



Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start
Bracknell Forest

Annual Report

Home-Start Bracknell Forest annual report 2016/17



Supporting families in our community



1st Earley BP Scouts
 Alan Gunner
 All Saints Church, Ascot
 Angela Moore
 Anonymous donors
 Army Benevolent Fund
 Barry Callan
 Bert Ridley
 Binfield Parish Council
 Bracknell and Ascot CCG
 Bracknell Foodbank
 Bracknell Forest Council (Children, Young People and Learning)
 Bracknell Forest Homes
 Bracknell Open Learning
 Bracknell Town Council
 Brian Conner and his sponsors in the 2017 London Marathon
 Chris Mountain
 Co-operative Group stores (Wokingham, Hanworth, Easthampstead and Binfield)
 Crowthorne Baptist Church
 Crowthorne Foodbank
 Crowthorne Parish Council
 Diageo
 Dick Cave
 Easthampstead Baptist Church
 Easthampstead Park School
 Emilia Volpe, Lloyd's Register
 Freya Wallis
 Fox Hill Primary Staff (in memory of Pat Ridley)
 HMRC (Gift aid refunds)
 Hilary Mason
 The Home-Start Hikers and their sponsors for the 3 peaks challenge, Neil, Maeve, Julie, Jim, Vicky, Julia, Shane, Mark and Neal
 Involve
 Jane Blanchard and colleagues at GE Energy
 The Jenkins Family
 Cllr Jennie McCracken

Julie Pizzey
 Karl Pizzey
 Local Giving (Matched funding)
 Cllr Mark Phillips (BTC Mayor's Charity 2015-16)
 Mark Wingrove, Wingrove Media
 Cllr Mary Temperton
 Neil Pizzey
 Paul Ridley and colleagues at Orion Electrotech
 Paula and Mark Ridgway
 Peter and Theresa Harris Charitable Trust
 Pride of Bracknell organisers and sponsors
 Rob Wood, International Copiers, and Stuart
 Rupen Mullick (Auditor)
 St Paul's URC Church
 Sandhurst Town Council
 The Shanly Foundation
 Southern Co-operatives (Binfield stores)
 Staff at Bracknell Open Learning Centre, especially Gill and Lesley
 TDK Ltd
 Tony Levene
 Waitrose (Head Office)
 Warfield Parish Council
 Winkfield Parish Council
 Zofia Modelska and her sponsors in various half and full marathons during 2017.

To all those volunteers who 'donate back' their expenses
 Everyone who has donated through: The Giving Machine, Local Giving or Recycle for Charity
 And.....

Everyone who has volunteered for us in any capacity

Staff and Board of Trustees

The Staff

Tessa Dove	Scheme Manager
Val Callan	Family Co-ordinator
Julie Pizzey	Office Administrator
Sharon Tilson	Family Group Organiser (<i>resigned September 2016</i>)
Lynn Nicholas	Family Group Play Worker
Helen Whitfield	Family Group Play Worker

The Board of Trustees

Hilary Mason	Trustee (Chair)
Gareth Jenkins	Trustee (Treasurer)
Anne Jenkins	Trustee (Secretary)
Michael Gbadebo	Trustee
Fay Grimmett	Trustee
Rosemary Gunner	Trustee
Tony Levene	Trustee

Our Advisors

Philip Cook	Involve
Cllr Jennie McCracken	Bracknell Forest BC
Nicola Thompson	Volunteer Representative (<i>resigned May 2017</i>)
Sarah Bird	Volunteer Representative (<i>from June 2017</i>)
Cherry Hall	Early Help Team (<i>from October 2016</i>)
Vacancy	Health Visiting Team

In setting its plans for areas of work, the Trustees of Home-Start Bracknell Forest have had regard to the guidance from the Charity Commission on public statement benefit, as reflected in our strategic planning. Home-Start Bracknell Forest sets out to fulfil its principal charitable objective, that is: the relief of children or parents in despair or in distress and/or mental abuse of such children

Chair's Report



In Home-Start Bracknell Forest we are very proud of our twenty-four years of continuous service to the community. The work with families is always our prime concern and it is underpinned by a team of well-trained and dedicated volunteers, professional and well-supported staff, hard-working trustees and a raft of policies and procedures to provide a high quality service which is accountable and which keeps everyone safe.

