

Home-Start, a charity supporting families in need, is asking people to use their professional skills to help by becoming a trustee.

Home-Start works with families in times of distress, empowering them to make good decisions for their children and in some cases preventing family crisis.

In an ideal world, a charity like Home-Start wouldn't be needed. But for many parents, the pressures of family life are simply too much to cope with alone.

There are so many reasons for this, including poverty, illness, family breakdowns, isolation, addiction and physical and mental health issues.

By recruiting and training local parent volunteers who offer emotional and practical support to families in their own homes, Home-Start is a fundamental support service for almost 500 families across Greater Manchester.

However, there is a different type of volunteer involved with Home-Start too- out trustees. These are local people with professional skills who guide and oversee the running of their local Home-Start. Without our trustees we couldn't support our families.

We need people with a broad range of skills to become members of our board of trustees, people with expertise in IT, human resources, marketing and business, to name but a few.

Being a Home-Start trustee is all about governance. The trustees don't run their local Home-Start on a day-to-day basis- that's the job of the paid staff- but they are responsible for the vision and strategy of the charity as well as its finances, staff and property.

In return for volunteering their time, trustees will be able to enhance their own skills, knowledge, self confidence and professional networks and know that they have made a real difference to families in their own community.

Home-Start boards are made up of all kinds of local people, our trustees come from all walks of life and we are looking for board members of all ages, male and female.

To become a trustee and for more information visit www.home-start.org.uk or call 0800 068 6368