HOME-START BRACKNELL FOREST

(A company limited by Guarantee. Company Number 09389303))

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2026

HOME-START BRACKNELL FOREST

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HOME-START BRACKNELL FOREST

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Trustees and Directors' Report for the year ending 31st March 2026

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026

COMPANY / CHARITY INFORMATION

Trustees & Directors as of 31st March 2026:

Rosemary Gunner	Chair	Reappointed June 2024
Magda Ziegler	Treasurer	Appointed July 2024
Michael Gbadebo	Independent	Reappointed June 2024
Ben Wallace	Independent	Reappointed June 2024
Sheila Mooney	Independent	Appointed July 2024
Emma Tennant	Independent	Appointed July 2025
Ben Durbin	Independent	Appointed July 2025

Company Limited by Guarantee	9389303
Charity Number	1160447
Charity Offices and Registered Company Address	Bracknell Open Learning Centre, Rectory Lane Bracknell Berks RG12 7GR
Independent Examiner	Richard Parsons AGHS Accounting & Taxation Services Limited 14 Progress Business Centre Whittle Parkway Slough SL1 6DQ
Bankers	CAF BANK Ltd PO Box 289 Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA

Trustees / Directors

Following a Special Resolution, Home-Start Bracknell Forest adopted revised Articles of Association in July 2025, which change trustee terms of office to 4 years with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. Having served for more than twelve years, Hilary Mason resigned in July 2025. Kami Missaghi resigned in June 2025. The trustees are the only members of the charity and resign their membership upon resigning their trusteeship.

All Trustees are also Directors of the Incorporated Charity. A full list of trustees / directors at the time of this report is given on page 2.

Constitution, Objects and Policies

Home-Start Bracknell Forest is a Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee, incorporated on 14th January 2015 and registered as a charity on 11th February 2015. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association, revised in July 2025.In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Its purpose is to recruit, train and provide volunteers who offer regular, support, friendship and practical help to young families under stress, helping to prevent family crisis and breakdown. This support is individually provided within the family home. Home-Start is available to any family with at least one child under five years of age, with other or additional group support offered to families who need it. The trustees delegate the day-to-day responsibility for running the scheme to the Head of Services who is assisted by two Family Co-ordinators, a Groups Co-ordinator, an Administrator and a Fund-raising and Engagement Co-ordinator.

The Trustees have taken regard of the Charity Commission Guidance on Public benefit and consider our primary function is to benefit any appropriate family in Bracknell Forest who request our services.

Development, Activities and Achievements

In total, over the year, 70 families received 1:2:1 volunteer support, 138 parents attended one of our groups/courses, and we have supported circa 700 mothers through our Bracknell Bumps and Babies closed Facebook group.

We have received 195 referrals, 92 were self-referrals. Close working relationships with our partners in other agencies continue to strengthen and ensures that families can access additional help where required and consent is given.

Our core service is our 1:1 volunteer home-visiting service, in addition to 1:1 support, we offer 4 group-led services; Play and Learn, Baby and Mum, More than Words, and Mums in Mind. We also provide specialist one off programs such a ½ day antenatal course for fathers and mothers to be. Support is usually in place within one month of referral, the only exceptions being where the family has very specific needs regarding times, or a volunteer with specific skills or experience is unavailable. Finding the right match is a priority, as this is usually a key factor in the success of our support.

We have continued to strengthen the recruitment and development of volunteers, staff and Trustees, ensuring families receive high-quality, consistent support.

Two Volunteer Preparation Courses were delivered across a four-week period, combining flexible online learning with 4 in-person, classroom-based sessions. This blended approach enabled volunteers to build knowledge, confidence, and practical skills in a supportive environment. A total of 11 new volunteers successfully completed the Volunteer Preparation Course.

