

Chairpersons Report

The team have worked hard again this year to support the families that have been referred often with complex needs and we have had a variety of different programmes on offer to support those needs. We continue to retain our core volunteers, and their enthusiasm clearly shows through when meeting with them at social events such as coffee mornings, afternoon tea, or lunches. We are particularly grateful to their continuing support to our families and the skills they bring that enable families to better cope with their lives.

Tracy continues to apply for funding from various agencies and she engages the local community which enables her to gain access to local resources. The team uses these local resources to facilitate and provide different services and point people towards resources available. We continued to provide food parcels as we are supported by local supermarkets and there have been various other donations made of toys and clothes available to our families.

The trustee board continues to be grateful to our team and is supportive in all their endeavours. We have lost one of our trustees due to work commitments but have gained another who has also become a volunteer and is able to use her previous work experience to support our families. We continue to try to engage with the local social services management and teams, however this continues to be a challenge, but we will continue to try and collaborate with them particularly around their knowledge of what Home-Start has to offer.

Tracy and the team have supported students from two universities and they have benefited from the team's knowledge and experience of working with families. The placement offered by Home-Start provides a good grounding in working with families in their own homes and they can go on in their social work degree to take these experiences and build upon them as they move through their careers.

As trustees we are incredibly grateful and appreciate all the hard work from the volunteers and staff who under Tracy's excellent management continue to provide various programs alongside the volunteers support to families in the Dover District.

Treasurer's Report

At the beginning of the financial year we had a deficit budget of approximately £76,500. During the year we managed to obtain additional funding and donations which resulted in an overall deficit of £41,087 at the end of the financial year. The Management Committee have continually monitored the Income and Expenditure and agreed to use Reserves to cover the deficit.

In April 2023 the Charity was successful with a 3 Year Big Lottery Grant of £287,646 towards our Embrace Project and a 3 year grant of 45,000 from Colyer Fergusson for the Outreach Project. In July 2023 a 3 year grant of £98,361 was awarded by the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation and a 1 year grant of £15,000 was awarded by Garfield Weston both for the Embrace Project.

The Charity was also successful with 3 year funding of £30,000 through the Kent Community Foundation to fund the Family Groups. 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 a decrease from £243,301 to £192,435. Total expenditure increased from £218,248 to £233,522. The Trustees were able to offer a 5.0% 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 many more families than we are funded for which represents extremely good value for money and a valued support to many families. However to enable this the Charity has needed to use some of its Reserves during this financial year but still meets the stipulations in the Charities Reserve Policy.

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 2023— 2024

Penny Stephens	Chairperson	Specialist
Pat Wheeler	Treasurer / Vice Chair	Independent
Amy Papworth	Specialist	
Graham Hutchison	Specialist	
Di Cawsey	Volunteer Representative	
Diana Crossley	Independent	
Sarah Hindle	Independent	
Andrea Rees	Independent	
Paul Gates	Independent	
Robert Walsh	Independent—Appointed 26.4.23 / Resigned 19.2.24	
Julia Keeble-Edwards	Independent—Appointed 25.10.23	

We received funding from:

The Big Lottery; Trusthouse; Garfield Weston; Home-Start UK; Kent Community Foundation; Colyer Fergusson; Social Enterprise Kent; Dover District Council

Our Partnerships:

Dover, Deal & Sandwich Children's Centres; Early Help and Preventative Services; Children's Social Work Services Dover; NHS-Eastern & Coastal Kent; Dover & Deal Foodbank; Neighbourly; Dover & District Volunteer Centre; Canterbury Christchurch University; University of Kent

Our thanks to:

Dover Lions; Easy Fundraising; Inkind Direct; Waitrose Canterbury; Lidl; St Edmunds Catholic School; Project Linus; Danielle Brenchley; KMFM—Give a Gift Christmas Appeal

HOME START

Dover District



ANNUAL REPORT 2023-2024

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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
12 Conqueror Ct
Sittingbourne
Kent, ME10 5BH

Charity Registration No. 1102201 Company No. 4974145



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

Scheme Manager's Report

We have continued to have another busy year supporting our families. We were able to successfully meet our targets for our funders with very positive outcomes. The ongoing cost of living crisis has continued to impact on the wellbeing of families. Over the winter months we were able to hand out Aldi food vouchers, courtesy of Dover District Council, to struggling families as well as apply to the Dover District Household Support Fund to purchase white goods and other household items. We were fortunate to receive funding from Social Enterprise Kent which has enabled us to provide breakfast for the whole family on a Friday morning at our very busy family group in Dover. We are looking to extend this to the Deal group at some point, as this has been so successful. Neighbourly has continued to support us with food donations and food is distributed at both family groups. Project Linus has very kindly supplied us with handmade quilts, all different and beautifully made. We have given these out to our families and they have been very much appreciated.

