



# Spring Newsletter

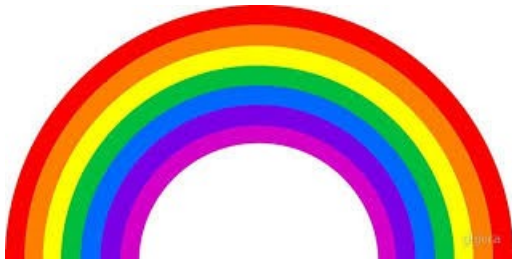
June 2020



We have had a very busy few months with lots going on at Home-Start North Dorset. Here is your Spring Newsletter packed full of everything that's been happening!

## North Dorset

**Response to Covid-19.....** The Covid-19 pandemic has been very strange and unsettling for everyone. Our charity has faced some very challenging tasks over the last three months, however despite this we have still managed to support our families. We are so thankful to all our volunteers, trustees and staff for keeping our service going during these unprecedented times. We have been able to continue to work with families remotely, with many of our volunteers providing support through phone calls and text messaging. We have also increased our support with additional staff contact to each family.



We continue to work closely with the local food banks and other organisations donating food. In addition to this we have delivered activity packs and Easter eggs for children, and even bunches of flowers (donated from one of our wonderful volunteers) to our parents. We've had success with a number of emergency grants and have seen an increase in individual donations. Thank you to everyone who continues to support us in this way!

**Mothers in Mind.....** Back in January we ran a pilot for an exciting new project. Our 'Mothers in Mind' group supports parents suffering with Perinatal Mental Health issues. This is a peer support group and has been developed by our Support Co-ordinator Vix.



Our group follows a model first trialled by Home-Start Stroud. Due to the success of our pilot, we had planned to continue running this group for the rest of the year. Unfortunately this group has now been put on hold as a result of Covid-19. We have continued to support these families remotely during the Pandemic. We hope to resume our groups (Mothers in Mind and Mess and More) as soon as safely possible.

**Thank you to Bryanston School .....** Over the last few months Bryanston School have gone over and above to help our charity and the local families we support. During the first few weeks of lockdown the school's catering department donated a huge amount of fresh produce to be distributed to our families. Since then Bryanston have continued to provide food donations and even a large amount of Easter eggs for our supported children. We want to say a huge THANK YOU to the staff of Bryanston for organising this and thinking of Home-Start North Dorset.



**The National Lottery are funding us!.....** We are delighted to announce that for the first time we have received funding from The National Lottery. Given the ongoing operational challenges we face, we are extremely grateful to have received this grant. We would like to say a big THANK YOU to The National Lottery and to the staff and trustees for their hard work in helping to secure this funding.

**Welcome to the family.....** Before we went into lockdown we were able to welcome nine new volunteers to our team. Eight Volunteers completed their training in February and the ninth transferred from another scheme. Sadly we were forced to cancel our volunteer lunch at the last minute. We are really looking forward to holding a lunch for everyone in the Autumn, once current restrictions allow. Unfortunately many of our training sessions have now been postponed, however we are looking into some remote training opportunities for our volunteers.



**We need you .....** We always welcome new volunteers and people from all walks of life who can support us in any way they can. We are particularly keen to hear from those who have an interest in fundraising.

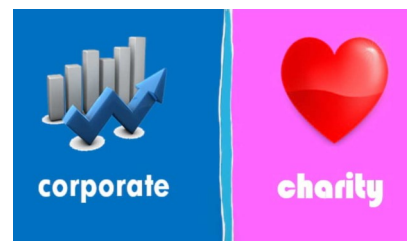
### VOLUNTEER FOR US



Come and join our great team!

**Sponsor a Home-visitor....** Recently we have been fortunate enough to receive funds from Dorset Council, The National Lottery and Harts of Stur. With 42 Home-visitors available once the restrictions relax we will be able to support many more families if we have the funding. If you're in a position to sponsor a Home-visitor or want to raise funds then please do call email at [office@home-start-northdorset.co.uk](mailto:office@home-start-northdorset.co.uk).

£400 will help us support a family for 3 months or £1500 will provide a Home-visitor who can support 4 families for a whole year!



**Merging talks.....** In January our trustees were approached by the board at Home-Start West Dorset to discuss a possible merger of the two schemes. Similar discussions have taken place in the past, however we are now working through due diligence and a period of consultation before final decisions are made. We look forward to updating everyone on this potentially exciting development soon. Please contact Chelsey at [chelsey@home-start-northdorset.co.uk](mailto:chelsey@home-start-northdorset.co.uk) if you have any questions.



### Can you help us in anyway?



We are always looking for new Trustees, Home-Visitors, Office Helpers, Supporters & Fund-Raisers.

If you think you might be able to offer any of the above then give us a call for a friendly chat or email the office.

**North Dorset** [office@home-start-northdorset.co.uk](mailto:office@home-start-northdorset.co.uk) or call 07568745982

**Support us while you shop.....** A very simple way of helping us raise money while you make purchases is by using the companies listed below. Just log into your account and select Home-Start North Dorset as your chosen charity.

