

Home-Start Banbridge

Directors' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Directors present their report together with the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the requirements of a directors' report as laid down by company law, and the Statement of Recommended Practice – Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

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) – (Charities SORP FRS 102), the financial reporting standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the NI Charities Act 2008, The Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

Home-Start Banbridge, is a company limited by guarantee governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association. It has been granted charitable status by HM Revenue & Customs, under reference XT177.

Home-Start Banbridge, was officially registered with the Northern Ireland Charity Commission on 15 August 2016 under Charity Number 100635.

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors administer the company. The board oversee the day-to-day running of the charity.

Principal Activity

The principal activity/purpose of the company is the provision of support for families with young children.

Home-Start is a local community network of trained volunteers and expert support helping families with young children through their challenging times.

The objective of the company is to:

- safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and parents of children.
- To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children.
- To relieve sickness, poverty and needs amongst children and the parents of children.
- To promote the education of the public in better standards of childcare.
- To prevent loneliness and isolation.

The Directors confirm they have complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit' running a charity (PB2). The company relies on continued donations to cover its operating costs.

Trustees of the Charity

The Directors of the charitable company are its trustees for purposes of charity law and will be referred to as Directors throughout these financial statements. The Directors who have served during the year and since the year end were as follows:-

- Carole Power (Chair)
- Carmel Renshaw (ceased 23rd January 2024)
- Angela Wilkins (Treasurer)
- Donna Neill (Secretary)
- Margaret Ellis (Vice Chair)

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A Director may not act as a Director unless he/she:

- 1) is a Member; and
- 2) has signed a written declaration of willingness to act as a charity director of the Charity.

A Director's term of office as such automatically terminates if he/she:

- 1) is disqualified under the Charities Act from acting as a charity Director;
- 2) is incapable, whether mentally or physically, of managing his/her own affairs;
- 3) is absent without permission from four consecutive meetings of the Directors and is asked by a majority of the other Directors to resign;
- 4) resigns by written notice to the Directors (but only if at least two Directors will remain in office); and
- 5) is removed by the Members by resolution passed by at least 51% of the members present and voting at a general meeting.

Management Committee

- a) The policy and general management of Home-Start shall be directed by the Management Committee, which shall meet not less than three times in each financial year.
- b) The membership of the Management Committee shall be:
 - i) The chairperson, treasurer and honorary officers.
 - ii) Three members representing voluntary organisations in membership.
 - iii) Two representatives of individual members.
 - iv) Two representatives of Home-Start volunteers.
 - v) Representatives from statutory bodies as determined from time to time by the Management Committee, providing always that a funding authority shall be entitled as of right to representation, if it wishes to exercise that right.
 - vi) Not more than five persons having special knowledge and experience co-opted until the next annual meeting by the Management Committee.
- c) The Management Committee may from time to time invite persons holding public office to become ex-officio members of Home-Start and/or the Management Committee.
- d) Organisations represented on the Management Committee may nominate deputies to their appointed representatives. Such deputies may attend, but shall not exercise the voting power of the appointed representatives.
- e) The Management Committee may, at its discretion, regard as lapsed the membership of any member of the Management Committee who has attended fewer than two of six consecutive meetings and in the case of representative members may, after informing the member concerned, invite the organisation to nominate a replacement member.
- f) The Management Committee shall have the power to set up such committees, sub-committees, working parties and/or support groups as shall be deemed necessary for the proper management of Home-Start, provided that full and regular reports are made back to the Management Committee, provided that a majority of the members of such committees, sub-committees, working parties and/or support groups shall be members of the Management Committee.
- g) The Management Committee shall have the power:
 - i) To accept or reject applications for any category of membership.
 - ii) To fix the amount of all subscriptions.
 - iii) For good and sufficient reason to terminate the membership of any member organisation or group or individual member provided that any such member organisation or group or individual member shall have the right to be heard by the Management Committee before a decision is taken and to be represented if they so wish.

