



Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Annual Report & Financial Statements 2025-2026

Registered Charity No. 1113941
www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk

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Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Registered Charity No. 1113941

Registered Company No. 05443274

Registered office

197 Broadway

Didcot

OX11 8RU

Website

www.homestart-southernoxfordshire.org.uk

Trustees

Doreen McNulty (Chair) – resigned 19 December 2025

Jan Rimmer (Chair)

Gill Bodey (Vice Chair)

Colin Campbell (Treasurer) – resigned 31 March 2025

Rob Fraser (Treasurer) – appointed 19 May 2025

Helen Conway

Caroline Couldrick

Christine Grandison

Laura Greatrex – appointed 11 June 2025

Abi Reynolds

Manager

Linda Cheong – retired 18 June 2025

Andy Cook – appointed 24 June 2025

Independent Examiner

Chapman Worth Limited

Chartered Accountants

2 The Old Estate Yard

High Street

East Hendred

Oxfordshire

OX12 8JY

Bankers

CAF Bank

25 Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent

ME19 4JQ

Chair's Introduction

I am delighted to present my first report as Chair of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire, having taken over the reins from Doreen McNulty. I cannot thank Doreen enough for her outstanding contribution to this charity over the course of so many years, and I am indebted to her for all her help and support during my handover. It is also reassuring to know that Doreen is still on hand to provide advice and useful background information, as we continue to see her every week at our Best Starts group where she assists as a volunteer.

This was certainly a year of transition as our long-standing Treasurer Colin handed over the baton to Rob Fraser, and our Manager, Linda, entered retirement and handed over to Andy Cook. As with Doreen, I would like to thank Colin and Linda for their wonderful and dedicated service to the work of this charity. We wish you both all the very best for the future. Meanwhile we were delighted to welcome Laura Greatrex onto the Board, bringing invaluable experience in the local and political arena.

A contributory factor in this being a year of change was that, as Doreen mentioned in her report last year, the Charity has adopted minor amendments to its governing document, adopted at the AGM in October 2025, which limit the terms of office of trustees to a maximum of 12 years. We will see a few more changes in the coming period, as other trustees reach the 12-year limit.

Notwithstanding the above, our focus remained very clearly on the fulfilment of our mission, and the support of struggling local families through home-visiting and provision of groups. The following pages describe our many achievements through the course of the year, in line with our 3-year Strategic Plan.



Some highlights were:

- We helped increasing numbers of families; (223 to be exact).
- Of these, 118 families received home visits from our network of volunteers.
- We instigated a second weekly group, in September 2025, called Best Starts.
- 105 families were supported at our groups.
- 100% of parents felt less isolated because of the home visits they received.
- 94% of the parents said they experienced improved mental health.
- Our volunteers provided more than 3,000 hours of support, which is simply amazing! (Having previously been a home-visiting volunteer myself, for many years, I know how deeply rewarding this role can be).
- The quality of our work has been recognised by the national body, Home-Start UK.

I would like to say a big Thank You to our wonderful team of staff, volunteers, trustees, funders and supporters. This is a big team effort, and between us, we make a real difference to the lives of young families across our region. Please read on for more detailed information about our many achievements this year.

Jan Rimmer, Chair

Manager's Report

It has been an absolute privilege to join the Home-Start team this year, and to see with my own eyes how much of a difference our work makes. We might be small but we have BIG impact, as I am constantly reminded of by the notes I receive from families.

Thank you so much, Linda, for leading the team so well for the past few years. I'm delighted to pick up the baton, and also relieved that you're not far away, to pick your brains, as you've kindly stayed on as a volunteer. Thank you for that!

This year has been a year of transition in some ways, but also a year in which we've managed to grow the amount of support we provide to families across our region, through home-visiting. There was big excitement within the team when we succeeded in supporting more than 100 families in this way, this year (118 families, to be exact!). Likewise, we began the year with just one weekly group (Baby & Me), but finished the year with two groups, having launched Best Starts in September, for slightly older children and their parents/carers. We are now hatching plans for a third group, so hopefully we'll have more news on that next year.

