REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05468592 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1110632

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2026 for Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Monahans
Oakley House
Tetbury Road
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 1US

Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

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Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2026. The trustees have adopted the provisions of 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).

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Company number

05468592 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1110632

Registered office

Cirencester Baptist Church
Chesterton Lane
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1YE

Trustees

Ms C N Ford
Mr A R Jones
Mr S D Kaufmann
Mrs C L McLoughlin (appointed 12.6.25)
Mrs C M Partridge
Mr D A J Pointet
Mrs P J Seager (appointed 12.6.25)
Mr R G L Waller
Mrs F G Peake (appointed 12.6.25) (resigned 12.5.26)

Company Secretary

Mrs P J Seager

Independent Examiner

Helen Jones
Monahans
Oakley House
Tetbury Road
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 1US

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 25/6/2026 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs P J Seager - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd. ('the Company')
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's 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
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.

Helen Jones
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Monahans
Oakley House
Tetbury Road
Cirencester
Glos
GL7 1US

Date: 6/7/26

Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies	2	162,194	375	162,569	145,958
Investment income	3	1,649	-	1,649	1,687
Total		163,843	375	164,218	147,645
EXPENDITURE ON					
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable expenditure		142,744	4,000	146,744	133,311
Other	5	9,863	-	9,863	11,939
Total		152,607	4,000	156,607	145,250
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		11,236	(3,625)	7,611	2,395
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		76,374	3,625	79,999	77,604
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		87,610	-	87,610	79,999

The notes form part of these financial statements

Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Balance Sheet
31 March 2026

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2026 Total funds £	2025 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	1,612	-	1,612	1,468
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	231	-	231	231
Cash at bank and in hand		90,472	-	90,472	82,178
		90,703	-	90,703	82,409
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(4,705)	-	(4,705)	(3,878)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		85,998	-	85,998	78,531
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		87,610	-	87,610	79,999
NET ASSETS		87,610	-	87,610	79,999
FUNDS	13				
Unrestricted funds				87,610	76,374
Restricted funds				-	3,625
TOTAL FUNDS				87,610	79,999

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2026.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2026 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

(a) ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and

(b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

The notes form part of these financial statements

continued...

Balance Sheet - continued
31 March 2026

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on .....25/06/2026..... and were signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs P J Seager - Trustee

S. Kaufman
.....
Mr S D Kaufmann - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of preparing the financial statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, 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 financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income
All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure
Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible fixed assets
Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Plant and machinery	- 33% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% on straight line basis

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Any tangible assets carried at revalued amounts are recorded at the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

continued...

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

Tangible fixed assets
An increase in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of a revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, unless it reverses a charge for impairment that has previously been recognised as expenditure within the statement of financial activities. A decrease in the carrying amount of an asset as a result of revaluation, is recognised in other recognised gains and losses, except to which it offsets any previous revaluation gain, in which case the loss is shown within other recognised gains and losses on the statement of financial activities.

Taxation
The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits
The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Defined contribution plans
Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	2026	2025
	£	£
Trusts and funders	138,386	135,140
Donations	18,957	9,081
Fundraising events	3,354	-
Gift aid	1,497	612
Exceptional items	375	1,125
	162,569	145,958

continued...

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2026	2025
	£	£
Investment Income	1,649	1,687

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS

	Support costs
	£
Charitable expenditure	146,744

5. OTHER

	2026	2025
	£	£
Staff expenses	3,000	3,757
Volunteer expenses	1,462	2,495
Home start and other fees	2,249	2,250
Bank fees	42	92
Family support	130	650
General expenses	2,980	2,695
Support costs	146,744	133,311
	156,607	145,250

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2026	2025
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	966	708
Deficit on disposal of fixed assets	78	-
Independent examiner's fee	690	648

7. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2026 nor for the year ended 31 March 2025.

continued...

