



PRESS RELEASE

ISSUED: 17th October 2016

Almost £800,000 of Lottery funding secured for two of Greater Manchester's Home-Start charities.

In the latest round of the Big Lotteries 'Reaching Communities' funding, Home-Start HOST and Home-Start Rochdale have secured significant grants to run projects that will improve mental health and emotional well-being in parents.

Home-Start HOST (which supports families across Oldham, Stockport and Tameside), will be using their grant of £459,789 to develop and expand their Parent and Infant Mental Health project. The project provides locally trained volunteers who support parents in their own homes. Currently the project supports 360 parents who are affected by poor mental health, with a child aged 0-2. Volunteers will be trained in attachment theory, bonding, child development, post-natal depression, emotional support techniques and communication and language development, helping vulnerable parents to gain a greater understanding of, and ability to respond to, their child's needs through the delivery of a one-to-one weekly home visits.

Sarah Cook, manager of Home-Start HOST said: "We are thrilled to have been successful in securing Lottery funding as it gives us a fantastic opportunity to develop our work in supporting families with children in the 0-2 age group, which is widely viewed as the most crucial time in a child's development. This funding gives us the chance to build on the work we have already done in Tameside with Tameside's Early Attachment Service and to develop and expand the project into Stockport and Oldham."

Home-Start Rochdale secured £312,364 in the same round of funding for their new 'Buddies for All' project, in collaboration with The Angel Project. This brand new piece of work will be based in the heart of the Langley Estate in Middleton. These two charities have teamed together to join their befriending services to ensure accessing support is quicker and easier at a time when help is needed most. The project will recruit volunteers with a range of experiences, employ a Mental Health nurse and Emotional Health and Well-Being worker to provide home visiting support and help within the community. The project begins in April 2017 and will provide vital support to 120 people.

Donna McKenna, manager of Home-Start Rochdale said: “It is widely recognised that poor mental health is increasing in parents. This affects their ability to cope and parent their children well. Home-Starts right across Greater Manchester have recognised this, and our early intervention support means that we are stopping many families from reaching crisis point.”

In the last year alone, the seven Home-Start charities across Greater Manchester have supported 500 families with over 1,000 children.

-ENDS-

For interviews, case studies and spokespeople please contact:

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Notes to Editor-

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.

The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. We put people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects. We are responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year we invest over £650 million and award around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes. Since June 2004 we have awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people.