We currently have 36 active volunteers who provide tailored one-to-one support, either within family homes or through our group settings. Their contribution remains central to our service, offering compassionate, practical help to families facing a range of challenges.
Ongoing training and development continue to be key priorities across the organisation. A broad range of learning opportunities have been accessed to ensure best practice and up-to-date knowledge. Training undertaken this year has included Perinatal Mental Health, Safeguarding, Child Development and Communication, Five to Thrive, Mental Health First Aid, First Aid, and Health and Safety.
In addition, regular volunteer support meetings have external speakers, covering a variety of relevant and topical issues. These have included energy efficiency, domestic abuse awareness, communication and listening skills, and childcare options. These sessions not only deepen knowledge but also provide valuable opportunities for reflection, peer support, and continuous learning.

At the end of the year our Head of Services, Sharon Kearins, leads a team consisting of Caroline Parker and Linda Stephens our Family Coordinators, Rachael Morgan our Groups Co-ordinator, Keith Hanks, our Fundraising and Engagement Officer, and Nicola Wells, our Administrator. The team are all working well together to deliver an excellent service to overwhelmed and struggling young families, with at least one child under 5 years of age, throughout the Borough.

We continue to work in close partnership with organisations across both the statutory and voluntary sectors in Bracknell Forest. Key partnerships include the Children's Family Hubs, Early Help services, the Health Visiting team, and the wider community and voluntary sector. These strong collaborative relationships enable us to provide coordinated and effective support for families, ensuring they can access the right help at the right time.
We have also maintained positive engagement with local businesses and organisations across Bracknell and the surrounding area. A number of these partners have generously supported our work through financial donations and fundraising on our behalf. These include Easthampstead Rotary Club, Sargrem Yoga Group, King's Academy Easthampstead Park, Tesco Bracknell, and Ancoris Group.

Longstanding support and relationships from many in the local voluntary and faith community has grown and flourished and we always value the opportunity to talk to these organisations and work in partnership to improve outcomes for families.

Financial Review

The Trustees have developed a Fundraising Strategy designed to maintain a steady pipeline of income from multiple sources, including long-term funding streams and sustained smaller donations from local organisations and supporters.

Our long-term funding streams this year have included funding from Bracknell Forest Council which has been extended until July 2029. We have continued working in a partnership led by Home-Start Berkshire East and are now in third year of funding from the National Lottery over 3 years to provide support to expectant families and families with children under 5.
We have been able to be more proactive in our fundraising activities evidenced by multiple grants, parish council donations and one-time donations received throughout the year from local

organisations and supporters. We hope that working with local businesses in the community we serve will secure our financial health in the year ahead.

A more challenging year of fundraising than the previous one has enabled us to maintain our reserves.
When setting the reserves policy, the Trustees considered the need to fulfil working capital requirements as well as cover any future income shortfall. As of 31 March 2026, the reserves stand at £81,060. All these funds are unrestricted. The target for the reserves set by the Trustees is 50% of total costs, which for this year is £83,600. With the reserves amounting to £81,060 the Trustees consider that the charity has sufficient funds to carry out its function.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are required under the constitution of the charity to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the situation of the scheme and of its results for that period. In preparing those financial statements the trustees are required to:
(a) select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
(b) make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
(c) prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the scheme will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the scheme at any time. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the scheme and for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Approval

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.

This report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf on 25 June 2026

R.E. Gunner

Rosemary Gunner
Director and Chair of Trustees

HOME-START BRACKNELL FOREST

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INDEPENDENT EXAMINER REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF HOME-START BRACKNELL FOREST ("THE COMPANY")

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2026, which are set out on pages 8 to 12.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the charity's trustees of the Company (and 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.

Basis of independent examiner's report:

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Direction given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.
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.