8. STAFF COSTS

	2026	2025
	£	£
Wages and salaries	122,714	112,729
Social security costs	2,266	19
Other pension costs	4,524	3,962
	129,504	116,710

The average head count of employees during the year was 9 (2025: 8). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2026	2025
Average number of full time employees	4	4

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2025: Nil).

9. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Total funds
	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	144,833	1,125	145,958
Investment income	1,687	-	1,687
Total	146,520	1,125	147,645
EXPENDITURE ON			
Charitable activities			
Charitable expenditure	133,311	-	133,311
Other	11,939	-	11,939
Total	145,250	-	145,250
NET INCOME	1,270	1,125	2,395
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	75,104	2,500	77,604
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	76,374	3,625	79,999

continued...

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2025	891	4,148	5,039
Additions	-	1,188	1,188
Disposals	(891)	(862)	(1,753)
At 31 March 2026	-	4,474	4,474
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2025	813	2,758	3,571
Charge for year	-	966	966
Eliminated on disposal	(813)	(862)	(1,675)
At 31 March 2026	-	2,862	2,862
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2026	-	1,612	1,612
At 31 March 2025	78	1,390	1,468

11. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Prepayments and accrued income	231	231

12. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2026 £	2025 £
Trade creditors	1,444	1,447
Social security and other taxes	1,112	461
Other creditors	952	867
Accruals and deferred income	1,197	1,103
	4,705	3,878

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1.4.25 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.26 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	76,374	11,236	87,610
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	3,625	(3,625)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	79,999	7,611	87,610

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	163,843	(152,607)	11,236
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	375	(4,000)	(3,625)
TOTAL FUNDS	164,218	(156,607)	7,611

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.25 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,104	1,270	76,374
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	2,500	1,125	3,625
TOTAL FUNDS	77,604	2,395	79,999

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	146,520	(145,250)	1,270
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	1,125	-	1,125
TOTAL FUNDS	147,645	(145,250)	2,395

continued...

13. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1.4.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.3.26 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	75,104	12,506	87,610
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	2,500	(2,500)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	77,604	10,006	87,610

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	310,363	(297,857)	12,506
Restricted funds			
Restricted Fund	1,500	(4,000)	(2,500)
TOTAL FUNDS	311,863	(301,857)	10,006

The restricted funds consist of funding from the The White Stuff, relating to "Maternal Mental Health Support Groups", and Groundwork UK funding (Tesco Token scheme) relating to "Home-Start Cotswolds Family Party Activity". These funds were fully spent in the year.

14. EMPLOYEE BENEFIT OBLIGATIONS

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £4,524 (2025: £3,962).

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the year ended 31 March 2026.

Home-Start Cotswolds Ltd.

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

	2026 £	2025 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Trusts and funders	138,386	135,140
Donations	18,957	9,081
Fundraising events	3,354	-
Gift aid	1,497	612
Exceptional items	375	1,125
	162,569	145,958
Investment income		
Investment Income	1,649	1,687
Total incoming resources	164,218	147,645
EXPENDITURE		
Other		
Staff expenses	3,000	3,757
Volunteer expenses	1,462	2,495
Home start and other fees	2,249	2,250
Bank fees	42	92
Family support	130	650
General expenses	2,980	2,695
	9,863	11,939
Support costs		
Management		
Wages	122,714	112,729
Social security	2,266	19
Pensions	4,524	3,962
Rates and water	250	245
Insurance	1,180	1,145
Telephone	908	1,391
Postage and stationery	136	237
Advertising	548	845
Sundries	3,104	9,633
Group work	6,049	-
Depreciation of tangible and heritage assets	965	708
Loss on sale of tangible fixed assets	78	-
	142,722	130,914
Governance costs		
Accountancy and legal fees	4,022	2,397
Total resources expended	156,607	145,250
Net income	7,611	2,395

Annual Report

April 2025-March 2026

HOME START Cotswolds



HOME-START COTSWOLDS
c/o Cirencester Baptist Church
Chesterton Lane
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 1YE

01285 885391
office@home-start-cotswolds.org.uk
www.home-start-cotswolds.org.uk

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Company Number: 5468592
Charity Number: 1110632

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Having completed my first year as Chair of Trustees for Home-Start Cotswolds I am pleased to submit the 2025/26 Annual Report which presents a clear picture of all the activities and events of our past year.

