

HOME START

Kettering Area

Annual Report and Accounts
2021/2022



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 [homestart.ketteringarea](https://www.facebook.com/homestart.ketteringarea)

 [HSKettering](https://twitter.com/HSKettering)

Home-Start Kettering Area Company Details

Home-Start Kettering Area was established in 1994 to provide families with children under five support and friendship.

We work with local volunteers, trustees and funders to provide vital services for families in the area including Kettering, Desborough, Rothwell and surrounding villages.



Registered Charity Name

Home-Start Kettering Area

Charity Registration Number

1114030

Registered Office and Operational Address

William Knibb Centre
Montagu Street
Kettering
Northamptonshire

Company Registration Number

5709942

Patron

Lady Gayle Robinson

Board of Trustees

David Gwinn (Chair)
Bea Martin (Vice Chair and Volunteer Rep)
Sue Stokes (Treasurer)
Chris Arthurs (Safeguarding)
Steve Bocking (Health and Safety)
Robyn Allen (PR)
Keith Wright

Staff Members

Nikki Farrar-Hayton (Manager)
Donna Rockett (Office Administrator)

Accountants

Bewers Turner & Co
Portland House
13 Station Rd
Kettering
NN15 7HH

Bankers

Barclays Bank PLC
8 Market Place
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN16 0AX

This report covers Home-Start Kettering Area activities and financial statements.

Home-Start Kettering Area is committed to the safeguarding of children and families. A full list of our policies are available to view at our office, including Safeguarding, Code of Conduct, Health and Safety, Information Governance, Confidentiality and Data Protection.

Reach the family - Reach the child



What we do

Home-Start helps families with young children deal with whatever life throws at them. We support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. The benefits of our support include improved health and well-being and better family relationships.

We provide one-to-one support for parents

Our volunteers visit the family's home for a couple of hours every week. The support is tailored to the needs of the parents and children and usually lasts for up to 6 months. Parents and volunteers often develop a deeply trusting relationship which can lead to powerful change within the family.

Why it matters

What goes on inside a family determines the opportunities and life chances children have. Children who are raised in a stable, loving, family environment are more likely to have a positive and healthy future. But being a parent isn't easy and sometimes life can get in the way. Circumstances throw you off course and everything else can take a back seat. A young child caught up in this can miss out on the love, routine and stimulation that are so vital for their future.



Our Values

- We offer families choice
- We work in partnership – with each other, with families and with other agencies
- We work in a spirit of openness, encouragement and enjoyment
- We are flexible and responsive to the needs of families

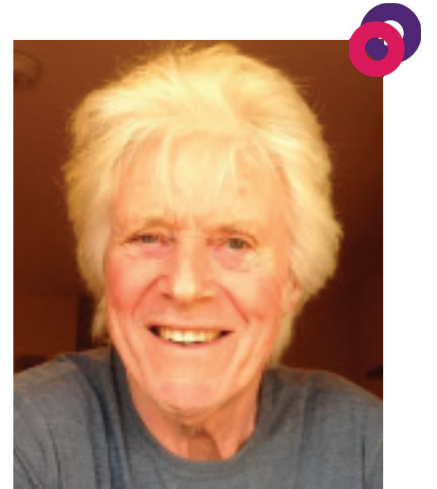
Home-Start works because most of our volunteers are parents and everyone completes 6 weeks comprehensive preparation. They understand how hard it can be. They work alongside parents, in their own homes, to help them cope with the stresses and strains of life and make sure they have the skills, time and strength they need to nurture their children.

Our vision:

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



Chair's Report – David Gwinn



2021-2022 has been another challenging year but I am happy to say that through the sterling efforts of our volunteers, Nikki our Manager and Donna our Office Administrator, we have come through with flying colours. Support and stability have always been the aim of Home-Start and this has been given all the way through the Covid pandemic.

Thanks to many small grants we have been able to achieve, we have come out of the pandemic financially sound.

A big thank you to Maidwell Hall School for their sponsorship which raised an amazing £28k, we shall always be eternally grateful.

This year saw John Leach step down as the Chair of Friends of Home-Start. John has over the years together with his team of helpers, raised many thousands of pounds and he will be sorely missed. I would like to thank John on behalf of the Board of Trustees for all his amazing work and support. We are looking for someone to step up to the mark and take on the role of Chair of Friends of Home-Start.

