

Scheme Manager's Report

Kirpal Dhadda

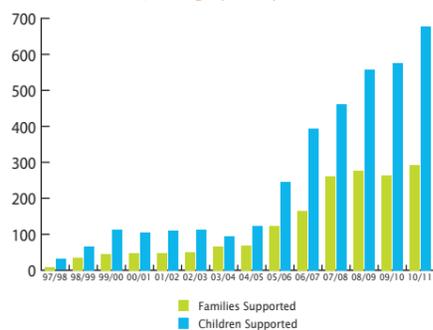
The past year has been an exceptionally busy one for us at Home-Start Barnet. We were faced with the familiar challenge of a budget deficit for the second year running and with the added pressure of finding new premises as our rent had doubled. The trustees with the support of staff got to work in preparing a plan of action with the aim of ensuring we continue delivering our much needed services to children and families that don't meet the statutory services threshold and often don't have anyone else to turn to.

We built strong partnership work with Barnet College and City Lit College which resulted in us being able to offer an array of family learning programmes from the Grahame Park family group. We continued with our partnership with Middlesex University by increasing the number of social work student placements and have now extended it to Hertfordshire University. We applied to the Big Lottery for a joint partnership project with three other Home-Starts to deliver volunteer training but unfortunately that was unsuccessful, and we handed over the Just4U young parents group to Newstead Children's Centre due to lack of funding. However, we managed to secure three 18-month contracts from LB Barnet to deliver home-visiting volunteer family support, outreach and family support for the 2 year childcare offer and 10 parenting programmes for the Safer Families DV project. As a result of our hard work we were able to reach 15% more children and families with our support, increase retention of volunteers by 14% and reduce the cost of our service down to £720 per annum per family.

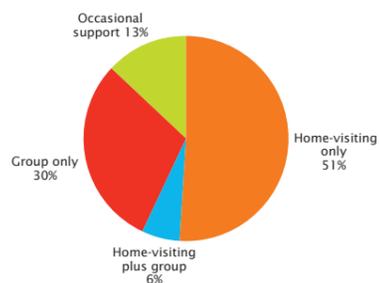
We are now well settled in our beautiful new offices which has opened up new opportunities to offer training and group work, not to mention picnics in the stunning gardens, to our families and volunteers. We are looking forward to embedding the new projects into our work and ensuring we provide a quality service. Finally, my personal heartfelt thanks go to all our volunteers, trustees and staff whose dedication and commitment ensures the high standard of support for our children and families.

Key Statistics

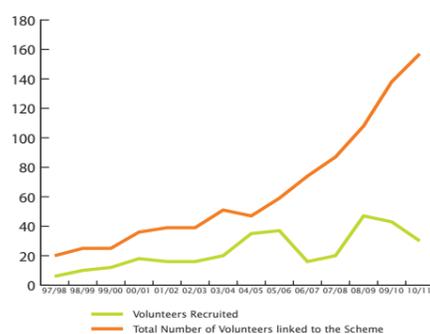
Children & families supported by Home-Start Barnet



Breakdown of type of support



Volunteers Recruited



Financial Summary 2010 - 2011

	2011	2010
Income	£241,548	£181,289
Expenditure	£211,120	£223,774
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	£30,428	£(42,563)
Total Funds at year end	£107,220	£76,783

Treasurer's Report

Clive Bowman

The accounts show a net surplus of £30,428 which is a significant improvement on last year's deficit of £42,563. We received an additional £60,262 predominantly with funding from Barnet Council, Henry Smith Foundation and of course the Hadley Trust and BBC Children in Need who continue to support our activities. Special mention must be made of the work of those on our fundraising committee and the other volunteers who secured an additional £13,851 from various events and generous donors.

We managed to control expenses which were £12,729 less than those of 2010. This was due to staff generously giving of their time and agreeing to postpone any increments for another year. We have built and motivated a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. A number of parents who were previously supported have themselves volunteered, and are assisting other families in various ways. We continue to support more parents and children throughout Barnet with an increase of 15% over last year.

The Trustees realised that our funding was under threat and, with our limited resources, decided to use the services of a dedicated fundraising professional. Although we realised that a limited amount could be achieved in a short period of 6 months, the cost of £4,356 has been offset by a like sum being raised. This, however, has opened a number of opportunities which we hope to explore in the near future.

I wish to highlight some important statistics. With only 1 extra part-time member of staff we increased the number of volunteers by 14% to 157 who supported 293 families (13% increase) with 677 children (18% increase). All of what I have highlighted in the paragraphs above has resulted in the cost of supporting a family reducing to £720 (15% reduction).

Copies of the certified accounts have been lodged with the Charities Commission and Companies House. If you wish to inspect them at our offices, please 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, Henry Smith Charity, BBC Children in Need, John Lewis Brent Cross, Waitrose Mill Hill, Whetstone and North Finchley, Pentland Industries, the Shaw Trust, The Royal Bank of Canada, Barnet & Southgate College, City Lit College, Middlesex University, Hertfordshire University, Tesco, Astrit Krasniqi, Alvis Vergerio, Oscar Kalu and PALM Graphics Limited.

Annual Report

2010-2011

Home START

Support and friendship for families

Home-Start Barnet



Chairperson's Report

Julia Roberts

In my first year as Chairperson of Home-Start Barnet, I have been constantly amazed at the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the staff, volunteers and trustees. Despite many challenges such as potential cutbacks, inadequate premises and significantly increased competition for funds, the team continued to bring new ideas, energy and, importantly, a sense of humour to the office!