What an exciting year to be Chair as the charity reached its 20th birthday. Celebrations included our biggest ever family party in the summer holidays and an evening drinks reception in October with over 100 supporters, volunteers and staff who came together to mark the occasion. We were delighted that our founding trustee Kim Brown came and spoke about how her dream of a Home-Start in the Cotswolds became a reality. People attended who had been involved with Home-Start from across the years, including two volunteers who trained on our very first course in 2006. It was evident that everyone there was proud to be connected to such an incredible charity which has grown from strength to strength over the past 20 years.

None of this could have happened without the generosity of our many funders, some of whom donate year after year, and the wonderful community of Home-Start supporters who give their time and energy to make sure families do not feel alone in their struggles.

As we enter our 21st year, we have a complete staff team, 44 trained volunteers and a committed board of trustees. We are also in the fortunate position to be facing the future with relative financial stability. We remain committed to our founding principles, that the first five years of a child's life are crucial to their future and with the right support every family can thrive.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to our support of families throughout the Cotswolds.

Richard Waller
Chair of Trustees



Roz Savage, MP for South Cotswolds came to visit on our official birthday in July 2025

WHAT WE DO

For 20 years, Home-Start Cotswolds has been a trusted source of family support across the Cotswolds. Since our founding, we have consistently provided non-judgemental, compassionate and practical help to families during those precious and sometimes challenging early years of family life.



At the heart of everything we do is our home visiting programme aimed at local families with children aged under five. Our trained volunteers visit families in their own homes, offering weekly support, tailored to each family's individual needs. Being welcomed into the heart of family life allows our volunteers to build genuine, trusting relationships; and it's this connection that makes our model so powerful. It is tried, tested, and proven to make a real difference.

Alongside home visiting, we run free postnatal (Baby & Me) and maternal mental health (Reconnect) groups across the more rural towns of the Cotswolds. These groups provide a vital lifeline for parents who might otherwise feel isolated, bringing them together in a safe and welcoming space to share experiences, build friendships, and access support.

Home-Start Cotswolds is one of approximately **175** Home-Start schemes operating across the UK, all united by the same belief, that a strong start in life begins at home, with a caring and supportive family around you.
In 2025, we were proud and delighted to celebrate our 20th anniversary, a milestone that reflects the dedication of our incredible community of volunteers, the generosity of our supporters and the resilience of the families we have had the privilege of working alongside. Twenty years of knocks on doors, cups of tea, shared smiles, and quiet moments of reassurance, we hope making the Cotswolds a kinder and more connected place for families.





Home-Start Cotswolds covers the geographical area of the Cotswold District Council.
★ represents the locations of our Groups

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Richard Waller - Chair of Trustees (elected as Chair June 2025)
Pippa Seager - Company Secretary (elected June 2025, Secretary from January 2026)
Steve Kaufmann - Treasurer
Tony Jones - Trustee (stepped down as Company Secretary December 2025)
Carolyn Ford - Trustee
David Pointet - Trustee
Carla Partridge - Trustee (stepped down as Chair June 2025)
Claire Holmes - Trustee (elected June 2025)
Felicity Peake - Trustee (elected June 2025)

Home-Start Cotswolds is guided by a dedicated team of Trustees who form our Management Committee, each giving their time and expertise entirely on a voluntary basis. Drawing from a wide range of professional backgrounds, our Trustees bring a rich mix of skills and experience to the role. Together, they are responsible for the governance, financial oversight, and strategic direction of the charity, meeting regularly throughout the year to ensure the organisation remains on a strong and effective footing.

Supporting the work of the full committee are two sub-committees - Finance, and Profile & Fundraising, each of which meets separately and reports back to the Management Committee with their findings and recommendations.

