

Chairpersons Report

The staff team have had yet another very busy year. We have continued to deliver all of our projects and services and our outcomes demonstrate the positive successes we have achieved. We have had to face both external factors such as the cost of living and increased demand for our services as well as internal challenges such as ensuring we have sufficient funding in place to run all of our services. Throughout the year we have made significant impact on the lives of our families through our volunteers providing weekly home visits for 2-3 hours a week. Over this last year we have provided support to 135 families and 286 children.

In the coming year we plan to secure sufficient funding to keep the Scheme operational for the next three years and maintain our current services; to diversify our outreach to support parents who are experiencing mental health issues and children who are neurodiverse. We also plan to liaise with Kent County Council and Public Health regarding the new Family Hubs. We have already had preliminary discussions regarding the new family coaches and hope to be working in partnership with all the Home-Start Schemes in Kent.

Our dedicated board of trustees continue to grow and ensure transparency and responsible governance. We maintain transparency through annual financial audits and open communication with our funders. Our commitment to accountability is unwavering. The trustees value and appreciate all the hard work of the staff team and volunteers and how their involvement is such an important part of the work we do.

Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of the financial year we had an overall surplus budget of approximately £3,215.00. During the year we managed to obtain additional funding and donations which resulted in a surplus of £25,053 at the end of the financial year.

In April 2020 the Charity was successful with a 3 Year Big Lottery Grant of £285,950 and a 3 year Henry Smith grant of £145,100 these gave the Charity financial security for 3 Years.

The Charity was also successful in May 2020 in obtaining funding from Children In Need for £30,000 over three years towards parenting support. During this financial year we have also received funding from an Early Help Grant to fund an Outreach Project and have received a grant of £10,000 from the Kent Community Foundation to help fund the Family Groups. £9,617 was received from a KCC Re-Connect Grant to fund a Babble Chatter Talking Matters project.

We are extremely grateful for all funding and donations received during this financial year and for the coming financial year which will enable us to continue to support many families through our home-visiting support and also through our Outreach Projects and Family Groups.

Total incoming resources for the year saw an increase from £209,352 to £243,301. Total expenditure increased from £191,737 to £218,248. The Trustees were able to offer a 4.0% pay increase to staff salaries this year and staff entitled to an 'incremental' rise received this as per their contracts. The Trustees continued to offer a contributory staff pension.

We have been able to offer a full service this year and have supported more families than we are funded for which represents extremely good value for money and a valued support to many families.

Our Core Belief:

Home-Start Dover District believes that children need a happy and secure childhood and that parents play a key role in giving children a good start in life and helping them achieve their full potential.

Our Mission:

Home-Start Dover District offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children.

Home-Start Dover District offers a unique service, recruiting and training volunteers – who have parenting experience – to visit families at home and to offer informal, friendly and confidential support.

In addition to this Home-Start Dover District offers services including family groups, Outreach Project and training courses.

To help give children the best possible start in life, Home-Start Dover District supports parents to grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with children and widen their links with the local community.

Our Vision:

Home-Start Dover District wants to see a society in which every parent has the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

Our Values:

Home-Start Dover District's values are the principles that Home-Start holds most dear and through which we work.

They are: non-judgmental support, friendship, caring partnership, lightness of touch, trust and respect.

Director/Trustee Members 2022— 2023

Penny Stephens	Chairperson	Specialist
Pat Wheeler	Treasurer / Vice Chair	Independent
Amy Roe	Specialist	
Graham Hutchison	Specialist	
Di Cawsey	Volunteer Representative	
Sarah Brisley	Independent—Resigned 9.11.22	
Diana Crossley	Independent	
Sarah Hindle	Independent	
Andrea Rees	Independent	
Paul Gates	Independent—Appointed 9.11.22	

We received funding from:

The Big Lottery; Henry Smith; Children In Need; Kent County Council; Home-Start UK; : Kent Community Foundation; Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust; Wards

Our Partnerships:

SureStart—(Dover, Deal & Sandwich Children's Centres) Early Help and Preventative Services; Children's Social Work Services Dover; NHS-Eastern & Coastal Kent; Dover & Deal Foodbank; Fare Share; Dover & District Volunteer Center; Canterbury Christchurch University

Our thanks to:

Dover Lions; Easy Fundraising; Inkind Direct; Waitrose Canterbury; British Telecom; Dover Shoe Box Appeal; White Stuff; Lidl; DFDS

HOME START

Dover District



**ANNUAL REPORT
2022-2023**

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W: www.homestartdover.org.uk

Bank: Nat West Dover Branch
25 Market Square
Dover Kent
CT16 1XY

Auditors: Xeinadin Audit Ltd
Becket House
36 Old Jewry
London, EC2R 8DD

Charity Registration No. 1102201 Company No. 4974145



Suzanne, Vicki, Tracy, Lorraine, Ruth, Claire & Rebecca,
the dedicated Home-Start Team

Scheme Manager's Report

Looking back over this last year I think we have a lot to reflect on. Just when we thought we were recovering from the pandemic we then had to embrace the cost of living crisis. We were already being flexible with the support we offered our families and then we had to factor in the sudden increases in fuel and food prices. As always we remained pragmatic about everything and thought how we could best support our families, in the ways we knew best.