In 2015-16 we had to be a little more inward looking, developing our strategies, preparing for our Quality Assurance Inspection and going through that process with flying colours, looking closely at our governance and at our impact. The standards we met in our QA have to be maintained and these are always under review. Home-Start UK regularly review the standards we have to achieve and have changed both the format and the inspection process over the past year; this will require further work by us as part of the ongoing cycle of ensuring we are ready, whenever our next inspection occurs.

In contrast 2016-17 has been a year of looking outwards, at our publicity, our relations with other organisations and enhancing our contact with families in the community. Now families and the community as a whole can enjoy our website, follow us on Facebook and on Twitter. Items are regularly posted to keep families up-to-date with matters that may affect them. We monitor the use of our social media to develop and improve its relevance. It is such an effective way to reach out to the community at large, not only to publicise our service but also to provide information which may be of interest.

Our volunteer training course in the autumn was delivered in a new format, over fewer sessions but each session being longer. This made it easier on the staff in terms of all their other commitments and it produced a further group of great volunteers who are willing to give their time freely to support families. They are the lifeblood of the scheme and we are so grateful for their continuing work within the organisation. Volunteers are always moving on and we need to train new ones every year to keep up our numbers. Many of our volunteers take their skills on to new jobs and work within the community.

The staff are always highly committed and give generously of their time. Last year our Family Group Co-ordinator resigned for personal reasons and we were unable to recruit someone of sufficient skills and calibre for this post. We are currently undertaking a second recruitment process. In the

meantime the other family group staff have been tremendous and we have managed to support them through a combination of staff, a skilled volunteer and a trustee who is very experienced in childcare and development. So, on a week by week basis Family Group has continued to flourish but we do feel the lack of the wider role of the Family Group Co-ordinator and hope to resolve this matter soon.

This last year we embarked on a three-year contract with the Local Authority with a new service level agreement. This has bound us more closely into their referral processes and the initial effect was for our referrals to plummet. We are having ongoing discussions to overcome this issue and more and more of our families are coming to us through self-referral. We know there is need out there and our time spent on social media has helped families to access our service directly. We have continued to measure our impact with families and we have no doubt of our value and efficacy.

We have always been very grateful that we have received the majority of our funding from Bracknell Forest Council. Last year we were due for a fifty percent cut in LA funding but after a lot of support and a consultation process our funding was reduced by £10,000, with the full cut of £30,000 (around one third of our annual budget) to be deferred to 2017/18. This has inevitably concentrated our minds on raising funds. Currently we receive annual support from both town and parish councils, the LA broker some support from the Clinical Commissioning Group and we have some good support from local businesses and organisations. We also undertake a range of fundraising activities. These have been essential for our survival. In order to prepare for the large cut due in 2017/18 we employed a professional bid writer in January who guaranteed to cover the costs of her employment, so we could not lose. She has put in a range of bids to organisations and funders with whom our service is a good fit and already this has delivered all her costs and more, so we are confident we will raise enough for this financial year.

Finally, as always I want to thank everyone – trustees, staff, volunteers, friends, funders and partners for all they do to make Home-Start Bracknell Forest such an excellent scheme.

Hilary Mason

News and Events from 2016/2017

The Christmas Party

The annual Christmas party was once again the highlight of the year for families, staff, volunteers and guests alike. With entertainment from Jo Jingles, Christmas-themed games and activities, party food and the all-important 'special guest,' everyone was able to enjoy the morning with family and friends.

We were also delighted that Bert Ridley, husband of the late Pat, who had volunteered for Home-Start for 19 years, agreed to join us for the party which Pat was always a very important part of.

The children all visited Father Christmas in his grotto and took away a special present. All presents had been individually chosen and wrapped by staff at GE Energy. Additional presents for all family members were donated by members of All Saints' Church in Ascot, GE staff and Neil Pizzey.