In 2025 Members were consulted and they approved new and updated Articles of Association that have been accepted by Companies House and the Charity Commission.

In line with Home-Start policy, Trustees are elected to serve a 3-year term, with a maximum tenure of 12 years. In line with this, at our AGM in June 2026, Tony Jones and Carolyn Ford will both be stepping down as Trustees. Tony was a founder of the charity and held the role of Company Secretary until December 2025. Carolyn has also been a long standing member, organising many successful fundraising events. We are extremely grateful for their enduring commitment and dedication to Home-Start Cotswolds over the many years they have been involved.



> *As a trustee of Home-Start Cotswolds, I love having the opportunity to support the organisation behind the scenes so our volunteers can keep doing what they do best: offering compassionate, non-judgemental help to ensure children have the best possible start in life*

Pippa Seager, Trustee

STRUCTURE AND ORGANISATION

STAFF

Katharine Campbell - Service Manager
Kate Prowse - Operations Manager
Liz Wilkinson - Family Coordinator, North Cotswolds
Clare Baker - Family Coordinator, South Cotswolds
Emily Boston - Group Coordinator
Hannah Morrison - Group Worker (acting Group Coordinator)
Janette Ashwanden - Group Worker (joined September 2025)
Karen Roberts - Office Coordinator
Ivan Lambert - Administrator

All our staff work part-time and their combined hours amount to the equivalent of **3.9** full-time workers (FTE).



Back row left to right: Karen Roberts, Ivan Lambert, Liz Wilkinson, Kate Prowse, Emily Boston, Janette Ashwanden, Hannah Morrison. Front Row: Katharine Campbell, Clare Baker

STAFF CHANGES



Hannah, Emily & Janette

We have had some changes to our staff team over the course of the year. In April 2025, Ivan extended his hours as Administrator after Sally, our part time administrator, retired at the end of March 2025. Although still part-time, Ivan now works his hours over 5 days to provide consistent office support to our staff team.

Emily went on maternity leave in September and Hannah stepped up into the Group Coordinator role, increasing her hours to cover our Reconnect groups. Janette was recruited as Group Worker in September 2025, working 8 hours a week to run some of our Baby & Me sessions. Janette joined us as a home visiting volunteer in January 2024 and it's been great to have her join the staff team, bringing a wealth of knowledge both from her previous work experience and volunteering roles.

We hold a full staff meeting every 8 weeks, allowing staff to discuss, share and keep up to date across all of our work streams. A member of the Management Committee also attends the meeting, helping trustees to have a better understanding of our day to day work and keeping the communication lines open between staff and trustees.

QUALITY ASSURANCE FROM HOME-START UK

The Home-Start Quality Assurance programme (HSQA) is a set of bespoke standards set out by Home-Start UK. We are pleased to have been awarded multiple Quality Assurance badges during the year. The badges recognise our commitment to meeting high standards and demonstrate that we are meeting Home-Start requirements.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

FAMILIES

This year, Home-Start Cotswolds has supported **136** families through our home visiting and group work. We offer a range of support to families, including:

HOME VISITING: 65 families were supported through weekly visits to the family in their home. **45** were referred this year. These families received **9** months support (on average).

BABY & ME Postnatal Groups: 59 families attended our eight week groups for parents and their babies aged up to 6 months.

RECONNECT Perinatal Mental Health Groups: 12 families attended our ten week mental health support groups.

Home Visiting Families - at the time of referral:

12% had a family member with a disability
17% were a young parent aged under 25
32% were a lone parent
14% had unsuitable housing
1% had a care experienced parent
28% had a child with an ECHP, Myplan+ or Myplan
5% experienced domestic abuse

Families attending our Groups include:

37 from the North Cotswolds and 24 from the South Cotswolds
69 babies aged under one, 1 unborn baby & 13 over one year olds
3 young parents

Top reasons families come to our Groups:

