

Scheme Manager's report

Kirpal Dhadda

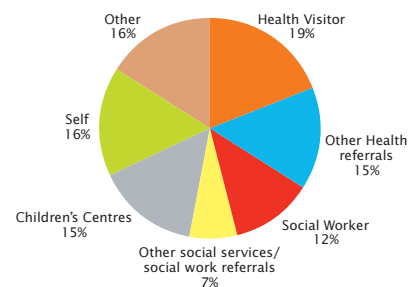
This year was a special year for me personally as I celebrated my fifth year with Home-Start Barnet along with my 50th birthday. The year brought more than its fair share of challenges with Home-Start UK carrying out a complete quality assurance on all 16 standards and 240 indicators in October, two funding streams coming to an end without any sight of them being replaced and a sharp downturn in the economy having a major knock-on effect on the local environment. However it's amazing how resilient we are as an organisation in pulling together when the chips are down and there is a budget shortfall of almost £43,000. The Management Committee took a brave decision to maintain all our core services with the support and hard work of all staff and volunteers by dipping into our reserves and reducing staff hours but not making any redundancies.

Despite the challenging environment for the year end March 2010 Home-Start Barnet recruited 43 new volunteers and supported 265 families with 576 children (76% under 5) through a combination of home-visiting volunteers, minimal coordinator and group support. We strengthened our links with the local children's centres by linking into outreach and family support. We have joint partnership work in place with centres including Newstead, The Hyde, Fairways, Canada Villa and Wingfields. As a result we have delivered evidence-based parenting programmes to 40 parents with 79 children, money advice workshops with CAB, and continued running family groups and offering limited outings with much needed help from John Lewis.

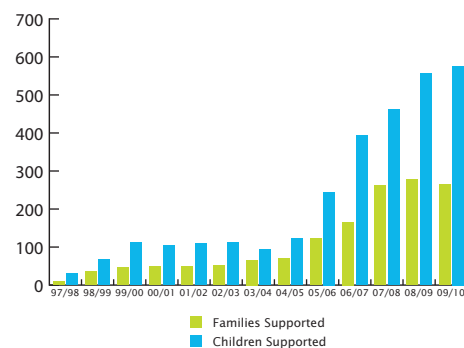
The Management Committee formed a fundraising sub group to work on developing and implementing a robust fundraising strategy. As a result there are planned events to raise funds and we have hired a fundraising consultant. We were so delighted to hear that John Lewis Brent Cross had chosen Home-Start Barnet as their charity of the year and that we had secured funding from Henry Smith for 3 years. The QA was completed over 2 days by Kate Wright and Emma Richards our Home-Start UK consultants with us meeting 98% of the 240 indicators first time.

Key Statistics

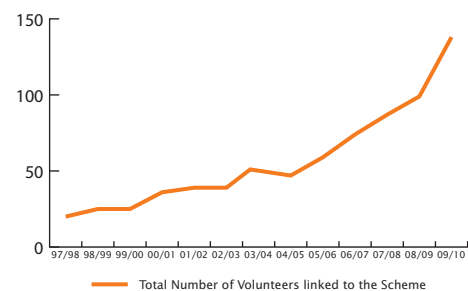
Breakdown of sources of referrals



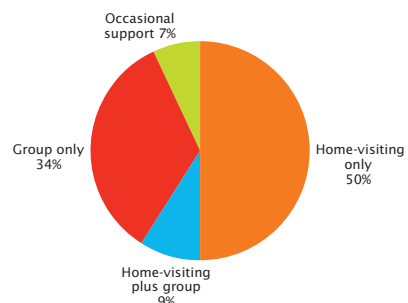
Children & families supported 1997-2010



Total number of volunteers linked to Home-Start Barnet



Breakdown of type of support



Financial Summary 2009 - 2010

	2009	2008
Income	£181,292	£237,357
Expenditure	£223,774	£256,569
Net (Deficit)/Surplus	£(42,485)	£(19,212)
Total Funds at year end	£76,783	£119,355

Treasurer's report

Clive Bowman

Again this year our income was insufficient to cover our costs and our net expenses were £42,482. Although this is an unsatisfactory financial result, it is less than had been budgeted, and most importantly the support we offer our families was not sacrificed.

The two most significant areas that have been difficult to resolve is that of investment income and funding. Interest received in 2007/8 was over £5,600 whereas, this year, we have received only a little over £100 – all due to the low rate of return on our money. Kirpal, in particular, has worked ceaselessly trying to source more funds, but we face an ever increasing demand on Trusts with an ever decreasing pot of money.

We thank a number of professionals, companies and organisations who have kindly donated their time and resources to our charity. We also take this opportunity to once again thank the Borough of Barnet as well as the other Trusts who have supported us in the past and we hope will continue to do so over these difficult times. We also single out John Lewis Brent Cross who have named us as their chosen charity of the year. They have provided enormous support in many ways.

Copies of the certified accounts will be lodged with the Charities Commission and Companies House. You are welcome to inspect them at our offices and contact our Office Manager for an appointment.

