



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 Trafford & Salford 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 Trafford & Salford, (HSTS), 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.

This vital family support charity has once again been commissioned by Trafford Council to deliver their Early Help services, but under this new contract families identified at risk of the following, will be priority groups for Home-Start volunteers to support. Those at risk of domestic abuse, families where a separation has occurred, a family where a parent has been imprisoned, or supporting a parent with physical or poor mental health.

Historically, Home-Start Trafford & Salford has supported parents who have at least one child under the age of five. Whilst that early intervention support still exists, under this new contact, the charity will now be supporting local parents with a child of any age.

To carry out this preventative support for local families, Home-Start Trafford & Salford is looking to recruit new volunteers for its evening training courses in June and July. The course starts on the 16th June, 6pm-9pm, at Stretford Children's Centre.

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.”*

Kathryn Eckersley, manager of Home-Start Trafford & Salford 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.”*

Home-Start Trafford & Salford 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 Trafford & Salford 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 Tracey on 0161 865 4222 or email: admin@hsts.org.uk for more information about volunteering with Home-Start Trafford & Salford.

-ENDS-

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Home-Start is 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.