As a small charity, we hugely appreciate our volunteers for performing the lion's share of the work, directly supporting families, week in week out, helping at groups, guiding us as volunteer trustees, and helping us to spread the word across southern Oxfordshire. Volunteers outnumber staff by about 9 to 1, which gives an idea of the extent to which you are at the heart of this charity. Meanwhile our staff continually go above and beyond, caring much more about supporting families and volunteers than about what day or time it is. Just as one example, one of our small-yet-perfectly-formed team (there are seven of us, all part-time) attended a meeting at the home of one of our families on Boxing Day this year,

because it was important, and appreciated by the family. This is what Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is all about: doing our best to support our families in any way we can, with humanity, humility and humour, to quote our values.

Of course the other piece of the jigsaw, without whom we wouldn't exist, is the amazing generosity of a whole variety of supporters and donors. We are indebted to more funders than could possibly be mentioned individually here, including grant-giving trusts and foundations; town and parish councils; local businesses; and individual donors - you know who you are! Having said that, it is only right that this year we make special mention of Active Oxfordshire, BBC Children in Need, Didcot Town Council, Henry Smith Foundation, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, Oxfordshire Community Foundation, SGN, South Oxfordshire District Council, Step Change Fund, and The National Lottery Community Fund. Thank you also to all the families, volunteers past and present, and supporters who donate their expenses, make donations in lieu of birthdays, fundraise and/or make regular donations to the Charity often boosted by Gift Aid. We wouldn't be able to support and help struggling families without people like you!

While we look back on a successful year, we also look forward to the new year. With referrals for our services increasing by 27% over the last two years, we are determined to continue growing our ability to meet that need, and also to look at additional ways in which our families might appreciate help and support. The fact that the quality of our work has been recognised by the nationwide Home-Start UK is the icing on the cake. So, if you've supported us this year, we'll definitely need you to do it again next year please, as there's still much for us to do!



Andy Cook, Manager

Objects and Activities

Our Objects

The charitable objects of the Charity, as set out in its governing document are:

- to safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical, of children and parents/carers of children;
- to prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children;
- to relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents/carers of children;
- to promote the education of the public in better standards of child care; within the area of southern Oxfordshire and its environs.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when planning the year's activities. This report demonstrates how Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire fulfils its charitable objectives.

Our Activities

We work with families who are experiencing challenging times, and who have a child/children aged five years or under. We achieve our mission through the following main activities:

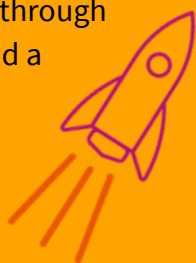
- We recruit and train volunteers to work alongside families, offering friendship, support and practical assistance, with a flexible approach to take account of different needs. This 1-to-1 support, typically offered once a week for up to a year, strengthens parents' emotional wellbeing and parenting skills. This ultimately benefits their children and encourages families to widen their support networks and to effectively use services within the local community.
- We run local parent and child support groups which provide safe and welcoming spaces for parents to meet other local parents, sharing experiences, and for their children to play and socialise with other children. Attendees also have the opportunity to gain support and signposting from our skilled Group Worker.

Our Vision

Our vision is to play our part in shaping a country where all children have the best possible start in life. We want to make sure that no parent or family feels alone in the critical task of raising children.

Our Mission

Our mission is to support families with young children in southern Oxfordshire to navigate their challenging times. We achieve this through a network of trained volunteers and a team of expert staff.



Our Values

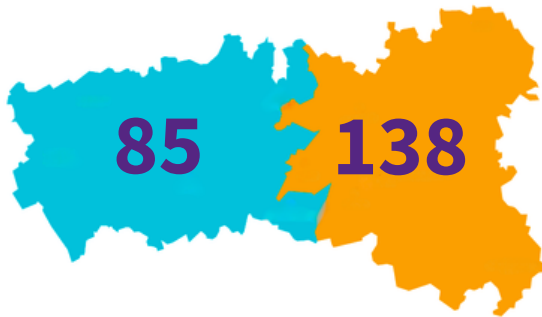
Humanity: We see each other as individual people and our approach is based on the fundamental human qualities of relationship, inclusion, kindness and compassion.

Humility: We know that it takes a village to raise a child. We seek to work in partnership as peers to build on the inherent strengths and capabilities in people, families, communities and organisations.

Humour: In the face of challenges in life, we approach our relationships with an aim to find joy, playfulness and fulfilment from our connected journey.

