



PRESS RELEASE

ISSUED: 7th March 2017

More disadvantaged children to receive support in Bury and Bolton thanks to huge investment by Children in Need in Home-Start.

Almost £200,000 of BBC Children in Need funding secured for two of Greater Manchester's Home-Start charities.

In the latest round of Children in Need funding, Home-Start Bury and Home-Start Bolton have secured significant grants to run projects that will improve the life chances of local children.

Home-Start is Greater Manchester's leading family support charity. It recruits and trains local parent volunteers to offer emotional and practical support to families in their own homes. Families who are struggling to cope for many reasons, including- poverty, isolation, poor mental health and illness and disability.

Home-Start Bury will be using their grant to fund a Rapid Response worker to support parents and their children living in areas of deprivation and suffering with poor mental health. The idea of having a Rapid Response worker is to provide help to families who may need support immediately with issues that can be resolved quickly. For instance supporting a new mum in getting her baby immunised, helping parents to establish early morning pre-school routines. Working with parents right from the start and stopping their issues from spiralling out of control.

Kate Brookes, manager of Home-Start Bury said: "We're delighted to have been awarded with this new funding from BBC Children in Need, which will enable us to provide a vital service to disadvantaged families across Bury. We know that many of our local families benefit hugely from having long term support from their Home-Start volunteer, however there are some families we work with, who just need immediate help to set them on the right track, and having this Children in Need funded post will enable us to meet the needs of those families too."

Home-Start Bolton which neighbours Home-Start Bury has also been successful in securing Children in Need funding. Their grant will be used to fund a Children's Support Co-ordinator who will manage a team of volunteers working with families of young children where the mother has poor mental health.

Razia Mohamed, manager of Home-Start Bolton said: "We are grateful to have received this funding from Children in Need. It will help us to support more local families in Bolton who may be struggling with or going through a difficult emotional time. The funding will help us help parents to give their children the best possible start in life."

In the last year alone, the seven Home-Start charities across Greater Manchester have supported 500 families with over 1,700 children.

-ENDS-

Notes to Editor-

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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.