The Easter Egg Hunt



The spring term at Family Group traditionally ends with a morning of Easter activities and our Easter egg hunt. With Easter late this year, the weather was warm enough to enjoy an outdoor egg hunt and parents searched enthusiastically for eggs alongside their children. This year we were also joined by GE employee, Mabbast, to watch children choose their eggs (once again kindly donated by GE staff) to take home.

Teddy Bears' Picnic



In June this year we took a stall again at Bracknell Town Council's Teddy Bears' Picnic. In contrast to last year's slightly damp day, the temperature reached the mid-thirties and the lure of the water fountains was strong, for adults and children alike! However, the Home-Start stall was busy throughout the day, selling cakes, toys and a lucky dip, providing playdough activities and bubbles and handing out helium-filled balloons, sponsored this year by Southern Co-ops (Binfield stores).

The efforts of staff and volunteers who all went "above and beyond" meant we raised just under £250, significantly increasing our fundraising from last year. However, our presence at this event was primarily about raising awareness of Home-Start's work among parents with young children and other services working with families, as it is always sad to hear (as we regularly do), *"I wish I'd know about Home-Start earlier....."*



Our Runners and Walkers

The number of people fundraising for Home-Start locally through sponsored challenges is growing year by year, thanks mostly to the inspiration of Julie Pizzey, our administrator and also a home-visiting volunteer. Julie first ran the Bracknell Half Marathon for us in 2015 and was joined in 2016 by Rachel Conner and Peter Burch.



Earlier this year local mum Zofia, who had recently been supported by Home-Start, set herself the challenge of competing in three local half-marathons (Wokingham, Reading and Bracknell) along with the Brighton Marathon, all of which she completed magnificently; we hope she is as proud of her achievement as we are!

Brian Conner, no doubt inspired by his wife Rachel's efforts last year, completed the London Marathon, raising £1,130 and increasing awareness of Home-Start's work amongst friends and colleagues in the process. A great result, thank you Brian!



Finally, Julie set herself a new challenge for this year (when she celebrates a special birthday!) and has gathered a group of friends and family to join her in tackling the Three Peaks Challenge – Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon, all within 24 hours! At the time of writing, the team is in place and training hard, along with the support crew. The event itself happens 30th June-1st July and we wish Julie and her team the very best of luck for an extremely tough challenge.



Home-Start Bracknell Forest would like to say a huge **Thank you** to all our runners and walkers, along with their supporters and the many friends, colleagues and Home-Start supporters who have sponsored them so generously. Between them they have raised around £4,150 in 2017, a very significant contribution to our annual fundraising target.