Annual General Meeting

The annual meeting of Home-Start shall be held in each year at such time (not being more than 15 months after the holding of the preceding annual meeting) and such place as the Management Committee shall determine. At least 21 days' notice shall be given in writing to the members of Home-Start and of the Management Committee. Other meetings of Home-Start shall be held at such times as may be determined by the Management Committee.

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PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

Home-Start plays a vital role supporting parents and giving their children the best possible start in life. The positive impact of Home-Start makes a real difference to the lives of children and families across the UK.

There are currently 180 local, independent Home-Starts working in 71% of local authority areas across the UK. At present there are 16 Home-Starts in Northern Ireland.

Home-Start across the UK support families individually and in groups, helping families access local services and making families aware of all other support available to them.

The Home-Start collective ambition as a federation is to ensure that more parents receive compassionate support at the earliest moment so that no parent or family feels alone in the critical task of raising their children.

Home-Start have developed 4 strategic commitments:

- Growth – A collective ambition to reach significantly more families;
- Voice – Home-Start will stand alongside families to make the case for support;
- Inclusion – Ensure that support is available to all families with diverse backgrounds and needs;
- Impact – Focus on achieving measurable positive outcomes for the local community.

The direct benefits which flow from the company's purpose include;

- Improved health outcomes and improved uptake of health appointments;
- Happier, safer children and happier safer homes. As a result fewer children suffer cruelty or maltreatment;
- Parents and children feel less marginalised. Families make better use of local services and are less isolated and have wider horizons. Families are better able to cope with their needs;
- Families develop improved coping strategies and parents become more confident through increased education in childcare standards.

The earliest years make the biggest impact. Home-Start makes sure those years count so that no child's future is limited.

The benefits identified are demonstrated by:

- the completion of review forms which track an individual family's "journey of change";
- feedback questionnaires completed by families;
- referrers at Health and Social Care Trusts; and
- monitoring and evaluations of the service.

Home-Start continues to be one of the leading family support charities in the UK. Home-Start Banbridge, is a branch of this charity.

As quoted on the Home-Start UK website:

"Last year Home-Start UK supported 78,900 children in 43,692 families in communities across the UK".

Home-Start is committed to providing real evidence of the difference our volunteers' support makes for families, which is why we measure the issues faced by families and the changes to their situation while they are working with a volunteer.

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According to the last impact report produced of the families receiving support from Home-Start UK:

- 89% reported improvements in stress caused by family conflict.
- 94% of families see improvements in their children's physical development.
- 93% of families see improvements in parents' mental health.
- 3 out of 5 families reported improvements in their self-esteem.
- 25% - 33% reported improvement in school readiness for children supported by our Big Hopes Big Future programme.
- 94% of families in the programme feel less isolated.
- 93% of families feel more able to run the family home.

Home-Start Banbridge has contributed to the above in the company's local community.

In Northern Ireland more than 1,500 families are being supported by 300 Home-Start volunteers in 16 communities.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

The organisation will continue to meet its objectives by actively seeking to generate funds.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We aim to present a balanced and comprehensive review of the development and performance of our charity during the year and its position at the year end. Our review is consistent with the size and non-complex nature of our charity and is written in the context of the risks and uncertainties we face.

The results for the year are set out in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 8 and in the related notes. Overall, the company had a net incoming resources of restricted funds of £20,698 and unrestricted funds of £255.

RESERVES POLICY

The unrestricted reserves of the company at 31 March 2024 amounted to £5,190 whilst there are restricted funds of £50,619. The board are satisfied that this level of reserves is sufficient for its immediate needs. The company aims to maintain a level of free reserves sufficient to meet the running costs for a period of 12 months. The trustees will continue to adopt an approach that will build and maintain reserves at an appropriate level.

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. The Directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the profit or loss of the company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Directors are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principals in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS 102);
- Make judgements and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business;
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.

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The Directors are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the Directors are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the charitable company's accountant is unaware; and
- The Directors have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant information and to establish that the accountant is aware of that information.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO SMALL COMPANIES

This report has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption of Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

On behalf of the board



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Angela Wilkins
Company Director

30 January 2025

Date:-