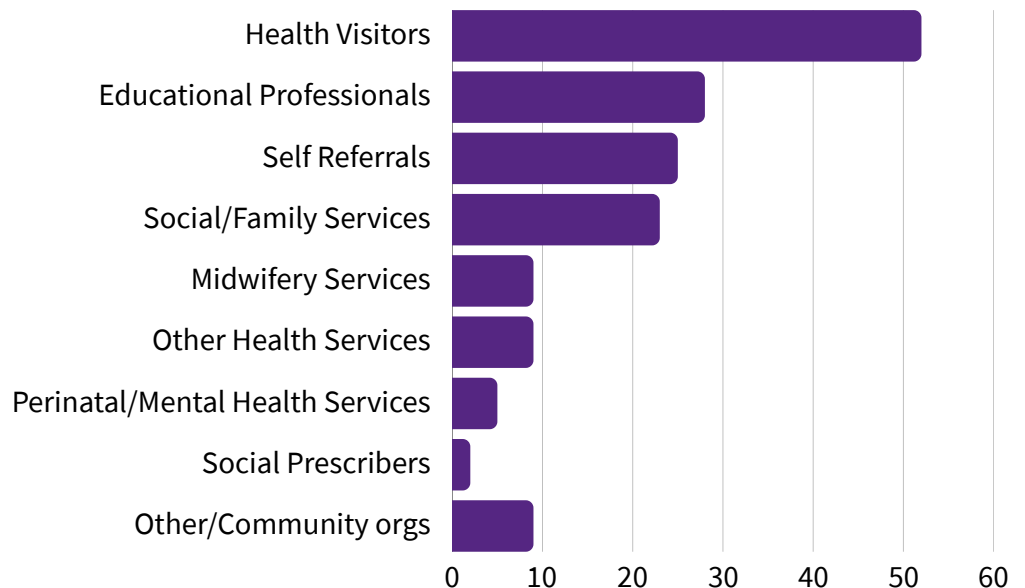
Our Impact

Providing support across South Oxfordshire & the Vale of White Horse



Source of referrals:

162
referrals



Referrals to us
have risen by
27%
over the last two
years



32%
of families
supported through
home-visiting are
on a social care
plan



223 families supported



118

families supported
by a trained
home-visiting
volunteer

105

families supported
at our weekly
groups

371

children supported
301 aged 0-5
70 aged over 5

Who we supported

Families come to us at different points in their lives and with a wide range of circumstances. The families we supported this year were often navigating several challenges at once, including mental or physical health needs, financial insecurity, social care involvement, neurodiversity, disability and isolation. These figures give an insight into the diverse experiences of the families we support and the complexity of the circumstances in which they are raising their children.



Family Circumstances

- 50% financial hardship/insecurity
- 38% single parents
- 33% on Social Care plans
- 17% domestic abuse
- 5% substance misuse



Health/Wellbeing

- 64% parent mental health
- 36% child neurodiversity
- 20% child disability/health
- 17% adult neurodiversity
- 15% parent disability/health



Diversity/Background

- 30% described their ethnicity as something *other than White British*
- 5% refugee/migrant
- 3% armed forces
- 3% prison experience

Every family is different, and behind these figures are parents and children doing their best in challenging times.



I am autistic and suffer from PPD/PPA. I struggle to get things done with a baby to look after and general household tasks would get on top of me. [My volunteer] changed that. It helps to know that I have a reliable time slot on Mondays that I can chip away at the pile of things that need to be done, the relief afterwards sets me up for a better week. [My volunteer] is lovely, knowledgeable, understanding, and my little boy loves playing with her. I'm very grateful for her and Home-Start.

- Supported Mum

Our outcomes show that of the families we supported with a home-visiting volunteer over the last year:

80%

of parents felt more involved in their children's learning and development

100%

of parents felt less isolated

79%

of parents experienced improved self-esteem

94%

of parents experienced improved mental health

87%

of parents felt better able to cope with parenting in the earliest years

100%

of parents felt better able to cope with the day-to-day running of the home

55 valued volunteers supporting families!



3,059
hours of time given by all of our volunteers!

“

I went from feeling like I was drowning daily, to feeling like I can cope again. My volunteer is so lovely, empathetic, kind and understanding. She knows just how to help me, in ways I wouldn't have even thought myself. She is brilliant with my children and it's amazing having someone to talk to who understands and has no judgement.