Thank you

We would like to thank the following for supporting us financially, with donations, and their time: London Borough of Barnet, Hadley Trust, John Lyons, Henry Smith Charity, Barnet Youth and Connexions, BBC Children in Need, John Lewis Brent Cross, Waitrose, Shaw Trust, The Royal Bank of Canada, Astrit Kransiqi, Alvise Vergerio and Oscar Kalu.

Home Start

Support and friendship for families

Home-Start Barnet

Annual Report

2009-2010



Chairperson's report

Nicole Kyriakides

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with the staff, volunteers and Management Committee of Home-Start Barnet over this past year. I particularly enjoyed the wonderful celebration lunch cooked to perfection by 'the team' where we honoured many of our hard working volunteers for their years of service.

In a year which has had its challenges everyone continues supporting our families in many ways including home visiting, drop-in groups and parenting courses.

I would like to wish the new chair of Home-Start Barnet every success in the coming year.

Home-Start Barnet

Old Barn Community Centre, Tarling Road, London N2 8LB

Tel. / Fax. 020 8371 0674

Email: admin@homestartbarnet.org

Website: www.homestartbarnet.org

Parenting programmes

Trupti Makwana

Home-Start Barnet staff are trained to deliver a number of evidence-based programmes including Strengthening Families Strengthening Communities (SFSC). We have been fortunate enough to have delivered the SFSC specifically for young parents too, and what a success it was! During the year we delivered five SFSC parenting programmes jointly with children's centres at The Hyde, Canada Villa and Barnfield, and also in East Barnet

This was from one of the young parents who attended the young parents SFSC.

"SFSC was a really rewarding programme, I learnt a lot about myself and my son's behaviour. I had a lot of fun on the programme; the funniest bits were the role plays even though it was a struggle to get us to do it but once we did we all had a really good time. The course has made me realise that I can do the best for my son. I used techniques from the programme like reward charts and ignore & praise and this has made my life so much easier. This programme has made me a better mum and person and I would like to thank Home-Start for giving me the opportunity to do this parenting programme."



JUST4U GROUP

Cathy Ladjadj

In the young parents group we have been busy with art and craft activities, designing and creating decorated candle holders, Christmas baubles and jewellery boxes that we can sell to put back some money into the group so that we can spend some on more activities and fun days out!

Over the summer we have been busy with activities such as bowling where both mums and children had fun. We went to Alexandra Palace where we enjoyed visiting the swans and ducklings. We also had fun at Clown Town on the bouncy castle.

We have also been busy in training programmes such as strengthening families where we had 14 young parents who completed the programme and achieved a certificate at the end. Well done!

I would like to welcome our volunteer Mary back to the group. We have missed Mary who has always given amazing support to the young parents. Thank you, Mary, Also a warm welcome to Joanna, another amazing volunteer who has also started to support the group.

Outings

Harriet Sogbodjor

As usual, Home-Start Barnet has taken families on a range of outings during the year.

During the Easter Holiday we visited the **Natural History Museum** in South Kensington. The children were very impressed with the skeletons of enormous dinosaurs. There were many different examples of fossils and types of birds and their eggs.

In July there was an outing to **Walton-on-the-Naze**, a traditional seaside town in Essex. We managed to find the only sunny spot in the country that day. The families enthusiastically unpacked their picnic blankets, sandwiches and buckets and spades for a day on the beach. The children enjoyed paddling in the sea and making sandcastles.

Our August outing was to **Aldenham Country Park**, which offered a range of attractions. There are 175 acres of woodland, parkland and open water. The rare breeds farm included litters of piglets, Guernsey goats and different breeds of chickens. In addition, there was a special display of birds of prey, which visitors were able to stroke. A Winnie the Pooh trail and walks around the lake encouraged exploration. The adventure playground was very popular with all the children.



A volunteer's story

Doreen Ball

I joined Home-Start Barnet in 2004 after retiring as a speech and language therapist. I missed working with families and young children and was looking for a way of putting something back into society. I have supported eight families ranging from those with practical needs to more complex emotional and physical issues. Volunteering has broadened my knowledge of other cultures, as I have met lots of interesting people from across the globe. I have made new friends, got involved in the social activities and have been persuaded to join the Management Committee. I have found volunteering with HSB very rewarding- it's like being part of a big family as well as the wider community. I have had a lot of laughter but, most important of all is the feeling of satisfaction in having made a difference to a family by just being there!

A letter from a family to a volunteer

"It's 6:30 in the morning. Rose is fed, changed and playing. Abigail is still asleep. I finally have the time to write and say I never meant the last session to end that way. I envisaged talking - going over our time spent together.

Instead you gave me the freedom to get stuck into the allotment and I dived in- enjoying the time you gave me. But suddenly the time was up, you were gone and there was no time to say thank you. I'm sure we will bump into each other, but I didn't want too much time to lapse, so you know you were appreciated. And I'm glad someone thought up Home-Start. Very much needed. I'm only sorry in a way that I don't need its services, or rather I do but not to the degree of when you first came to our front door."