Over this last year we have received 167 referrals into the Scheme. These have all been triaged by our Family Support Coordinators and most of them have all received an initial home visit to arrange appropriate support. Families have been supported by either a volunteer, family practitioner or student social worker. Having a range of different support levels has enabled us to deliver a flexible service and to be able to meet the needs of the more complex families.

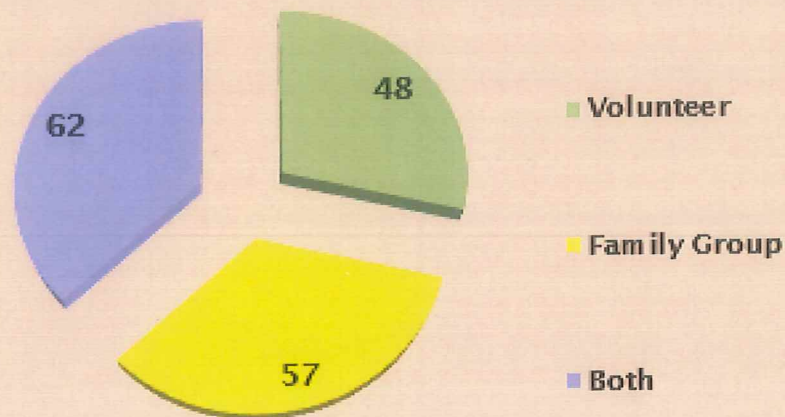
Underpinning our volunteer home visiting support service we have continued to offer counselling to parents who are struggling with their mental health and speech and language play therapy to children needing support through Babble, Chatter, Talking, Matters.

Recruiting volunteers has remained a challenge for us and most of the Schemes in Kent, despite widely advertising on many platforms, numbers have been lower than expected. However, the new volunteers that we have recruited have proved to be very committed and passionate about the work they deliver. We took the volunteers out to the new Kearsney Abbey Tea rooms for an afternoon tea, as a way of saying thank you to them and held a Christmas buffet and quiz. Volunteering remains at the heart of all the good work we do and we would not be able to continue as an organisation if it weren't for their wonderful gift of time.

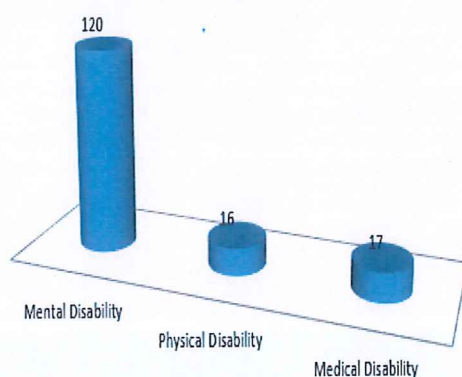
We were able to put on 2 wonderful Christmas parties and we were fortunate to be supported by Danielle Brenchley, KMFM Give a Gift Christmas Campaign, Lidl, and St Edmunds Secondary School who donated presents to the children and put a smile on all of their faces. Also, Dover Lions donated Christmas hampers to our families. They have been supporting us for approximately 15 years!

All the support we have delivered this year has only happened due to the hard work, compassion and dedication of the staff and volunteer teams. My grateful thanks go out to all concerned. Over the forthcoming year it is vital that we retain all our current support services and funding levels to meet the ever growing needs of the community we support.

