

Why invest in state parenting when you have Home-Start?

In the national press recently, Professor John Aston, Britain's leading public health expert has urged the Government to give parents lessons on how to raise their children.

According to the Professor, one in ten children has a mental health problem, and a poor relationship with parents is amongst the main causes.

As a charity that has been at the frontline of family support for over 40 years, (nationally), and almost two decades across Greater Manchester, we'd urge the Government not to invest millions of pounds into new support services and parenting classes, but to continue funding charities like Home-Start that have a proven track record of stopping families reaching crisis point, stop children ending up in the care system, and stop parents from needing costly statutory intervention.

Since austerity measures took place several years ago, charities like Home-Start are constantly fighting for survival, looking for new funding streams and encouraging people to donate and fundraise on their behalf.

We all know that money is tight, and that central Government and local authorities are having to make tough decisions in what they can fund in the current climate, however it seems very short sighted to invest finances into un-proven 'state parenting' support.

Rather than risk this new approach, why not commit to funding Home-Starts who can, and do, deliver on a range of support to parents who are finding it hard to cope. From mums with post-natal depression, low self-esteem and poor mental health to dads who are raising their children on their own, or living in poverty.

If every family were able to access a Home-Start volunteer, the difference that this could potentially have on their parenting could last a lifetime, not only improving their own emotional well-being, but increasing their children's future life chances too.

To find out more about Home-Start Greater Manchester, please visit www.gmhomestarts.org.uk