”

- Family supported with a home-visiting volunteer

Family case study

Mum had become very anxious and did not like to leave the house; this isolation had led to C2 being anxious of people and very clingy to Mum and Dad.

Mum initially felt anxious about meeting our Home-Start Co-ordinator, but this was lessened by the visits, including introducing our trained volunteer. Mum said that she just 'clicked' straight away with her matched volunteer. C2 was not used to having people in the home and Mum said he was having a meltdown when our volunteer visited for the first time. She said our volunteer was calm, quiet, and reassuring and by visit three, C2 was happy and engaging and both Mum and C2 were looking forward to the weekly visit.

Mum says she feels less anxious and C2 is much more sociable and less clingy. The volunteer goes along with Mum and C2 to a Rhyme Time at the local library, C2 plays with his peers at groups and they often go to the local farm shop and pet the animals. Mum has felt confident enough to register him to start a pre-school in September. Mum feels that without her Home-Start volunteer, C2 would not be ready and would have been too anxious to even consider registering him to attend a pre-school.

Mum says that their volunteer visit is a highlight in their week and they love their volunteer and the positive impact on C2 has been amazing.



We're proud that 100% of families supported with a home-visiting volunteer who responded to our survey would recommend Home-Start to a friend

100%

of parents reported improved confidence in managing their daily life

“ I was feeling really low and very lonely. My volunteer helped me feel less alone. Just having someone to talk to every week was great, but also the fact that they were so great with my baby, it really made me feel less overwhelmed. ”
- Supported Mum

Family case study

Mum arrived in the UK through an arranged marriage, which unfortunately became abusive. Demonstrating great courage, she fled the situation with her three-year-old child and was relocated to a different area for safety.

As a result, the family was referred to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. Mum was highly vulnerable and lacked essential life skills due to the prolonged abuse and control she had experienced. Our Family Co-ordinator provided immediate practical support, including a care package of toiletries, clothing and toys, as the family had been unable to bring many belongings with them.

Once a trusting relationship was established, Mum was supported by our Family Co-ordinator in reporting the abuse she had suffered to the police. This was a significant step for her, as she initially had little trust in the police. A safety plan is now in place.

Mum and child were then introduced to one of our trained home-visiting volunteers, who quickly began offering practical and emotional support. This included helping Mum update her address with the bank, benefits services and utility providers. The volunteer also supported the family in registering with a GP and dentist and provided an orientation of the local area, including essential amenities such as shops and the library.

The child was not used to being around other adults, so was slightly cautious at first, but has since developed a lovely relationship with our volunteer and has enjoyed their walks to the park to play. Mum feels less overwhelmed by having support while she has been navigating a tricky time with financial and housing issues - we have obtained funding for carpets, wardrobes and support towards an existing energy debt. Mum now really enjoys playing with and reading with her child and they go to the library regularly.

Our Family Co-ordinator helped Mum to secure a place for the child at a local pre-school. The child is now thriving in this setting and Mum says the child feels settled and safe.



“ I volunteer for Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire as I enjoy being with families and young children and seeing how they change and grow. ”
- Home-visiting Volunteer

Groups

We held two weekly groups this year, which supported 105 families.

Our Home-Start Baby & Me group is held every Tuesday at the District Community Centre at Great Western Park in Didcot and is a drop-in group for parents/carers and their children aged up to 15 months old. The group provides a welcoming, safe space for babies to play, while caregivers have the opportunity to connect, helping to improve wellbeing and reduce isolation.



The group has allowed my son to get out of his comfort zone and not feel overwhelmed about too many people around him, he's been able to be himself and play happily, alone and alongside other children.



- Family who attended our Baby & Me group



Our Home-Start Best Starts group is held every Wednesday at the Bluebell Centre in Didcot and is a smaller sized group for referred families who would find attending larger groups difficult. The group fosters strong, supportive relationships between those who attend, our Group Worker and our Group Volunteer. Sessions combine play and learning, creating an engaging and welcoming environment. The smaller group size also allows our Group Worker to provide more tailored, individualised support to each attendee.



I have seen mine and my children's confidence grow. My 18 month old will now happily go and play, my 3 & 4 year old love the variety of toys, arts and crafts, dressing up, and of course snack time! Without the Best Starts group I wouldn't have the confidence to take my children for days out. It has also massively improved mine and my children's mental health.



