

HOME START

Kettering Area

Annual Report and Accounts
2025/2026



The William Knibb Centre
Montagu Street
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN16 8AE

t: 01536 484 318
m: 07935 402 179

www.homestartkettering.org.uk
admin@homestartkettering.org.uk

 [homestart.ketteringarea](https://www.facebook.com/homestart.ketteringarea)

 [HSKettering](https://twitter.com/HSKettering)

Home-Start Kettering Area Company Details

Home-Start Kettering Area was established in 1994 to provide support and friendship to families.

We work with local volunteers, trustees and funders to provide vital services for families in the area including Kettering, Desborough, Rothwell and surrounding villages.



Registered Charity Name
Home-Start Kettering Area

Charity Registration Number
1114030

Registered Office and Operational Address
William Knibb Centre
Montagu Street
Kettering
Northamptonshire
NN16 8AE

Company Registration Number
5709942

Board of Trustees
Keith Wright – Chair
Abbie Underwood – Safeguarding Lead
Abigail Foster – Treasurer
Ruth Wright – Volunteer Rep
Stephen James
Keli Watts
Lynn Chapman
Beccy Hurrell – (Resigned September 2025)
Bernadette Leather – (Resigned January 2026)

Patron
Lady Gayle Robinson
Crispin Holborow

Staff Members
Nikki Farrar-Hayton (Manager)
Donna Rockett (Office Administrator)
Mary Docherty (Family Support Coordinator)

Accountants
Bewers Turner & Co
Portland House
13 Station Rd
Kettering
NN15 7HH

Bankers
Natwest
16 High Street
Kettering
NN16 8SZ

This report covers Home-Start Kettering Area activities and financial statements.

Home-Start Kettering Area is committed to the safeguarding of children and families. A full list of our policies are available to view at our office, including Safeguarding, Code of Conduct, Health and Safety, Information Governance, Confidentiality and Data Protection.

**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

Reach the family - Reach the child



What we do

Home-Start helps families with young children deal with whatever life throws at them. We support parents as they learn to cope, improve their confidence and build better lives for their children. The benefits of our support include improved health and well-being and better family relationships.

We provide one-to-one support for parents

Our volunteers visit the family's home for 2-3 hours every week. The support is tailored to the needs of the parents and children and usually lasts for up to 6 months. Parents and volunteers often develop a deeply trusting relationship which can lead to powerful change within the family.

Why it matters

What goes on inside a family determines the opportunities and life chances children have. Children who are raised in a stable, loving, family environment are more likely to have a positive and healthy future. But being a parent isn't easy and sometimes life can get in the way. Circumstances throw you off course and everything else can take a back seat. A young child caught up in this can miss out on the love, routine and stimulation that are so vital for their future.



Our Values

- We offer families choice
- We work in partnership – with each other, with families and with other agencies
- We work in a spirit of openness, encouragement and enjoyment
- We are flexible and responsive to the needs of families

Home-Start works because most of our volunteers are parents and everyone completes a comprehensive course and induction. They understand how hard it can be. They work alongside parents, in their own homes, to help them cope with the stresses and strains of life and make sure they have the skills, time and strength they need to nurture their children.

Our vision:

Home-Start Kettering envisions a world where every parent, regardless of background, identity, or circumstance, receives the support necessary to provide their children with an equitable start in life. We are committed to building an inclusive society where diversity is celebrated and every family has access to the tailored resources they need to thrive from the outset.



Chair's Report – Keith Wright



Looking back on another year as Chair of Home-Start Kettering Area, I do so with a continued sense of pride, gratitude and optimism for the future. It has been a privilege to serve alongside such dedicated people who care deeply about the families and communities we support.

One of our greatest strengths continues to be our volunteer network, which remains at the heart of everything we do. The compassion, commitment and practical support shown by our volunteers makes a genuine difference to the lives of local families, often at the moments they need it most. Their kindness and generosity never fail to inspire me.

My sincere thanks, as always, go to our Manager, Nikki Farrar-Hayton, and to the wider team for their professionalism, care and unwavering dedication throughout the year. The impact of Home-Start is only possible because of the people who bring our values to life every day.

We have also seen further change within our Board of Trustees this year. I am delighted to welcome Stephen James, Abigail Foster and Lynn Chapman to the Board, bringing fresh insight and support to our charity at an important time. I would also like to place on record my sincere thanks to Beccy Hurrell and Bernadette Leather, who both stepped down as trustees after long periods on the Board. Their contribution, commitment and support have been greatly valued, and we wish both every success for the future.

Financially, we have continued to navigate a challenging external environment with care and discipline. I would like to thank all those involved in helping ensure Home-Start remains in a stable position, enabling us to continue delivering vital support to families across our area.

We have once again benefited from the generosity of our funders, donors and supporters, whose backing makes our work possible. Their confidence in Home-Start, and in the families we serve, is deeply appreciated.

Thank you especially to the John Armitage Charitable Foundation. Without their support, we would not be able to employ a Family Support Coordinator, meaning we would reach far fewer families and be unable to provide such a comprehensive wraparound package of support.

We also continue to value the partnerships we have built across our local community and business networks. Strong collaboration remains an important part of how we raise awareness, secure support and strengthen the reach of our charity. One such partnership was as a lead sponsor of the Kettering Half Marathon in March, where around 15 volunteers and supporters took part on behalf of Home-Start. This event alone raised around £8,000 - a truly amazing effort.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone who plays a part in supporting Home-Start Kettering Area:

To our volunteers – you really are the heartbeat of this charity. Thank you for your time, compassion and commitment.

