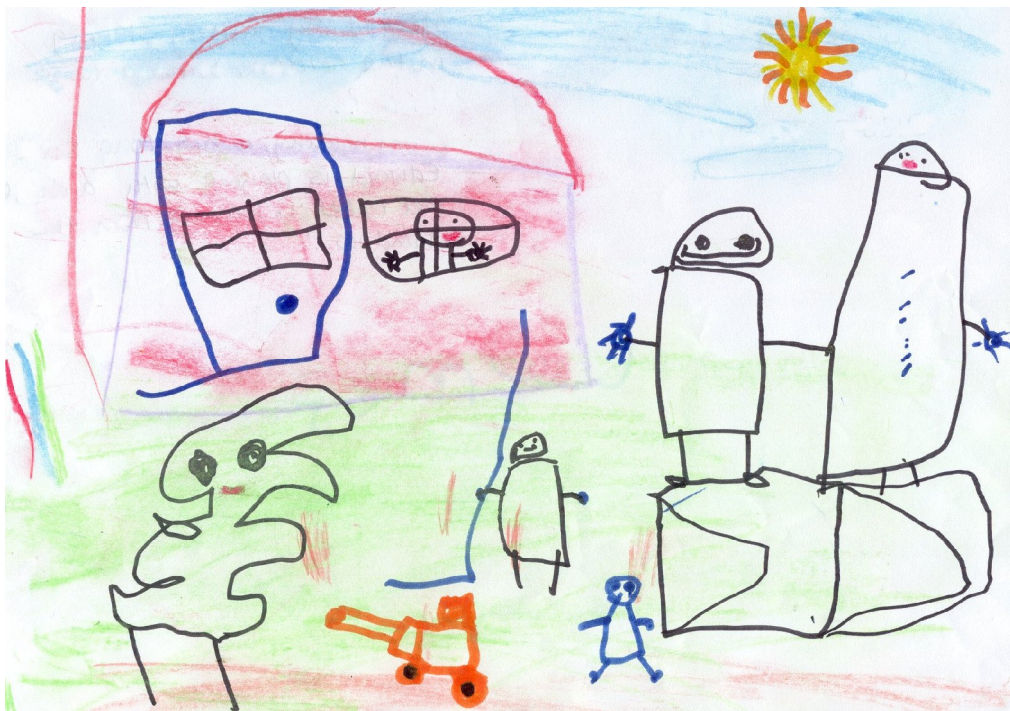


Home-Start Cotswolds



Annual Report & Accounts **2006-2007**



Registered Charity No. 1110632
Company Limited by Guarantee, No. 5468592



Home-Start Cotswolds Annual Report from the Trustees

(Covering period April 2006 – March 2007)

How we work

Home Start Cotswolds is a Registered Charity, and a Charitable Company limited by guarantee. It is governed by the Memorandum and Articles of Association, as advised by Home Start UK.

Our Charity Registration number is 1110632 and we became a Charity on 28th July 2005. Our Company Registration number is 5468592, and we were incorporated as a Company on 1st June 2005.

This is the second Annual Report of this charity.

What Do We Do?

Home Start Cotswolds is a local charity that exists to provide support for families in Cirencester and the surrounding area with at least one child under the age of 5 years. To do this, we recruit volunteers who are parents themselves, and prepare them for this role with 40 hours of training. Then the volunteer is matched to a family they have suitable experience to support, and visit them in the family home once a week.

Families can refer themselves to us, as well as being referred by Health Visitors, GPs, Social Workers and other professionals. We will provide services to families who meet our criteria as long as we have an appropriate volunteer to help. Volunteers are supported via an ongoing system of training and back up.



*'Me and My Family'
by James, (age 4yrs).*

Who are the Trustees & Directors?

The present trustees began serving as volunteers in January 2005 to set up the charity. They became trustees when charity status was established. It is Home Start policy that a trustee should only serve in any one post for a maximum of three years before being subject to an election.

The trustees are:

Kim Hartshorne	Chair
Clare Baker	Vice Chair
Antony Jones	Treasurer
Hilary Morris	Secretary
Jackie Colburn	
Christine Hall	
Carolyn Ford	

The above named trustees are also Directors of the Company with Antony Jones holding the position of Company Secretary.

Where Do We Work?

The principle activity of Home Start takes place from our administrative office at:
33 Coxwell Street
Cirencester
GL7 2BT
T: 01285 885391.

We moved into this new office in November - due to expansion, our previous office was no longer big enough. These premises are provided free of charge by Cirencester Baptist Church, to whom we express our gratitude for supporting our work. Thanks also to all those who voluntarily decorated the new office space and helped us settle in, and to Mike Willis for his generous assistance.

