when needed most.
Because Home-Start is invited into the homes and lives of families with young children, it remains critical that our offer is a voluntary relationship for families, on their terms. This is part of building a mutually respected relationship between Home-Start volunteers and staff and the families we work with, therefore volunteer recruitment remains an issue within the sector and as a volunteer led service it presents a key challenge to us, we utilise a variety of means to address this including:

- Social Media campaigns
- Attending volunteer recruitment fayres
- Press coverage such as the Mayoral opening of the volunteer lounge
- Adverts in local publications
-

Our volunteering opportunities and roles are designed to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation for those choosing to work with us whilst building our community activity. We provide fantastic training, and support and many opportunities for people to volunteer to improve their employability, skills and support their local community. The are many volunteering opportunities within Home-Start.

- Family Support
- Keep in touch calls
- Admin support
- Social Media volunteer
- Book-Start, Storytelling volunteer
- Stay and Play group volunteer

The volunteers benefit from the designated volunteer welcome area; the Volunteer Lounge, integrating an informal training space and resource area. It has a comfortable, bright, and welcoming feel, where volunteers can stop off, meet other volunteers, provide peer to peer support, pick up resources for their families, and have a coffee together. The Volunteer Lounge has IT space for volunteers to learn together, and a space for accessing e-learning too, together if they wish.

Kirsty volunteers regularly at our lunch 'n' play group and is training to become a Family Support Volunteer. She benefitted from our family support service after recognising she needed help. She started receiving weekly family support in January 2023. Here is some text from a recent voice recording (January 2024):

'I can go out now, and do everything I want on my own, back then, I wouldn't dare leave the house., Last year, I wouldn't have done volunteering, I didn't like talking and mixing with other people.'

'I love the children, the people are lovely'. 'I help speak to the families when Becci is making the cuppa's and getting the dinners ready,'

' Last year, I would never have wanted to do any of this, now because I'm a lot better in myself, obviously Home-Start helped me, and I wanna be, like, repay the favour and help somebody else.'

'I can't wait for the training, I'm so excited. I did my safeguarding and my level 2 Food Hygiene and the Glow training too, and this will all go on my CV too. I wouldn't be able to get this sort of training anywhere else'

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

With the natural comings and goings of volunteer recruitment and retention, we have had a regular number of volunteers throughout the year. The majority deliver home-visiting, supporting one family at a time, others helping at our groups or with KIT calls. The majority still due to their capacity We know that volunteers like to feel that they are giving back and using their empathy and experience to help others, saying that they feel their confidence grow with each family.

A successful Summer Day Trip - Lower Drayton Farm
In August 2023 we took 49 parents and their children via coach to Lower Drayton Farm in Staffordshire, which had lots of fun things for the families to do. A successful Day trip. We gained a reduced group booking rate and provided the families with snacks for the children. The place has indoor play area and soft play, and many more outdoor activities, as well as a Maize Maze. The area had a café and plenty of places to eat. A full day's entertainment.

Achievements and performance

During 2023-2024, 25 volunteers used their valuable time for Newcastle families. Our intensive home-visiting support which can last for over 6 months, supported 79 local families, 26 of the families receiving support resided in the deprived areas of Newcastle, and a further 22 families citing debt, financial worries and low income as a factor having a negative effect on family life.

From the data we collected during 2023-2024 the following improvements were recorded:

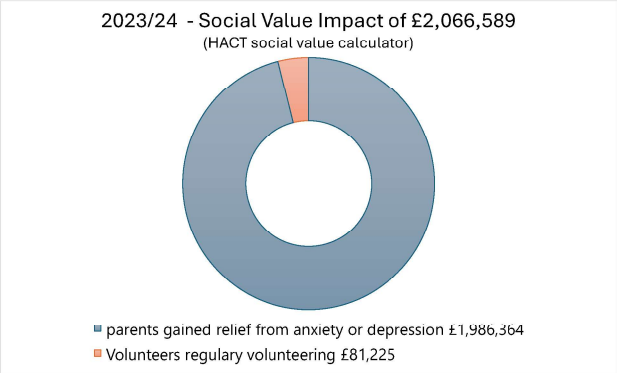
- 81% of parents experienced improved health and wellbeing
- 72% saw an improvement in their child's health and wellbeing
- 95% were better able to manage their household budget
- 80% had improved access to services
- 74% felt better equipped to manage their children's behaviour
- 68% of children had improved confidence
- 85% of children were less worried
- 77% of children had improved social skills

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Our Social and Added Value

Measuring just 2 indicators of the HACT social value calculator, in 2023/24 the social value impact this year was over £2 million: £2,066,589. Counting the 54 parents who gained relief from anxiety or depression, and the 25 volunteers who were regularly volunteering.



We take pride in our comprehensive approach to delivering family support services. Through our partnerships, we gain access to specialised services that excel in their respective domains, benefiting the families we serve in ways that one organisation alone couldn't do.

Relationships with related parties

Home-start UK

As a local Home-Start, whilst we are an independent charitable company we benefit from the partnership and support arrangement with Home-Start UK. Paying an annual levy, we sign and adhere to the Home-Start UK agreement which was last updated and signed in November 2022.

Working in Partnership

The premises we work in are under the management of Elim Church, which granted us the flexibility to collaborate with Newcastle Foodbank. Together. Newcastle Foodbank operate a foodbank service from our offices on Wednesday afternoons, offering a convenient and local venue for residents in the area to seek assistance and collect their essential food parcels. We view this partnership as a valuable opportunity, mutually benefiting both organisations. Families who visit the foodbank for their parcels can access support from Home-Start and discover the range of services we provide.

Financial review

The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

This year presented significant challenges in raising funds and generating income. Grant funders that we had previously relied on were unable to support us, partly due to changes in our financial statements following SORP adjustments (now restated) and the overwhelming number of applications received by each funder. As a result, sourcing income became the trustees' main priority. Trustees reallocated resources to increase grant writing efforts and enhanced their scrutiny of our finances and forecasting.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:
1) Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
2) A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily attainable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers:
1) Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
2) Planned activity level
3) Organisation's commitments

When reviewing the financial policy in September 2023, and having considered the risk, activity and commitments of the organisation trustees have agreed that the scheme need to retain a level of reserves not dropping below £52,000 which equates to scheme closure costs. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted, the planned activity level and the organisation's commitment.

At the year end the charity holds £52,000 (2023: £65,000) in a designated fund to be used in event of the scheme closing, £17,209 (2023 £52,900) in general unrestricted funds and £26,987 (2023: £42,594) in restricted funds.

Risks arising and management of those risks

This year, our risk register highlighted a significant financial risk due to our reliance on trusts and grant funding for income generation. In response, we took immediate actions to mitigate this risk and initiated efforts to improve our income diversity through the development of a financial sustainability plan. A new key mitigating factor in this strategy is the procurement of external organisational development support, which will play a crucial role in minimising this risk.

Important non-adjusting events after the financial period

After March 2024, the first few months of the new financial year were marked by financial uncertainty. However, by June, through stringent expenditure control and close financial oversight, the charity's financial position improved considerably. We experienced grant funding successes, notably with support from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and secured three years of funding from The National Lottery. This provided a level of security for our future, along with external organisational development support to help us achieve and sustain the outcomes outlined in our recently reviewed financial sustainability plan.

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 25/11/24 and signed on its behalf by:

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes 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

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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 (FRS 102)].

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.

.....

Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Date:...26/11/2024...

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	6,450	116,534	122,984
Other trading activities	5	1,166	-	1,166
Investment income	6	2,302	-	2,302
Total income		9,918	116,534	126,452
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(58,609)	(132,141)	(190,750)
Total expenditure		(58,609)	(132,141)	(190,750)
Net expenditure		(48,691)	(15,607)	(64,298)
Net movement in funds		(48,691)	(15,607)	(64,298)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		117,900	42,594	160,494
Total funds carried forward	18	69,209	26,987	96,196

The notes on pages 20 to 34 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	1,450	125,912	127,362
Charitable activities	4	2,841	-	2,841
Other trading activities	5	825	-	825
Investment income	6	861	-	861
Total income		5,977	125,912	131,889
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(88,082)	(112,054)	(200,136)
Total expenditure		(88,082)	(112,054)	(200,136)
Net (expenditure)/income		(82,105)	13,858	(68,247)
Net movement in funds		(82,105)	13,858	(68,247)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		200,005	28,736	228,741
Total funds carried forward	18	117,900	42,594	160,494

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(Registration number: 09476111)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £ (as restated)
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	1,742	4,371
Current assets			
Debtors	14	195	-
Cash at bank and in hand		110,824	169,728
		111,019	169,728
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(16,565)	(13,605)
Net current assets		94,454	156,123
Net assets		96,196	160,494
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds		26,987	42,594
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		69,209	117,900
Total funds	18	96,196	160,494

For the financial year ending 31 March 2024 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.

The financial statements on pages 17 to 34 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 25/11/24... and signed on their behalf by:

C D Johnson

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair and Trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Home-Start Newcastle Borough meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Reclassification of comparative amounts
The prior year figures have been retated to adjust for grant income which was previously accrued into the period for the full 3 year period but has now taken advantage of implied time contraints to recognise the grants over the 3 year life of the projects.

Income and endowments
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets costing £300 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	Straight line method over four years
Furniture and equipment	Straight line method over four years

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	6,100	-	6,100
Donations from individuals	350	-	350
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	72,676	72,676
Grants from other charities	-	43,858	43,858
	6,450	116,534	122,984

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	1,450	-	1,450
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	79,716	79,716
Grants from other charities	-	46,196	46,196
	1,450	125,912	127,362

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Support for families, children and young people	2,841	2,841

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,166	1,166
	1,166	1,166

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	825	825
	825	825

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,302	2,302
	2,302	2,302

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	861	861
	861	861

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Support for Families	62,537	128,213	190,750

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Support for Families	88,082	112,054	200,136

	Activity undertaken directly £	2024 £	2023 £ (as restated)
Gross Salary Costs	81,082	81,082	69,962
Temporary Staff and Recruitment Costs	798	798	1,075
Family Activity Costs	5,018	5,018	5,064
Training for Staff and Volunteers	383	383	251
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	3,416	3,416	2,788
Other Expenses	739	739	4,812
Allocated Support Costs	99,314	99,314	116,184
	190,750	190,750	200,136

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Support costs £	Total 2024 £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Salary costs	73,390	73,390	71,492
Recruitment	6	6	126
Staff training	234	234	1,400
Travel expenses	92	92	292
Rent, insurance and office costs	19,065	19,065	22,786
Professional fees	1,206	1,206	1,480
Affiliation fees	(1,026)	(1,026)	9,935
IT costs	1,553	1,553	3,708
Marketing and promotion	908	908	1,225
Governance costs	900	900	900
Depreciation	2,629	2,629	2,435
Other costs	357	357	405
	99,314	99,314	116,184

The affiliation fees in the year ended 31 March 2024 are a negative figure as the fee is based on the income from the statutory accounts which were restated to a lower amount.

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2023 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

9 Government grants

In the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity received National Lottery Community Fund RC Midlands Region £72,676 (2023: £69,854) grant funding for the Parenting Together project.

In the year ended 31 March 2023 the charity received a National Lottery Awards for All grant of £9,862 to fund the SEND Support for Families project.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £72,676 (2023 - £79,716).

There were no unfulfilled conditions at the year end.

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Julie Cooper
£35 (2023: £Nil) of travel expenses were reimbursed to Julie Cooper during the year.

No trustees have received any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £ (as restated)
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	139,910	127,229
Social security costs	5,545	5,517
Pension costs	9,017	8,708
	154,472	141,454

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Scheme Manager	1	1
Finance and Administration Co-ordinator	1	1
Administration Assistant	1	1
Family Support Service Co-ordinator	1	1
Family Support Advisor	1	1
Family Engagement Worker	1	1
SEND Family Support Worker	1	1
	7	7

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £30,894 (2023 - £32,681).