Grahame Park Family Group

Sharon Pickering

Our families have experienced some major changes this year to the running of their group. We've changed the name from the informal Drop-In to the more welcoming Family Group and changed the structure of the group ensuring all families have a voice within the support available to them from Home-Start Barnet and offered to them by staff and volunteers as requested. Families have also temporarily moved premises twice without complaint. We ran a successful 6 week course looking at the emotional health and well-being of our under 5s. Tania from the 'Happy at Home' project was on hand to lend some valuable advice for mums on everything from 'the terrible twos' to coping with moving to a new environment and the children were kept busy with some fun activities from making play dough to decorating life size pictures of themselves. Some of our families have celebrated new arrivals, some have said farewell as their little ones have grown and ventured into daily school life, some have experienced both this year during their time with us, but the main aim of the group never changes in providing a safe and welcoming environment for social interaction between parents and children alike.



Fundraising

Sue de Botton, Chair, Fundraising sub group

We have had a successful year and continue to deliberate on the thorny issue of fundraising in these difficult economic times.

Our five-man group has been active and in May organised a successful Bingo evening which made a profit of £400 and proved to be a very sociable event, with minimum outlay for the amount raised.

We have signed up to www.easyfundraising.co.uk which gives an amount of money to Home-Start Barnet when an online purchase is made from a designated store. This can produce a significant amount if everyone involved with Home-Start signs up. Similarly if you change your search engine to <http://hsbarnet.easysearch.org.uk> you will be raising funds for us at no cost to yourself.

The group has also appointed a short term fundraiser, Joe Waterton, whose task is to raise the money needed to ensure a secure future for the scheme. We are continuing to enhance our fundraising profile and welcome anyone who is interested to come and join our meetings. All we require is enthusiasm and ideas. You might even get a cup of coffee and cake!

THANK YOU!

A special thank you to a group of boys from Finchley Catholic High School who put together a musical masterpiece on the support that Home-Start offers families. This was part of a school project which allowed young people to pick a local charity and give a presentation to the school on why this charity should receive their vote. A £3,000 prize was on offer for the charity that gained the most votes at the school. Sadly Home-Start Barnet was just pipped to the post, by Haringey Women's Refuge. Although we didn't come first, we were selected by the school to receive a donation of £1,000 from money raised by the school children for Lent.

Here's the link to watch the boys perform!
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hIT3FRohKnA>

Thank you also to volunteers Louise Froggett and Brenda Rote for organising a car boot sale in aid of Home-Start.

Healthy Eating programme

Cathy Ladjadj

The Family Learning Healthy Eating course in partnership with Barnet College started in September for five weeks at Canada Villa. The trainer from Barnet College helped the young parents plan a healthy diet. Nine young parents took part in the course and were trained to shop on budget, look at a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of eating healthily. The young parents cooked a healthy Chinese stir fry and a banana cake; they also had fun with exercises and aerobics and dancing with hula hoops. There were also two crèche workers that looked after the children, providing them with lots of fun activities.



JOHN LEWIS CHARITY OF THE YEAR!

Linda Sansom

We owe an enormous thank you to John Lewis Brent Cross, who have chosen Home-Start Barnet as their branch charity of the year, and are supporting us in a variety of ways.

They have provided us with money to take families on an Easter outing to the Science Museum and an autumn half term trip to Willows Farm, neither of which we could have afforded this year without outside help. Both our young parents group and our Family Group at Grahame Park have received huge amounts of craft activities to keep them busy, and individual families have benefitted from items such as a cooker, washing machine and tumble drier, stair gate and bed linen.

Staff at the store have provided raffle prizes for events and presents for volunteers. They have even made our lives easier in the office by giving us a printer and a Hoover, and by sending in one of their IT experts to sort out some problems.

This support will be ongoing until next February, and we are truly grateful to Linda Harrington, Nicole White and the rest of their team, not to mention all the 800-plus partners who have worked so hard to help us in our work to support families. It is an exciting relationship, and one that we hope to continue in some way in the future.



PREP COURSE & VOLUNTEERING

Julie de Vos

We ran two very successful and vibrant induction and preparation courses this year. They prepared 43 highly dedicated volunteers for the roles of both home-visiting support and in our group settings. Our programme of ongoing training and supervision ensures that our service remains up to date, relevant and targeted to those who most need it. The help our volunteers provide covers a wide range of activities and underpins our organisation as a whole. They not only provide support directly to families but also in indirect ways by helping with such things as administration, IT, fundraising, crèche working, washing up and even face painting...

Without them and their constant dedication there could be no Home-Start Barnet.

GOODBYES & HELLOS

We said goodbye to Clea Bethley and Amina Moftah who will be sadly missed at the family group at Grahame Park. We also had newcomers Krishna Ellsworth from Surrey University and Kamrul Islam from Middlesex University who joined as part of their work experience for their social work degree. During the summer we took Martina Pelizzoli, a student from Italy who was taking part in the Leonardo da Vinci programme which enhances European partnerships and promotes the exchange of best practice, increases staff expertise and develops new skills. We would also like to welcome Anita Howard to our Grahame Park Family Group and also two more Middlesex University social work trainees, Joanna Penn and Teri Digby, and Freshta Khandahari, who is on a six month admin placement with the government Jobs Fund.