This AGM will see myself stepping down as Chair of Trustees after several years in the role. I feel I shall leave Home-Start Kettering in a sound state to go forward in the future. We would welcome more Trustees to come and join us.

Finally, thanks and appreciation to all those who have made this year successful despite Covid.

Volunteers – all of you extraordinary and caring people doing remarkable things, making a great deal of difference to the families you support.

Staff – Whose support, commitment, and enthusiasm for getting the job done has carried us through another year.

Funders – Whose financial support allows us to carry on our vital work.

Trustees – For all their support, encouragement, and guidance to the Scheme.

And finally, to our families who we support, for being so welcoming and trusting, it has been an honour to work with you.



Manager's Report – Nikki Farrar-Hayton

Every year around this time I sit and ponder what it is that has happened within Home-Start Kettering that I need to share in my report, and every year I feel an overwhelming gratitude to our amazing volunteers, who selflessly offer their time to help change the lives of local children and their families.

The pandemic has dominated our lives since March 2020, we've all had to adapt to a 'new normal,' although what it looks like is different for every person. For many, the year was spent mostly online – There were stretches of time without any face-to-face social interaction and throughout those times our wonderful volunteers offered a lifeline.

As well as being the year when we learn to live alongside the virus, 2022 looks set to bring particular challenges to low-income households. Rising living costs, particularly energy bills, are putting more pressure on families who are already struggling to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Whilst we are unable to give our families financial help, we are able to offer them someone to sit down with and help to maximise their income. Volunteers work with parents to ensure that they are getting the benefits that they are entitled to, that they are not overpaying on their bills and will also help them to create healthy meals on a budget. They go with them to the park to encourage them to get out of the house and get some fresh air, and hopefully to forget about their challenges for a while.

We have been overwhelmed by the support from local businesses and the community this year. Everything that we are able to pass on frees up a little more of a family's income, to make it go that bit further. This year we have:

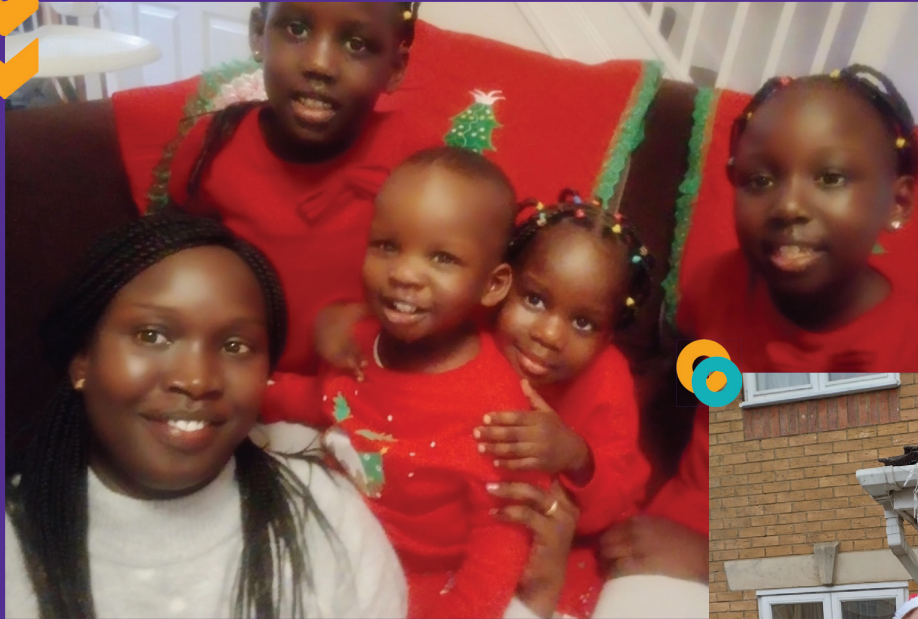
- Taken 99 children and their families to Wicksteed park, they each had a wristband and a wonderful picnic, complete with their own cool bag.
- Santa visited 90 children in 34 families across 8 areas of the borough and gave out presents to them all.
- Given 27 boxes of fresh fruit and salad to our families thanks to Keelings International, together with loads of treats on Blue Monday.
- Shared out hundreds of Easter Eggs, enough for every child and every parent that we have supported through the year.

