



PRESS RELEASE

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Every parent needs a bit of help sometimes...

Could you spare a few hours each week and make a difference to young families in Manchester, a difference that will last a lifetime?

There is no rulebook for raising a family and sometimes it can seem overwhelming, particularly if you are going through difficult times.

Home-Start Manchester North works with local families in times of distress; preventing their problems from spiralling out of control, and often preventing crisis. Tailored made emotional and practical support is delivered by trained parent volunteers to families in their own homes.

Volunteers can support parents in a variety of ways; from offering practical assistance in helping a family get to hospital appointments, shopping, or to the park, through to emotional support, perhaps to a mum suffering from post- natal depression, or who is feeling isolated.

Home-Start Manchester North is now looking to recruit new volunteers for its training course that starts on the 9th October, and runs to the 20th November.

One mum supported by Home-Start said: "Just to have that support from another parent for a couple of hours a week, transformed mine and my children's lives. Home-Start was amazing, it made a total difference."

Shelley Byrne, manager of Home-Start Manchester North said: "If you think you could support Home-Start, have parenting experience and would like to help a local family we would love to hear from you. Volunteering for Home-Start is a rewarding experience and all volunteers complete an extensive training course before they are matched to their first family. Home-Start also offers ongoing training & support to all volunteers."

One Home-Start volunteer said: *“To volunteer for Home-Start and to help get a family back on their feet is a wonderful experience.”*

Shelley continued: “We would love to hear from retired people who are interested in becoming Home-Start volunteers, and who live in the Central East areas of Gorton, Longsight and Levenshulme. Having said that, we welcome interest from anyone with parenting experience who feels they could spare just a few hours each week to support a local family.”

Home-Start Manchester North is one of seven Home-Starts across Greater Manchester, there are almost 300 local Home-Starts spread right across the UK, forming part of the UK’s leading family support charity. Becoming a volunteer for Home-Start Manchester North means you will be joining the biggest network of parent volunteers in the UK.

In the last year alone, across Greater Manchester, Home-Start volunteers have supported almost 500 families with nearly 1,000 children.

Please contact Home-Start Manchester North on 0161 7214493 or email: info@homestartmcrnorth.org.uk for more information about volunteering with Home-Start.

-ENDS-

Press Contact- For spokespeople and case studies, please contact- Jo McLeish, t: 07801565623, e:info@themediaroom.org.uk

NOTES TO EDITOR

Home-Start is one of the UK’s leading family support charity. 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, Home-Start Rochdale, Home-Start Trafford & Salford.