



Support and friendship  
for families

NEWS RELEASE

## HOME-START OLDHAM, STOCKPORT & TAMESIDE WINS INNOVATION AWARD TO IMPROVE QUALITY OF HEALTH CARE

3/11/2016

A team from **Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside (HOST)** has been selected by the Health Foundation, an independent health care charity, to be part of its £1.5 million innovation programme, Innovating for Improvement.

The fifth round of the Innovating for Improvement programme is supporting 22 health care projects in the UK with the aim of improving health care delivery and/or the way people manage their own health care by testing and developing innovative ideas and approaches and putting them into practice.

The innovative project from HOST will be delivered in partnership with Tameside & Glossop's Early Attachment Service and the Child Outcomes Research Consortium. The project aims to improve the support offered to fathers in the perinatal period and to promote positive parent infant relationships. Fathers are often overlooked during the perinatal period, yet it is a time when they are particularly vulnerable to depression themselves or when they may find themselves as the carer for a partner affected by poor mental health, including post-natal depression.

The project will build on HOST's current Parent Infant Mental Health project in which highly trained volunteers provide home visiting support to families. The team will develop new ways of engaging fathers, including through recruiting more male volunteers and will produce a range of new 'father friendly' resources, including a series of short films. The team will also develop a new multi-agency training course that will raise awareness of the importance of engaging fathers during the perinatal period.

Over the course of the programme the team will develop its innovative idea and approach, put it into practice and gather evidence about how the innovation improves the quality of health care.

The team will be led by Sarah Cook, Chief Executive, Home-Start Oldham, Stockport & Tameside and Dr Pauline Lee, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Pennine Care NHS Foundation Trust.

Sarah Cook said: "We are extremely pleased to have been awarded this grant. Over the last few years we have developed excellent working relationships with Tameside & Glossop's

Early Attachment Service and we now deliver an excellent Parent Infant Mental Health project in partnership with them, whereby Home-Start volunteers are offered additional training in promoting positive parent infant relationships in the vital 0-2 period. This new project will help us to build on this work in order to provide more support to new and expectant fathers, who can often be overlooked.”

Sarah Henderson, Associate Director from the Health Foundation said, “We are very excited to be working with such a high-calibre of teams, who all have great innovative ideas. As an organisation we are keen to support innovation at the frontline across all sectors of health and care services, and I am pleased that we will be able to support these ambitious teams to develop and test their ideas over the next year.

“Our aim is to promote the effectiveness and impact of the teams’ innovations and show how they have succeeded in improving the quality of health care, with the intention of these being widely adopted across the UK.”

The programme will run for fifteen months and each project will receive up to £75,000 of funding to support the implementation and evaluation of the project.

-ENDS-

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**Notes to editors:**

**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.

**Find out more about the Innovating for Improvement programme:  
About the Health Foundation**

The Health Foundation is an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

Their aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people’s lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.

