

Reaching out to families in the greatest need.

We read with great interest the recent article in the Manchester Evening News, regarding the gap between the richest and poorest parts of Greater Manchester.

Interestingly we support many families living in Rochdale and Oldham, (cited as two of the most deprived areas in the region), as well as families living in the more affluent Trafford and Stockport.

The concerning issue for us, as one of Greater Manchester 's leading family support charities is that the disparity between the richest and poorest parts of the region is increasing.

Much more has to be done about this, in order to improve the life chances of our local children who are growing up in the poorest parts of our region. When children grow up in poverty, the impact can last a lifetime. Poverty affects their health, (physically and mentally), their education and their life opportunities as adults. We have to break this cycle of intergenerational poverty that exists in so many of our communities.

Home-Start addresses child poverty in so many homes of the families our volunteers visit. It can be supporting a parent to cook cheap, healthy nutritional meals, advice on debt management and budgeting, through to helping children become 'school ready', so that they get off on the right foot with their early education.

Breaking the cycle of child poverty will not happen overnight, but our local volunteers are making a difference to families in the greatest need right across Greater Manchester every single day.

We know that we could reach out to even more families if we had more local volunteers and funding to train them.

To find out how you can help us improve the life chances of our children, please visit www.gmhomestarts.org