We are particularly grateful to those Morrisons customers that drop donations into the trolley each week; their generosity allows us to maintain a supply of nappies, wipes and baby toiletries in the office, so that no parent has to limit the number of times they change their child because they cannot afford to buy nappies.

Throughout the year 34 amazing volunteers supported 73 families with 168 children – The work of our volunteers has never been more important!



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Family Story - Elizabeth

My name is Elizabeth, I have 4 children. In 2020 my Health Visitor referred me to Home-Start because I was pregnant and almost due and my husband was very sick fighting his life in the hospital with brain hemorrhage stroke, I was not working and I have no recourse to public funds. So things were not easy for me and my family, financially, food, clothes for unborn baby, etc.

Home-Start has really helped my family in so many ways, emotional support, food, children needs, and so on. Is like a second home to me. Is the only place where I run to when I'm always stuck eg baby nappies, wipes, baby lotion, baby food.

I really appreciate their support to me and other families. Please if they can get more donations they will be able to help and save many families that are also struggling like me.

Big thanks to the donors and Home-Start for their continued support and love to help.



Health Visiting Feedback

My name is Ann Binnie and I am a Health Visitor working in the Kettering area. I have worked closely with Home-Start in my health visiting career and have found the charity extremely supportive and beneficial for families. The aim of health visiting is to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. This is outlined in the DOH Healthy Child Programme which provides a framework to support collaborative work and more integrated delivery. It aims to:

- help parents, carers or guardians develop and sustain a strong bond with children
- support parents, carers or guardians in keeping children healthy and safe and reaching their full potential
- protect children from serious disease, through screening and immunisation
- reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating and physical activity
- promote oral health
- support resilience and positive maternal and family mental health
- support the development of healthy relationships and good sexual and reproductive health
- identify health and wellbeing issues early, so support and early interventions can be provided in a timely manner
- make sure children are prepared for and supported in all childcare, early years and education settings and are especially supported to be 'ready to learn at 2 and ready for school by 5

Being ready for school is assessed as every child reaching a level of development which enables them to:

- communicate their needs and have good vocabulary
- become independent in eating, getting dressed and going to the toilet
- take turns, sit still and listen and play
- socialise with peers, form friendships and separate from parent(s)
- have good physical health, including dental health
- be well nourished and within the healthy weight for height range
- have protection against vaccine-preventable infectious diseases, having received all childhood immunisations



My professional experience is that Kettering Home-Start supports the health visiting outcomes with the service they offer. In the last year I have referred families who have anecdotally fed back to me the positive value in their support.

Examples of Kettering Home-Start family support over the last year are:

- **Improving Mental Health Outcomes:** Home-Start have been able to improve maternal mental health by supporting parents to engage with health to improve wellbeing which in turn has enabled access groups and apply for nursery/school for their children.
- **Improving Financial Status:** Home-Start have also supported families to address housing and financial challenges to ensure the family are financially sound; able to provide for their children and have a suitable safe home.
- **Accessing health:** It has been a challenging year to access health with Covid restrictions. Home-Start have supported parents to access medical/immunisation appointments.
- **Supporting Parents with child development:** Home-Start worker supporting parents in mirroring activities to support children's developmental progress and accessing groups to support developmental progression.

Reference

DOH 2021 "Best start in life and beyond" https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/969168/Commissioning_guide_1.pdf accessed 22/04/22



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Volunteer Story - David

I have been a volunteer for about eighteen months and in that time I have visited six families – some for just a month or so and others for much longer. When I first started volunteering I wondered how just a two or three hour weekly visit could make that much difference. It soon became clear from the reaction of parents and particularly children that it really does.

It's heart-warming to hear children getting excited when I knock on the door and equally when they don't want me to leave at the end of my visit. Two or three hours a week is nothing to me but the children enjoy it and the parents appreciate it. The only downside is when visits come to an end but from the cards and messages of appreciation it is obvious that Home-Start has made a difference to them and that helps me as I move onto my next family.



Trustee Report - Bea

It seems amazing that we have rolled around to another Annual Report on the life and times of Home-Start Kettering. Somehow the impact of Covid seems to have made the time go faster. We are grateful, as always, to all our volunteers who have managed to continue to support families in the Kettering Borough during these challenging times. This support has been greatly appreciated by our many families. As the impact of higher prices for energy, food and petrol start to hit, more people are going to find themselves struggling to manage financially. Having a volunteer who a family can trust is a great asset.