- Family who attended our Best Starts group

Case study

Mum was referred to our Best Starts group by her Health Visitor. She was anxious about attending local baby groups with her youngest child as she was worried about germs that could aggravate her poorly chest. As our Best Starts group is a smaller, more nurturing space, Mum felt encouraged to start attending with all three of her children. She has been coming regularly and the whole family has grown in confidence and enjoyment of the group. Her youngest child is thriving and Mum enjoys chatting to the parents she sees there regularly and has got to know well. Recently, the children's father took the day off work so he could come along with the family to see the group in action for himself as he had heard so much about it from the children!

Highlights



CONBLOC



Thank you to local company Forterra for choosing us as its local charity to make a corporate donation to! This in turn led to its Plant Manager, Adam, choosing to run the Oxford Half Marathon in October 2026 for us!

22 new volunteers completed one of our Volunteer Preparation Courses to become a trained home-visiting volunteer, meaning we could support even more families.



Thank you to all the event organisers who allowed us to have a stand at their events, such as the numerous community larders, leisure centres, schools, as well as Didcot Railway Centre Family Days and OPA playdays.



We managed to get out and about across the South & Vale telling people all about our volunteer opportunities, such as at Thame Volunteer Fair, Healthy Abingdon and the Leisure Centre in Henley.



During the festive period we were so lucky to receive donations of gifts and toys for our families from Newbury Building Society in Abingdon and Didcot, Play2Give and also Tesco Didcot Superstore! We were also the recipient of a £150 cheque from Tesco Didcot Superstore, which were proceeds from its wonderful charity book stall! Thank you all so much!



A big THANK YOU

Thank you to all the grant-giving trusts and foundations; town and parish councils; local businesses; and individual donors who have generously helped fund Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire this year! Some of these include:



Thank you to all the families, volunteers past and present, and supporters who donate their expenses, make donations in lieu of birthdays, fundraise and/or make regular donations to the Charity often boosted by Gift Aid. We wouldn't be able to support and help struggling families without people like you!

The heart of
Home-Start

At Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire we simply could not operate without the immense contribution from our volunteers, who are at the forefront of delivery of our services. Between you, you have freely given over 3,000 hours of volunteering time this year, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. This charity runs on the goodwill and hard work of dedicated, trained volunteers, and is immensely appreciated by the families that you support, week in week out, both through home-visiting and assisting at groups – thank you! An equally big thank you should also go to our dedicated unpaid trustees, who also give their time freely as volunteers in support of the Charity's aims.

Quality Assurance

We are proud to be part of the national Home-Start network. As well as giving us wider publicity and access to specialist support, our membership ensures we are assessed under the Home-Start Quality Assurance Standard. This encompasses ten areas of work:

- Protecting Families;
- Governance & Leadership;
- Family Support;
- Operating a Home-Start;
- Money & Funding;
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion;
- Quality & Impact;
- Staff & Volunteers;
- Brand, Communication & Digital;
- Partnership & Influence.

We have submitted self-assessments of our practice in the above areas, for monitoring by Home-Start UK, and all ten have been approved.



The earliest years make the biggest impact in a child's life. Home-Start volunteers make sure those years count.

Can you spare 2 hours a week to visit a parent and their children who are going through challenging times?

**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT
VOLUNTEERING
FOR HOME-START**



Treasurer's Report

I am delighted to present my first report as Treasurer of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire. I must formally thank Colin Campbell for all his efforts as the previous Treasurer for many years; his are certainly big shoes for me to fill.

Total income for the year was £299,465 (2025 re-stated: £271,066). A change of accounting policy was adopted on 1 April 2025, whereby income is fully recognised in the year of receipt, unless exceptional circumstances apply, rather than deferred and released across the subsequent 12 months in which the work takes place (the previous policy). This new policy is in accordance with the charities SORP.

This results in an adjustment to the 2025 income, increasing it by £16,855 from the amount originally reported. It also increases total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024 by £26,428. Total reserves carried forward at 31 March 2025 show a restated value of £236,945 compared to £193,662 previously reported.

Total expenditure totalled £212,083 (2025: £196,210). Increase in expenditure reflects the fact that we supported more families this year, within an inflationary environment in the world at large.