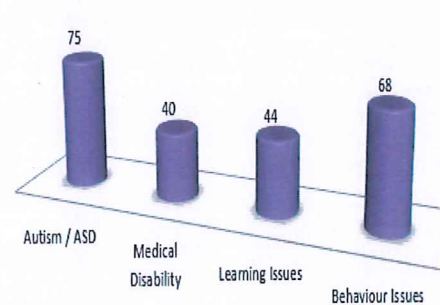
Type of Support given through the year



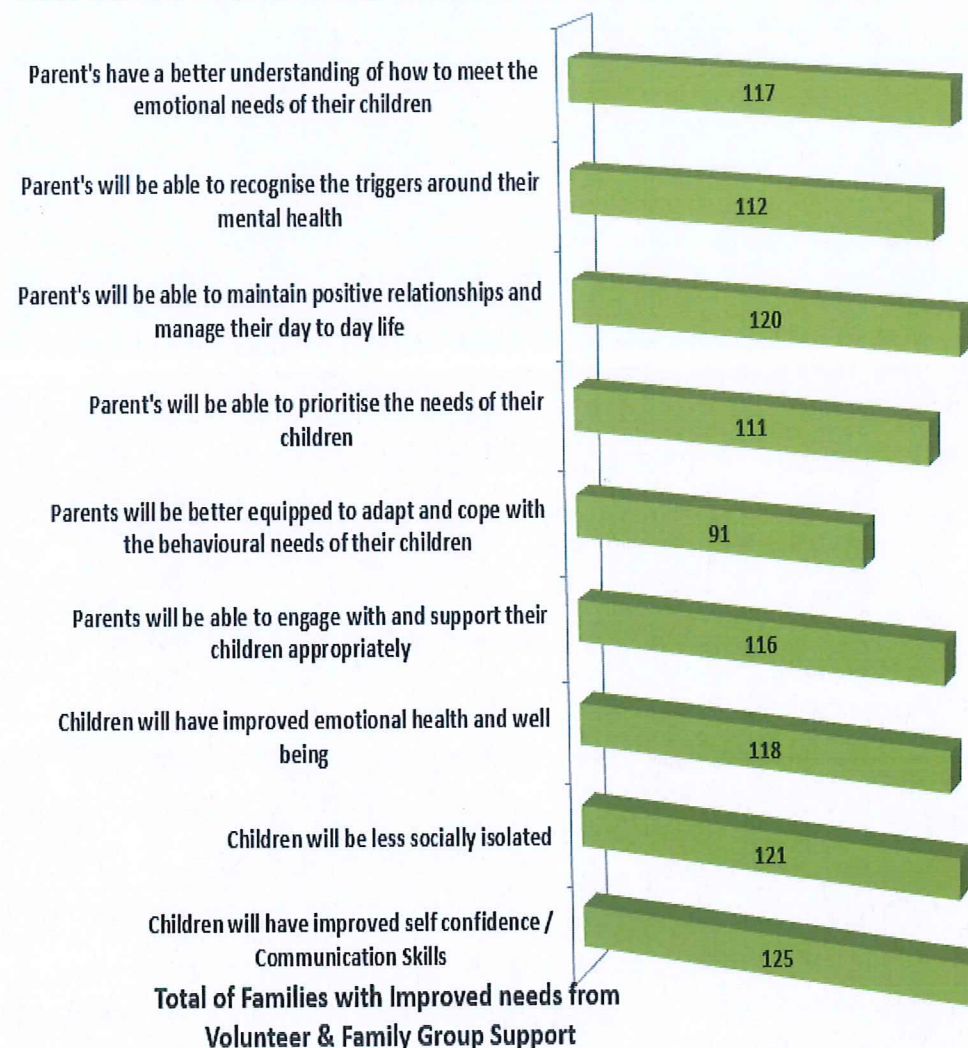
Adults supported with a Disability



Children Supported with a Disability



FAMILIES WITH IMPROVED NEEDS FROM VOLUNTEER & FAMILY GROUP SUPPORT



VOLUNTEERS

- Vicki A
- Lyn B
- Jill C
- Katie A
- Melanie E
- Lynn C
- Diane C
- Sharon O
- 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
- Jo M
- Rachel M
- Amanda O
- Anna-Marie O
- Glyn R
- Catherine R
- Ruth S
- Sharon S
- Carolina S
- Debbie T
- Susan W
- Christine W

ENDED VOLUNTEERS

- Tazmin F
- Rachel S
- Amy C
- Margaret L
- Layla P
- Lisa C
- Natalie C



Heartfelt THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

During 2023-2024 our volunteers have offered over 2238 hours of support and friendship to families either through Home-Visiting Support or at our Dover and Deal Family Groups. 167 families were supported during 2023-2024 with 88% 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 41 amazing volunteers.

Throughout 2023/2024 we supported 167 families and 379 children

50 Year's of Home-Start UK

During the year Home-Start UK celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first families being supported by Home-Start founder Margaret Harrison in Leicester. In the following 50 years Home-Start grew across the UK, and also around the world. Home-Start's approach to working with families demonstrated the power of little moments of support, and the positive lifelong impact it has on children, families, and communities. Home-Start Dover District are very proud to be part of this incredible movement that has supported over 1.5 million children over the last five decades.

REFERRAL SOURCE 2023-2024

