



# STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

### MEMBER REPORT

<b>NAME OF ORGANISATION/BODY</b>	Homestart
<b>DATE OF LAST MEETING ATTENDED</b>	14/06/2022 & 28/09/2022

#### BRIEF REPORT

##### **Homestart Committee meeting 14<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

- Volunteer expenses and donations were discussed, many more volunteers are now claiming back their expenses due to the increase in cost of living where previously they donated their expenses to Homestart.
- Homestart are struggling for volunteers and the team are making every effort to promote the new training course starting in September to attract as many new volunteers as possible.
- The volunteer prep training course has been revised and will now take place over 8 weeks, instead of 10.
- Two new "Dad Matters" coordinators have recently been recruited and they are coming up with good ideas for the project. which helps dads have positive relationships with their families, supporting them with their own wellbeing and mental health.
- The three schemes across the consortium are working together well and a joint referral from has been devised with a view to all using an online process in the near future.
- Due to the increase in referrals currently being received and the number of staff now in the team it was felt that the future plan to expand into Gloucester City needed to be reviewed. It was agreed that the priority should be the quality of support on offer to families. Trustees will meet with the Scheme Manager to discuss further and provide a support working group.
- Appendix A is the Annual Report for 2021-2022 for Homestart.

##### **Homestart Committee meeting - 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

- Donations are lower than usual but it is hoped these will increase over the festive period.
- Homestart have been successful with funding bids and this means that they are financially stable this year and going into 2022/2023. £36,000 will be taken over into 2023. However costs have increased i.e cleaning costs, consultancy fees, IT support, printing costs.
- Increasing volunteers is a priority at present as numbers for volunteering are low. It is becoming increasingly difficult to attract new people and the Homestart Team are working on ways to encourage more people to become volunteers.
- Family Hubs Update - GCC have extended the date further as its not clear yet what the process will be. It is now looking like tenders may need to be submitted by January 2023. The contract is for 9 years and will start from July 2023. Homestart have been approached by other support charities such as Barnardo's to work in conjunction with each other, however after discussions were held, it was agreed that Homestart would stay as an "independent" charity.
- The Stroud and Gloucester Homestart Scheme are often asked by the other schemes for advice with regards to how to run groups and how to use administration systems such as CharityLog and it was felt that in some respects they are "leading the way".

- Homestart have a Christmas card design competition running on social media.
- There will be a Homestart Christmas Bag Packing event at Waitrose in Stroud on Wednesday 21st December to raise funds.
- Homestart are seeking a new “Patron”.

Next Homestart committee meeting date - 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022

<b>REPORT SUBMITTED BY</b>	Cllr Natalie Bennett
<b>DATE</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2022