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2024 £	2023 £ (as restated)
Examination of the financial statements	900	900

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	2,298	14,361	16,659
At 31 March 2024	2,298	14,361	16,659
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2023	431	11,857	12,288
Charge for the year	575	2,054	2,629
At 31 March 2024	1,006	13,911	14,917
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	1,292	450	1,742
At 31 March 2023	1,867	2,504	4,371

14 Debtors

	2024 £
Accrued income	195

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £ (as restated)
Trade creditors	9,384	3,340
Other taxation and social security	4,761	12
Other creditors	1,133	1,056
Accruals	1,287	9,197
	16,565	13,605

16 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2024 £	2023 (as restated) £
Within one year	1,652	(1,652)
In two to five years	4,543	(6,195)
	6,195	(7,847)

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £9,017 (2023 - £8,708).
Pension costs are apportioned between unrestricted and restricted funds depending upon which project the employee works on.

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	52,900	9,918	(58,609)	13,000	17,209
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	(13,000)	52,000
Total unrestricted funds	117,900	9,918	(58,609)	-	69,209
Restricted funds					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	25,089	72,677	(82,183)	-	15,583
BBC Children in Need	8,976	23,982	(27,373)	-	5,585
National Lottery Awards for All	7,701	-	(7,620)	-	81
Home Start Warm Spaces	828	-	-	-	828
Home Start UK - Breathing Space Fund	-	10,500	(10,478)	-	22
Home Start UK - Cadent Grant	-	4,375	(60)	-	4,315
Tesco Community Grants	-	1,000	(427)	-	573
The Knutton Quarry Community Projects Fund	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
Total restricted funds	42,594	116,534	(132,141)	-	26,987
Total funds	160,494	126,452	(190,750)	-	96,196

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Balance at 1 April 2022 (as restated) £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 (as restated) £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	80,602	5,977	(48,067)	14,388	52,900
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Family Support Advisor	51,057	-	(40,015)	(11,042)	-
Administration Salaries	3,346	-	-	(3,346)	-
	119,403	-	(40,015)	(14,388)	65,000
Total unrestricted funds	200,005	5,977	(88,082)	-	117,900
Restricted					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	20,842	69,854	(65,607)	-	25,089
Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund	4,674	-	(4,674)	-	-
BBC Children in Need	2,720	40,267	(34,011)	-	8,976
Tesco Community Grant	500	-	(500)	-	-
The Community Foundation for Staffordshire - Community Recovery Fund	-	4,929	(4,929)	-	-
National Lottery Awards for All	-	9,862	(2,161)	-	7,701
Home Start Warm Spaces	-	1,000	(172)	-	828
Total restricted funds	28,736	125,912	(112,054)	-	42,594
Total funds	228,741	131,889	(200,136)	-	160,494

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region
Parenting Together is a 3 year project and funds Time 4 You - Telephone befriending, Parent to Parent - Family support, Home-Start Together; Community Group and Bookstart sessions.

BBC Children in Need
This grant funds core costs, supporting back office administration and core staff costs for 3 years.

National Lottery Awards for All
This grant funds SEND Support for Families.

Home Start UK - White Stuff's Warm Spaces Friendly Faces
This grants funds community-based activities for families in heated spaces during the colder months.

Home Start UK - Breathing Space Fund
This funding is support Home-Start services that are most at risk by providing much needed breathing space in order to keep key services open.

Home Start UK - Cadent Centre for Warmth
This funding is to give have access to a warm space and support.

Tesco Community Grants
This funding is to help children with special needs.

The Knutton Quarry Community Projects Fund
This funding is a contribution towards the volunteer costs.

Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund
The grant funds equipment and staff time to deliver emotional support, information advice and guidance and opportunities to reduce social isolation for parents and carers.

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire - Community Recovery Fund
This grant is a contribution towards the continuation of our core service delivery and helping our scheme during a financially challenging time.

Tesco Community Grant - Safe Homes with Home-Start
This grant funds the 'Safe Homes with Home-Start' project to hold 4 home safety advice sessions and for the distribution of safety items and information.

Designated Funds
Scheme Closure - the trustees have designated £52,000 (2023: £65,000) of reserves in the event of the scheme having to close.

Family Support Advisor - in the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees designated £51,057 of unrestricted reserves to fund the salary and associated costs of a family support advisor in the year ended 31 March 2023.

Administration Salaries
- in the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees designated £3,346 of unrestricted reserves to maintain the hours of the administration salaries when there was no further grant funding.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2024
	General £	Designated £	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	1,235	-	507	1,742
Current assets	29,443	52,000	29,576	111,019
Current liabilities	(13,469)	-	(3,096)	(16,565)
Total net assets	17,209	52,000	26,987	96,196

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General £	Designated £	funds £	£ (as restated)
Tangible fixed assets	2,505	-	1,866	4,371
Current assets	63,263	65,000	41,465	169,728
Current liabilities	(12,868)	-	(737)	(13,605)
Total net assets	52,900	65,000	42,594	160,494

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

21 Non-adjusting events after the financial period

After March 2024, the first few months of the new financial year were marked by financial uncertainty. However, by June, through stringent expenditure control and close financial oversight, the charity's financial position improved considerably. We experienced grant funding successes, notably with support from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and secured three years of funding from The National Lottery. This provided a level of security for our future, along with external organisational development support to help us achieve and sustain the outcomes outlined in our recently reviewed financial sustainability plan.

HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1161247

Accounts

Company registration number: 09476111
Charity registration number: 1161247

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

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Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
Trustees	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair Dilys Beard - Vice Chair David Williamson - Treasurer Gillian Burnett-Faulkner (appointed 27 June 2023, resigned 9 October 2023) Julie Cooper (appointed 14 March 2023) Neil Dudley Yvonne Flood (appointed December 2022) Mark Hammersley (resigned 26 July 2022) Timothy Wolley
Senior Management Team	Wendy Hocking - Scheme Manager
Registered Office	Cornerstone High Street Knutton Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 6BX
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hope Street Stoke on Trent ST5 1DD
Bankers	CAF 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Charity Registration Number	1161247
	The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	09476111

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 6th March 2015. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited through a variety of advertising channels, including personal recommendations from current trustees, advertising, posters displayed promoting the scheme's work in public places and disseminating information via our partnerships in the locality, and the VCSE advocacy organisations such as Voluntary Action Stoke on Trent, VAST and Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Organization SCVYS.

Expressions of interest are followed up by the Chair. Interested individuals are invited as guests to observe the management committee meetings and subject to a successful meeting with the Chair and Scheme Manager and agreement that they wish to be nominated for a position on the trustee board, they are invited to complete a formal application, provide references, undergo a DBS enhanced level check and sign up the scheme's code of conduct.

With reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a third of the committee is required to stand down at the AGM and if they wish to continue in their role as a trustee and a director of the organisation, they can be re-elected by the committee.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objects of the charity are:

a) To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
b) To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
c) To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
d) To promote the education of the public in better standards of child care, principally but not exclusively within the area of Newcastle Borough and its environs.

The aims of the Charity are to provide support for local families and to give these families the means to cope with the difficulties they are experiencing. We aim to build better lives for both the child or children of the family and their parents by improving their confidence, health, mental wellbeing and to improve and encourage better family relationships.

The trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough oversee the governance of the scheme which works within the local community aiming to help parents build better lives for their children by helping them to tackle issues that they face such as loneliness and isolation, coping with multiple children, difficult child behaviour and ill health, disability or special needs.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Charitable Activities undertaken for public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides front-line family support services within Newcastle-under-Lyme. Our expert staff and lived-experience volunteers support parents with children under 12.

Newcastle has pockets of deprivation; 19 neighbourhoods within the top 30% and Knutton, our location; in the top 10% most deprived. (IMD 2019). This year, rising living costs have exacerbated crises for local, low-income households already struggling with poor mental health, housing, disability, and social isolation, increasing demand on our services. 70% of the families we support have low-income and are receiving benefits.

As a local Home-Start, at our core is delivering home-visiting support via our volunteers, often parents themselves, there is a great deal of evidence highlighting the distinctive value of volunteer-led support, for a comprehensive support offer, we also have an experienced staff team, who are more able to support alongside statutory agencies, or with parents who have more complex needs, who we are able to engage with successfully, building relationships and helping them access the service and support they need. Our service brings real impact to the lives of families.

We provide practical and emotional support for families in their own homes and in the community. Our support is tailored to the individual needs of our families who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges including poor emotional wellbeing of parents or children, child development and learning needs, isolation, and financial worries. The earliest years make the biggest impact, and we work to make sure those years count. For example, our service supports parents:

- To help them manage their children's behaviour and anger outbursts
- To help their child sleep in their own bedroom
- To introduce positive parenting and rewards
- To help set boundaries and consequences.
- To encourage children to eat a healthy diet and eat varied food
- To introduce a good bed-time routine, so children go to bed at a regular time
- To help with their child's anxiety, which may be about leaving them to go to nursery or school
- To encourage sharing and turn taking, not grabbing or hitting other children
- To help manage their walk to school or nursery in the morning
- To improve parents' confidence and reduce parents' isolation
- To reduce parents isolation and help them go to groups and meet other parents
- To help with their child's confidence and social skills with others

During April 2022 - March 2023, we supported over 400 households and 500 children, reaching out to them via our community groups and delivering family support in their own homes.

Service Development
At the end of 2021/2022, we were preparing for a change in our service delivery. Many of our staff team were leaving us, some under TUPE to the new provider of Staffordshire County Council's Tier 2 Family Support service which we were no longer delivering. Other staff eligible for TUPE left us at the end of March 2022 for new positions elsewhere. Our staff team was reduced by half. Our two main grant funders were not prescriptive on delivery so we recognised the opportunity to focus on and develop our Home-Start service model to meet families and children's outcomes without the constraints of the contractual obligations.

Whilst we had held the contract (2018-2022) our volunteer service complimented the more complex work delivered by our Family Support Workers. After reviewing our delivery model it was evident that we needed to continue to provide more intensive support for local families by providing that peer worker support to our volunteers. The trustees approved the introduction of a Family Support Advisor (FSA) post, which through recruitment, enabled us to keep one of our experienced staff team who was facing the prospect of TUPE to the new provider.

Being a full time post, our FSA has the capacity to support and address a multitude of issues that a family may face and utilises our flexible working arrangements to suit family's availabilities and children's school attendance commitments to realise a greater number of support interventions. As a fully trained, experienced support worker, they use their professional knowledge and excellent familiarity with other available services and working relationships to provide comprehensive, holistic support to the entire family including direct support to the children.

Our FSA supports:

- Families who require short but intense intervention
- Children who require direct work
- More complex needs families
- Families where the children require more than 1 visit a week
- Intensive support to families who may have a social worker assigned to them if they are on a child protection plan or child in need plan

At the end of March 2023 we had 16 families on our waiting list, a 50% reduction from the previous year, assisted by the introduction of the Family Support Advisor, and also the introduction of a part-time Family Support Worker (FSW) specialising in supporting parents whose children have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Our FSW SEND commenced in January 2023, funded by the National Lottery Awards for All project funding.

In 2022-2023, our Family Support service supported 101 families and 204 children:

- 64% had complex needs
- 68% reported poor mental health affecting family life
- 66% faced financial struggles
- 27% dealt with substance abuse and/or domestic violence

Our Approach

Remaining aligned to Staffordshire the County Council's Early Help Strategy, 'Right Help, Right Time, Right Place', we provide timely support to parents, and children preventing issues escalating into crises, fostering resilience and independence, and reducing strain on statutory services through:

- One-on-one support in families' homes
- Information, advice, and guidance
- Stay-and-play community group sessions

Parenting Together

We are approaching the conclusion of the second year of our Parenting Together project. It has been made possible through the generous funding provided by The National Lottery's Reaching Communities grant, and it continues to make a significant impact on the lives of families and volunteers in our local community.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The Parenting Together Project was initiated as a three-year endeavor aimed at providing comprehensive support to families facing various challenges, recognising the value that volunteering brings to the community.

We began our journey with the launch of two core services: 'Parent 2 Parent' Home-Visiting and 'Time 4 You' Telephone Befriending, delivered by our local volunteers who have parenting or caring experience. The Time 4 You service developed in response to the unique needs brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, we introduced a community group, 'Stay and Play,' catering to the 0-4 age group, also supported by volunteers.