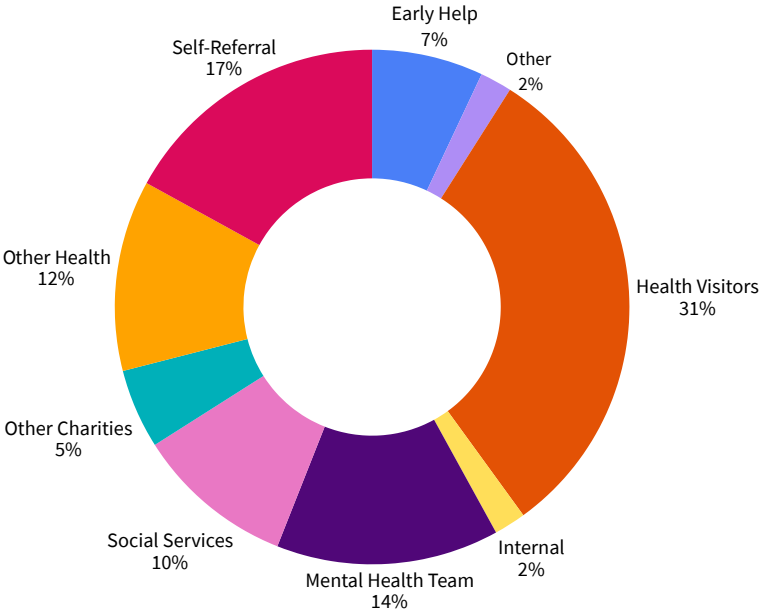
Baby & Me: Being involved in their children's learning and development, isolation and confidence
Reconnect: Mental Health, isolation and confidence

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

REFERRALS & SIGNPOSTING

We work in close partnership with our referrers & signposters keeping them up to date with our new groups and our volunteer availability. This year **27** different professionals referred to us from various services, as indicated below.

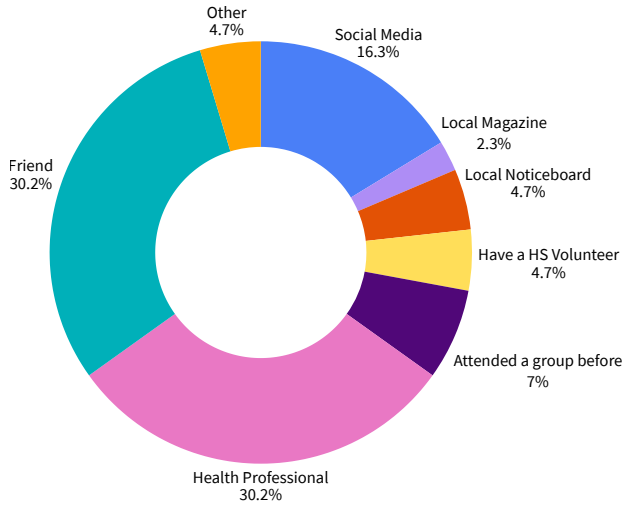
Home Visiting Referrals



Group Referrals

20% from Health Professionals, 80% Self Referrals

Where Self-referral's heard about the groups:



HOME VISITING

65 families received support from a home visiting volunteer this year. This included **124** children (100 aged under 5).

The circumstances for each family we work with are different and we aim to tailor the support to their needs. To this end, our home visiting families complete a self assessment form at their initial visit with their Family Coordinator. They record how they feel about issues such as their mental health, isolation, parenting skills and finances. The family is then carefully matched with a volunteer who visits for up to three hours weekly, establishing a relationship built on trust and support. This form is completed again at our Coordinator review visits in order to build a picture of the family's needs over the time of support.

Support needs as identified by parents themselves at their initial visit:

68% Isolation

62% Confidence & Self Esteem

46% Household Management

32% Financial Issues

26% Confidence as a parent

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

The families report a consistent improvement over time. The difference our volunteers make is especially evident when we look at the families whose low score improves in a particular area of need after 6-9 months of volunteer support.

