

# Home-Start Cotswolds



## *Annual Report* *2005-2006*

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



## Home-Start Cotswolds Annual Report from the Trustees

(Covering period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2006)

### 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 28<sup>th</sup> July 2005. Our Company Registration number is 5468592, and we were incorporated as a Company on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2005.

This is the first 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 of 5 years and under. 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 who they have suitable experience to support, and visit them in the family home once a week.

Families can refer themselves to us, or Health Visitors, GP's, Social Workers or other professionals can refer. We will provide services as long as we have an appropriate volunteer to help. Volunteers are supported via an ongoing system of training and back-up.



*"It is so good to have someone I can call a friend. I wish there were more people like her about. I don't think I could have got through the lot if it wasn't for Sue."*

*Family supported  
by Home-Start in the UK*

## Who Are The Trustees & Directors?

The present trustees began serving as volunteers in January 2005 in order 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 seeking re-election or standing down. Trustees are elected at each Annual General Meeting by the members.

The trustees are:

Kim Hartshorne	Chair
Clare Baker	Vice Chair
Tony Jones	Treasurer
Hilary Morris	Secretary

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

## Where Do We Work?

The principle activity of Home-Start takes place from our administrative office at:

35 Coxwell Street  
Cirencester  
GL7 2BT  
T: 01285 885391

These premises are provided free of charge by Cirencester Baptist Church, to whom we express our gratitude for supporting our work.

Our Registered Office address is:

203 Alexander Drive  
Cirencester  
GL7 1UH  
T: 01285 655968

## 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 supported by major grants from The National Lottery, Cotswold District Council's Second Homes and Crime and Disorder funds, and the Primary Care Trust.

## How We Make Decisions

We make most of our decisions at our Management Board Meetings. These 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 comprise two part-time Organisers who operate a job share between them, and a part-time Administrator.



*Sarah Mais (left) and Katharine Campbell (right), Home-Start Cotswolds Organisers.*

## Summary of 2005 – 2006

The main achievement of this period was the successful start up and establishment of the work of the charity in Cirencester. We secured funding for a 3 year period which allowed us to acquire premises and recruit staff. However, as the staff did not begin their employment until March 2006, the majority of the costs of this will not be seen until the next set of annual accounts.

## Looking Ahead

The year 2006/07 will see the work of the charity grow as more volunteers are recruited and trained, and then matched to more families. Following our first Volunteer Preparation course in June/July 2006, we plan to run two more Volunteer Preparation courses, in October 2006 and again in January 2007. We also plan to continue to develop strong working relationships with our main referring agencies in the area.

A major objective will be to expand the work of Home-Start Cotswolds into the North Cotswolds area, recruiting a new staff member to do this. This is being made possible due to a generous donation from a local individual supporter.

## Thanks

Thank you for taking the time to read this first Annual Report and the attached Accounts. We appreciate all the support we have received in many forms during this first year, and wish to thank all the volunteers, paid staff, advisers and funding partners for their belief in this charity, which we hope will improve the lives of many local families and the children in their care.

*The Trustees*  
*28<sup>th</sup> August 2006.*