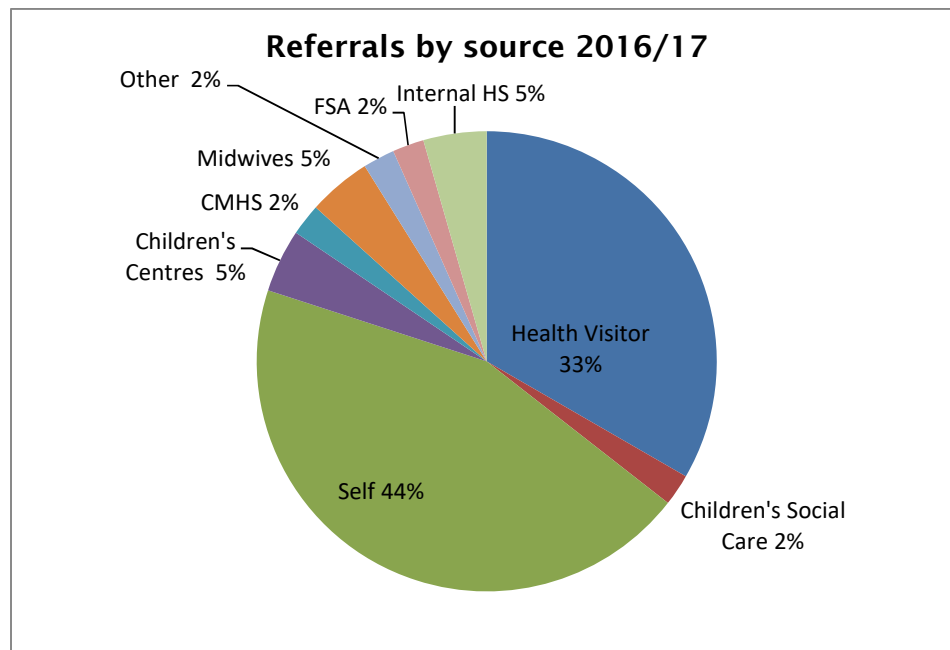
Facts and Figures

Referrals 2016-17

Total number of all families supported during the year 67

Total number of children supported during the year 141

Sources of referrals



There have been noticeable changes in referrals in the past year, as staff and referral procedures in various partner agencies have changed, and uncertainty around Home-Start's future funding by the Local Authority caused a temporary decline in referrals.

As there were indications that families were finding it harder to find out what support was available to them, we have been working hard to raise the profile of our work and ensure that every family needing support was able to access it without undue difficulty.

Areas Covered

Binfield, Bracknell Town, Crowthorne, North Ascot, Sandhurst, Warfield and Winkfield

Referrer Quote

"I have used home start for my clients within the health visiting service for the last 5 years. The team are approachable friendly and professional. Clients who have used this service have found it invaluable in their times of need with some becoming volunteers themselves wanting to give back to the service that helped them"

Volunteer Quote

"Being a Home-Start volunteer means being around at perhaps a crucial time, cuddling babies and toddlers, listening and empathising and maybe having some outside ideas, and most importantly, playing games with small children which bring out the child in you."



Family Quote

"At first when Homestart was mentioned to me my immediate reaction was I don't need help. I was grateful when it was mentioned again as I had started to feel bothered by things not being done like they should..... I suffered with post-natal depression after (my first) and I think I could easily have gone down the same route this time. However (my volunteer) then arrived; she was there to chat, discuss the boys, help look after them so I could get housework done and now and then helped me take them to baby group. This support was vital and I feel so lucky to have been matched with my volunteer."

Mum of twin babies and a pre-school child





Family Quote

"Without Home-Start we would have had a miserable time, resulting in total family breakdown. I am in no doubt that my mental health would have put me in hospital. It has been an immeasurable support. Thank you." *Mum of three, including one with special needs.*

Volunteer Quote

"Life as a Home-Start Volunteer is often varied, with no two families being alike, but always rewarding. A visit may be to help a mum and children to get out to the park, take a mum and children to the shops, help a family to access other services or help with filling in forms for benefits, help with feeding a child or children, playing with the children while the parent gets on with other jobs or just being there to listen to the parent. Two hours a week is only a small part of our week, but it can make a big difference to our families who may be going through tough times."



Our Volunteers and Community Links

We could not continue to provide our service to families in the Borough of Bracknell Forest without the dedication of our wonderful volunteers.

Our thanks go to:

Anne, Carole, Caroline, Catherine, Charlotte, Chrissy, Connie, Diana, Dick, Fay G, Gareth, Helen, Hilary, Jemma, Jo, Judi, Julie, Kate, Kelly, Leticia, Linda G, Linda H, Liesa, Lucy, Mandy, Marion, Michael, Nicola, Patricia, Rhian, Rosemary, Ruth, Sarah, Tony, Wendy and Zoe

And special event volunteers:

Barry, Bert, Chris, Emilia, Mabbast



The Volunteer Team

Our team of volunteers continues to grow and thrive. 2016 was the first year for some time (if ever), the number of active home-visiting volunteers exceeded 30 and we feel very lucky that so many outstanding individuals want to be part of Home-Start Bracknell Forest. Local families are extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated team of highly skilled and widely experienced volunteers, without which so many in the Borough would not receive the support they need. This need will grow as statutory services become (necessarily) more targeted at those already in greatest difficulty. Home-Start's early intervention work continues to help problems escalating.