Area of Need	Number of families with a low score at the start of support	Number of families with a low score at the end of 6-9 months of support
Physical Health	**10**	**0**
Mental Health	**11**	**0**
Isolation	**15**	**0**
Confidence and Self Esteem	**20**	**0**
Relationship Stress	**13**	**0**
Financial Issues	**12**	**0**
Household Management	**6**	**1**

We collect feedback from families at their reviews about how much they appreciate their volunteer and the difference their support is making.

"My volunteer has massively helped our family. She's made a huge difference and made me get out. She has listened to me and helped me loads with my child's eating, as I was so nervous about weaning her. My volunteer gave me the confidence I needed and my child now eats everything and has a great appetite. When I think back to how I was a year ago, I'm in a much better place now."

Mum receiving home visiting support

GROUP WORK

71 families attended one of our groups this year. **We delivered 7 Baby & Me groups and 2 Reconnect groups**. They were held in **5** venues across the Cotswolds (Moreton-in-Marsh, Bourton-on-the-Water, Fairford, Lechlade and Tetbury).

In order to measure the impact of our group work, parents fill in a feedback form at the last session of their group. This form uses an adapted version of our home visiting assessment.



ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

BABY & ME

Our Baby & Me groups cater specifically to new parents with babies aged 0-6 months. Over our comprehensive 8-week programme we cover many essential topics including child development, interactive play, nutrition and introducing solids, first aid, baby massage techniques, healthy sleep habits, and maternal pelvic health.

"[I enjoyed] the kind and welcoming environment, the time taken to validate my needs and feelings. I am unexpectedly going through a separation and the calm and supportive atmosphere I have felt has greatly increased my faith in myself as a suddenly single parent."

7 Baby & Me groups, running for 8 weeks each

59 families attended Baby & Me

96% felt more involved in their child's development

98% reported improvements in their mental health

100% met other parents and made new friends at the group

98% reported more confidence as a parent



RECONNECT

Our Reconnect Group supports mums experiencing mental health challenges. Our Creche Worker, supported by some of our volunteers, provides childcare to ensure mums can fully engage in the session. The group covers topics including parental identity, self-awareness development, nutritional wellness, evidence-based mindfulness and relaxation techniques.

Parent Wellbeing
Average Score (out of 6)
2 → 5

Parenting Ability & Confidence
Average Score(out of 6)
3 → 5

Child Wellbeing
Average Score (out of 6)
3 → 5

"Reconnect definitely helped me finding myself and my identity again, I feel more like a person than a shell."









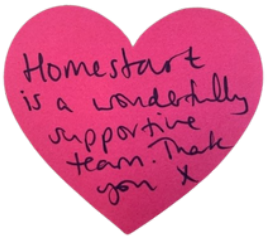
VOLUNTEER UPDATE

The backbone of everything we do at Home-Start Cotswolds is our amazing team of volunteers. This year we welcomed **8** newly trained volunteers to the team, bringing our total to **44** dedicated individuals who choose, week after week, to give their time and energy to support families during their most challenging moments. The scale of that generosity is striking, **60** hours of support each week, either reaching families through home visits, supporting our groups, or helping in our crèche that we have recently launched.

What draws people to volunteer with us so often comes down to lived experience. All our volunteers are parents themselves and they know from their own lives just how relentless and isolating parenthood can be. They are motivated by the wish that someone had extended that same kindness to them. This personal insight is one of our greatest strengths, it means we can carefully pair each volunteer with a family, whose circumstances they are best placed to understand, laying the groundwork for a genuine bond built on trust.

> *"I love the ethos of Home-Start and I want to give back to the community. I have also had experience myself in needing help as a mother and not having people to turn to."*
>
> Trainee volunteer 2026





The families we work with are frequently dealing with situations of real complexity; domestic abuse, mental health struggles, financial hardship, yet often what helps most is an uncomplicated approach. A familiar face arriving at the door each week, a shared cup of tea, a conversation where someone finally feels heard - these moments carry enormous weight for people who may have very little other support around them. Practically speaking, our volunteers also roll up their sleeves in countless other ways; navigating appointments, helping parents to make phone calls that may feel impossible alone, playing with children and helping sort or declutter the home environment. Whatever the challenge, our volunteers show up offering care and a helping hand.