Volunteers can make sure that the families are getting all the benefits they are entitled to but also help them to manage their money a little better, perhaps by showing them how a home cooked meal will be cheaper than a take away or ready meal. We have been fortunate at Home-Start with all the support that we have had from local businesses which has enabled us to help families with bedding, school uniform, shoes etc, along with food parcels when a family is really in need. During the last twelve months we have run two Volunteer Preparation courses. I continue to represent the Volunteers on the Board of Trustees but have not been actively supporting a family. We look forward to the coming year with enthusiasm as we continue to support the vulnerable families of the Borough. A big thank you to all the Volunteers who help us achieve this.

Volunteer Story - Ruth

Hello,

I'm a new volunteer for Home-Start. I'm really enjoying my new position so far. Sadly I lost my grandmother during the covid lockdown, which is probably one of the reasons I decided to find a voluntary role. I have a family and dogs, so am often out and about. My free time was mostly spent helping her, she was very able bodied but she liked company and shopping :)! As the world got back on its feet I spotted an advert on local media for Home-Start. It sounded like something I could do, so I applied.



The training was brilliant, it answered lots of questions that I had in mind. Once I'd finished I felt I had a good idea where I could help - rules, safeguarding etc. I also felt I had a great support network. The ethos that has really spoke to me, is the kindness. Seeing people that don't know each other be kind and support each other has been heart warming. Shops donating toiletries, shoes and Easter eggs shows that there are some lovely people out there that want to help and that is what Home-Start is to me. An organisation of kind, dedicated people wanting to help and support others.

I really enjoy seeing my Home-Start family. When we catch up I can see a difference in well-being and confidence - small things like sharing stories about their week and seeing things improve. For example, getting the children to school on time but laughing that one morning it was so early the gates were still closed! Seeing mum smiling again but she knows she's done something great, really is lovely.

I'd recommend the organisation to anyone that has some free time and wants to do something to help the community.





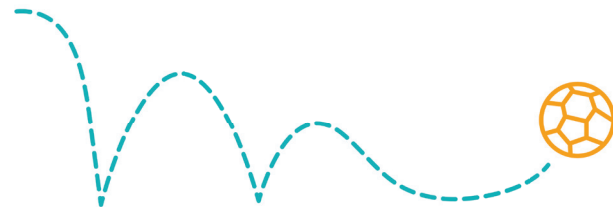
Trustee - Keith

Keith moved to Northamptonshire from Gateshead back in 1982 and has lived in the local area since then.

He is a proud husband to Louise and father of 3 to Charlie, Ellie and Ruby. He loves to keep fit, which includes walking his dog Zak and remains a keen Newcastle United fan!

Keith set up his own consultancy business in May 2021 after a long corporate career in the building materials market. His new role has enabled him to invest his time in different ways, and that and his passion for helping families and children led him to his role as a trustee at Home-Start.





Safeguarding Trustee Report - Chris Arthurs

I completed my Volunteer Training in 2012 and became a Trustee later that year. Having worked in Children & Family Services for many years, I later took on the role of Safeguarding Trustee.

There are three main parts to my role:

I am on hand to advise and support Nikki, and any Volunteer, when questions arise about the care of a child, or the safety of a vulnerable adult. Volunteers can sometimes see or hear things going on in a family that less regular, or more official, visitors may not. It is not our place to decide whether behaviour is abusive, but it is our responsibility to let the authorities know if we are concerned. Home-Start has a well-established process for responding to concerns while maintaining a good working relationship with the family.

I regularly look over the Scheme's files to make sure that they meet Home-Start's national standards, that they are up to date, and record any risks and our response to them. Together with Nikki I make sure I'm up to date with developments in the way the authorities work.

I especially value being part of Safeguarding Training and Refreshers as it keeps me in touch with the Volunteer role and I'm always impressed with the calibre and commitment of our Volunteers. Thank you.

When a volunteer tells Nikki of some concern, I'm pleased to say that we are always able to deal with the issue sensitively and in a way that continues to support the family, while at the same time working, where necessary, with the Council's Child Protection Services to ensure children are kept safe.

Increasingly we also have to be aware of the risks to adults who may be vulnerable, in violent relationships, or being exploited.

If a volunteer is very worried about a member of the family they're visiting, they will need to contact Nikki, Bea or me urgently. Other concerns may go on the diary sheet and wait until the next supervision session. Bea has sound advice when she says if something's still on your mind as you settle down for the evening, then it's time to share –and whatever the time of day volunteers will always be able to get hold of one of us.