R. K. Parsons

AGHS Accounting & Taxation Services Limited
14 Progress Business Centre
Whittle Parkway
Slough
SL1 6DQ

R K Parsons FCA
Chartered Accountant
Date: 25 June 2026

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Income and Expenditure Account

	Year to 31/3/2026 £	Year to 31/3/2025 £
Income		
Donations	18,685	32,017
Grants	131,124	166,704
Other	600	624
Interest	1,630	1,521
TOTAL INCOME	152,039	200,866
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	161,388	154,439
Fundraising Costs	493	296
Management and Administration Costs	5,405	5,589
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	167,286	160,324
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(15,247)	40,542

Movement in Reserves

Opening Balance	96,307	55,765
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(15,247)	40,542
Reserves Closing Balance	81,060	96,307

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2026

	Year to 31/3/2026 £	Year to 31/3/2025 £
Fixed Assets	1,599	1,478
Current Assets		
Sundry Debtors	12,497	0
Cash and bank	67,833	103,184
Current Liabilities	(869)	(8,355)
Net Current Assets	79,461	94,829
Net Assets	81,060	96,307
Capital		
Unrestricted Funds	81,060	96,307
Restricted Funds	0	0
	81,060	96,307

The notes form part of the financial statements.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions relating to companies subject to small companies regime within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 25 June 2026

R E. Gunner

Rosemary Gunner
Director and Chair of Trustees

Magda Ziegler, FCCA
Director and Treasurer

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

1. Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation of Accounts

The accounts are prepared under the historical cost convention and include the results of the charity's operations described in the Trustee and Directors Report and all of which are continuing. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for charity accounts.

1.2 Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 – (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.3 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost on valuation of fixed assets less their estimated residual value over their expected useful life on the basis of 25% and 20% straight line (Fixtured & Fittings)

1.4 Income

Voluntary income is received by way of donations, grants and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on the accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes VAT which cannot be recovered and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.

1.6 Management and Administration Costs

Management and Administration Costs include expenditure not directly related to the charitable activities and include bank fee, office supplies and postage, accounting, recruitment, insurance and Home Start UK levy fee.

1.7 Public Benefit

The company meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.8 Tax Accounting

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

1.9 Donated Goods and Services

Any goods and services donated to the charity are treated as income based on their estimated value.

2. Salary Disclosure

The cost of staff salaries, included in Charitable Activities is broken down as follows:

	31/3/2026	31/3/2025
Salaries	£125,063	£117,989
Employer National Insurance	£3,756	£3,538
Employer Contributions to Pension Scheme	£9,056	£9,182
Total	£137,875	£130,709

Average headcount in both years stands at 6. No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

3. Trustee Expenses

There were no direct payments to trustees. One trustee received £34 as reimbursement of Companies House fee payment made using their personal credit card.

4. Outstanding contracts

The charity has no outstanding contracts.

5. Company Details

The company is incorporated in England and Wales. It is a private charitable company limited by guarantee. The registered office address is:

Bracknell Open Learning Centre
Rectory Lane,
Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 7GR

6. Restricted Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further the general objectives of the charity whereas restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked for particular purposes. There were no restricted funds during the financial year.

7. Reserves Policy

The reserves policy is reviewed on an annual basis.

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

Fixtures and Fittings

	£
Cost at 1/4/2025	2,357
Additions	888
	3,245
Disposals	-399
Cost at 31/3/2026	2,846
Depreciation at 1/4/2025	879
Charge for the year	767
	1,646
Disposals	-399
	1,247
Net Book Value	
at 1/4/2025	1,478
at 31/3/2026	1,599

9. Current Liabilities

Travel Expenses March	85.69
Accounts FY2025/26 Examination	690.00
Travel Expenses Vol	32.49
Volunteer Prep Course	30.75
Volunteer Activities	30.75
Total	869.68

AGHS

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

Home-Start Bracknell Forest
Bracknell Forest Opening Learning Centre
Rectory Lane
Bracknell
Berks.
RG12 7GR

9th July 2026

Dear Magda,

We enclose a copy of the signed unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Yours faithfully,

R. K. Parsons

R.K. Parsons
Enc.