> "It was a very friendly group of volunteers and trainers and an informative of course - I feel privileged to be part of a group that is helping out in the community."
>
> Trainee Volunteer 2026



New Volunteers at their training in March 2026

Each year we welcome new volunteers to train with us, but we also have some who have been with us for many years. Since we were founded, we have recruited and trained over 300 volunteers. The longevity of so many of our volunteers is testament to their dedication and committment to supporting local families.



Millie, one of our volunteers, receiving a hamper for 15 years service, put together by trustees and staff as recognition of her dedication.

VOLUNTEER UPDATE

TRAINING & SUPPORT

Every volunteer who joins us is carefully recruited, going through a safer recruitment process followed by a dedicated 40 hour training programme over 8 weeks before they step through a family's door. We equip each volunteer with the knowledge, skills and confidence they need to provide genuinely meaningful support. But our commitment to our volunteers doesn't stop there. Once they are matched with a family, every volunteer receives regular one-to-one supervision alongside continued professional development opportunities, ensuring they feel consistently supported, valued and equipped to handle whatever situation they encounter whilst supporting a family.

Throughout the year we have made it a priority to bring our volunteers together. We try to create regular opportunities for peer support in a relaxed, informal atmosphere, the kind of catch-up where experiences and wisdom are exchanged, and almost always over a well-earned cup of coffee and a piece of cake!



Alongside these peer-to-peer support meetings, we have delivered a range of more structured training sessions covering relevant topics. This year that included First Aid, a session on Hoarding Disorders, along with our annual mandatory Safeguarding training which is compulsory for all volunteers and staff.





> “The trainer engaged with us all very well, explained everything clearly and gave good practical demonstrations. The time flew by, as we covered so much!”

Volunteer attending first aid training June 2025

As 2025 drew to a close, we were delighted to gather our volunteers together for a Christmas lunch, a chance to pause, celebrate, and express our gratitude for everything our volunteers do to support families. We are proud of the community that has grown around Home-Start Cotswolds, and we hope each and every volunteer understands the profound difference they make to the lives of families right on their doorstep. Their dedication and commitment mean the world to us, and to the families they support. It’s great when we can get together like this to celebrate all they have achieved.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

EVENTS



In May 2025 we held our popular hike, starting at Old Gore Barn, walking through Calmsden and the surrounding area. We had an amazing day in the sunshine with well over 100 walkers, many of whom stayed for a fabulous lunch. This is one of our main fundraisers and we were delighted to raise over £3000. Our sincere thanks go to Yard Space for providing such a wonderful setting and delicious lunch for our walkers at Old Gore Barn, along with Calmsden Farms for a beautiful walk across their land. We also held a raffle and were touched by the generous prizes donated by so many local retailers.



Our annual family party is a real highlight of each year and in the summer of 2025 we celebrated our 20th birthday with our largest ever party with 144 adults and children joining in the fun. We had a great morning with some amazing games, bubbles, felting crafts, soft-play and homemade treats. We also enjoyed sharing our special birthday cake whilst singing happy birthday to Home-Start in the sunshine!

Continuing to mark our 20th anniversary and to thank all our supporters from over the years, we held a celebratory event at the Corinium Museum in October 2025. We were joined by around 100 guests, including previous and current volunteers, staff and supporters. A particular highlight was a speech by Kim Brown, one of the founders of our charity who explained how her passion for supporting young families had led to the formation of Home-Start Cotswolds back in 2005. The event was kindly sponsored by Tanners Solicitors, thanks to their generosity we had a brilliant evening celebrating all that we've achieved as a charity over the years.