Service Integration:
In our second year, we recognised the evolving needs of the families we serve. Consequently, we decided to merge the 'Parent 2 Parent' and 'Time 4 You' services into a unified offering known as 'Parenting Together Family Support.' This adaptation was a response to the feedback received from parents who desired a more versatile and hybrid approach to support. As a result, our methodology of service delivery transformed to include a mix of home-visiting and telephone support, tailored to each family's specific needs.

Enhanced Referral Process:
To improve the efficiency of our services, we introduced an online referral process for both parents and referring agencies. Families are now given the opportunity to specify their preferred method of support. The majority request home-visiting, with a few opting for telephone support only. However, we often provide a hybrid solution, primarily based on home-visiting and supplemented with telephone support when necessary.

Triage and Welcome Process:
Following a referral, which is increasingly facilitated through our streamlined online system, our weekly triage team ensures that we can meet the needs of the families as indicated in the referral form. Communication often begins with a comprehensive welcome letter, acknowledging their placement on a waiting list while assuring them that we will maintain regular contact which we call Keep In Touch (KIT) calls.

Managing Waitlists and KIT Calls:
We understand the anxiety that being on a waiting list can evoke, and to alleviate this, we promptly assign each applicant to a KIT team member who contacts them weekly or fortnightly based on their circumstances. The objective is to provide continuous support, monitor changes in their needs, and address any safeguarding concerns or urgent support requirements.

Matching Process:
Our Family Services Coordinator meticulously matches parents with a suitable volunteer or staff member after engaging in a discussion with both parties. This ensures a harmonious partnership that is instrumental in achieving the goals set during the initial meeting.

We provide personalised support for each family, completing a simple assessment of needs with them, and identify areas where they want change. Together with their volunteer or support worker, they can be helped to gain the outcomes identified.

The length of the support needed to meet their needs can vary from family to family, depending on what outcomes are identified. The support given to each family is regularly reviewed until the outcomes have been met and there is a positive change for the children and parents in the household. An average time of support for families is 9 months, but for some complex families this can be much longer.

Personalised Support and Outcome Plans:
Every family we serve benefits from personalised support, including a needs assessment, goal identification, and a detailed outcome plan. Our volunteer or support worker collaborates with the family to help them achieve the specified outcomes, addressing areas identified in need of change.

We have seen a growing number of families with complex mental health and wellbeing concerns and needs, and many of them have more than one area of need, defining these families as having complex needs. These families are usually supported by our staff team.

Ongoing Review and Duration of Support:
The support provided to each family is regularly reviewed until the agreed outcomes are met, as a family's journey to success is not always a linear one, we adjust as we go along to ensure positive changes for both children and parents in the household. The duration of support varies from family to family, contingent on the outcomes identified. On average, families receive support for approximately 9 months, although some complex cases may require longer-term assistance.

Adaptation of Grant Funding:
We are grateful to The National Lottery for their flexibility in supporting our project's evolution. One element was initially designated for IT improvements and equipment, the grant was revisited, and it was mutually agreed to allocate the unused funds towards covering the costs associated with our invaluable Family Support Advisor. This adaptation recognises the significant impact this role has had on achieving positive outcomes for the families we serve.

Information Advice and Guidance

This element of our service is growing in success, in instances where families need to move on from our main family support, our Information, Advice, and Guidance (IAG) service allows parents to access support on a more personalised, flexible basis, especially when specific concerns arise, without the need for a comprehensive outcome plan or a family-wide assessment.

The IAG service has been evolving throughout the year, records show during 22-23 we had 15 families accessing IAG services, 8 families had previously received home-visiting family support, and we trialled the introduction of the IAG telephone advice service with these families to assist case closure. We specifically placed 7 families, on the IAG support service as it was recognised that this service would suit their needs the best.

Our experienced staff have developed and learnt how to support families with many varying needs. Learning how to support them effectively by working closely with them, listening to them regarding the difficulties they were facing, and hearing what they felt would help them. The staff team deal with a higher number of families than our volunteers, and as such gain and develop a higher level of skills, utilised, by sharing information and guidance with the volunteers.
Our IAG service is often for specific issues, and usually for a shorter time span. We are monitoring this for evaluation, having altered our CRM system to capture the outcomes from this new service.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Home-Start Together

Our Family Support Service is complemented by the delivery of community groups, and mainly concentrating on delivery to the 0-4, under school age children fitting with Home-Start UK's focus and our early years support offer. Accessed free to anyone with a child under 4 residing in Newcastle, we also signpost our families with young children into our groups, assisting our family support work with the family.

During this year, we held over 1,000 sessions of Stay and Play to children below school age. The groups are a place for parents to engage in developmental and fun activities with their 0-4 year old. We have continued to provide numerous free Stay and Play groups, delivering Rhyme and Craft in both Clayton and Kidsgrove libraries, these are 45-minute sessions encouraging story time, rhymes and craft activities, and a longer Stay and Play in Kidsgrove Children's Centre, which always had a messy play area, gratefully acknowledged by parents, a make and take craft activity and a snack. And we open these sessions up in the school holidays so that older siblings (up to 12 years) can come along too.

We constantly review the sessions, to ensure that we meet our community's needs. Using the feedback and listening to parents' comments and discussions with the Family Engagement Worker, when asking what they would like included in the next sessions.

We dropped one under-utilised group and altered another into a free Lunch n Play session, providing children with a healthy meal, and parents with a bit of basic comfort too such as toast and crumpets. This was in response to the conversations around the children's snack table, and the cost-of-living increases at the time. We have found the new Lunch and Play sessions to be very popular.

Holiday sessions 0-12

We held five sessions during year 2, three in the summer holidays, one at Halloween and one at Easter as it was early this year.
We had 120 children attend overall. All children were offered a free lunch, we received a lot of positive feedback including that the sessions were fun, free and something to do to keep the children busy in the holidays. Many families returned for the other sessions, which indicated they enjoy the sessions and are happy to return.
Our busiest session in Easter had 50 parents and children attending; the families particularly liked taking a craft item away with them. An Easter bonnet was a firm favourite.

Coalfields Regeneration Fund (CRF)

This single-year project started back in June 2021, ending 31st May 2022, it provided us with additional administration hours to support the then Volunteer Co-ordinator running the volunteer service, and mobile telephones for our volunteers to use during COVID. In our end of project report to CRF, exceeding our prediction, we were able to successfully report that their grant assisted:

- 19 volunteers supported families for 3 months or over during the project period
- 26 parents have seen relief from anxiety / depression
- 25 have shown positive improvements in their emotional wellbeing and are better able to manage their anxiety and depression and have had support to seek additional support
- 26 parents feel more and have a better understanding of how to manage their daily lives
- 21 families have seen positive improvements in managing their daily lives and the stresses of the home/work life balance.

As part of their support, we continue to gain access to the Coalfields Community Investment Program, providing access to many guidance documents for research and support, as well as regular updates from the service which highlights training and grant funding opportunities.

Children in Need Grant

We are in year 2 of our Children in Need grant, which has provided essential unrestricted funds towards our core costs for 3 years, which started in October 2021. By providing funding to Charities who support disadvantaged children, their support has been invaluable as we work across many areas within Newcastle affected by significant deprivation. We advised that our support would assist children in the following ways:

- Children will have improved social skills
- Children will feel more confident
- Children will feel less worried.

Having the contribution to core costs has provided the stability to enable us to continue to deliver our family support service and focus on a natural process of continuous improvement, assisting us to manage our deficit budget and employ a Family Support Advisor.

Awards for All

We were lucky enough to gain 12 months funding from The National Lottery Awards for All funding, for our part time Family Support Worker (SEND) commencing in January 2023. This funding will enable us to:

- Help parents implement strategies and routines specific to children's needs
- Support referrals to specialist organisations
- Navigate application processes to secure support such as Disability Living Allowance, Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and specialist equipment
- Help secure correct support in educational settings
- Assist attendance to medical appointments
- Help parents with learning needs understand correspondence from bodies such as schools and Social Workers
- Help parents where physical disabilities make it difficult to play with children or take them out.

Our SEND support is helping families to break down the obstacles that physical and learning needs often present which can prevent them from participating in community life. Helping parents develop confidence to manage their child(ren) outside the home; become less isolated and more able to access groups, services, people and facilities in their community.
We help families access the right equipment, advice and reassurance so parents can provide a nurturing aND positive home environment in which children can flourish and meet their potential because every child matters.
As a new service, after recruitment and induction, by 31st March 2023, our FSW SEND was actively supporting 7 families.

Use of volunteers

Our volunteers commit to support, one or sometimes two families at a time, donating 3 to 4 valuable hours per week. Volunteers, usually parents or grandparents themselves, are recruited from our local community and provided with a quality training schedule to support the families in a non-judgemental, empathetic way; The Home-Start approach.

We are here to ensure that children thrive, and we do this by being alongside families, in the children's early years providing:

- relational support to parents and families
- volunteer home-visiting
- a focus on the early years
- primarily an offer of 'early help'
- accessible and inclusive
- community-centered

Babies, infants, and children develop within the relationships and environments that are created around them. By prioritising strong attachments, loving caregivers and a focus on their whole development needs, children can be protected from the extreme impacts of adversity and the challenges and difficulties experienced by families from time to time.

We provide earliest help, supporting parental and child wellbeing with a listening ear, a volunteer is that friendly, non-judgemental person, who families can confide in, not a family member, so as to remove the worry of 'what will they think' 'will this be held against me'

Parents tell us that having someone they trust alongside them is often the most significant factor in our support being effective. Volunteers, with their understanding and experience, help build trust and good relationships with parents.

Families tell us that having someone close who cares is important to them and the positive feeling of people who give their time freely helps build a trusting relationship. Volunteers give their time, experience and understanding to help ensure we can be there when needed most.

Because Home-Start is invited into the homes and lives of families with young children, it remains critical that our offer is a voluntary relationship for families, on their terms. This is part of building a mutually respected relationship between Home-Start volunteers and staff and the families we work with.

Volunteer recruitment remains an issue within the sector and as a volunteer led service it presents a key challenge to us. This year, we have utilised a variety of means to address this including:

- Social media campaigns
- Attending volunteer recruitment fayres
- Press coverage such as the Mayoral opening of the volunteer lounge
- Adverts in local publications
- Introduction of an online application process

With the help of unrestricted funds and Reaching Communities funding, we have been able to invest more funds into the promotion of our scheme including the redevelopment of our website which will enable families to make online referrals for support, offer information and guidance and increase donations to our scheme by providing access to fundraising platforms for potential donors.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Our volunteering opportunities and roles are designed to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation for those choosing to work with us whilst building our community activity. We provide fantastic training, and support and many opportunities for people to volunteer to improve their employability, skills and support their local community.

The are many volunteering opportunities within Home-Start

- Family support
- Keep in touch calls (to families on our waiting list)
- Admin support
- Social media volunteer
- Book-Start, storytelling volunteer
- Stay and play group volunteer

We designed and introduced a fantastic, designated volunteer welcome area; the Volunteer Lounge, integrating an informal training space and resource area. It has a comfortable, bright, and welcoming feel, where volunteers can stop off, meet other volunteers, provide peer to peer support, pick up resources for their families, and have a coffee together. The Volunteer Lounge has IT space for volunteers to learn together, to access and input into Lamplight, and a space for accessing e-learning too, together if they wish.

Our volunteers have told us that this area makes them feel valued and are appreciative of the change we have made for them, having recently updated and introduced many improvements for them.

Christine, our longest serving Award Commended volunteer, said, "All of this is marvellous, I can feel the difference, it makes me feel really appreciated, the lounge is a lovely area".

With the natural comings and goings of volunteer recruitment and retention, we have had a regular number of volunteers throughout the year. The majority deliver home-visiting family support, some assist with our KIT calls, and IAG service. The majority still support one family at a time due to their capacity We know that volunteers like to feel that they are giving back and using their empathy and experience to help others, saying that they feel their confidence grow with each family.