Our carefully recruited, checked, trained, supported and supervised team of volunteers means that we are able to offer a safe and high quality service to families which would otherwise not be available to many. By each giving up just 2-3 hours per week (although many give up much more) we are able to offer families a bespoke service to meet their identified needs. By having such a large pool of volunteers to call on, we are able to successfully match families with volunteers who have the skills, experience and personal attributes to meet their needs.



By giving up their time each week to visit a family they perform an extraordinary role in their local community. Their reward is the satisfaction of helping a young family for whom life may be a struggle, for a whole variety of reasons. In the course of helping, many volunteers acknowledge they are given a far greater understanding of the difficulties faced by others and get to know more about their local community. For those who want to use their experience to get into work, they gain new skills and experience in a highly respected local organisation. This year two volunteers have gone into part-time work but are still volunteering; a third has moved from part-time work to full-time, meaning she is sadly no longer able to volunteer with Home-Start.

The volunteer team is not just about our home-visiting volunteers though; we are very fortunate in having a very skilled and dedicated team of trustees who take a lead in the governance and strategy of the charity, an essential contribution which is often overlooked by those outside the organisation. Our trustees all have their own roles and each makes a contribution to the smooth running of the organisation, many giving significant amounts of time on top of other commitments.

Over the year, we have continued to offer opportunities for volunteering for those wishing to support Home-Start with skills other than direct support to families, or for volunteers not able to offer the regular daytime commitment of home-visiting. These include our committed IT and office admin volunteers, as well as our special event volunteers such as Father Christmas, volunteers who help with wrapping and preparing for the Christmas party and our photographer who records the major events during the year.

The Volunteer Preparation Course

The Volunteer Preparation course, which takes place annually during the autumn term, was completely re-written for 2016 and the format changed from 10 mornings to 6 school-length days. While this presented some problems for participants who missed sessions due to unforeseen issues, the advantages of this new format were felt to outweigh the disadvantages. For staff it meant that fewer days had to be taken away from direct family support and it also enabled a number of new volunteers to be placed with families before Christmas, as the course was completed by mid-November.

With both Val and Tessa now trained to deliver the LA 'Introduction to Safeguarding' session, this meant the session could be incorporated into the course, with Home-Start specific policies and procedures added, rather than having to be delivered separately. This also meant that examples relevant to Home-Start's work could be used in discussion.

Home-Start Bracknell Forest had planned to offer accreditation at Levels 2 and 3 in 2017. However, this has now been delayed pending changes at national level.

Volunteer Support and Supervision

We pride ourselves on the support offered to our volunteers. This includes out of hours telephone contact for urgent support, regular supervision (every 6-12 weeks, depending on the complexity of the family being supported), access to training and up to 6 volunteer support meetings each year. Our support meetings offer our volunteers the opportunity to meet speakers from other statutory and voluntary organisations who come along to describe and answer questions about their service. In the past year we have had speakers from the Children's Centres, Stop Loan Sharks, Home Energy Advice (a project run by the Community Council for Berkshire), Citizen's Advice, **involve** (to speak about the Volunteer Passport Scheme), the Child Development Centre and our annual safeguarding update.

We also ran a mental health awareness training session in the autumn, offered jointly with Wokingham Home-Start, giving volunteers from both groups the opportunity to meet up.

The Volunteer Passport Scheme



The Volunteer Passport scheme was set up by the local VCS organisation, **involve**, early in 2017 to encourage participating groups to share volunteer resources and training. Recognising that many local organisations require volunteers to undertake similar core training **involve** has set up a database of local volunteers and records all their training centrally meaning that volunteers wishing to work in more than one organisation can do so more easily without having to repeat training unnecessarily. It also means that organisations can more easily share expertise and training with other groups, offering a cost-effective solution.

With the ever-increasing demand for volunteers from what is likely to be a decreasing pool (due to the change of retirement age and the increasing impact of caring roles on available time), ensuring that volunteers with time to offer can easily offer their services to other voluntary groups is already a high priority.

