

Home-Start Guildford
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A potted history of Home-Start especially Home-Start Guildford

Home-Start UK was founded in 1973 in Leicester by Margaret Harrison. Home-Start-Guildford opened in 1996. There are now 269 Home-Start Schemes throughout the UK, armed services abroad and internationally with over 16,000 volunteers visiting over 30,000 families each week.

What does Home-Start do?

Through trained parent volunteers we support local, struggling families with at least one child under 5 who may need emotional or practical support, to give their children the best possible start in life. Examples of need might be post natal depression, social isolation, multiple births, disability (of parent or child), family breakdown, bereavement, domestic abuse and financial worries. Families are referred by health visitors and other professionals, but can also self-refer.

Families are matched with a volunteer who will visit them for 2 - 3 hours each week.

We monitor our service through evaluation forms set by Home-Start UK and 91% of families say that support from Home-Start helped them.

According to Surrey County Council statistics:

Guildford Borough has the second highest number of 'Children in Need' and the highest number of children subject to a 'Child Protection Plan' throughout Surrey.

Although Guildford is seen as an affluent town there are significant areas of deprivation.



Enjoying a story at the Family Group

We have a Family Support Group on Pirbright Army Base. Trained staff run the group, together with volunteers, and it provides vital support – particularly when one partner is away. Health Visitors report fantastic success in the service we provide to young families – often living far from their own homes.

Home-Start Guildford continues to grow. During the year ending 31 March 2017 our volunteers supported a total of 189 families, with 106 supported by home-visiting volunteers. 38 families were supported at the Family Group. We have a full-time Scheme Manager and Coordinator and a part-time Coordinator and Administrator at Burpham and two sessional staff to run the Family Group. The paid staff are supported by volunteer trustees and an enthusiastic group of "Friends of Home-Start" who run fundraising events.

There were 125 families referred in the year and a healthy supply of applicants wanting to train as volunteers. But it takes around £151k a year to maintain this level of service and we only get around £58k from SCC Children's Services. The rest we have to raise ourselves through grants, donations and fundraising events.

We run two volunteer training courses each year so more volunteers will be ready to help even more families.

Our Patrons are: The Very Reverend Dianna Gwilliams, Dean of Guildford; Anne Milton, MP for Guildford; Flavia Cacace-Mistry; Cllr Pauline Searle; Cllr Jennifer Jordan; Ruth Jubert; Diana Jones; Liz Hauck. **April 2017**



"The weekly visits received from my volunteer weren't only life changing They were life-saving"

Mother of twins living in Guildford

Children benefit from activities and play