



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ISSUED: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

### **Salford's leading family support charity launches innovative new project with Salford University to support 'mums to be' on their pregnancy journey**

Home-Start Trafford and Salford is one of the leading family support charities in Greater Manchester, improving the life chances of children in vulnerable families by improving parenting skills. It recruits and trains local parent volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to families in their own homes who are struggling to cope.

Its new pilot project called Home-Start Pregnancy and Postnatal Pals, is funded by the Tudor Trust and is in collaboration with the University of Salford's Midwifery team. The project will train local volunteers to become befrienders and provide pregnancy and postnatal support to Salford mums to be.

Kathryn Eckersley, Manager of Home-Start Trafford and Salford said: "The team at Home-Start Trafford & Salford are really keen and enthusiastic about working in partnership with Salford University department of Midwifery, to help us professionally train local volunteers so that they are confident and able to offer invaluable support to isolated Salford mum's to be. It's an exciting opportunity for volunteers to gain new skills and experiences especially those that are considering a career in this field."

Dr. Jeanne Lythgoe, Senior Lecturer in Midwifery at Salford University, said: "The University of Salford are proud and privileged to be working in partnership with Home Start (Trafford & Trafford) on this project. The Midwifery department will help to prepare and support the Home Start Pregnancy & Parenting Pals (HSPPP) for their role, promoting health and psychological wellbeing throughout pregnancy, birth and early parenthood. The University is evaluating this initiative to assess the impact of the HSPPP role on the women & families, and the volunteers themselves. We look forward to a really exciting and productive partnership."

The Home-Start Pregnancy and Parenting Pals project are now looking for volunteers to train for this exciting new piece of work. Training will take place in Eccles in June and October, to find out more about the project, and to volunteer please call 0161 865 4222 or email [admin@hsts.org.uk](mailto:admin@hsts.org.uk).

-ENDS-

## **Notes to Editor-**

For interviews, case studies and spokespeople please contact:

Jo McLeish, The Media Room, t: 07801565623, e: [info@themediaroom.org](mailto:info@themediaroom.org)

Home-Start recruits and trains local volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to families in their own homes. Supporting families with a range of difficulties and issues from poor mental health and post- natal illness to poverty, domestic abuse and illness and disability. There are seven Home-Starts working across Greater Manchester. They are: Home-Start Bury, Home-Start Bolton, Home-Start Manchester North, Home-Start Manchester South, Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside, Home-Start Rochdale, Home-Start Trafford & Salford.