The Charity reported a net surplus of £87,382 in the year (2025 re-stated: £74,856). We anticipate that costs will increase further in the coming period, as we continue to grow the numbers of families we support, whereas income is forecast to reduce, with the loss of certain multi-year grants. For this reason, the trustees have designated £160,000 of reserves to cover future short- to medium-term shortfalls.

At year-end overall cash resources were £348,859 (2025: £244,842). This year the trustees took action to ensure good investment returns on its reserves by using a cash management platform. This is a low-risk approach, using a variety of interest-earning cash funds, all of which are covered by the FSCS deposit protection scheme. Also this year, we transitioned our accounting software from Sage to Xero.

Whilst it is reassuring that the Charity is in a strong financial position, it should be noted again, as above, that we foresee a funding gap in the coming years, as various multi-year grants reach a natural end. We are working hard to develop a broader range of fundraising income streams to mitigate the effects of the above, but in the meantime, we expect to draw down on the reserves that we have designated specifically towards bridging this gap. We remain committed to exercising sensible cost control, without reducing the support we deliver to families.

A budget deficit for the forthcoming year has been approved by the trustees, and funds have been designated towards any funding gap that may materialise. This budget allows for the continued growth in services that are to be provided to families-in-need in the coming year, through home visiting and provision of groups.

As always, we offer our sincere thanks to all the organisations, individuals and Trusts & Foundations who have supported us during the year, enabling us to support increasing numbers of young families across southern Oxfordshire.

Rob Fraser, Treasurer



Reserves Policy

Our reserves policy is to hold sufficient unrestricted reserves to cover potential liabilities if the Charity were to close, plus anticipated funding requirements for the coming year/s, plus a general 'free reserve' of no more than 12 months of annual income. Restricted reserves are kept separate and are ear-marked for specific projects or activities set out by the donor. The calculation of the required level of reserves is an integral part of the Charity's planning, budget and forecast cycle and takes into account:

- risks associated with each stream of income and expenditure varying from the budget
- the planned activity level and commitments.

At year-end our unrestricted reserves comprised:

- Free reserves of £105,520, which complies with the above reserves policy (2025 re-stated: £195,945).
- A designated reserve of £41,000 to cover costs in the event that the Charity were ever to wind-up. (2025: £41,000)
- A designated reserve of £160,000 to cover anticipated funding requirements for the coming year/s (2025: £0).
- Restricted reserves of £17,807 (2025: £0), all of which is earmarked for expenditure in the coming year, in accordance with the donors' wishes.

Going concern

The trustees confirm that, having considered our expectations and intentions for the next twelve months, our track record of delivery, including an approved budget and the availability of reserves and working capital, the Charity is a going concern.



Risk Management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is exposed, in particular those relating to finances and operations, and believe that arrangements are in place to mitigate those risks. A Risk Register is maintained, which is reviewed and updated by trustees and management on a regular basis.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and adults, and we expect all trustees, staff, and volunteers to share this commitment. Our policies on safeguarding children and adults are available on our website.

Special Resolution regarding the Charity's Articles of Association

At the Charity's AGM on 1 October 2025 a special resolution was proposed, and unanimously passed, which included three fundamental changes:

- i) to widen the definition of beneficiaries in the Charity's objects from 'children and parents of children' to 'children and parents/carers of children' to reflect the fact that the Charity now works with a more diverse cohort of families, which may often comprise care-givers who are not necessarily the children's biological parents;
- ii) to limit the definition of 'members' to current trustees only, rather than a wider membership structure;
- iii) to limit terms of office of trustees to a maximum of three consecutive terms of office, each lasting a maximum of four years. The updated Articles of Association have been officially logged with all relevant authorities.

Plans for the Future Period

In line with our mission, our goals for the coming period are to build upon the support that we provide to struggling local families, through home-visiting and provision of groups, and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Charity by diversifying our sources of income. In particular we have set ourselves the following targets for the year ending 31 March 2027:

Target 1: we aim to continue to support a diverse mix of families across southern Oxfordshire, and in particular to support families who have few other options open to them;

Target 2: we aim to commence a project to increase our support of military families, both serving, and veterans, subject to specific funding becoming available;

Target 3: we aim to instigate a third group for parents/carers and young children in 2026/27, building upon our successful instigation of a second group in 2025/26;

Target 4: we aim to further develop our links with other like-minded community organisations across southern Oxfordshire so that we can work together in the support of families who are struggling;

Target 5: we aim to enrich the support of families at our groups by incorporating aspects of the Peep Learning Together programme;

Target 6: we aim to explore, and pilot additional ways of helping families, including online support where appropriate, and new initiatives to support male partners within families, where applicable;

Target 7: we aim to further develop plans to diversify our income streams in the knowledge that several large multi-year grants are due to come to a natural end in the coming years.