This year, 34 volunteers used their valuable time for Newcastle families.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Achievements and performance

• We were delighted to be chosen by the Newcastle Borough Mayor Councillor Gill Burnet as one of her Mayoral Charities of the Year, 2022/23. She is a great supporter of ours, she wanted to support the children and families of Newcastle and felt this was an ideal opportunity to do so. The Mayor, attended many of our functions throughout the year, helping us celebrate and promote our services

• We introduced a new website, improving accessibility and ease of application for new vacant posts, referrals into the service and our volunteer recruitment process

• One of our longest serving volunteers, Christine, was awarded a Commendation as Volunteer of the Year for Newcastle under Lyme, at the Support Staffordshire Awards on 22nd June 2022. She was very humbled to receive the commendation. Seen here accepting her certificate.

We supported over 100 families and 204 children via our Family Support model, of those famiies:

• 87% experienced improved parental health and wellbeing
• 83% reported improvements in family life and their relationships
• 75% felt more able to reach their goals
• 66% reported an improvement in general daily living

66% of the families we supported had complex needs. Our FSA supports these families and provided intensive support for 36 families and carried out 49% (238) weekly information, advice and guidance calls to families on our waiting list. As a result of this support

• 78% families reported improvements in their mental health and wellbeing
• 94% families experienced improved relationships and reduced social isolation
• 18 children said they felt less worried whilst improved social skills were observed in 15
• 89% of families reported improved health and wellbeing of their children
• 61% of families reported they were better able to cope with the stress of home and work
• 33 referrals made to other agencies for specialist, specific support for 11 different families.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Our Social and Added Value

We take pride in our comprehensive approach to delivering family support services. Through our partnerships, we gain access to specialised services that excel in their respective domains, benefiting the families we serve in ways that other organisations, agencies, and individuals cannot match.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, we received additional assistance for our families from various organisations including Alice Charity, Star Bikers, John Lewis & Partners, Foodbank, Aspire, Amazon, Waitrose and Tesco (Kidsgrove) as well as the kind contributions from individual donors. This support was instrumental in providing much-needed aid to our families. It encompassed financial aid for safety equipment, school uniforms. household appliances, bedding, Christmas presents, play equipment, activity packages, Easter treats, and foodbank vouchers.

Relationships with related parties

Home-start UK
Home-Start Newcastle Borough is a local, independent charity operating within the ethos, guidance and policies of the Home-Start UK as part of it's international network of schemes.

Working in Partnership
The premises we work in are under the management of Elim Church, which has granted us the flexibility to collaborate with Newcastle Foodbank. Together. Newcastle Foodbank operate a foodbank service from our offices on Wednesday afternoons, offering a convenient and local venue for residents in the area to seek assistance and collect their essential food parcels. We view this partnership as a valuable opportunity, mutually benefiting both organisations. Families who visit the foodbank for their parcels are able to access support from Home-Start and discover the range of services we provide.

Financial review
The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) (second edition October 2019) grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any condition linked to the grants have been met. As such income granted for use this financial year (1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023) is part of a three year grant awarded in, and therefore included in, our previous year's accounts, therefore our accounts for this year show a deficit.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

1) Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
2) A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form.

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers:

1) Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
2) Planned activity level
3) Organisation's commitments

Having considered the risks, activity and commitments of the organisation trustees have agreed that the scheme needs to retain a level of reserves of between 3 and 6 months running costs which equates to approximately £48,000 to £96,000. At the year end general unrestricted reserves at the year end were £52,900 (2022: £80,602).

In addition to the general unrestricted reserves, the charity holds £65,000 in a designated fund to be used in event of the scheme closing.

Risks arising and management of those risks

Changes to Funding
This year, our Risk Register illuminated a diverse range of risks that the trustees carefully considered. The awarding of Staffordshire County Councils Tier 2 Family Support Outreach contract to an alternative provider presented a mixed blessing due to its tight budget, Instead, we seized the opportunity to revamp our service delivery, involving both volunteers and staff, resulting in the birth of a new Home-Start Service. Upon review, the Trustees assessed the impact of these changes and implemented adjustments to the staffing structure for the remaining service, which commenced on April 1st 2022. To facilitate this transition, they approved a deficit budget for the fiscal year 2022/23, demonstrating prudent use of the charity's substantial reserves, which had become mismatched with our new service expenditures. This allowed the Trustees to provide interim funding for new staff positions and an updated service offering to Newcastle families.

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 20/11/23 and signed on its behalf by:

C D Johnson

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes 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

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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Date: 28/02/2024

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	1,450	125,912	127,362
Charitable activities	4	2,841	-	2,841
Other trading activities	5	825	-	825
Investment income	6	861	-	861
Total income		5,977	125,912	131,889
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(88,082)	(112,054)	(200,136)
Total expenditure		(88,082)	(112,054)	(200,136)
Net (expenditure)/income		(82,105)	13,858	(68,247)
Net movement in funds		(82,105)	13,858	(68,247)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		200,005	28,736	228,741
Total funds carried forward	18	117,900	42,594	160,494

The notes on pages 19 to 33 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	306	101,867	102,173
Charitable activities	4	236,449	-	236,449
Other trading activities	5	1,582	-	1,582
Investment income	6	17	-	17
Total income		238,354	101,867	340,221
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(249,311)	(73,131)	(322,442)
Total expenditure		(249,311)	(73,131)	(322,442)
Net (expenditure)/income		(10,957)	28,736	17,779
Net movement in funds		(10,957)	28,736	17,779
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		210,962	-	210,962
Total funds carried forward	18	200,005	28,736	228,741

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(Registration number: 09476111)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	4,371	3,779
Current assets			
Debtors	14	-	59,113
Cash at bank and in hand		169,728	174,397
		169,728	233,510
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(13,605)	(8,548)
Net current assets		156,123	224,962
Net assets		160,494	228,741
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	18	42,594	28,736
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		117,900	200,005
Total funds	18	160,494	228,741

For the financial year ending 31 March 2023 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.

The financial statements on pages 16 to 33 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 20/11/23.. and signed on their behalf by:

C D Johnson.

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
Chairman and trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Home-Start Newcastle Borough meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Reclassification of comparative amounts

The prior year figures have been retated to adjust for grant income which was previously accrued into the period for the full 3 year period but has now taken advantage of implied time contraints to recognise the grants over the 3 year life of the projects

Income and endowments
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure
All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs
Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs
These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants
Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets costing £300 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Computer equipment	Straight line method over four years.
Furniture and equipment	Straight line method over four years

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Hire purchase and finance leases

Leases in which substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership are retained by the lessor are classified as operating leases. Rentals payable under operating leases are charged in the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	1,450	-	1,450
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	79,716	79,716
Grants from other charities	-	46,196	46,196
	1,450	125,912	127,362

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	306	-	306
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	71,066	71,066
Grants from other charities	-	30,801	30,801
	306	101,867	102,173

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Support for families, children and young people	2,841	2,841

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Support for families, children and young people	236,449	236,449

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	825	825
	825	825

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,582	1,582
	1,582	1,582

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	861	861
	861	861

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	17	17
	17	17

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Support for Families	88,082	112,054	200,136

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Support for Families	249,311	73,131	322,442

	Activity undertaken directly £	2023 £	2022 £
Gross Salary Costs	69,962	69,962	219,865
Temporary Staff and Recruitment Costs	1,075	1,075	829
Family Activity Costs	5,064	5,064	2,178
Training for Staff and Volunteers	251	251	730
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	2,788	2,788	3,889
Other Expenses	4,812	4,812	1,395
Allocated Support Costs	116,184	116,184	93,556
	200,136	200,136	322,442

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Support costs £	Total 2023 £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Salary costs	71,492	71,492	50,259
Recruitment	126	126	116
Staff training	1,400	1,400	578
Travel expenses	292	292	332
Rent, insurance and office costs	22,786	22,786	22,726
Professional fees	1,480	1,480	981
Affiliation fees	9,935	9,935	4,857
IT costs	3,708	3,708	8,053
Marketing and promotion	1,225	1,225	641
Governance costs	900	900	900
Depreciation	2,435	2,435	2,715
Other costs	405	405	498
	116,184	116,184	92,656

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total (as restated) 2022 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

9 Government grants

National Lottery Awards for All £9,862 (£nil: 2022) grant to fund the SEND Support for Families project.

National Lottery Community Fund RC Midlands Region £69,854 (£71,066: 2022) grant to fund the Parenting Together project.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £79,716.

There were no unfulfilled conditions at the year end.

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	127,229	238,554
Social security costs	5,517	13,874
Pension costs	8,708	17,696
	141,454	270,124

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Scheme Manager	1	1
Finance and Administration Co-ordinator	1	-
Office Co-ordinator	-	1
Administration Assistant	1	1
Family Support Service Co-ordinator	1	1
Volunteer Co-ordinator	-	1
Family Support Advisor	1	7
Family Engagement Worker	1	-
SEND Family Support Worker	1	-
	7	12

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £32,681 (2022 - £44,568).

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Examination of the financial statements	900	900

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Furniture and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	-	13,632	13,632
Additions	2,298	729	3,027
At 31 March 2023	2,298	14,361	16,659
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022	-	9,853	9,853
Charge for the year	431	2,004	2,435
At 31 March 2023	431	11,857	12,288
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	1,867	2,504	4,371
At 31 March 2022	-	3,779	3,779

14 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Accrued income	-	59,113

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	3,340	314
Other taxation and social security	12	4,162
Other creditors	1,056	2,181
Accruals	9,197	1,891
	13,605	8,548

16 Obligations under leases and hire purchase contracts

The total value of future minimum lease payments was as follows:

	2023 £
Within one year	(1,652)
In two to five years	(6,195)
	(7,847)

17 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £8,708 (2022 - £17,696).
Pension costs are apportioned between unrestricted and restricted funds depending upon which project the employee works on.

18 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	80,602	5,977	(48,067)	14,388	52,900
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Family Support Advisor	51,057	-	(40,015)	(11,042)	-
Administration Salaries	3,346	-	-	(3,346)	-
	119,403	-	(40,015)	(14,388)	65,000
Total unrestricted funds	200,005	5,977	(88,082)	-	117,900
Restricted funds					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	20,842	69,854	(65,607)	-	25,089
Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund	4,674	-	(4,674)	-	-
BBC Children in Need	2,720	40,267	(34,011)	-	8,976
Tesco Community Grant	500	-	(500)	-	-
National Lottery Awards for All	-	9,862	(2,161)	-	7,701
Home Start Warm Spaces	-	1,000	(172)	-	828
The Community Foundation for Staffordshire - Community Recovery Fund	-	4,929	(4,929)	-	-
Total restricted funds	28,736	125,912	(112,054)	-	42,594
Total funds	228,741	131,889	(200,136)	-	160,494

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	145,962	238,354	(249,311)	(54,403)	80,602
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Family Support Advisor	-	-	-	51,057	51,057
Administration Salaries	-	-	-	3,346	3,346
	65,000	-	-	54,403	119,403
Total unrestricted funds	210,962	238,354	(249,311)	-	200,005
Restricted					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	-	71,066	(50,224)	-	20,842
Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund	-	9,676	(5,002)	-	4,674
BBC Children in Need	-	20,625	(17,905)	-	2,720
Tesco Community Grant	-	500	-	-	500
Total restricted funds	-	101,867	(73,131)	-	28,736
Total funds	210,962	340,221	(322,442)	-	228,741

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region
Our service supports families and volunteers with a range of activities and services, The Parenting Together is a 3 year project and funds, Time 4 You - Telephone befriending, Parent to Parent - Family support, Home-Start Together; Community Group sessions and Bookstart sessions.

BBC Children in Need
This grant funds core costs, supporting back office administration and core staff costs for 3 years. The contribution to organisational costs helps manage our deficit budget, reducing the need to deplete our reserves. It provides us with stability to provide family support and focus on improving the lives of children and young people; helping them to feel more confident, less anxious and improve their social skills. An additional £500 was awarded in the year ended 31 March 2023 due to rising costs of living.

Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund
The grant funds equipment and staff time to deliver emotional support, information advice and guidance and opportunities to reduce social isolation for parents and carers with children of all ages. This is a 12 month programme which commenced in June 2021.

