



**NATIONAL  
LOTTERY FUNDED**



**Support and friendship  
for families**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**ISSUED: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Over £343,000 of Lottery funding secured by local family support charity, Home-Start.**

**For almost 25 years Home-Start has been providing frontline support to families who are struggling to cope in Bury, Bolton and Rochdale.**

Home-Start works in local communities, recruiting and training volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to local parent and their children who are facing difficult life circumstances. This can be for a range of reasons, including- poverty, poor mental health, illness and disability and isolation.

Locally trained volunteers visit families in their own homes for just a couple of hours each week, providing tailor-made support, and empowering parents to make positive change through a confidential and non- judgemental approach.

One parent supported by Home-Start said: *“Before Home-Start my life was in chaos. I could not see the point of getting up in the morning. My post- natal illness was so bad, I often thought my baby would be better off without me. I was referred to Home-Start by my Health Visitor. As each volunteer visit happened, I became more and more relaxed and confident in my parenting. The emotional support my volunteer offered took me so far on my journey. Looking back I do not know where I would be without Home-Start. They saved my sanity and gave my little boy his mum back.”*

There are seven Home-Starts working with families across Greater Manchester, and most recently Home-Start Bury, Bolton and Rochdale have collectively joined forces to develop new ways of working together, this includes delivering a cohesive Home-Start service across the three local authority areas; thus increasing referrals, and reaching out to more families who need support in this areas.

The ethos of Home-Start’s core delivery is to provide volunteers who visit families in their own homes, whilst this will continue, this new Lottery funded project, (HSBBR) will allow all three Home-Starts to share with each other their own specialisms which include ‘School Readiness’ and early learning, support for families affected by Autism and raising the awareness of issues faces by BME families.

Across the next three years of funding, each year the project will-

- Support 150 parents with approximately 350 children
- Provide 75 new volunteering opportunities across Bury, Bolton and Rochdale

Kate Brookes, Manager of Home-Start Bury said: *"We are thrilled to be awarded this grant by the Lottery. It's a ringing endorsement of their commitment to our work in helping us build stronger communities for our families and better futures for our local children."*

Donna McKenna, Manager of Home-Start Rochdale said: *"Working collaboratively in this way is a new and innovative way of working for Home-Start. But as funding gets harder and budgets are stretched, providing this cost-effective joint approach is a brilliant way forward."*

Razia Mohammed, Manager of Home-Start Bolton said: *"I am delighted to be working in partnership with my two neighbouring Home-Starts, sharing good practice, volunteer training courses and imparting my own knowledge of the BME community. What this grant will allow us to do is reach out to more families who need Home-Start support."*

-ENDS-

#### **Notes to Editor-**

For interviews, case studies and spokespeople please contact:

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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.