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Director's Intro

Time really does fly. I am convinced of it!

I reflected on the last newsletter and it is hard to believe that was at the start of the summer when we were dreaming of summer sandals, heatwaves, and ice cream (dreaming being the word!). Now we are pulling on our winter jackets, gloves, and thinking about Christmas!



As always, we have been busy welcoming new families to groups in their communities, training volunteers, recruiting staff, developing our new Hub space and showcasing our work wherever we can. I celebrated my 11-year anniversary at Home-Start, and it is incredible that our staff team during this time has grown from 4 to 32. I think Donna is tired of extending our organogram! 😊.

Growth takes time, patience, a lot of thought, money, collaborative working, and some truly brilliant people. Relationships are key. Our dedicated staff team go above and beyond every day and their commitment to the work of the charity is truly amazing. From peer support within the team, engaging new supporters and funders, training volunteers and most importantly getting alongside families. They are the best. Our volunteers, which includes our Board, are an extension of our staff team, enabling us to do so much more with additional skill sets, connections, time, and a passion for families and communities.

Together we can and do make a difference to the lives of so many families, as they do ours. We have enjoyed welcoming visitors to our new space at Netherton Community Centre, including Jenni Minto MSP, Scotland's Minister for Public Health and Women's Health. Ms Minto enjoyed meeting staff, families and volunteers, and was inspired by the work of the charity.



The team in North Lanarkshire welcomed visitors from Save the Children who consulted with parents about service provision and look forward to using their insights to shape some of their work going forward.

Lots to look forward to in the next few months. Thanks as always for your support.

Nikki O'Hara

Director

Staff News



We have been lucky to welcome 2 new people to the team! Audrey has joined as Group Worker and will be looking after Heart of Scotstoun, Family Group Maryhill and Springburn Group. Audrey's background is in early years so she brings a lot of knowledge and passion for children getting the best start in life.

Preetika has joined the admin team - she is a welcome addition! Preetika studied sociology and politics at University and has experience volunteering herself showing she has a passion for helping others, so fits right in with Home-Start ethics!

Volunteer News

Volunteer Training & Assessment Course

We completed our August/September training block and were delighted to welcome new volunteers to Glasgow and Bellshill who will soon be supporting our families through home-visiting and groups.



Halloween Event



It was lovely to have a catch-up with our amazing volunteers at our pumpkin carving Halloween event. Everyone got stuck in and had a great time!

[Click here for our Volunteer Leaflet](#)

[Click here for the Volunteer Application Form](#)

Fundraising



Edinburgh Kiltwalk

Elaine and Gemma completed the Edinburgh Kiltwalk on 15 September to raise vital funds for Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire. Both girls walked 14 miles with our team in Glasgow back in April and had such a great time they decided to sign up for 20 miles in Edinburgh.

Not only did they smash their goal of walking from Holyrood Park to Musselburgh, but they raised £432.50, on top of their previous fundraising efforts from the Glasgow Kiltwalk earlier this year!

We couldn't do the work we do without fundraisers like you - thank you!

Linda's Lucky Raffle (Facebook)

Linda Mitchell, our dedicated volunteer, recently organised a raffle for three Itison vouchers via her thriving charity Facebook page to generate funds for Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire. Through her efforts, Linda successfully raised £300, which has been generously donated to support families in need.

Scottish Children's Lottery

We are excited to share we have received a £4,000 grant from the Scottish Children's Lottery Trust. This will help us to continue doing the work we do in supporting local families who are experiencing challenges such as loneliness, isolation, mental health issues and parenting difficulties.

Scullion Law

Scullion Law have donated £2,566 to HSGNNL since 2001 as part of their community initiative. As a consistent monthly donor, the organisation raises funds by donating £1 from every Fee Note. During a recent visit to their Hamilton offices we engaged in discussions about Home-Start while enjoying tea and cakes.



This visit provided an excellent opportunity to connect with the Scullion Law team and explore potential future collaborations.

Community

Co-op

Home-Start Glasgow North and North Lanarkshire have been chosen to be part of the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round will start on Sunday 20 October 2024 and will run for 12 months until 19 October 2025. During this time Co-op members will be able to choose HSGNNL as their cause. The more members who choose us, the more money we will receive.

Fundraising Committee

We are looking to establish our very own Fundraising Committee and wondered if this is something you might be interested in?

Supported by our Community Engagement and Fundraising Officer, Rachel, the group will meet every couple of months and plan volunteer-led activities to help raise funds for HSGNNL.

If you are interested in attending/taking part in fundraising activities, please get in touch with Rachel at rachel@homestartgnnl.org.uk.

Feedback

We would like to share some feedback with you from the families we support to show the difference our support makes. Here are two quotes from parents on how they benefited from volunteer support and group support.

"Home-Start has come at a time when I needed support and I didn't realise just how much I needed it. Being able to sit with my volunteer today and have a conversation with another adult has done me the world of good.

I ended up telling her things about me and about my past that I don't usually tell people and it felt good to be able to open up.

I think what Home-Start does is amazing and I am so grateful to the support I have received".

"There was definitely something missing in our life, I just didn't know what until we started at Family Group. We went to different toddler groups before, which were ok, but this one is so different, it's not like anything else.

The volunteers help so much, and as an immigrant myself I meet people from different countries and it is so vibrant here. Every person is like part of a chain and when I started to come here I made new friends, and we meet outside the group, and that is what was missing in our life".

Groups & Events



As part of our October holiday programme, we were joined by Play Talk Read in Bellshill Central Church.

They set up fun stations to suit all the children's ages and develop their creativity. From a home-made bowling alley to playdough and fishing games, they catered for everyone!

We wrapped up our sessions with stories and songs which all the children enjoyed.

Thank you to our families for joining us, PJ's food for our lunch and to Freddie and Megan for all the fun.

Our Groups run term-time from 10 - 11.30 am. They are always fun, with activities such as arts and crafts, sensory play and much more, and healthy snacks are provided.

Family Group Easterhouse

Tuesdays

0-5 years

Family Group Shotts

Mondays

0-5 years

Heart of Scotstoun

Tuesdays

0-3 years

Cafe Stork Cumbernald

Thursdays

0-12 months

Family Group Maryhill

Thursdays

0-5 years

Family Group Airdrie

Thursdays

0-5 years

Springburn Group

Family Group Bellshill

Fridays
0-12 months

Fridays
0-5 years

If you would like more information on any of our groups you can email us at:
info@homestartgnnl.org.uk



Did you know that Home-Start UK have a fabulous magazine - Family Matters! If you would like to keep up to date on all Home-Start UK news, click the button below to subscribe.

Subscribe to our Family Matters magazine here!



We would love to hear your feedback on our newsletter, please get in touch if there's any further information you would like, or if there's anything you'd like to see included, you can email us at info@homestartgnnl.org.uk



We are always grateful for donations to help us continue to support families, you can donate by clicking on the button below.

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