

Dear Sir/Madam,

Government to invest in parenting lessons,

As Greater Manchester's leading family support charity, we welcome any funding that can support parents. However we urge the Government not to forget about the front-line service delivery charities who have been helping local parents for decades.

Before millions of pounds are spent on new initiatives, why not invest in the charities who have a proven track record of early intervention- stopping many families from reaching crisis point. It costs on average between £350,000 and £400,000 for a young person in long-term local authority care per year, yet it costs Home-Start just £1,000 a year to support an entire family.

David Cameron has said that 'strengthening families is at the heart of our agenda.' But across Greater Manchester, local Home-Starts are constantly struggling for funding and investment. Without funding, Home-Start cannot recruit and train new volunteers who offer a crucial home-visiting service to 500 families who are struggling to cope; poverty, poor mental health, domestic abuse, the list is endless.

For many parents, they say that Home-Start is the only service they will engage with, we hope this is not put at risk, if funding streams become unavailable as new unproven services spring up.

Yours sincerely

Kate Brookes

On Behalf of Home-Start Greater Manchester