

Home-Start Guildford
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**Support and friendship
for families**

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 250 Home-Start Schemes throughout the UK, armed services abroad and internationally with over 15,000 volunteers visiting over 29,000 families.

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, social workers and other professionals, and they 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 regular review visits to families, and feedback forms from families and over 80% of families found Home-Start support very helpful.

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.

The Family Group Coordinator and assistant 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 2018, a total of 179 families were supported, and 146 families (307 children) were supported by a volunteer or the Group. We had 71 home-visiting volunteers. We have a full-time Scheme Manager and Coordinator and a part-time Coordinator, Administrator, and Development Officer at Burpham and two staff to run the Family Group. The paid staff are supported by volunteer trustees and an enthusiastic group of friends who help run fundraising events.

We had 106 families referred last year and a healthy supply of applicants wanting to train as volunteers. But it takes around £150k a year to maintain this level of service and we only get around £55k 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;
Liz Hauck, Anne Milton, MP for Guildford; Diana Jones,
Ruth Jubert BEM, Cllr Pauline Searle; Cllr Jennifer Jordan.



Children benefit from activities and play

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

Mother of twins living in Guildford