Small Company Rules

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to the small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' report was approved by the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:



Jan Rimmer

Chair of Trustees

Date 22-September 2026



**Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire - Independent Examiner's Report
to the Trustees of Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026**

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the charity trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view' which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Anna Chapman FCA

Date

12th October 2026

Chapman Worth Limited
Chartered Accountants
2 The Old Estate Yard, High Street
East Hendred
Oxfordshire
OX12 8JY

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire
Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)
For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

				2026	2025
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	86,893	146,189	233,082	232,592
Charitable activities:					
Government Grants		64,624	-	64,624	38,086
Investments		1,759	-	1,759	388
		153,276	146,189	299,465	271,066
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	4	(26,439)	-	(26,439)	(749)
Charitable activities:	4				
Home Visiting		(9,053)	(68,745)	(77,798)	(85,203)
Volunteer Support		(1,323)	(10,040)	(11,363)	(477)
Groups		(3,166)	(24,044)	(27,210)	(2,449)
General support		(3,365)	(25,553)	(28,918)	(71,130)
Governance		(1,137)	-	(1,137)	(394)
Overhead		(32,608)	-	(32,608)	(30,782)
Communications		(6,610)	-	(6,610)	(5,026)
		(83,701)	(128,382)	(212,083)	(196,210)
NET INCOME		69,575	17,807	87,382	74,856
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		69,575	17,807	87,382	74,856
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		236,945	-	236,945	162,089
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	11	306,520	17,807	324,327	236,945

The notes on pages 22 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Comparative Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

			2025	
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM:				
Donations and legacies	3	208,592	24,000	232,592
Charitable activities:				
Government Grants		38,086	-	38,086
Investments		388	-	388
		247,066	24,000	271,066
EXPENDITURE ON:				
Raising funds	4	(88)	(661)	(749)
Charitable activities:	4			
Home Visiting		(84,781)	(422)	(85,203)
Volunteer Support		(181)	(296)	(477)
Groups		(2,180)	(269)	(2,449)
General support		(52,123)	(19,007)	(71,130)
Governance		(361)	(33)	(394)
Overhead		(27,470)	(3,312)	(30,782)
Communications		(5,026)	-	(5,026)
		(172,210)	(24,000)	(196,210)
NET INCOME		74,856	-	74,856
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		74,856	-	74,856
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:				
Total funds brought forward		162,089	-	162,089
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	11	236,945	-	236,945

The notes on pages 22 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Balance Sheet As At 31 March 2026

				2026	2025
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	£	£	£	£
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	-	-	-	848
Cash at bank and in hand		331,052	17,807	348,859	244,842
		331,052	17,807	348,859	245,690
Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year	10	(24,532)	-	(24,532)	(8,745)
NET CURRENT ASSETS (LIABILITIES)		306,520	17,807	324,327	236,945
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		306,520	17,807	324,327	236,945
NET ASSETS		306,520	17,807	324,327	236,945
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted Funds				17,807	-
Unrestricted Funds				306,520	236,945
TOTAL FUNDS	11			324,327	236,945

For the year ending 31 March 2026 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

On behalf of the board

Date 22/9/26

JRimmer
JAN RIMMER

The notes on pages 22 to 27 form part of these financial statements.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

1. General Information

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England & Wales, registered number 05443274 and registered charity number 1113941. The registered office is 197 Broadway, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 8RU.

2. Accounting Policies

2.1. Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)", Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

2.2. Incoming Resources

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation (such as legacies), unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation on a receivable basis.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

2.3. Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity.

Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent.

Charitable activities include expenditure associated with meeting its charitable objectives. This includes the cost of direct provision of charitable services. Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

2.4. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents are basic financial assets and include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments that mature in no more than three months from the date of acquisition and are readily convertible to a known amount of cash with insignificant risk of change in value, and bank overdrafts.