Our Registered Office address is:
203 Alexander Drive
Cirencester
GL7 1UH

Other Contact Information

We bank with Natwest Cirencester branch, Market Place, Cirencester.

Our Auditor is Mr Christopher Rowles
2, Keble Close
The Maples
Cirencester.

Where Does Our Money Come From?

Home Start Cotswolds is funded by a mixture of grants from the public sector and charitable trusts, fundraising and donations from private individuals. We are a not-for-profit organisation and our Directors, Trustees and volunteers are unpaid, although expenses are reimbursed.

Currently we are in the second year of a three-year grant from The Big Lottery. Our other main source of income is a generous regular donation from a private individual. This money is earmarked to fund our expansion into the North Cotswolds, beginning in September 2007.

We also benefited from grants from The Notgrove Trust, Cirencester Town Council, Bibury & Winson Parish Council, and were also awarded a share of the proceeds from the Bibury Cricket Club Charity Duck Race!

A copy of the audited Annual Accounts for 2006-2007 are attached to this Annual Report.

How We Make Decisions

We make most of our decisions at our Management Board Meetings which are attended by trustees, paid staff, specialist advisers and members. Discussion takes place freely between all parties at the meeting, but major decisions are made by trustee vote on the basis of the information discussed.

The paid staff are responsible for running the day-to-day operation of the Scheme while the Trustees are responsible for financial and strategic planning.

Our paid staff comprises two part-time Organisers, Sarah Mais and Katharine Campbell, who operate a job share between them. Our part-time Administrator is Kate Rhodes. The Trustees would like to honour and recognise the staff for all their hard work and enthusiasm this year, and their families for their support. We also thank Christine Hall, who has supported the Organisers in a supervisory capacity.



Home-Start Cotswolds paid staff (left to right): Katharine Campbell (Organiser), Sarah Mais (Organiser), Kate Rhodes (Administrator)

Volunteers

At the end of March 2007 we had trained 22 volunteers. They were supporting 20 families, including 60 children. Another 9 volunteers were training on the third Preparation course (which finished May 2007).

Our volunteers come from every walk of life, and bring a wide range of experience to Home-Start. The length of time they are with a family varies – some are still with their initial family eight months on, while others are able to move to support a new family in a shorter time.

“The course is excellent, the training has been enlightening and inclusive”

Volunteer

Volunteers are supported through regular one to one supervision as well as receiving on going training at bi-monthly support groups. Speakers at the support group meetings this year have included Social Services, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Parentline, Watermoor Early Years centre, and Gloucestershire Drug and Alcohol Service (GDAS).

The Trustees would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers who give up their time and energy each week to support families and do so much which is perhaps unseen. We really appreciate all you do.



Volunteer Lorna Linton (left) with Jude Davis, who she visits weekly, and Jude's youngest child Pippa.

Summary of 2006 – 2007

The main achievement of this period was the successful recruiting, training and placing of volunteers with families, which is the main work of the charity. This was undertaken by the staff, who began their employment in March 2006.

Through Kate's hard work we established a regular newsletter and a website (www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk). Thanks to Raymond Fenton for creating this for us. We achieved positive media coverage via Cotswold District Council's newspaper, the Churn Project newsletter, Mosaic, and the Wilts and Glos Standard.

The Trustees all took part in training on the updated Safeguarding Children legislation and practice this year, and updated our procedures for dealing with child protection issues. Several of the Trustees also attended a Home-Start Regional Study Day in Bath, where we heard Margaret Harrison, the founder and Life President of Home-Start, speak.

The staff and trustees are actively involved in establishing our Quality Assurance system, prior to an Audit from Home-Start UK next year. Sarah Mais assumes lead responsibility for this area of our work.

"It allowed 2-3 hours away from the constant care of a child with autism to achieve some basic housekeeping. Also some vital adult company."

Family supported by Home-Start Cotswolds

Home-Start provided
"A great deal of support when the baby was first born and I felt a little out of my depth. Also it made a big difference to us to be able to talk to another experienced mother for help, support and advice"

Family supported by Home-Start Cotswolds

Looking Ahead

The year 2007/08 will see the work of the charity grow as more volunteers are recruited and trained, and then matched to more families. We plan to run another Volunteers Preparation course, in October 2007.

Our next major activity is the establishment of Home Start Cotswolds in the North Cotswolds area. We are recruiting a new part-time Organiser to do this who will start work in September 2007. This will operate out of the newly refurbished Youth Club building in Stow on the Wold, and we thank all the Trustees and Management Board at the Youth Club for their partnership, and to Cotswold District Council for their support.

Thanks

Thank you for taking the time to read the second Annual Report and Accounts. We appreciate all the support we have received in many forms during this year, and wish to thank all the volunteers, staff, advisers and funding partners for their belief in this charity, which is supporting many local families.

The Trustees
28th August 2007.