Although I don't visit families on a regular basis I have a bit of an 'odd job' role. I can help with fixing stairgates and other DIY jobs, and be available to offer budgeting and benefits advice and support. As a result I have a pretty good idea of the difficulties that our families face –and also of the big differences that Home-Start volunteers help to bring about.

As a Trustee I have oversight of the various Policies and Procedures that originate from Home-Start UK and that ensure that we continue to be an effective and efficient organisation.

My message to all Volunteers is –always carry your Emergency Contact Card and if in doubt about anything you've seen or heard, don't wait – talk to Nikki, to me, Bea, or another Trustee. We have a good scheme to make sure someone is always available to listen and take decisions: but if by chance you can't get hold of one of us, then call Children's Services or the Emergency Services. Risky or dangerous situations are not common – but better safe than sorry.



Family Story

Chanelle

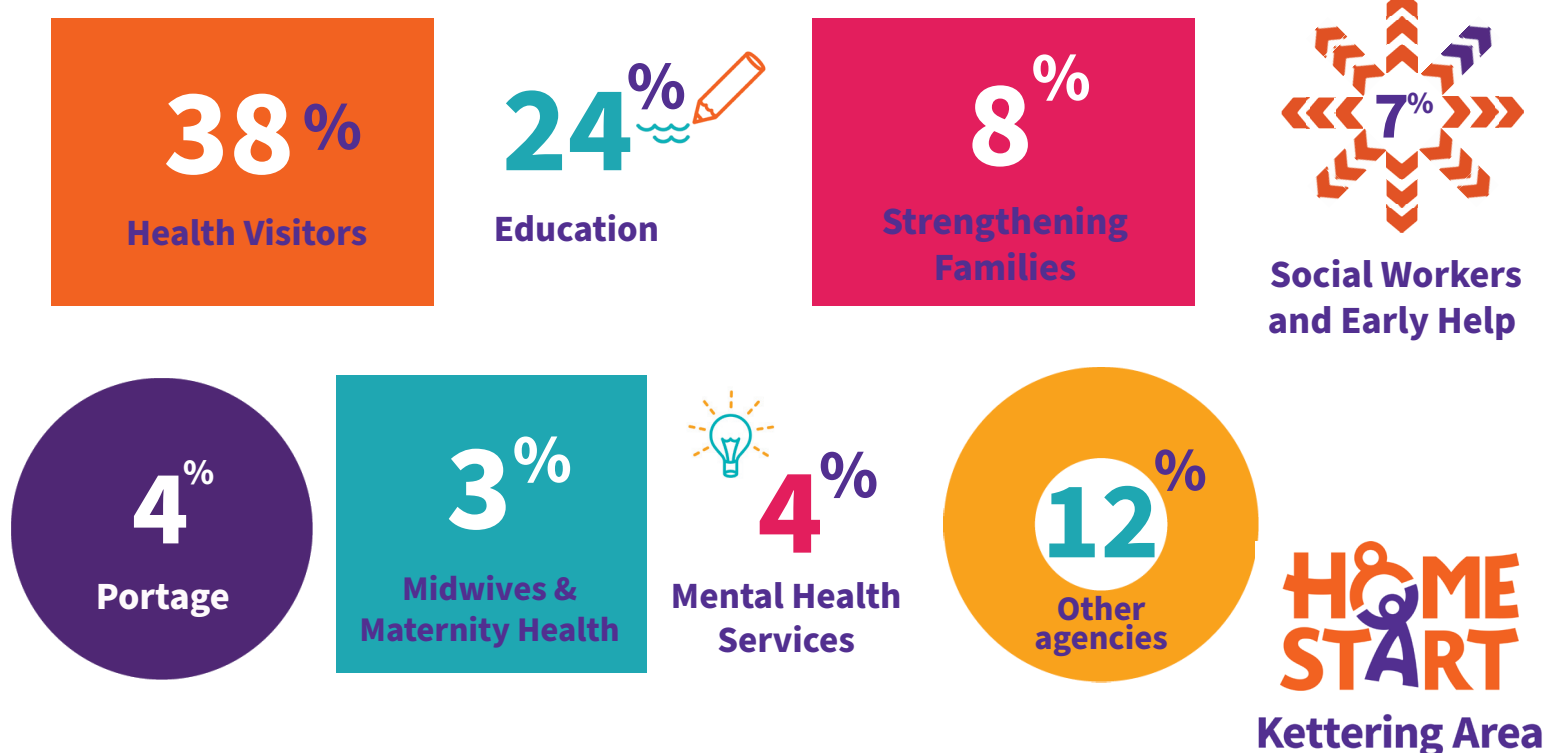
Home-Start have been invaluable for our family. As a single parent with a chronic health condition, our volunteer gave me the break I needed, and allowed my 5 year old son to play and be wild without him worrying about his mummy. David will always hold a special place in our hearts, and my son often asks when he will see him again. My only complaint is that I wish we could have had our volunteer for longer. Thankyou Home-Start for being a stepping stone in my sons development and also my recovery.