We are proud to say that Home-Start has the biggest number of volunteers signed up to the scheme and that 23 Home-Start volunteers (more than half) are known to have other voluntary roles locally; these include help in schools, early years' settings and parent and toddler groups, roles in faith groups, volunteer driving schemes, fundraising events, an interpreting scheme and at a baby clinic.

We are immensely proud of our volunteers and the huge amount they contribute to the local community in Bracknell Forest and would like to record our thanks for all that they do. Each and every one of our volunteers, no matter what their role, is a valued member of the team.

Community Links

This year we have continued to build on our strong community links, gaining support from more businesses. In addition to the many voluntary, community and faith groups which have long supported our work.

Members of Easthampstead Baptist Church, All Saints' Church in Ascot and Crowthorne Baptist Church have continued to support our work through a variety of means. We regularly provide vouchers for food banks in Bracknell and Crowthorne and for the clothes bank in Bracknell.



Local businesses GE Energy, Waitrose Ltd, International Copiers and Lloyd's Register have continued to offer regular support through a mix of financial or in-kind donations and volunteering. TDK Ltd, The Co-operative Group, Southern Co-ops have all offered financial support this year too, through donations and longer term partnerships.

We are hugely grateful for the support of these local organisations and the many individuals within them who ensure that the needs of families in Bracknell Forest continue to be highlighted.

Family Group

Our Family Group sessions have continued to provide additional support to a number of families for whom extra, or alternative, support outside of the family home is needed. Many of the parents who attend our session can find attending mainstream groups daunting, whether because they lack the confidence to join in, because they struggle to cope with several young children on their own, or because of illness or disability.

The Home-Start Family Group ensures that all families attending the group are welcomed in and not left alone. All those attending remember what it was like when they first came along and understand that everyone who attends the group does so because of some kind of difficulty. With 3 members of staff and additional volunteers present at every session, there is always a listening ear for those who just need to talk things through. Staff and volunteers also provide good role models in their interactions with both children and adults.

Sessions include a mix of individual free play (indoors and outside, in the enclosed soft-surfaced courtyard) and group activities. These include the shared healthy snack time, where we encourage children to try new foods, and the music and rhyme time at the end of each session. Families are always invited to contribute to the planning of sessions, so the programme reflects many of the activities chosen by our users.

Over the year we have continued to welcome regular visitors to the group including Children's Centre Project Workers for sessions on food and looking after your teeth, the National Careers Service for advice on writing your CV and stepping stones to work, Bracknell and Wokingham College and Sport in Mind offering free courses and sports activities to those wishing to improve mental health and wellbeing, Bracknell Forest Homes, Involve, with information about the Stronger Communities volunteer training, Hillcroft College (residential courses for women) and Citizens' Advice.

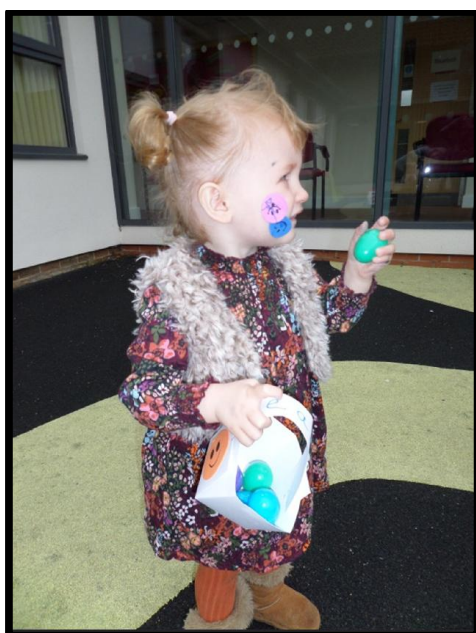
We are delighted to have the support of the local community to help us deliver our group sessions. These included a grant from Bracknell Forest Homes to part-fund sessions in the Spring Term. Children at Easthampstead Baptist Church also provided holiday activity boxes for all children aged 2-11 in families supported by Home-Start.

