

Home-Start Greater Manchester makes a difference to over 500 families each year.

In the last year, we've supported over 500 families with 1,700 children. Home-Start families say that what they like about our service is that it's non-judgmental, confidential and not time limited.

Our volunteers offer tailored-made support to every single family they support, because we recognise that for every mum that is suffering from post natal illness or every dad that is raising his children on his own, their experiences are unique to them. And our volunteers offer support to all of our 500 parent's individual circumstances.

Many of our parents have said over the years, the same thing- "What we love about Home-Start is that their volunteers are there because they want to be, and not because they are paid to be."

It's often very clear to see where a parent is struggling- it's easy to witness a mum of twins who cannot get down a flight of stairs with a pushchair, or a family who are coping with a child with severe disabilities. What's not always easy to spot is those families who are suffering from anxiety, low self esteem and have a lack of confidence in their parenting.

It's these families that can often go beneath the radar, suffering in silence, and whose problems can then spiral out of control. But this is where Home-Start steps in.

Because of the unique way in which we support parents- visiting them in their own homes, weekly, on their own terms, often mums and dads will open up to Home-Start and their volunteer about issues they may not ever have spoken about before. Over weeks, months and sometimes even longer, families build up a trusting relationship with their volunteer, getting to the point where they confide in Home-Start. In the last year alone, 80% of parents said that their emotional well being had improved because of Home-Start support.

We know that across Greater Manchester there are many more parents suffering in silence, and we know with more volunteers and more funding we could reach out to them, setting them back on the right path- we know only too well that happy parents create happy children.

If you could support us by either becoming a volunteer, a fundraiser, or making a donation to train a new Home-Start volunteer, you can find out more by visiting www.gmhomestarts.org.uk