We were fortunate to be able to apply for funding from Wards Emergency Fund and also received funding from Kent Community Foundation which enabled us to meet the diverse needs of our families. We did this by asking them what they needed to get through the difficult months ahead and their requests varied from a pair of thermal socks to a new cooker. We were also able to hand out Aldi vouchers to our families, free Chrome Books donated by BT and new shoes donated by Russell and Bromley.

We were successful with our application to the Phillip Connie Foundation to fund a part time Counsellor who has provided 8 hours counselling to parents in need of support. We have continued to provide our core service this year offering emotional and practical support to our families who have mental health issues and to children who need support around their emotional health and wellbeing. Our ever popular Babble Chatter Talking Matters project has been very successful and we continue to run this with a waiting list. In addition, our two Family Workers have been able to continue to offer support to children with a diagnosis of Autism or ADHD or on the pathway for a diagnosis.

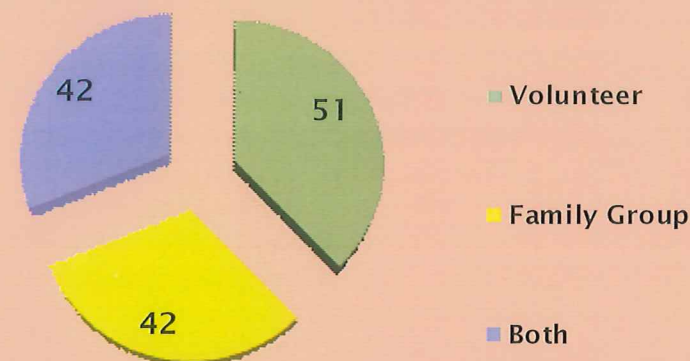
We were also paid a visit by the Directors of the Port of Dover who wanted to see our Family Groups in Action as they were funding the groups through a Port of Dover Grant. They were very impressed with the group and immediately saw the need for our groups in the local community.

We were also privileged to be awarded the High Sheriff of Kent Award and all the staff attended an Awards evening at the Mercure Hotel where we were given a cheque for £500. We were made to feel very welcome and appreciated by the VIP's attending.

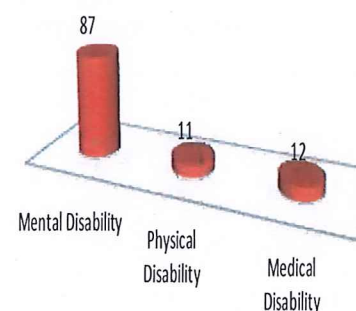
We have been very fortunate to keep all of our wonderful volunteers who have been extremely busy in the community supporting families and it goes without saying that if were not for them, we would not be able to operate as Home-Start Dover District. Our volunteers are the heart of our organisation and 'Thank You' sometimes does not seem enough, but we really do value them and appreciate all they do.

Funding for our Scheme continues to be a concern for the forthcoming year, but we are not alone as the voluntary sector in general is struggling to secure enough funding and volunteers to keep 'afloat'. Nonetheless we all remain resolute in our determination to keep Home-Start Dover District running and active in the local community. We have accrued 28 years of knowledge and experience which needs to be valued and harnessed to continue the excellent work that we do.

