



Annual Report



Home-Start Orkney Annual Report 2020/21

There for parents when they need us the most,
because childhood can't wait.



Report of Board of Trustees



For the year ending 31 March 2021

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Reference and Administrative Information

Registered charity name	Home-Start Orkney
Charity registration number	SCO 30307
Company registration number	280846
Registered office	7 Main Street Kirkwall KW15 1BU
Founder (Home-Start UK)	Margaret Harrison CBE

Board of Trustees

Chairperson	Barbara Graham	
Vice Chair	TBC	
Treasurer	Sheila Shearer	
Secretary	Molly Edmond	Appointed Sept 2020
Board Member	Sue Atkinson	
	Stuart Martin	
	Malcolm Graves	
	Susan Coulter	Appointed May 2020
Volunteer Representative	Lorna Penny	

Staff

Senior Co-ordinator	Erika Copland	
Family Support Co-ordinator	Sandra Leslie	Retired Apr 2021
	Sarah De Rees	
	Sadie Stevenson	Appointed Jun 2021
Administrative Assistant	Mary-Louise Karius	Resigned Jan 2021
	Natasha Stacey	Appointed Jan 2021

Volunteers

Alice Cant
Catherine Groundwater
Margaret Jones
Jacky Moyes
Claire Nicolson
Lorna Penny
Carol Rae
Jane Rawlinson
Heather Bond
Pat Foulis
Isobel Horne



HOME-START ORKNEY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

23rd June 2021 at 2PM

A G E N D A

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes from AGM held on 2nd September 2020
3. Matters Arising
4. Annual Reports
 - Chairperson, Barbara Graham
 - Senior Co-ordinator, Erika Copland
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
7. Election of the Board
8. AOCB

Following the main business, we will present our Housing and Heating Report
Followed by a response from Robert Leslie, THAW Orkney Manager

Chair's Report



I would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone from myself and the rest of the Board of Trustees, and to thank you for giving up your time today to join us for the second time via Zoom.

This has been my second year as Chair of the Board, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and volunteers for supporting me to do the best job that I can. We were fortunate to welcome both Susan Coulter and Molly Edmond onto the Board (in May and September 2020 respectively), with Molly agreeing to take on the role of secretary, many thanks indeed to her for taking this on and for doing such an excellent job.

The Year 2020-21

This year has definitely been a remarkable year due to the global pandemic caused by Covid 19 leading us into lockdown at the beginning of the financial year. The continued support of our families has been diligently carried forward by the staff and volunteers, despite the restrictions necessarily imposed by the virus.

To check on how our revised service was being received we carried out a short survey in July 2020, the results, which are available on request from the office, were overwhelmingly positive; conclusions were that the service offered was highly valued and did not need to change apart from the reintroduction of face-to-face group support, which has already started.

We are, as ever, extremely grateful that our funding continues from Orkney Islands Council and The National Lottery Community Fund. In addition to these during this year other grants have been received from the STV Appeal, Home-Start UK, Home-Start Scotland, and the John Lewis Give a Little Love Appeal.

I would like to extend a very special thankyou to Erika for her continuing efforts to attract funding going forward, in what we all recognise is a changed and more difficult landscape to negotiate.

Volunteers are essential to the service we provide, my thanks go out to all of them for the care and dedication they show to continue to support our families, come what may.

The staff have adapted in a gracious and positive manner to the changed way of working required by the global pandemic, and I'd like to thank them all wholeheartedly for keeping the service going and delivering the support to our families throughout.

Changes within the Home-Start Orkney Team



Our longest-standing colleague, Sandra Leslie, retired in April this year after many years of incredible support for Home Start Orkney, initially as a Trustee and then as a Family Support Co-ordinator. Sandra, your input has changed lives for the better and for that we are incredibly grateful and wish you all the very best for the future, many, many thanks for all that you have given to everyone at Home-Start and to the people of Orkney over the years.

Our Admin Assistant Mary-Louise Karius also moved on to fresh challenges and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work whilst with us at Home-Start Orkney and to wish her all the best for the future.

We are delighted to welcome Sadie Stevenson as our new Family Support Co-ordinator and Natasha Stacey as our Admin Assistant, thank you both for joining us and for dedicating yourselves to the work that we do supporting families across Orkney.

Sadly, we must bid a fond farewell to two of our Trustees, Stuart Martin and Sheila Shearer, both of whom have agreed to continue to assist as needed and where possible. We are extremely grateful to them both for their dedication, expertise, and energy, you will both be missed enormously.

