



NEWS RELEASE

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Local family support charity celebrates almost £400,000 of funding to carry on its vital support for Manchester families.

Home-Start Manchester North, one of seven Home-Starts working across Greater Manchester has secured almost £300,000 from the Lottery's Reaching Communities programme and a further £90,000 from The Henry Smith Charity.

Home-Start is one of the UK's leading family support charities. It recruits and trains local parent volunteers to offer practical and emotional support to families in their own homes. Families who are struggling to cope for a variety of reasons. Ranging from poverty and isolation through to domestic violence and poor mental health. Parents supporting other parents; a simple idea that really works. Home-Start's ethos is to help parents build better lives and better futures for their children.

This recently secured funding will be used for a specific project, and will account for 70% of Home-Start Manchester North's overall service delivery.

The BEST project, (Barriers Eradicated, Stronger Together) will bring together local parents and families with young children of different ethnic and cultural backgrounds to support one another, breaking down cultural and language barriers and re-educating communities by forming new inter-cultural bonds. Children and families will gain a personal experience of building relationships with members of the wider diverse communities in parts of Manchester.

Shelley Byrne, manager of Home-Start Manchester North said: "We are delighted to receive both Lottery and Henry Smith funding; it's a ringing endorsement of our front line work. This funding will stabilise our BEST project for a significant period of time, impacting on the lives of local families and parent volunteers in so many ways. Within this project not only do we intend to make sure that children have a better start in life, but in doing so, break down the barriers and build community cohesion."

Shelley continued: “Securing funding of this kind has become increasingly difficult over recent years and our success is down to the strong evidence of the need for this type of project here in Manchester.”

Home-Start Manchester North works with 50 volunteers who support over 80 families and 200 children. Across Greater Manchester seven local Home-Starts support almost 500 local families and almost 1,000 children.

For more information on Home-Start Manchester North; to volunteer, fundraise or to find support, please contact info@homestartmcrnorth.org.uk

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Notes to Editor

For interviews and case studies, please contact:

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Home-Start is the UK’s leading family support charity. There are almost 300 local Home-Starts across the UK. We recruit and train volunteers to support parents with at least one child under the age of five. Our home visiting work is unique in the UK. The charity was set up in 1973 and now supports over 32,000 families and almost 70,000 children each year. Nearly 16,000 volunteers visit families in their own homes – parents supporting other parents in a variety of situations including isolation, bereavement, multiple births, poverty, illness or 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,(HOST) Home-Start Rochdale, Home-Start Trafford & Salford, (HSTS).