Tesco Community Grants - Safe Homes with Home-Start
This grant funds the 'Safe Homes with Home-Start' project. We want to support families to have safe homes. We will hold 4 home safety advice sessions within our play group and our family support workers will distribute items to the families they support where they see a need so that local families who may be facing financial difficulties or struggle to access safety information can create safe home environments for their children, allowing them to explore, play and take the risks that help them to develop.

National Lottery Awards for All
This grant funds SEND Support for Families.

Home Start UK - White Stuff's Warm Spaces Friendly Faces
This grants funds community-based activities for families in heated spaces during the colder months.

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire - Community Recovery Fund
This grant is a contribution towards the continuation of our core service delivery and helping our scheme during a financially challenging time driven by the response of big grant funders and individual giving to the impact of COVID on local communities. Despite decreased core funding opportunities we continued to help families achieve positive progress with their parenting skills, relationships with family, and positive support networks and developing skills, confidence, and parents' ability to support children's learning and development.

Designated Fund - Scheme Closure
The trustees have designated £65,000 of reserves in the event of the scheme having to close.

Designated Fund - Family Support Advisor
In the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees designated £51,057 of unrestricted reserves to fund the salary and associated costs of a family support advisor in the year ended 31 March 2023.

Designated Fund - Administration Salaries
In the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees designated £3,346 of unrestricted reserves to maintain the hours of the administration salaries when there is no further grant funding.

The remaining balances from both the Family Support Advisor and Administration Salaries designated funds have been transferred to general unrestricted funds at the year end to reflect that these funds were designated for use in the year ended 31 March 2023 and until new funding streams had been established following the changes in service delivery after the cessation of the Staffordshire County Council contract on 31 March 2022.

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2023
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,505	-	1,866	4,371
Current assets	74,318	65,000	30,410	169,728
Current liabilities	(12,868)	-	(737)	(13,605)
Total net assets	63,955	65,000	31,539	160,494

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,779	-	-	3,779
Current assets	83,165	119,403	30,942	233,510
Current liabilities	(6,342)	-	(2,206)	(8,548)
Total net assets	80,602	119,403	28,736	228,741

20 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1161247

Accounts

Company registration number: 09476111
Charity registration number: 1161247

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
Trustees	Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair Dilys Beard - Vice Chair David Williamson - Treasurer Neil Dudley Timothy Wolley Mark Hammersley (resigned 26 July 2022) Margaret Colley (resigned 30 November 2021) Amanda Donald (resigned 30 November 2021)
Senior Management Team	Wendy Hocking - Scheme Manager
Registered Office	Cornerstone High Street Knutton Newcastle-under-Lyme ST5 6BX
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hope Street Stoke on Trent ST5 1DD
Bankers	CAF 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ
Charity Registration Number	1161247
	The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	09476111

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 6th March 2015. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited through a variety of advertising channels, including personal recommendations from current trustees, advertising, display stands promoting the scheme's work in public places and disseminating information in local institutions such as local university staff websites.
Expressions of interest are followed up by the Chair. Interested individuals are invited as guests to observe the management committee meetings and subject to a successful meeting with the Chair and Scheme Manager and agreement that they wish to be nominated for a position on the trustee board, they are invited to complete a formal application, provide references, undergo a DBS enhanced level check and sign up the scheme's code of conduct.
With reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association, a third of the committee is required to stand down at the AGM and if they wish to continue in their role as a trustee and a director of the organisation, they can be re-elected by the committee.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objects of the charity are:

a) To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
b) To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
c) To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
d) To promote the education of the public in better standards of child care, principally but not exclusively within the area of Newcastle Borough and its environs.

The aims of the Charity are to provide support for local families and to give these families the means to cope with the difficulties they are experiencing. We aim to build better lives for both the child or children of the family and their parents by improving their confidence, health, mental wellbeing and to improve and encourage better family relationships.

The trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough oversee the governance of the scheme which works within the local community aiming to help parents build better lives for their children by helping them to tackle issues that they face such as loneliness and isolation, coping with multiple children, difficult child behaviour and ill health, disability or special needs.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Charitable Activities undertaken for public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides practical and emotional support for families in their own homes and in the community. Our support is tailored to the individual needs of our families who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges including poor emotional wellbeing of themselves or their children, child development and learning needs, isolation, and financial worries. The earliest years make the biggest impact, and we work to make sure those years count. We offer support to parents with children under 12.

During 2021/22 we operated under contract to Staffordshire County Council, their Tier 2 Family Support service for families with children 0-19 (25 years if SEND) operating it within Newcastle Borough. The service had three main elements:

1) Referral based support
Our staff team of professional Family Support Workers provide early help support for families. A dedicated key worker works with the whole family to address issues and challenges they identify as areas of family life that they wish to improve. The key workers complete an early help assessment, linking this to the Triangle, Families Plus Outcomes Star, which monitors the change in the 10 elements of the family's life. We support the whole family, working directly with the child, and all the family members within the household.

2) Proactive home-visits
We visited young families who live within the 0-30% lower super output areas of Newcastle Borough. The children within the family were 5–8 months of age. The purpose of these visits was to provide information, advice, and guidance on local priority issues such as obesity and oral health, to increase awareness of local services available to families and help them to access these and to offer further support should the family wish.

3) BookStart corner
This is a national programme designed to encourage families to develop a love for books, stories and rhymes. It is provided to families with pre-school children. We offered one to one and group sessions to build parent's confidence in storytelling and support children's early learning and development. The program includes 4 separate sessions - iintroduction to songs and rhymes, sharing stories and books, making stories into routines and mark making.

Delivering the SCC contracted service during the second year of the pandemic, meant that our services were adjusted, and between June and December 2021, the 'in emergency situations only' description for allowing for Home Visiting was altered to 'some' home visiting can recommence, with full covid home visit safety risk assessment carried out each time. Home visits were interspersed by innovative delivery, such as walk and talks, garden visits, playground, or country walks, as well as telephone calls. By March 2022, restrictions had been removed and home-visiting was fully returned.

Volunteer Service

Big Lottery Grant
From 1st May 2022, we delivered on our Parenting Together, Big Lottery project, our first year in this project. We were coming out of the COVID pandemic, during which our traditional Home-Visiting service had altered into telephone befriending, and was welcomed by some, where other families needed more of our home-visiting support. Our project took this into consideration, and we developed 2 service elements, Parent 2 Parent, Home-Visiting and Time 4 You, Telephone befriending, which had already been introduced at the start of the pandemic.
We received 67 referrals into the Parenting Together service, and by the end of March 2022, we had 32 families on the waiting list for family support via our volunteer service. We accept referrals for family support from agencies or from the families directly, and along with the SCC family referrals, they are assessed to ascertain which service is suitable to meet their needs by the leadership team. Although we have had a waiting list for our services, our Keep in Touch 'KIT' calls have alleviated the stress and worry that being on a waiting list can bring. Once matched to a trained volunteer, we offered families weekly support to work through the agreed outcome plan.

Home-Visiting or Telephone befriending provides personalised support for each family, we complete a simple assessment of needs with them, and identify areas where they want change. Together with their volunteer they can be helped to gain the outcomes identified.

These outcomes can vary per family but can be;
- To help them manage their children's behaviour, and anger outbursts,
- To help their child sleep in their own bedroom
- To introduce positive parenting and rewards
- To help set boundaries and consequences.
- To encourage children to eat a healthy diet and eat varied food
- To introduce a good bed-time routine, so children go to bed at a regular time
- To help with their child's anxiety about leaving them to go to nursery or school.
- To encourage sharing and turn taking, not grabbing or hitting other children
- To help manage their walk to school or nursery in the morning.
- To improve parents' confidence and reduce parents' isolation

For our Home-Visiting and Telephone service, we like to provide each family with a named Volunteer, and the length of the support needed to meet their needs can vary from family to family, depending on what outcomes are identified. The support given to each family is regularly reviewed until the outcomes have been met and there is a positive change for the children and parents in the household. An average time of support for families is 9 months, an increase in time from last year.

During the pandemic, we found that some of our volunteers were advised to shield, and some were cautious of returning to face to face, and so although the restrictions started to ease and we allowed home-visiting once again, with PPE and lateral flow tests to be done before a visit some of our volunteers still did not feel comfortable to return. We found that we struggled to recruit new volunteers and our waiting list started to increase.

To alleviate the waiting for a volunteer to be allocated to a family and to ensure that the families felt supported and gained some advice, we devised a 'Keep in touch' call service, which we called 'KIT calls.' The KIT calls were operated by a mixture of staff and volunteers. The aim being to ensure families felt supported, and that we could monitor if there their needs altered and if there was a safeguarding issue or a more urgent need for support. When this happened, which it did, we prioritised them and allocated them to the next volunteer, or they were supported by our volunteer coordinator. If needed, we referred them to the higher level of safeguarding.

This element of our service has been very successful. Firstly, families have felt engaged with, and thanked us for the KIT calls, whilst others, have gained the advice they required from the calls themselves. This happened many times, so much so that we have now added an Information and Guidance (IAG) service. We believe this is for specific issues, and usually for a shorter time span. We are monitoring this at the moment, having altered our CRM system to capture the outcomes from this new service.

Parents refer to us for Family support, previously completing the particular service referral form, requesting telephone befriending or home-visiting, but now, parents or referrers apply for Family Support, and provide a main preference for how they want to receive the support, and we offer a mixture, which recently has always started off with a welcome letter, stating they are on a waiting list, but we will keep in touch with them. This is under a continuous improvement process.

Home-Start Together, our stay and play group, has gone from strength to strength, the project also planned on the introduction of a stay and play 0-4 children's group, named, Home-Start Together. This was due to commence in the autumn if the restrictions would allow it. We started off in one location, within Kidsgrove Children's Centre, we devised another shorter group session, for the same age, called Rhyme & Craft, delivering it within Clayton library, an estate a little way from the town centre. After discussions with families, and partner agencies, we recognised a need for groups to be in other locations, and so started working in partnership with the Borough's women's refuge, where we now deliver weekly Rhyme and Craft sessions, to the residents and their young children who stay there, Following the success of those sessions, we introduced another Rhyme and Craft session for 0–4's at Kidsgrove Library, the Town within Newcastle Borough on the Cheshire border. Further to the Stay and play groups and the Rhyme and Craft groups, our Community Engagement Worker developed Baby@Play a set of 5 sessions of parent and baby play, concentrating on parental bonding and babies' development for 0–12 month old babies,

Our project has just completed its first year, and we expected to support 108 families but due to the personal endeavours of our staff team, 250 families have attended the various Home-Start Together groups. An enormous achievement in our first year.

Coalfields Regeneration Fund
We gained 12 months funding from the Coalfields Regeneration fund, which commenced in June 2021, as we operate in one of their regeneration areas. This grant provided us with additional administration hours to support the Volunteer Coordinator and the volunteer service, and mobile telephones for our volunteers to use during COVID. The additional admin staff hours supported in preparing resources and equipment for the volunteer training courses. The mobile phones enabled volunteers to continue the support when they could not visit face to face, and ongoing help can still be offered. This ensures a higher level of engagement and parents are supported to make and sustain any improvements.

Coalfields Volunteer outcomes were that we would achieve 10 volunteers regularly volunteering.
a) We will support 10 volunteers to volunteer for at least twice a month for at least 3 months.
b) They will report feeling less isolated and more connected to others
c) Feel they have gained from training and development opportunities

Family outcomes were that 20 people will gain relief from anxiety/depression.
a) By having strategies to help cope with the stresses of home/work life balance
b) Via improved access to health information and advice
c) Feel an improvement and better understanding and confidence in managing their daily life and well-being

As part of their support, we gained access to the Coalfields Community Investment Program. Giving access to many guidance documents for research and support, as well as regular updates from the service which highlighted latest grant funding opportunities.,

Children in Need Grant
We successfully gained the grant from Children in Need, which is unrestricted towards our core costs for 3 years, which started in October 2021. This will assist our sustainability.