Barbara Graham
Chair of the Board
Home Start Orkney

Senior Co-ordinator's Report



The Year 2020-21

The word 'unprecedented' is one we have come to hear regularly in regards to the last year, and there is no way to report on Home-Start Orkney's work in the last year without escaping Covid-19 and its impact not just on our own community, but worldwide. There is not a single person whose life has not been impacted in some way by the pandemic. The impact on our service, as with many others, saw our office premises close, with staff working from home to support both families and volunteers, while very quickly having to adapt to, for some, new technology and different online systems. The staff team worked tirelessly to ensure that communication with supported families remained a top priority, while also offering additional support such as doorstep deliveries of medication, food items and activity packs for children. Their commitment has been faultless, and I would like to thank them for their dedication, enthusiasm and drive, while also juggling their own responsibilities – it is thanks to them, and our team of volunteers, that we have been able to continue supporting families throughout the pandemic.

A survey we undertook with supported families in early July last year highlighted that, for them, it was the continuous support and communication from the team which was important, highlighting the importance of relationships and conversation – which are at the heart of what Home-Start does, building trusted relationships, which make parents feel valued, and increase their confidence and belief in themselves, building coping strategies which will see them through the challenging circumstances in their lives.

Home-Start UK 'Home is Where we Start From' Report

And while the challenges of Covid-19 were indeed unprecedented, families were already facing other challenges in their lives, which the pandemic only served to heighten. For many years, we have been highlighting how lonely and isolating parenting can be, and the pandemic has served to highlight that even further. In a recent report published by our parent body, Home-Start UK 'Home is Where we Start From', 75% of parents responding to an online survey stated that they had felt cut off

from friends and family during the pandemic, with 74% saying that support from Home-Start had made them feel less alone.

For those living in poor housing, being confined to your home for an extended period of time only served to highlight the effects of living in inadequate housing – which is why we are today presenting the results of our own survey into the poor conditions faced by many families we support, and the effects of this, not only in terms of electricity costs, but on their mental and physical health too.

These factors, as well as a rise in parents and young people with poor mental health, were all present before Covid-19 caused the world to go home – but the pandemic has amplified the effects of these. While our support makes families feel valued, increases their confidence, self-esteem and community connections, it cannot solve societal dilemmas – and that is why, not only are we highlighting housing conditions locally, but also joining our parent body, Home-Start UK, who in their 'Home is Where we Start From' report are calling on national governments, local authorities and wider society to:

- Build Back Better
- Build Back Fairer
- Build Back Kinder

And to put support for families and children at the heart of the Covid recovery. As we come out of the restrictions imposed by Covid, now is the time to take the opportunity, not to 'go back to normal' but to look forward, to consider how things could be done differently, better and more cohesively.

Erika Copland
Senior Co-ordinator
Home Start Orkney

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

Nelson Mandela

quote fancy

Group Support Sessions



Prior to lockdown in March 2020, Group Support sessions had become an integral part of our service, with many families regularly attending our programme of activities, which included Bookbug sessions, Music & Movement sessions, and an Intergenerational Session at Eunson Kloss.

We did offer weekly Group Support sessions online via Zoom to all our supported families during lockdown, and until such time as we could meet in person again. This did allow families who may otherwise have found difficulty in attending (such as those living on the outer isles) to meet weekly with the staff, and also each other.

We were delighted when restrictions were lifted, enabling us to offer Group Support sessions initially outdoors in local playparks, and then in person indoors from January 2021. We are very grateful to Kirkwall East Church Congregational Board for agreeing to let us use the Hub within King Street Halls to enable us to do this.



These sessions allow parents and children to come together in a safe, secure environment, facilitated by staff. For many families supported by Home-Start Orkney, these sessions allow the opportunity to benefit from peer support, while gaining in confidence, and for the children, further developing social, physical and gross/fine motor skills.

Donations



Rianne Flett: Mayhem at Mike's Fundraiser	£800.00
Anonymous Donation	£3,000.00
Blue Door	£1,390.00
Lorna Penny	£51.89
Alice Cant	£50.00
Home-Start Aberdeen / Lewis Give a Little Love	£200.00
Anonymous Donation	£10.00

It is not just monetary donations which we receive during the year, but donations from the Orkney public of toys, books, clothes, baby items, cribs, pushchairs etc and these are all distributed to families supported by Home-Start Orkney.

We have also received donations of clothing via a charity partnership with our local Poundland store. Again, these are distributed amongst our supported families, providing children with clothing suited to the season.

With the funds raised by Rianne Flett, a young 8 year old who wrote and illustrated her own book and then sold it to raise funds for us, we were able to purchase new books for young children in our supported families, providing these as part of activity packs which were distributed to families throughout the year.



Core Funding and Grants



We would like to extend our thanks to all those who have provided core funds and additional grants & monies during 2020/2021.

Orkney Islands Council

National Lottery Community Fund

STV Appeal

Home-Start UK

John Lewis: Give a Little Love

Orkney Charitable Trust

Scottish Government (via Home-Start UK and Home-Start Scotland)