Mary

My entire family would like to thank you for everything Home-Start has done for us. It's been a pleasure knowing Home-Start. Your efforts and immense contribution towards the happiness and development of our family is well noted. Personally, I have had 2 volunteers from Home-Start who have all been amazing in helping me with my appointments and even organising my garden. We once again say a big thank you and blessing from the most High.

Source of Referrals Received



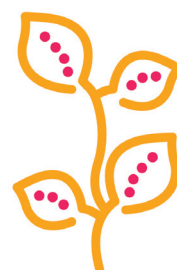


Volunteer Story - Helen

Until recently I've always been with families with babies and toddlers - who really don't need much beyond undivided attention which gives parents time to do ordinary but essential tasks (sometimes as simple as have a bath)! But then I went to a fabulous family with 5 and 9 year olds! I have learnt SO much - my kids were that age 30 years ago! I realized that attention and doing what I thought they would want to do didn't always work (though the park in the sun always good).

I re-remembered what a friend told me 30 years ago, her children were a bit older than mine. She said spending quality time with your kids was about doing what THEY wanted with them, rather than what you thought was quality - like watching Neighbours or the football together, not dragging them to the museum you wanted to visit!

So I asked the 9 year old what he wanted to do ... I've now tried to learn about computer games, playing them on line, skins on Fortnite, different Nintendos! I say tried! I haven't got far but it's been great and I feel better prepared for when my 2 week old grandson gets a bit bigger!



**HOME
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The Year in Numbers

70

families
with **164** children



families referred for
housing support

13

children with
disabilities

85%

of children supported reported
better family relationships,
increased essential skills and felt
happier and more self confident

supported
94%

of families with
mental health
issues

120

children and 4
schools received
brand new school
uniform

90

children
in **34** families
received a visit from
Santa with gifts



families received
Christmas Hampers
and Blue Monday Food
Parcels

99

children and
their families
visited Wicksteed Park
with wristbands and
packed lunches

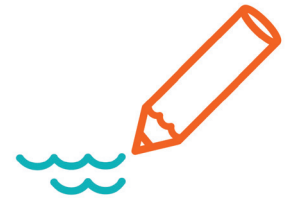
**HOME
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Kettering Area

Financial Statement

Incoming Resources	2022	2021
Grants	21,790	48,543
Furlough	0	3,758
Donations and Fundraising	34,760	39,435
Gift Aid	4,794	1,835
Bank Interest	10	37
Total Income	61,354	93,608
Charitable Expenditure		
Service Delivery	60,867	65,883
Fundraising Expenses	0	0
Administrative Overheads	5,729	6,160
Depreciation	589	736
	67,185	72,779





Treasurer's Report - Sue Stokes

In my report last year I mentioned the planning that was already taking place for fundraising in 2021 'as soon as Covid restrictions lift'. Little did we think that those restrictions would continue for so long! Our two biggest fundraising events were affected, the Trevor Lloyd Golf Day was able to go ahead as an outdoor event, with no evening continuation and raised valuable funds but sadly the Quiz night as an indoor event had to be cancelled for 2021 and is now hoping to go ahead in November 2022.

As we looked to the year our worries about having sufficient income to fund our service increased and indeed, financing our future is still a very real concern.

We managed the year with the help of generous donations and grants from a wide variety of sources, please do look at our "Thank You" page which shows how many believe in our work.

Support comes in many forms including funds that stipulate how they are to be spent for example to aid particular aspects of our work such as a summer outing or Christmas events.