We introduced a new data base system, Lamplight, which went live in April 2021. The development of the database was done in the previous year, taking many months of work alongside the project manager of the system. This year has seen the further development, to define the reporting, adjusting the system and data inputting to ensure effective and efficient information is produced. Working within a new CRM system had its challenges, and still does. The reporting and development of the information that can be gained from the CRM is still proving to be a challenge and is ongoing.

Use of volunteers

We have introduced many volunteering opportunities within the year, some with more take up than others.
- Home Visiting
- Telephone Befriending
- Keep in touch calls (to families on our waiting list)
- Admin support
- Social Media volunteer
- Book-Start, Storytelling volunteer
- Play and Stay group volunteer

Our volunteering opportunities and roles are designed to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation of those choosing to work with us whilst building our community activity. We provide fantastic training, and support and many opportunities for people to volunteer to improve their employability, skills and support their local community.

We have had 31 volunteers provide family support during the year.

100% of volunteers asked feel that they are giving back and using their personal experiences and training to help others and fell their confidence grow with each family.

95% of volunteers asked feel that they are a little more connected to others, especially now Covid restrictions are easing. Volunteers are looking forward to more face-to-face events

100% of volunteers feel we give them high quality training and have access to as much training as they feel they can attend. They state the training courses offered are valuable and relevant to their roles and they enjoy learning new skills.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Achievements and performance
Staffordshire County Council Tier 2 Family Support Service.

As the commissioned provider of Staffordshire County Councils Tier 2 Family Support Service an accredited provider of the Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC) program, we followed the contract and performance outcomes for that service.

Within the whole of Home-Start services, we received 250 referrals into Home-Start. We received 183 referrals for the Council funded tier 2 service. Of the families who completed their support with the Council tier 2 service, 114 were closed as improved and successful, and 18 were closed without success, some of which were referred to a higher safeguarding level. Over 50 families were transferred to the new service provider on 1st April 2022.

Achievements /Coalfields Regeneration fund.
Volunteer Outcomes

18 volunteers have supported families for 3 months or over from 1st June 2021–31st March 22, through home visits and/or telephone befriending phone calls. This has already exceeded our end of year project outcomes.

***** 100% of our volunteers asked said they felt "less isolated and more connected to others" and 100% said they felt they had "gained from training and development opportunities available to them through volunteering with Home-Start"

Family Outcomes
We exceeded our prediction of 20 people gaining relief from anxiety/ depression.

a) By having strategies to help cope with the stresses of home/work life balance
b) Via improved access to health information and advice
c) Feel an improvement and better understanding and confidence in managing their daily life and well-being

By March 2021, 26 parents have seen relief from anxiety and depression.

Our Social and Added Value
We pride ourselves on the holistic approach we take to the family support service that we deliver and our partnership work enables us to access services that other organisations, agencies and individuals excel in for the benefit of the families that we work with.

During 2021/ 22 we gained extra support for our families via other organisations such as, Alice Charity, Star Bikers, John Lewis & Partners, Foodbank, Aspire and the generosity of private individuals to bring that extra needed help to our families which this year included funds for household white goods, a bedroom revamp, bedding and safety equipment, Christmas Gifts, Easter Eggs, Play Equipment & Activity packs, foodbank vouchers and school uniform.

Relationships with related parties

Home-start UK
Home-Start Newcastle Borough is a local, independent charity operating within the ethos, guidance and policies of the Home-Start UK as part as part of it's international network of schemes.

Staffordshire County Council
As the commissioned provider of Staffordshire County Council's Tier 2 Family Support provision for the Newcastle-under-Lyme district we are contractually compliant with the requirements of Staffordshire County Council and work closely with partner agencies to effect a multi-agency approach to family support services.

Working in Partnership
Elim Church manages the premises that we work in, and this year we finalised a new licence agreement that suited both parties. This allowed us the flexibility to work in partnership with Newcastle Foodbank, who needed to find new premises to deliver their weekly food bank from in our area. After much legal discussion and finalisation of the agreement the Silverdale Foodbank and its volunteers, moved to share the premises with us on a Wednesday afternoon. This provides a local venue to allow customers within the area to call in, gain support and pick up their much-needed foodbank parcel. We have welcomed this opportunity to work together and see this as a great benefit to both services, already families visiting the foodbank to pick up their parcels, have been supported by Home-Start and gain from learning about our services.

Financial review
The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Policy on reserves

The trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:
1) Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
2) A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form

The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and considers:
1) Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
2) Planned activity level
3) Organisation's commitments

Having considered the risks, activity and commitments of the organisation trustees have agreed that the scheme needs to retain a level of reserves of between 3 and 6 months running costs which equates to approximately £48,000 to £96,000. At the year end general unrestricted reserves at the year end were £80,602.

In addition to the general unrestricted reserves, the charity holds £65,000 in a designated fund to be used in event of the scheme closing, £51,057 in a designated fund to finance a Family Support Advisor post and associated costs in year ended 31 March 2023 and £3,346 in a designated fund to continue with the administrator's position when grant funding ends during the year ended 31 March 2023.

Risks arising and management of those risks

Changes to Funding
This year we had a couple of major risks highlighted that the Trustees took into consideration.

We had Children in Need funding which ended March 2021, but the grant funding for the Volunteer side of the service from Big Lottery started in May 2021, leaving us with a gap in income in April 2021.We gained a large grant for 3 years from the Big Lottery, providing us with stability, and we had an application for core funding with Children in Need, which became successful and commenced in October 2021.

During the year, the Family Support Outreach service we were delivering via contract on behalf of the County Council, which we had held for over 4 years, came up for re tender in September 2021. We knew that without the contract it would change our services as the contract included a significant contribution towards our core costs, and the funding towards the management and coordination of our volunteer service.The Trustees reviewed the tender and agreed to complete an application even though the contract price required some careful consideration. However, in January 2022 we were advised that we were not successful. The staff delivering the service were entitled to TUPE, but this still left uncertainty, and some staff were facing tough decisions, with hours being reduced and roles changing. Quite a number of staff left us on 1st April 2022, and we stopped delivering that element of our service.

Leading up to the end of the service, the transition period meant that families referred into the service could not be allocated a family support keyworker. We closed as many family files down as we could, safeguarding being the priority, and transferred over 50 families back to the local authority to transfer to the new provider. Staff who worked on the SCC contract were subject to TUPE and we engaged with the new provider to ensure a smooth transition for the staff who were transferred to them. The trustees

The loss of the SCC service did however allow us the opportunity to redesign our service offer delivered by our volunteers, and staff, and we became a new Home-Start Service. The Trustees reviewed the impact and the service and agreed some changes to the staffing structure for the remaining service that would commence from 1st April 2022. Approving a deficit budget, for 2022/23 making a prudent use of the robust amount of charity reserves, to gap fund staffing and a new post, and a new service offer to the families of Newcastle.

Future funding, with a high level of reserves, can be counterproductive, and with the knowledge that a sound level of reserves and future funding opportunities from grant providers such as Henry Smith, and others once the reserves have levelled out, would be available to be applied for at the end of 2022, to maintain the additional post.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/11/22 and signed on its behalf by:

C D Johnson

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
Chairman and trustee

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes 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.

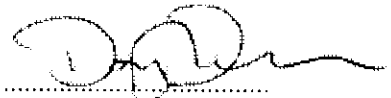
Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of CIMA, 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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 (FRS 102)].

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.



.....

Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

19/03/2024

Date:.....

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	306	101,867	102,173
Charitable activities	4	236,449	-	236,449
Other trading activities	5	1,582	-	1,582
Investment income	6	17	-	17
Total income		238,354	101,867	340,221
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(249,311)	(73,131)	(322,442)
Total expenditure		(249,311)	(73,131)	(322,442)
Net (expenditure)/income		(10,957)	28,736	17,779
Net movement in funds		(10,957)	28,736	17,779
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		210,962	-	210,962
Total funds carried forward	17	200,005	28,736	228,741

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	1,273	21,488	22,761
Charitable activities	4	245,479	-	245,479
Other trading activities	5	1,531	-	1,531
Investment income	6	35	-	35
Total income		248,318	21,488	269,806
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(249,819)	(22,314)	(272,133)
Total expenditure		(249,819)	(22,314)	(272,133)
Net expenditure		(1,501)	(826)	(2,327)
Transfers between funds		1,001	(1,001)	-
Net movement in funds		(500)	(1,827)	(2,327)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		211,462	1,827	213,289
Total funds carried forward	17	210,962	-	210,962

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(Registration number: 09476111)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	3,779	6,494
Current assets			
Debtors	14	59,113	6,119
Cash at bank and in hand		174,397	210,811
		233,510	216,930
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(8,548)	(12,462)
Net current assets		224,962	204,468
Net assets		228,741	210,962
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	17	28,736	-
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		200,005	210,962
Total funds	17	228,741	210,962

For the financial year ending 31 March 2022 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 financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements on pages 12 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23/11/22 and signed on their behalf by:

Carole Dawn Johnson - Chair
Chairman and trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance

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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Home-Start Newcastle Borough meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Support costs

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Tangible fixed assets
Individual fixed assets costing £300 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation
Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office and computer equipment	Straight line method over four years.

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from individuals	306	-	306
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	71,066	71,066
Grants from other charities	-	30,801	30,801
	306	101,867	102,173

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	1,273	-	1,273
Donations from individuals	-	400	400
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	21,088	21,088
	1,273	21,488	22,761

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £
Support for families, children and young people	236,449	236,449

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Support for families, children and young people	245,479	245,479

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,582	1,582
	1,582	1,582

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,531	1,531
	1,531	1,531

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	17	17
	17	17

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	35	35
	35	35

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Support for Families	249,311	73,131	322,442

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Support for Families	250,200	21,933	272,133

	Activity undertaken directly £	2022 £	2021 £
Gross Salary Costs	219,865	219,865	229,637
Temporary Staff and Recruitment Costs	829	829	686
Promotion and Advertising	-	-	217
Family Activity Costs	2,178	2,178	5,054
Rent	-	-	9,360
Office and General Expenses	-	-	16,682
Training for Staff and Volunteers	730	730	713
Consultancy and Affiliation Fees	-	-	5,140
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	3,889	3,889	1,113
Other Expenses	1,395	1,395	208
Depreciation Charge	-	-	2,473
Allocated Support Costs	93,556	93,556	-
	322,442	322,442	271,283

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Total support costs £	Total funds £
Salary costs	50,259	50,259
Recruitment	116	116
Staff training	578	578
Travel expenses	332	332
Rent, insurance and office costs	22,726	22,726
Professional fees	1,881	1,881
Affiliation fees	4,857	4,857
IT costs	8,053	8,053
Marketing and promotion	641	641
Depreciation	2,715	2,715
Other costs	498	498
Total for 2022	92,656	92,656

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	900	900
	900	900

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	850	850
	850	850

9 Government grants

National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region

This grant funds the Parenting Together project.

The amount of grants recognised in the financial statements was £71,066.

There were no unfulfilled conditions at the year end.

10 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

11 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	238,554	204,237
Social security costs	13,874	10,427
Pension costs	17,696	14,972
	270,124	229,636

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Scheme Manager	1	1
Office Co-ordinator	1	1
Administration Officer	1	-
Family Support Service Co-ordinator	1	1
Volunteer Co-ordinator	1	1
Family Support Worker	7	7
	12	11

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £44,568 (2021 - £33,984).

12 Independent examiner's remuneration

	2022 £	2021 £
Examination of the financial statements	900	850

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2021	13,632	13,632
At 31 March 2022	13,632	13,632
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2021	7,138	7,138
Charge for the year	2,715	2,715
At 31 March 2022	9,853	9,853
Net book value		
At 31 March 2022	3,779	3,779
At 31 March 2021	6,494	6,494

14 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments	-	6,119
Accrued income	59,113	-
	59,113	6,119

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	314	7,293
Other taxation and social security	4,162	2,492
Other creditors	2,181	1,827
Accruals	1,891	850
	8,548	12,462

16 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £17,696 (2021 - £14,972).
Pension costs are apportioned between unrestricted and restricted funds depending upon which project the employee works on.