Quotes from some of the families we support

"(This group) has been really positive for me. I wish more people knew it's there for them"

"The group has been a lifeline for me at a real low point. It's really different from other groups because you're never left alone with no-one to talk to. Other groups can be really isolating like that"

Our Family Group over the year...



Case Study



Sarah

(Names of the family have been changed to protect confidentiality)

Background to the Referral

Sarah was referred to Home-Start in December 2015. She had been rejected by her own mother at birth and conflict between them continued to have a huge impact on her childhood, mental health and daily life. At a young age she found herself in an abusive relationship which lasted 10 years; she had moved from one unhappy situation to another, with no one to turn to. Sarah eventually met and set up home with her partner Chris and went on to have their three children, Jack, Rosie and Poppy. She made their tiny flat as homely as possible but treating mould was a constant battle and this impacted severely on her asthma, hospitalising her on 5 occasions. Sarah found herself on increased steroid medication, together with anti-depressants for her post-natal depression; her weight increased and her self-esteem hit an all-time low.

Length of engagement

Home-Start supported Sarah and her family for 16 months. She was introduced to her volunteer Rachel soon after referral and support was reviewed every 12 weeks throughout.

Support Given and Engagement of the Family

Rachel visited Sarah for 2 hours a week offering mum the emotional support she craved, together with support to use other services. Although Sarah could drive she had no access to a car but, with Rachel's help, they were able to access a number of the other services the family required. They engaged really well with Home-Start's support; Sarah and her children both valued and looked forward to Rachel's visits.

Input from Home-Start Bracknell Forest

Initially Rachel offered mum a listening ear, someone to offload to; they felt they had been matched well. Rachel's visits also enabled Sarah to keep on top of the household chores. Sorting the children's clothing and toys on a regular basis was essential to keep storage to a minimum in such a small flat.

Having no access to a car made Sarah and her children very isolated due to her chronic asthma and attending appointments was a challenge. Rachel was able to drive Sarah to appointments such as the GP and the dentist; she



would entertain the children while mum was able to concentrate on her own needs. Sarah had also been referred to Talking Therapies by her GP but childcare was an issue. However, with Rachel's help, she was to attend her appointments and focus on the session, knowing that Poppy was being looked after outside. Afterwards Sarah would be able to talk over with Rachel subjects raised during therapy, helping her to deal with her emotions each week.

As things started to improve they enjoyed outings with Poppy to places such as the park or the local 'pick your own'. Sometimes simple things like going out for a coffee were all that was needed to help break up the week for Sarah.

Outcome

Sarah really looked forward to Rachel's weekly visit, she felt they could talk about anything and everything, she didn't feel judged and she knew her confidences would be kept. Sarah felt so much more positive at the end of the two hours. She started to enjoy getting out and spending quality time with her youngest child.

Sarah has grown in confidence; she now helps out at her daughter's nursery, recently helped organise the school fete and Christmas Bazaar together with volunteering to help on the school trip. With Rachel's encouragement she has re-kindled her love of knitting and crochet, making items for her children and friends; having a hobby has encouraged mindfulness and relaxation. Mum has joined a local slimming club and is losing weight. While this is a slow process because of her steroid medication, she is determined to achieve her goal. Sarah now has the use of a car and, although her asthma is currently more stable, this really helps her get around when she struggles to breathe.

Sarah continues to be supported by the pastoral care service signposted to her by Home-Start. This has no time limit and Sarah feels this type of therapy is the way forward for her.

Impact

Child Development

Jack has recently received a Head Teacher's award for maths and his reading has increased by 2 levels in half a term! Rosie is looking forward to her transition from nursery to reception class in September and Poppy will be entitled to 15 hours at nursery from January.

Having the one-to-one support from Rachel has really helped with the separation issues Poppy experienced when apart from Sarah.

Parenting Aspirations, Self Esteem and Parenting Skills

Sarah and Chris have recently married and look forward to their future together as a family. Sarah's goal is to qualify as a teacher. She already has a foundation degree and is planning to achieve an honours degree in the next 18 months. This will enable her to apply for a trainee teaching placement in early years/key stage 1 once Poppy starts school full-time.