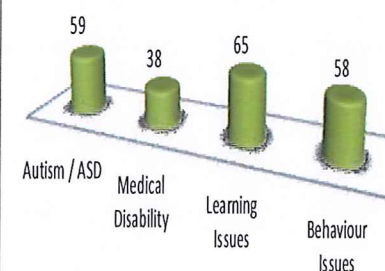
Type of Support given through the year



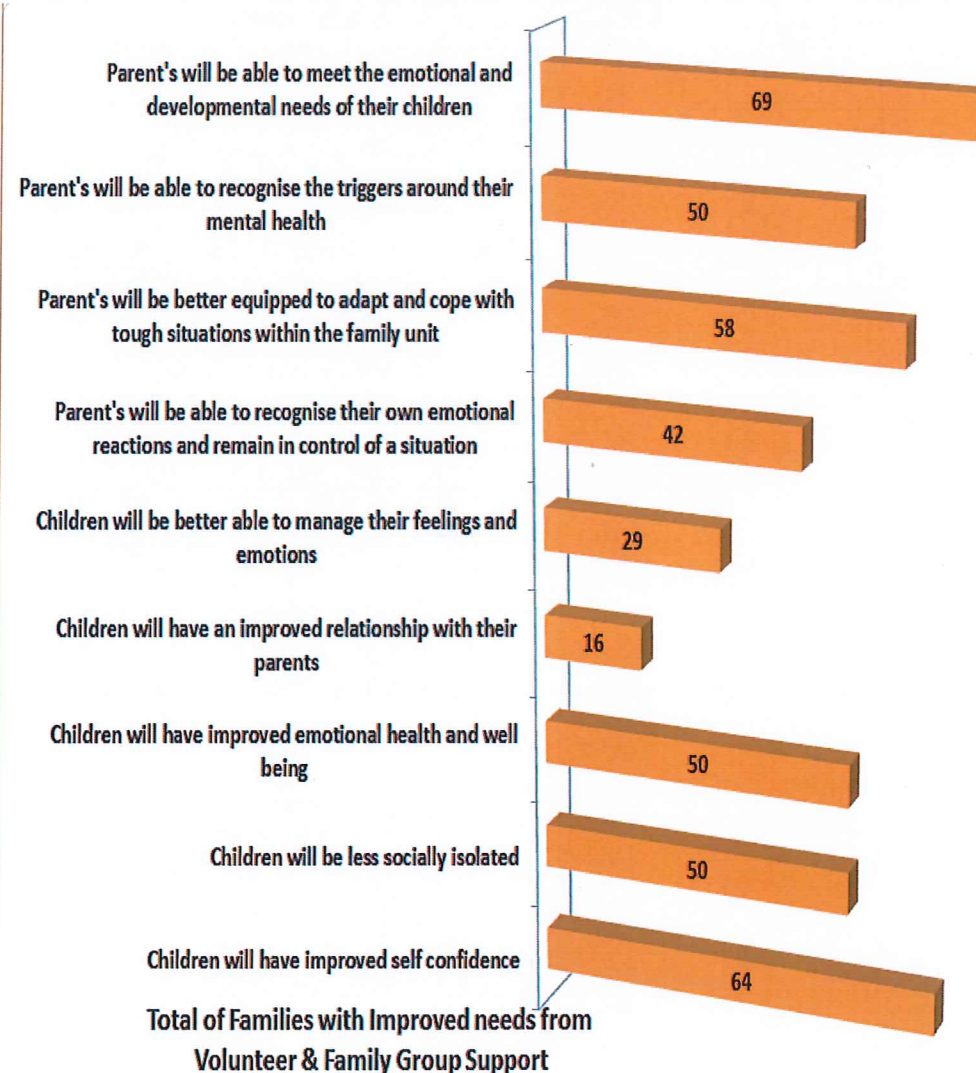
Adults supported with a Disability



Children Supported with a Disability



FAMILIES WITH IMPROVED NEEDS FROM VOLUNTEER & FAMILY GROUP SUPPORT



VOLUNTEERS

- Vicki A
- Lyn B
- Jill C
- Katie A
- Natalie C
- Lynn C
- Diane C
- Lisa C
- Simone C
- Antony C
- Martelle D
- Christine E
- Susan B
- Anne G
- Julie G
- Joy H
- Twigy H
- Chloe H
- Joan H
- Davina J
- Jennifer K
- Jacqueline L
- Margaret L
- Dina M
- Jo M
- Rachel M
- Amanda O
- Anna-Marie O
- Amy C
- Layla P
- Tazmin F
- Glyn R
- Catherine R
- Ruth S
- Sharon S
- Rebecca T
- Carolina S
- Rachel S
- Debbie T
- Susan W
- Christine W

ENDED VOLUNTEERS

- Sally C
- Kelly E
- Sue P
- Hannah R
- Sally R
- Pam S
- Dina M
- Sarah S

a Heartfelt



TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

During 2022-2023 our volunteers have offered over 1000 hours of support and friendship to families either through Home-Visiting Support or at our Dover and Deal Family Groups. 135 families were supported during 2022-2023 with 85% of the monitored family support outcomes showing significant improvements. The improvements achieved within the families we support would not be possible without our dedicated team of volunteers. A huge thank you to our 49 amazing volunteers.

Throughout 2022/2023 we supported 135 families and 286 children

Babble, Chatter, Talking Matters

Reconnect Funding was obtained to launch a new project Babble, Chatter, Talking Matters, offering children one to one speech and language support in their home. Our Family Worker visits once a week offering one hour sessions for six weeks. Fun activities are carried out with the child and parent using sounds, gestures, visual games, Makaton, signing and much more to help improve the child's communication.

This project has been very successful and there is a waiting list for support. Additional funding has been obtained to enable the continuation of this project into 2023.

Referral Source 2022-2023