One of our strengths is the amazing community support we receive locally, and this year has been no exception. There are too many to mention but some wonderful examples include:

- Home-made blankets and quilts from The Linus Project and Kemble & Ewen Craft Group
- Multiple fundraising events from the team at The Bear Inn, Cirencester
- A golf day organised by Guy Montezumo at DGH Vallejee Foundation
- Donations from Cirencester Tesco of highchairs & travel cots, along with food and drinks for our family summer party
- Christmas gifts and donations from North Cotswolds Community Awareness group, The Salvation Army and food parcels from the Round Table in South Cotswolds
- The Wild Oven organised a brilliant fundraiser over Christmas, a spectacular Land Rover Defender Convoy through the North Cotswolds

These acts of generosity and kindness make a huge difference to our work.

FUNDING

GRANTS

John Armitage Charitable Trust
Peter Lang Children's Trust
The National Lottery (as part of H-S Glos Consortium)
Tesco Stronger Starts
National Benevolent Charity
The Albert Hunt Trust
Minnis Trust
Daniel Bingham Trust
Gloucestershire Masonic Charity Action
NHS Clinical Commissioning
Gloucestershire Family Hub
CHEQs Charitable Trust

INCOME: £164,218

EXPENDITURE: £156,607

DONATIONS

The Bear Inn, Cirencester
The Cirencester Inner Wheel Club
Tanners Solicitors LLP
The Wild Oven
Soroptimists (Cirencester)
Bibury PCC
Nora and Leslie Prince Charitable Trust
St Margaret's Church, Bagendon
All Saints' Church, Kemble
DGH Vallejee Foundation

Thank You!

To everyone who has supported us during the year



We would like to take this opportunity to thank Cirencester Baptist Church for once again providing us with such wonderful office space, as well as additional rooms for meetings and training throughout the year.

We annually review the risks to our organisation and our systems to manage and mitigate those risks. We have at least 4 months expenditure in reserve.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026 /27

I hope this report has left you with a good insight into the extensive work that Home-Start achieves week after week in the Cotswolds area. Our thanks go to all who have contributed to this as we are looking forward to another productive year ahead and really do appreciate your ongoing support.

As mentioned within the report, at our AGM in June, two of our very longstanding trustees, Tony Jones and Carolyn Ford, are stepping down. Tony was one of the founding members and trustees in 2005 and has served as Company Secretary throughout the last 21 years, a remarkable achievement and commitment.

Carolyn has served as a trustee almost as long and importantly has chaired our Profile and Fundraising sub-committee. Many of you reading this will have enjoyed our Home-Start Cotswolds fundraising hikes, which have been successfully organised by Carolyn and her husband Nicholas. I am pleased that Carolyn has agreed to be an advisor to the board for the foreseeable future. A huge thank you to Tony and Carolyn, who will both be greatly missed as trustees.

We have a new Company Secretary, Pippa Seager, who joined the board of trustees in 2025 as did Claire McLoughlin who comes with a wealth of safeguarding knowledge and experience. We are in the process of recruiting a number of new trustees to provide guidance and leadership to our charity in the coming years.

The Management Committee have recently set our Strategic Plan for the next three years. Whilst much of the plan is about continuing the brilliant work already undertaken by our volunteers and staff, we have also responded to a recognised need in our rural communities for more postnatal groups. In 2026/27 we will be increasing our delivery of Baby & Me groups in the South and North Cotswolds and exploring the possibility of introducing new groups in some targeted locations. Alongside this, we would like to look into the provision of antenatal groups and services in our community and respond to any emerging need.

We look forward to another year working alongside our many partners to support families when they need it most.

Richard Waller
Chair of Trustees
For and on behalf of the Trustees, May 2026

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Home-Start Cotswolds, c/o Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1YE
Registered Office:
As above
Bank:
Lloyds, PO Box 1000, Andover, BX1 1LT
Accounts:
Independently examined by Monahans, Oakley House, Tetbury Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 1US

Home-Start Cotswolds is a Registered Charity (since July 2005) and a Company limited by guarantee.
Company Registration number:
5468592
Charity Registration number:
1110632

As an independent charity we work under the umbrella of Home-Start UK.