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Home
START

Support and friendship
for families

Home-Start WeyWater
Alton, Bordon & Liphook

Cllr Evison

East Tisted Parish Council
c/o Old Station House
Station Road
East Tisted
Alton, Hants
GU34 3QU

31st January 2018

Dear Cllr Evison

Financial Year 2018/19

We are writing to all Parish Councils within our area to ask if they are able to support Home-Start WeyWater with core costs. We recognise Parish Councils have limited resources so we are approaching each council for £500 and understand this may not be attainable but we would be delighted to receive what was felt achievable and we would be willing to come and speak to the Council about our work.

About Home-Start

Home-Start WeyWater is a voluntary organisation which provides a unique service for families: we recruit and train volunteers to support parents with young children at home. Volunteers support parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental, practical and emotional support and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.

Volunteers visit families in their own homes on a regular basis for as long as needed. The support they offer a family is varied and according to each family's needs. For example:

- Friendship
- Time to talk
- A listening ear
- Practical help such as sharing shopping trips or occasionally taking children out to give a tired parent a much needed rest

There may be times when a volunteer is unable to provide all the help a family needs, but

they will know of local resources to which the family can be referred for appropriate help.

We also run a weekly support group for all families – the group is run term-time only as and during the school holidays we apply for funding to run such events as a Easter Egg Hunt and nature walks/picnics at Alice Holt once a week during the long summer holidays. At these gatherings, families and volunteers have an opportunity to meet each other and forge new friendships. Our aim is to provide a valuable family support service which makes a real difference to the lives of families through practical help, advice and support.

Currently we have 31 volunteers and 5 trustees. We currently have volunteers who live in your Parish and families that receive Home-Start support. All home-visiting volunteer must attend a 40hr training course. The cost of training a volunteer through the preparation course, expenses, supervision and ongoing training can equate to £1,500 per year.

Since the closure of Children's Centres our referrals have risen considerably. Volunteer organisations such as Home-Start provide valuable support at the grass roots where it is most needed. It is well researched that the foundations of being a good citizen are laid in early parent/child relationships.

Future Impact on our scheme: Since the loss of Lottery money it has proven difficult to receive funding for our core work. Historically there has been a Board of Hampshire Chairs who met regularly to look at how schemes can obtain and sustain funding for all as it is proving more and more difficult. Last year a business plan was drawn up with the idea that all 11 schemes in Hampshire would merge. Home-Start WeyWater is one of 6 Home-Start charities in Hampshire proposing to merge early in the financial year 2018/2019 and will be known as Home-Start Hampshire. Delivery of services will, however, remain local so if we are fortunate enough to receive a grant from you it can be ring-fenced at your request. The 5 schemes who have remained independent receive large grants from their City and District Councils but they may join Home-Start Hampshire in the future.

I enclose a copy of our annual accounts and our most recent AGM report.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Small', with a large, flowing flourish extending from the end.

Angela Small
Senior Co-ordinator