17 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	145,962	238,354	(249,311)	(54,403)	80,602
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Family Support Advisor Costs	-	-	-	51,057	51,057
Administration Salaries Costs	-	-	-	3,346	3,346
	65,000	-	-	54,403	119,403
Total unrestricted funds	210,962	238,354	(249,311)	-	200,005
Restricted funds					
The National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region	-	71,066	(50,224)	-	20,842
Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund	-	9,676	(5,002)	-	4,674
BBC Children in Need	-	20,625	(17,905)	-	2,720
Tesco Community Grant	-	500	-	-	500
Total restricted funds	-	101,867	(73,131)	-	28,736
Total funds	210,962	340,221	(322,442)	-	228,741

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	146,462	248,318	(249,819)	1,001	145,962
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Total unrestricted funds	211,462	248,318	(249,819)	1,001	210,962
Restricted					
The Community Foundation for Staffordshire	-	3,299	(3,299)	-	-
BBC Children in Need	826	17,789	(18,615)	-	-
Henry Smith	1,001	-	-	(1,001)	-
Other	-	400	(400)	-	-
Total restricted funds	1,827	21,488	(22,314)	(1,001)	-
Total funds	213,289	269,806	(272,133)	-	210,962

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

National Lottery Community Fund - RC Midlands Region
Our service supports families and volunteers with a range of activities and services, The Parenting Together is a 3 year project and funds, Time 4 You - Telephone befriending, Parent to Parent - Family support, Home-Start Together; Community Group sessions and Bookstart sessions.

BBC Children in Need
This will fund core costs, supporting the back office administration and core staff costs for 3 years. The contribution to organisational costs helps us manage our deficit budget, reducing the requirement to deplete our reserves. It provides us with stability to provide family support in our area and focus on improving the lives of children and young people; helping them to feel more confident, less anxious and improve their social skills.

Coalfields Recovery & Resilience Fund
The grant funds equipment and staff time to deliver emotional support, information advice and guidance and opportunities to reduce social isolation for parents and carers with children of all ages. This is a 12 month programme which commenced in June 2021.

Tesco Community Grants - Safe Homes with Home-Start
This grant funds the 'Safe Homes with Home-Start' project. We want to support families to have safe homes. We will hold 4 home safety advice sessions within our play group and our family support workers will distribute items to the families they support where they see a need so that local families who may be facing financial difficulties or struggle to access safety information can create safe home environments for their children, allowing them to explore, play and take the risks that help them to develop.

BBC Children in Need - 2021
To fund our Big Hopes Big Futures project which is aimed at supporting children to be 'school ready' through play and interaction opportunities. Trained volunteers offer regular consistent support with structured, targeted activities designed to help build confidence, promote development and foster independence. Children experiencing disadvantage will receive focused play and attention that is designed to reduce the attainment gap between them and their more advantaged peers.

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire
To fund new smart phones and data for the new Time4You service.

Henry Smith
To fund volunteers to provide one to one support to families in their own homes to help them develop strategies to manage their households and children. Volunteers help parents to access specialist support to help them manage their mental health and well being, encourage parents to take up volunteering opportunities and offer support in overcoming the challenges of family life to ensure the best start in life for children.

Other
Small grants from Buttle UK, Family Holiday Association, Glasspool Charity Trust and donations from individuals to fund holidays or specific equipment or items for families in need.

Designated Fund - Scheme Closure
The trustees have designated £65,000 of reserves in the event of the scheme having to close.

Designated Fund - Family Support Advisor Costs
In the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustees have designated £51,057 of unrestricted reserves to fund the salary and all associated costs of a family support advisor in the year ended 31 March 2023.

Designated Fund - Administration Salaries Costs
In the year ended 31 March 2022, the trustess have designated £3,346 of unrestricted reserves to maintain the hours of the administration salaries when grant funding ceases in the year ended 31 March 2023.

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2022
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	3,779	-	-	3,779
Current assets	83,165	119,403	30,942	233,510
Current liabilities	(6,342)	-	(2,206)	(8,548)
Total net assets	80,602	119,403	28,736	228,741

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 March 2021
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	6,494	-	6,494
Current assets	151,930	65,000	216,930
Current liabilities	(12,462)	-	(12,462)
Total net assets	145,962	65,000	210,962

19 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

HOME-START NEWCASTLE BOROUGH

England & Wales - Charity number 1161247

Accounts

Company registration number: 09476111
Charity registration number: 1161247

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Daryl Denson ACMA
VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

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Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Reference and Administrative Details

Chair	Carole Dawn Johnson
Trustees	Dilys Beard Margaret Colley Amanda Donald Neil Dudley Mark Hammersley Carole Dawn Johnson Timothy Wolley Sarah McDowell (resigned 3 June 2020) David Williamson (appointed 19 January 2021)
Senior Management Team	Julie Worrall Scheme Manager (until 4 September 2020) Wendy Hocking Scheme Manager (from 7 September 2020)
Principal Office	Cornerstone High Street Knutton Newcastle-under-Lyme Staffordshire ST5 6BX The charity is incorporated in England.
Company Registration Number	09476111
Charity Registration Number	1161247
Independent Examiner	Daryl Denson ACMA VAST The Dudson Centre Hope Street Stoke on Trent ST5 1DD
Bankers	CAF 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

The charitable objects of the charity are:

a) To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children
b) To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children
c) To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children
d) To promote the education of the public in better standards of child care, principally but not exclusively within the area of Newcastle Borough and its environs.

The aims of the Charity are to provide support for local families and to give these families the means to cope with the difficulties they are experiencing. We aim to build better lives for both the child or children of the family and their parents by improving their confidence, health, mental wellbeing and to improve and encourage better family relationships.

The trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough oversee the governance of the scheme which works within the local community aiming to help parents build better lives for their children by helping them to tackle issues that they face such as loneliness and isolation, coping with multiple children, difficult child behaviour and ill health, disability or special needs.

Charitable Activities undertaken for public benefit

Home-Start Newcastle Borough provides practical and emotional support for families in their own homes and in the community. Our support is tailored to the individual needs of our families' who may be experiencing difficulties and challenges including poor emotional wellbeing of family members, child development and learning needs, isolation and financial worries. The earliest years make the biggest impact and we work to make sure those years count. At Home-Start Newcastle Borough we achieve this through the delivery of a variety of services to local families.

Tier 2 family support
We are the current provider of Staffordshire County Council's Tier 2 level family support service for Newcastle Borough which includes three main services:

1) Referral based support
Our staff team of professional Family Support Workers provide early help support for families. A dedicated key worker works with the whole family to address issues and challenges they identify as areas of family life that they wish to improve.

2) Proactive home-visits
We visit young families who live within the 0-30% lower super output areas of Newcastle Borough. The purpose of these visits is to provide information, advice and guidance on local priority issues such as obesity and oral health, to increase awareness of local services available to families and help them to access these and to offer further support should the family wish.

3) BookStart corner
This is a national programme designed to encourage families to develop a love for books, stories and rhymes. We offer one to one and group sessions to build parent's confidence in story telling and support children's early learning and development.

School Ready Project – (funded by Children In Need)
Many children and young people in Newcastle Borough face economic deprivation and poverty. There is a link between poverty and educational attainment as parents do not have the finances and resources to promote their children's wider physical and social development. Our volunteer led 'School Ready' project funded by Children In Need focused on improving the school readiness, physical development and social development of children across the borough. After an initial assessment of the families' needs worked though by the volunteer coordinator our trained volunteers offer families weekly support for 1 hour via telephones calls, video calls or a walk and talk session to work through the agreed outcome plan.

The support given to each family is regularly reviewed until the outcomes have been met and there is a positive change for the children and parents in the household. An average time of support for families is 6 months.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Use of volunteers

Our volunteering opportunities and roles are designed to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation of those choosing to work with us whilst building our community activity. We provide fantastic training, and support and many opportunities for people to volunteer to improve their employability, skills and support their local community.

Achievements and performance
School Ready Project (funded by Children in Need)

The Covid-19 pandemic presented unique challenges in 2020-2021. Home visiting had to cease from 20 March 2020 due to the lockdown restrictions set by the government to ensure we were keeping our community safe. As we were unable to visit families' homes and carry out the school readiness programme face to face, as in previous years, we had to change the way we work with our families. We introduced our new telephone befriending service Time4you, set up specifically in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and trained 18 volunteers to become telephone befrienders to ensure continued support for children and parents who remained vulnerable and required support.

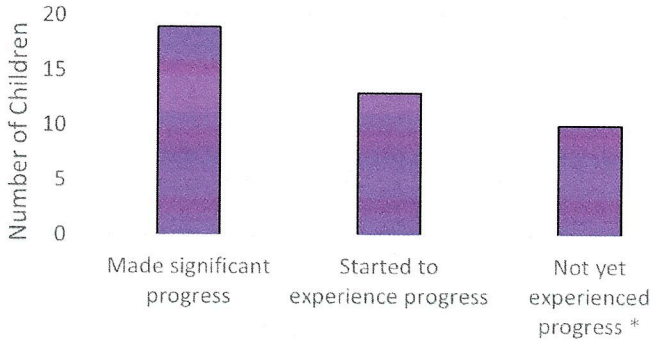
Support has been offered to families from a distance via telephone and video calls, with walk and talk visits being introduced as restrictions eased towards the latter months of the year. Support for school readiness has been focused on supporting the parents themselves to support the children at home, rather than working directly with the children.

Since the start of the pandemic in 2021-2022 we supported 25 families and 42 children via telephone befriending. 4 families chose not to accept telephone befriending as a means of support but our volunteer coordinator was able to provide information, advice and guidance when required.

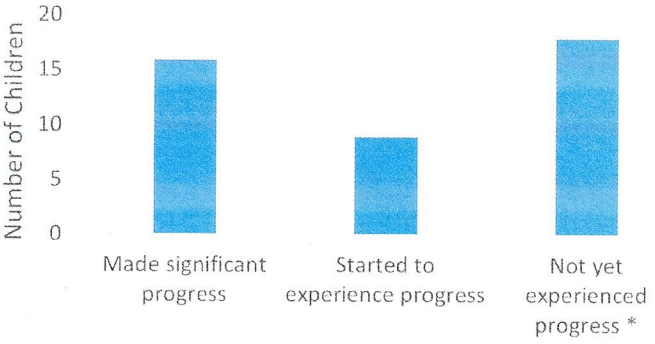
Despite being unable to deliver the school readiness service directly to children, the graphs below show the ways we have supported children during the year.

*Many of these children have only recently been matched to their volunteer or are awaiting their review to establish progress made.

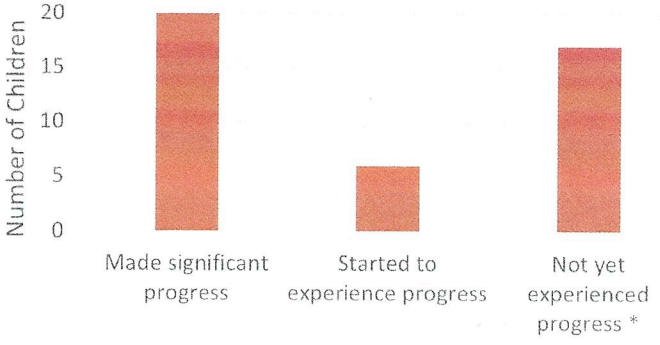
Improved School Readiness: How children supported by our School Readiness project progressed in 2020-2021



Improved Physical Development: How children supported by our School Readiness project progressed in 2020-2021



Improved Physical Development: How children supported by our School Readiness project progressed in 2020-2021



Staffordshire County Council Tier 2 Family Support Service
As the commissioned provider of Staffordshire County Councils Tier 2 Family Support Service, an accredited provider of the Building Resilient Families and Communities (BRFC) program, we have worked with 104 families, providing early intervention and supporting them to overcome obstacles and provide solid foundations for family life. During the year 98 families made significant progress building the skills, confidence and resilience to be able to able to move on from receiving our support.

We include below some of the feedback we received from families we have supported:
"Thank you for helping me through such a hard time in my life. You've helped me so much I cannot thank you enough. I am now the person I am meant to be."