Child and Family Health and Life Chances

Sarah has always put the needs of her children first; the difference now is that she is starting to prioritise her own needs, which in turn helps provide a healthy happy home environment for the family. Although they are still sharing a 2 bedroom flat, they are on the housing list and hope that they will soon be able to settle somewhere more suitable.



Quotes from mum

"Internally I was
falling apart"

"I wouldn't be here
today if it wasn't
for you guys"

"Rachel makes me
feel valued"

Treasurer's Report for Financial Year 2016 - 2017

During 2016-17, funding from the Bracknell Forest Council and Bracknell and Ascot CCG continued, although at a reduced level, giving us combined income of £64,334. We were grateful for this continued core funding, which allows us to plan for our service delivery over the year. Other funding, from various sources including Town and Parish councils, generated a further £15,680. However, the uncertainty around our LA funding in the early part of the year affected our ability to set a realistic budget until August, resulting in a deficit of £9,750 at the end of the year.

Our reserves policy states that we should hold 6 months of running costs, currently about £45,600. At the end of the year our undesignated reserves stood at £9,000.

For the current year (2017-2018) there will be a further cut of £20,000 in our core funding, reducing it to £44,334 (including £13,344 from Bracknell and Ascot CCG). We expect this level of funding to continue for a further 2 years, as we now have a 3 year contract with Bracknell Forest Council to supply our service. As a consequence, we have been working with a Fundraiser with extensive knowledge of Home-Start's work to identify and bid for funds to suitable grant-making organisations. So far we have obtained £10,000 in this way (and still have bids awaiting consideration) but still need to find a further £11,500 to break even this year. Work will be ongoing to source funding for future years.

Funding has also been received from Town and Parish councils, from sponsorship for the various events and from local companies.

During this year our projected expenditure is around £87,500, but, with the outlook for the future becoming more difficult, we are actively stepping up our efforts to raise the profile of the charity and seek alternative sources of funding to ensure we are able to continue helping local families to achieve the best possible start for their children.

<u>Summary Accounts</u>	<u>2016 - 17</u>	<u>2015 - 16</u>
Opening Balance 1 st April	£63,848.31	£58,811.20
Income	£81,413.90	£91,702.49
Expenditure	-£91,157.08	-£86,665.38
Closing balance 31 st March	£63,848.31	£58,811.20
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Decrease in Funds	£9,743.18	
Increase in Funds		£5,037.11

Full accounts for 2016 - 17 are available on request from the office

How you can help

Home-Start Bracknell Forest relies on funding and donations which are essential to our vision of enabling every parent in the Borough to have the support they need to give their children the best possible start in life.

Whether you are an individual, a company, or a charitable trust we would welcome the opportunity of discussing ways of working with you. Some ideas can be found at:

<https://www.home-start.org.uk/Pages/Category/fundraising-guide>

We are particularly keen to engage with local businesses which, through their Corporate Social Responsibility programmes, are able not only bring sustainable benefit to the community but also benefit their own employees and companies.

Some of the ways you can support our work

- ☐ Make an online donation through
 - LocalGiving
 - BT Mydonate
- ☐ Do your online shopping through The Giving Machine at no extra cost and support Home-Start Bracknell Forest as your nominated charity <https://www.thegivingmachine.co.uk/>
- ☐ Sell unwanted goods through Ebay for Charity and avoid seller's fees by donating the proceeds to Home-Start Bracknell Forest
- ☐ Hold an event in aid of Home-Start: contact us for a fundraising pack
- ☐ Does your workplace provide matched funding for volunteering or event fundraising? Could you persuade them to?
- ☐ Nominate Home-Start Bracknell Forest to benefit from funds raised as Charity of the Year/Charity of the Month in local banks, supermarkets or other organisations. Talk to friends and family, as many companies do this
- ☐ If you are a taxpayer, remember your donations may qualify for gift aid

Home-Start Bracknell Forest is a registered charity in England & Wales Registered no 1160447 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales Registered no 9389303

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Registered office: Bracknell Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane, Bracknell, Berkshire. RG12 7GR.

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