2.5. Prior year revision

A change of accounting policy was adopted on 1 April 2025, whereby income is fully recognised in the year of receipt, unless exceptional circumstances apply, rather than deferred and released across the subsequent 12 months in which the work takes place (the previous policy).

This new policy is in accordance with the charities SORP.

This results in an adjustment to the 2025 income, increasing it by £16,855 from the amount originally reported. It also increases total funds brought forward at 1 April 2024 by £26,428. Total reserves carried forward at 31 March 2025 show a restated value of £236,945 compared to £193,662 previously reported.

3. Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2026 Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	86,893	146,189	233,082

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2025 Total funds
	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	208,592	24,000	232,592

The following donations and legacies are included within the total income from donations and legacies above:

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2026 Total funds £
Trusts & foundations	70,252	123,174	193,426
Individual giving	4,557	-	4,557
Community	12,084	23,015	35,099
	86,893	146,189	233,082

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £
Trusts & foundations	168,995	24,000	192,995
Individual giving	10,440	-	10,440
Community	29,157	-	29,157
	208,592	24,000	232,592

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

4. Analysis of Expenditure

	2026		
	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs (see note 5)	Total
	£	£	£
Raising funds	26,439	-	26,439
Home Visiting	77,798	-	77,798
Volunteer Support	11,363	-	11,363
Groups	27,210	-	27,210
General support	28,918	-	28,918
Governance	-	1,137	1,137
Overhead	-	32,608	32,608
Communications	6,610	-	6,610
	178,338	33,745	212,083
	2025		
	Activities undertaken directly	Support costs (see note 5)	Total
	£	£	£
Raising funds	749	-	749
Home Visiting	85,203	-	85,203
Volunteer Support	477	-	477
Groups	2,449	-	2,449
General support	52,164	18,966	71,130
Governance	-	394	394
Overhead	-	30,782	30,782
Communications	5,026	-	5,026
	146,068	50,142	196,210

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

5. Support Costs

			2026
	Governance	Overhead	Total
	£	£	£
Premises expenses	-	13,147	13,147
General administration	-	19,461	19,461
Governance costs	1,137	-	1,137
	1,137	32,608	33,745

	General support	Governance	Overhead	2025
	£	£	£	Total
	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	18,966	-	-	18,966
Premises expenses	-	-	12,499	12,499
General administration	-	-	18,283	18,283
Governance costs	-	394	-	394
	18,966	394	30,782	50,142

6. Independent Examiner's Remuneration

	2026	2025 as restated
	£	£
Independent examination of the financial statements	1,020	50

7. Staff Costs

Staff costs were as follows:

	2026	2025 as restated
	£	£
Wages and salaries	156,872	152,836

No employees received employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

8. Average Number of Employees

All employees were part-time. The full time equivalent of employees was 5 (2025: 5).

Average number of employees during the year was 7 (2025: 7).

9. Debtors

	2026	2025
	£	£
Due within one year		
Other debtors	-	848

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due Within One Year

	2026	2025 as restated
	£	£
Payments on account	12,804	-
Accruals and deferred income	11,728	8,745
	24,532	8,745

11. Movement in Funds

	As at 1 April 2025	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2026
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	236,945	153,276	(83,701)	306,520
Restricted funds				
Restricted fund	-	146,189	(128,382)	17,807
Total funds	236,945	299,465	(212,083)	324,327

	As at 1 April 2024	Income	Expenditure	As at 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds				
General:				
General unrestricted fund	162,089	247,066	(172,210)	236,945
Restricted funds				
Restricted fund	-	24,000	(24,000)	-
Total funds	162,089	271,066	(196,210)	236,945

Restricted reserves of £17,807 (2025: £0), all of which is earmarked for expenditure in the coming year, in accordance with the donors' wishes.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued) For The Year Ended 31 March 2026

12. Transactions with Trustees

During the year the expenses reimbursed to the trustees or paid directly to third parties were as follows:

	2026	2025
	£	£
Other Expenses	829	193

13. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the reporting period that require disclosure.

14. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company, in the event of a winding up, such an amount as may be required not exceeding £1.



**HOME
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registered in England and Wales Number 05443274
Registered Charity Number 1113941