"I would recommend it to anyone, and I would say they are amazing and preach about the service. Thank you, Kerri. It has been amazing, and I am so grateful. Feel like I have another parent and somebody working side by side with me supporting me and been on my side."

"I now feel more confident about going into education again and about my future after losing my job when pregnant."

"It helped by reassuring me that I wasn't alone or failing."

Covid-19 Survival Pack Delivery
We were delighted to work alongside Staffordshire County Council in their endeavours to offer support to families in the face of the pandemic. We delivered 189 Covid-19 Survival packs on their behalf which included educational and developmental activities for children along with information for parents to families in Newcastle Borough.

BookStart
We delivered the BookStart programme to 23 families.

Our Added Value
We pride ourselves on the holistic approach we take to the family support service that we deliver and our partnership work enables us to access services that other organisations, agencies and individuals excel in for the benefit of the families that we work with. During 2021 we were able to access support from organisations including Glasspool, Alice Charity, Star Bikers, John Lewis & Partners, Foodbank, Aspire and the generosity of private individuals to bring that extra needed help to our families which this year included funds for household white goods, a bedroom revamp, bedding and safety equipment, Christmas gifts, Easter eggs, play equipment & activity packs, foodbank vouchers, clothes and Bee Active sports sessions.

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and registered charity. It is operated under the rules of its memorandum and articles of association dated 6th March 2015. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding-up is limited to £1.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Trustees are recruited through a variety of advertising channels, including personal recommendations from current trustees, advertising, display stands promoting the scheme's work in public places and disseminating information in local institutions such as local university staff websites.

Expressions of interest are followed up by the Chair of the scheme. Interested individuals are invited as guests to observe the Management Committee meetings and subject to a successful meeting with the Chair and agreement that they wish to be nominated for a position on the trustee board are invited to complete a formal application, provide references, undergo a DBS enhanced level check and sign up the scheme's code of conduct.

With reference to the Memorandum and Articles of Association a third of the Committee is required to stand down at the Annual General Meeting and if they wish to continue in their role as a trustee and a director of the organisation, they can be re-elected by the Committee.

Relationships with related parties

Home-start UK
Home-Start Newcastle Borough is a local, independent charity operating within the ethos, guidance and policies of the Home-Start UK as part as part of it's international network of schemes.

Staffordshire County Council
As the commissioned provider of Staffordshire County Council's Tier 2 Family Support provision for the Newcastle-under-Lyme district we are contractually compliant with the requirements of Staffordshire County Council and work closely with partner agencies to effect a multi-agency approach to family support services.

Financial review
The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Trustees' Report (incorporating Directors' Report)

Policy on reserves

Having considered the risks, activity and commitments of the organisation, the trustees have set a reserves policy which requires:

1) Reserves are maintained at a level which ensures that Home-Start's core activity could continue during a period of unforeseen difficulty
2) A proportion of reserves are maintained in a readily realisable form
The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the scheme's planning, budget and forecast cycle and takes into account:

1) Risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure being different from that budgeted
2) Planned activity level
3) Organisation's commitments

This level of reserves of between 3 and 6 months running costs equates to approximately £60,000 to £120,000.

The level of unrestricted free reserves (excluding fixed assets) at 31 March 2021 is £139,468 (2020: £143,482). Whilst this is in excess of the scheme's reserves policy, to retain a level of reserves of between 3 and 6 months running costs, the scheme continues to face a degree of financial uncertainty operating within a payment by results model in delivering the Staffordshire County Council's Family Support provision. Subsequently the trustees approve the increased level of free reserves as at 31 March 2021 to provide a level of security for the scheme entering another year operating within this payment model and of course, the uncertainty that arises around the current COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition the trustees have designated £65,000 of unrestricted reserves to cover any future costs of a scheme closure.

Small companies provision statement
This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 30/11/21 and signed on its behalf by:

Carole Dawn Johnson
Chairman and Trustee

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 9 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees of Home-Start Newcastle Borough (and also its directors for the purposes 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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of CIMA, 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 Home-Start Newcastle Borough 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 (FRS 102)].

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.

.....
Daryl Denson ACMA

VAST
The Dudson Centre
Hope Street
Stoke on Trent
ST5 1DD

Date: 15/12/2021

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	1,273	21,488	22,761
Charitable activities	4	245,479	-	245,479
Other trading activities	5	1,531	-	1,531
Investment income	6	35	-	35
Total income		248,318	21,488	269,806
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(249,819)	(22,314)	(272,133)
Total expenditure		(249,819)	(22,314)	(272,133)
Net expenditure		(1,501)	(826)	(2,327)
Transfers between funds		1,001	(1,001)	-
Net movement in funds		(500)	(1,827)	(2,327)
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		211,462	1,827	213,289
Total funds carried forward	15	210,962	-	210,962

The notes on pages 12 to 23 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	3	3,600	28,189	31,789
Charitable activities	4	242,787	-	242,787
Other trading activities	5	277	-	277
Investment income	6	71	-	71
Total income		246,735	28,189	274,924
Expenditure on:				
Charitable activities	7	(230,856)	(27,856)	(258,712)
Total expenditure		(230,856)	(27,856)	(258,712)
Net income		15,879	333	16,212
Net movement in funds		15,879	333	16,212
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward		195,583	1,494	197,077
Total funds carried forward	15	211,462	1,827	213,289

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

Home-Start Newcastle Borough

(Registration number: 09476111)
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	6,494	2,980
Current assets			
Debtors	12	6,119	68,075
Cash at bank and in hand		210,811	151,434
		216,930	219,509
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(12,462)	(9,200)
Net current assets		204,468	210,309
Net assets		210,962	213,289
Funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	15	-	1,827
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		210,962	211,462
Total funds	15	210,962	213,289

For the financial year ending 31 March 2021 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 on pages 9 to 23 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 30/11/21 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Carole Dawn Johnson
Chairman and Trustee

1 Charity status

The charity is limited by guarantee, incorporated in England, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates
The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

Statement of compliance
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 (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102). They also comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation
Home-Start Newcastle Borough meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and has therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments
All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of the income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations and legacies

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Grants receivable

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustees's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £300 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

Asset class	Depreciation method and rate
Office and Computer Equipment	Straight line method over four years.

Trade debtors
Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Trade creditors
Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Fund structure
Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees's discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside for specific purposes at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations
The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme which is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	1,273	-	1,273
Donations from individuals	-	400	400
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	-	21,088	21,088
	1,273	21,488	22,761

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Donations and legacies;			
Donations from companies, trusts and similar proceeds	2,500	-	2,500
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	1,100	28,189	29,289
	3,600	28,189	31,789

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Support for families, children and young people	245,479	245,479

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £
Support for families, children and young people	242,787	242,787

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	1,531	1,531
	1,531	1,531

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	277	277
	277	277

6 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	35	35
	35	35

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £
Interest receivable and similar income;		
Interest receivable on bank deposits	71	71
	71	71

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2021 £
One-to-One Support for Families	250,200	21,933	272,133

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2020 £
One-to-One Support for Families	230,856	27,856	258,712

	Activity undertaken directly £	2021 £	2020 £
Gross Salary Costs	229,637	229,637	208,925
Temporary Staff and Recruitment Costs	686	686	5,261
Promotion and Advertising	217	217	1,718
Family Activity Costs	5,054	5,054	1,442
Rent	9,360	9,360	9,360
Office and General Expenses	16,682	16,682	15,732
Training for Staff and Volunteers	713	713	1,259
Consultancy and Affiliation Fees	5,140	5,140	4,517
Staff and Volunteer Expenses	1,113	1,113	8,567
Other Expenses	208	208	396
Depreciation Charge	2,473	2,473	731
	271,283	271,283	257,908

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £850 (2020 - £804) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 8 for further details.

8 Analysis of governance and support costs

Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	850	850
	850	850

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2020 £
Independent examiner fees		
Examination of the financial statements	804	804
	804	804

9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	204,237	185,672
Social security costs	10,427	9,420
Pension costs	14,972	13,833
	229,636	208,925

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Scheme Manager	1	1
Office Co-ordinator	1	1
Family Support Service Co-ordinator	1	1
Volunteer Co-ordinator	1	2
Family Support Worker	7	9
	11	14

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £33,984 (2020 - £19,339). During the year ended 31 March 2020 the charity was without a Scheme Manager between August 2019 and January 2020 and consequently, total employee benefits for key management personel are lower for the previous year.

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2020	5,987	5,987
Additions	7,645	7,645
At 31 March 2021	13,632	13,632
Depreciation		
At 1 April 2020	4,665	4,665
Charge for the year	2,473	2,473
At 31 March 2021	7,138	7,138
Net book value		
At 31 March 2021	6,494	6,494
At 31 March 2020	1,322	1,322

12 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	-	67,896
Prepayments	6,119	179
	6,119	68,075

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	7,293	827
Other taxation and social security	2,492	3,525
Other creditors	1,827	2,104
Accruals	850	2,744
	12,462	9,200

14 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £14,972 (2020 - £13,833).
Pension costs are apportioned between unrestricted and restricted funds depending upon which project the employee works on.

15 Funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted					
General					
General fund	146,462	248,318	(249,819)	1,001	145,962
Designated					
Scheme Closure	65,000	-	-	-	65,000
Total unrestricted	211,462	248,318	(249,819)	1,001	210,962
Restricted					
The Community Foundation for Staffordshire	-	3,299	(3,299)	-	-
BBC Children in Need	826	17,789	(18,615)	-	-
Henry Smith	1,001	-	-	(1,001)	-
Other	-	400	(400)	-	-
Total restricted	1,827	21,488	(22,314)	(1,001)	-
Total funds	213,289	269,806	(272,133)	-	210,962

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted funds					
General					
General fund	195,583	246,735	(230,856)	(65,000)	146,462
Designated					
Scheme Closure	-	-	-	65,000	65,000
Total unrestricted funds	195,583	246,735	(230,856)	-	211,462
Restricted					
BBC Children in Need	676	17,789	(17,639)	-	826
Henry Smith	695	10,400	(10,094)	-	1,001
Other	123	-	(123)	-	-
Total restricted funds	1,494	28,189	(27,856)	-	1,827
Total funds	197,077	274,924	(258,712)	-	213,289

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

BBC Children in Need
To fund our Big Hopes Big Futures project which is aimed at supporting children to be 'school ready' through play and interaction opportunities. Trained volunteers offer regular consistent support with structured, targeted activities designed to help build confidence, promote development and foster independence. Children experiencing disadvantage will receive focused play and attention that is designed to reduce the attainment gap between them and their more advantaged peers.

The Community Foundation for Staffordshire
To fund new smart phones and data for the new Time4You service.

Henry Smith
To fund volunteers to provide one to one support to families in their own homes to help them develop strategies to manage their households and children. Volunteers help parents to access specialist support to help them manage their mental health and well being, encourage parents to take up volunteering opportunities and offer support in overcoming the challenges of family life to ensure the best start in life for children.

Other
Small grants from Buttle UK, Family Holiday Association, Glasspool Charity Trust and donations from individuals to fund holidays or specific equipment or items for families in need.

Designated Fund - Scheme Closure
The trustees have designated £65,000 of reserves in the event of the scheme having to close.

Transfers between funds
£1,001 was transferred from the Henry Smith Fund to unrestricted funds during the year. £620 was not correctly allocated as resticted fund expenditure during the course of the project and the final £381 was the unspent balance at the end of the project due to savings being paid on various items and which can be transferred for use for the general purposes of the charity.

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds		Total funds at 31 March 2021
	General	Designated	
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	6,494	-	6,494
Current assets	151,930	65,000	216,930
Current liabilities	(12,462)	-	(12,462)
Total net assets	145,962	65,000	210,962

	Unrestricted funds		Restricted funds	Total funds at 31 March 2020
	General	Designated		
	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	2,980	-	-	2,980
Current assets	152,122	65,000	2,387	219,509
Current liabilities	(8,640)	-	(560)	(9,200)
Total net assets	146,462	65,000	1,827	213,289

17 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.