It can also be gifts of goods such as Easter eggs, new toys or food and toiletries. All of these help to support families in need and bring smiles to the faces of adults and children.

With the loss of Children in Need funding, we needed funds that could be used to meet our essential running costs. Our manager, administrator and office base are the foundation of our service and Maidwell Hall School came to our aid, nominating us as their Year 8 charity for the year. We are extremely grateful for the outstanding amount, of £28,000 raised by pupils, staff and families. Another year survived.

We start the new year with a budget plan that although restricted as much as possible still indicates that we will have to draw on our reserves to reach the end of the year. These reserves are there to give us six months survival to meet commitments to families and cover emergency situations. We really hope that we can find supporters who will raise or donate enough to avoid us having to draw on the reserves. We are looking for new donors, grants and people to join our fundraising team, please consider if you could help in some way.

Once again our grateful thanks to everybody who has supported us in any way. The families and children are still there, needing our support and our waiting list continues to grow. The future for families is looking even tougher and we need to be there for as many as possible.



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Thank You's



Adam Balmer
All Saints Church
Alpro
Bishop Stopford School
BT Open Reach
Bunzl
CAF
Cllr Maggie Don
Constance Travis
David Watkins
Dawn Coles
Dr Trevor Morgan
Dunelm Kettering
Emmanuel Church
Family Food Fund
Faraway Children's Charity
Fiona Lloyd
Fliss Freeman & Jack Terry
Geddington Church
Gill Hewer
Gill Parton
GMB Union Corby
Green party
Haddonstone
Home-Start Northampton
Howard Ellis & Family
Inkind Direct
Jayne Wright
Jessie Dymock / Chris Tomkins (Funeral)
KCU
Keelings International
Kelly Rust
Kettering Golf Club
Laura Ferreira
Linus Quilts
Loddington School & Church
Maidwell Hall
Margaret Giffin Fund
Maud Elkington
Michael Guest Charitable Foundation
Millbrook Infant School
Morrisons Kettering
Natalie - Maidwell School
Nick Freeman Photography
Northamptonshire County Golf Club
Northants Community Aid
Old Village Hall
Park Infant School
Paul Hampden Smith
Poppy Design Studio
Revolution Zero
ROAR
Robinson Brothers
Rotary Club
Russell & Bromley
Sainsburys Wellingborough
Sarah Watkins
Scott Hawkeye
Shaun Clarke
Sorooptimists
Sue Leach
Terracycle
The Bandits Golf Society
The Eagle Golf Society
The First Thursday Golf Society
The Open Work Foundation
The Rising Sun
The Shack Food Project
Timson Trust
Trudy Morgan
United Reformed Church
Unity Lottery
Vicky Brandon
Weetabix
Wilson Foundation



Kettering Area

Risk Management and Key Policies

The Trustees ensure that the major risks to which Home-Start is exposed are reviewed and assessed and that systems are in place to mitigate those risks. The Trustees have agreed a risk assessment policy for which they have overall responsibility. All key policies within the organisation are regularly reviewed and updated as appropriate to reflect any legislative changes and the latest developments and thinking in relation to best practice.

Home-Start's work is primarily of a long term, fixed nature. The objects of the Charity are:

- To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and their parents.
- To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children.
- To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children.
- To promote education of the public in better standards of childcare within the area of Kettering and its environs.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and agreed to set aside 6 months running costs at any one time to safeguard the Charity's service commitment in the event of delays in receipt of Grants or long term staff sickness.

This figure has been agreed as £50,000 for the upcoming financial year.

As at 31st March 2022 the Charity's unrestricted general reserves amounted to £45,577 which represents just over 6 months revenue expenditure. The policy is monitored and reviewed annually by the Trustees.





Without you, none of this could happen...

Bea

Trudy

Brenda

Bethany

June

Charlene

Beth

Hayley

Chris

Amy

David

Ruth

Laura

Laina

Margaret

Gemma

Helen

Barbara

Michaela

David

Elaine

Alison

Vicki

John

Jane

Debbie

Kelly

Steve

Gill

Vicki

Sulina

Robyn

Sue

Lauren

Sorayya

Keith

Lisa

Louisa

Debbie





Kettering Area

A large, multi-pointed starburst shape outlined in red, centered on the page. The starburst has several points of varying lengths and angles, creating a dynamic, star-like effect.

**Because
tomorrow
starts today**