We have also been delighted to welcome our new Patron, Martin Russell, on board. Martin is the Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London and Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the Borough of Barnet and first got to know about Home-Start Barnet when we applied for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service three years ago. Our thanks go to Martin for his continued support in what must be an extremely busy schedule.

Home-Start Barnet

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Website: www.homestartbarnet.org

Registered Charity No. 1109550

Limited Company No. 5379764

Patron: Martin H. C. Russell, FCT, Deputy Lieutenant of Greater London, Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Barnet

Patron's Message – Martin H.C. Russell

What a time of contrast and change it has been in the year since I became patron!

I have seen how Home-Start's excellent and dedicated staff and volunteers have worked extremely hard to prepare for the move from the crowded and dark Old Barn Community Centre to our light and spacious new offices in Avenue House. A well-attended and very happy reception in the new premises attracted a number of guests and supporters, who appreciated the impact our new surroundings will have on staff morale and retention.

I have watched the Trustees under their impressive new Chairman, Mrs Julia Roberts, at work in their meetings, grappling with increasingly complex legal and financial challenges. To support them and to bring further dimensions of experience, I have welcomed the appointment of an influential and highly-regarded new Trustee in the form of former MEP, Minister, and now local Councillor, John Marshall.

I benefitted from participating in the well-led Study Day at County Hall and watched volunteers and others exchange views and share their experiences in a cooperative and very fruitful manner.

Throughout the year, one consistent aspect has been the shining dedication and enthusiasm of Kirpal who has provided so much motivation for her team and for those who work with them.

My best wishes to everyone at Home-Start Barnet for continuing success next year and long into the future. One thing is sure: the need for your interventions will continue to develop, and I am delighted to continue to support you as you work to do so.



Family Outings & events

204 children and families enjoyed outings to Paradise Wildlife Park and Southend beach, a picnic in Avenue House gardens, and a fun day and a Christmas party at the Grahame Park Community Centre.



"I had fun" – A child's view of Southend beach trip

"She's helped me more than I can say. She's kept me sane. I love Mo, she's the only person I have a laugh with. Mo's made me feel good about myself" – Family comment on her volunteer



"I just want to say a big thank you for your unwavering support during my time of need. It takes only a special person to do that. You are one in a million, A true friend" – Family comment on her volunteer



"First time out after my husband died. My children and I so much enjoyed our trip to Paradise Wildlife Park. I really thank you Home-Start" – Supported family



Paradise Wildlife Park



Picnic at Avenue House August 2011

Volunteering

Julie de Vos

This year we focused on making better use of the time and talents of our existing volunteers, rather than training new ones. We ran 2 Preparation Courses in which we trained 30 new volunteers but also developed a team of new and existing volunteers to help us with administration, thereby releasing our Office Manager and Coordinators for other tasks. Many volunteers have helped us with letterbox mail drops, crèche work and donation of gifts for fundraising. They have been directly instrumental in raising or saving us money with fundraising activities, translation and legal services, face painting exercises, and by becoming Fostering Champions on behalf of Home-Start Barnet (pictured right). We have accepted all this generous help with a great deal of gratitude on behalf of both our families and staff.



Volunteer preparation training March 2011



Fostering Champions

Grahame Park Family Group

Sharon Pickering

It's been a productive year for the Grahame Park Family Group beginning with a healthy eating course delivered by Barnet College, whose facilitator also introduced the group to Zumba, the latest modern healthy exercise dance programme.

Following on from the success of this Barnet College have delivered more courses including paediatric first aid, and are hoping to run others. We also had a City Lit course based around musical and heuristic play. These courses have proved beneficial for the families giving them new parental learning techniques and increased confidence. Highlight of the year was a visit from Children In Need who have been funding the group for the past five years.

The group welcomed their regional officer one morning in September and following this ran a fundraiser for the charity which made over £300 in two hours. This was a heart-warming experience and just goes to show how rewarding for everyone concerned the group and its community has become.



Fun day at Grahame Park

Every Step Matters With Home-Start Barnet

Ami Dave

In partnership with Every Step Matters we have developed a unique and innovative counselling service for young mums suffering from post natal depression. The group setting uses verbal and creative therapies offering space for young mothers, to explore issues, experiences, opinions and views and address those areas of their life which they are struggling with. The mums have grown in self-awareness and have been encouraged to take responsibility for their experiences, which has led to the relief of issues and emotional distress. The group has allowed positive relationship to be built and stigma around counselling to be challenged. It has been a fantastic experience to facilitate this very special group and we thank Home-Start Barnet for their on-going support and belief in the value of our services.

FACTS

- 150 families received one to one home-visiting volunteer support.
- 53 families have accessed Grahame Park family Group.
- 28 families have benefitted from parenting programmes delivered from Fairways Children's Centre, Stonegrove Children's Centre and Ayesha Faith School.
- 11 NVQ childcare qualified volunteers have been offered paid crèche support work.
- 9 young parents have accessed Every Step Matters with Home-Start Barnet PND group.
- 6 social work students have been offered work placements.

"Thanks for the very good work – wonderful and life enhancing. It's essential for lonely and isolated parents. If you are lucky enough to be allocated a volunteer, then make use of her. Home-Start is so valuable and is a preventing service" – Supported Family

Goodbyes & Hellos

We said goodbye to our social work students Kamrul Islam from Middlesex University and Krishna Ellsworth from Leeds University. Teri Digby and Joanna Penn from Middlesex University also completed their placement with us, and we welcomed new students Sukhi Anand and Teresa Brennan from Middlesex University and Loretta Baffour-Awuah from Hertfordshire University.

We also said goodbye to Martina Pelizzoli and Magda Valeri, students on the Leonardo da Vinci exchange programme from Italy, and Anita Howard, a playworker at the Grahame Park family group.