To Nikki, Donna and Mary – thank you for your dedication, professionalism and care for the families we support.

To our funders and supporters – your generosity underpins everything we do, and we are sincerely grateful.

To our families – thank you for trusting us to walk alongside you. We hope our support has helped you feel stronger, more confident and more connected.

*With sincere thanks,
Keith Wright*



Manager's Report – Nikki Farrar-Hayton

It doesn't seem possible that I am writing my 27th Manager's Report for Home-Start Kettering. Each year I find myself saying the same thing—but it truly is a privilege to be part of such an incredible organisation, and to work alongside such dedicated people supporting families in our community.

This past year has, once again, brought its share of challenges. The ongoing cost-of-living pressures continue to affect so many of the families we work with. For some, it's the constant worry about how to make ends meet; for others, it's the difficult choices between essentials. Whatever the situation, we have been there to offer both practical help and a listening ear.

During 2025–2026, we supported **121 families with 256 children through tailored support, including weekly home visits and group activities**. In addition, we provided “indirect” support to a further **247 families**, helping with food parcels, energy costs, nappies, and other everyday essentials.

In total, we have supported 368 families, reaching 633 adults and 876 children over the year—something we can all be incredibly proud of.

We are also seeing more complex needs within the families we support. This year, we worked with **27 families with no recourse to public funds**, alongside **56 adults and 47 children living with disabilities**. These figures are a reminder of how vital early, compassionate support is, and how important it is that families know they are not alone.

There have been moments this year that have really highlighted the importance of what we do. At times when uncertainty has been felt more widely in the community, some families have reached out simply needing reassurance, someone to talk things through with, or just a calm voice at the end of the phone. Being that trusted support means so much, and it's something we never take for granted.

Alongside the challenges, there have been many moments of joy. During the summer holidays, we were delighted to take **68 children and their parents to Wicksteed Park**. With **11 volunteers and 3 members of staff supporting the day**, families were able to relax, have fun, and enjoy time together, complete with wristbands for the rides and a shared picnic.

Christmas, as always, was a very special time. We welcomed **50 children and their parents to a wonderful festive party**, with fantastic entertainment from Louise Wright Theatre School and a magical visit to Santa's Grotto. Seeing families come together and children's faces light up is always a real highlight.

None of this would be possible without the continued support of so many people. My heartfelt thanks go to our funders, supporters, and referrers for their ongoing belief in what we do and for helping us to reach so many families.

Our volunteers truly are at the heart of Home-Start Kettering. Their kindness, commitment, and generosity of time make such a difference, and we are incredibly grateful to each and every one of them.

On a personal note, I would like to thank Donna, our amazing Office Administrator, whose dedication keeps everything running so smoothly behind the scenes. And to Mary, who joined us in June 2024 and has become such an important part of the team—we genuinely cannot imagine Home-Start without her.

As always, my final thanks go to the families we support, for trusting us and allowing us to be part of their lives.

As I reflect on the past year, I feel proud, grateful, and hopeful. Proud of what we have achieved together, grateful for everyone who makes it possible, and hopeful that we can continue to be there for families for many years to come. I very much look forward to the year ahead, and to continuing this journey together.





Family Stories

Francisca

Last year was particularly difficult for me as I had a rough patch in my relationship so bad that it affected my mental health. I developed anxiety and I struggled with coping with my children's behaviour.

One afternoon I was distraught as I walked into a health visitor's office. All she asked was are you okay, and I burst out crying. Once I calmed down I told her I had been going through emotional abuse in my relationship and she made a referral to Home-Start Kettering. I didn't know who they were or what they did but I was happy to get any support at all.

It took only days for Nikki to reach out and when she did I thought "just get on with it" as that's what I was conditioned as a child to believe. That you're responsible for yourself and so accepting help usually doesn't come easily to me and I remember I'd ignore her calls. Thank God she didn't give up on me. I eventually got to meet her and she did the paperwork and welcomed us to the Homestart family and I've received the support I thought was never there. I was then paired up with my very insightful volunteer Amanda who agreed to see me and my kids weekly and it has been impactful on each visit. She's listened to me rant, showed genuine interest in my life and been a wonderful part of my children's Wednesday afternoons. I call her insightful because she always has the right thing to say and has got me to reflect a lot on the past which has in turn been helpful in my decisions presently. This has greatly impacted me such that I don't overwhelm myself and as a result have stopped having panic attacks which was huge issue for me before.

I want to use this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to Home Start and all the amazing people working behind the scenes to touch lives like mine.



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

Little Stars Stay and Play

The group has now been running for nearly two years, and it is wonderful to see such a fantastic number of families regularly attending. The space used for the group has recently been enhanced with new toys and equipment, providing families with a wide range of play options and activities to enjoy together.

One of the activities available is the sensory room, which is particularly popular with babies and young children as it offers a calm and relaxing environment. We also have a play kitchen with a variety of play foods, as well as dressing-up costumes, both of which support role play and imaginative play. Each week, children have access to sand and Play-Doh, which encourages sensory exploration and provides opportunities to talk with children about how different textures feel and how they might describe them.

We also offer a dedicated baby area with age-appropriate toys, allowing younger children to explore through their senses in a safe space, supporting their early development.

Each session ends with everyone coming together to sing nursery rhymes. The children engage very well with this and are encouraged to choose songs they would like to sing. We also promote imagination during singing activities; for example, when singing Old MacDonald's Farm, children are invited to choose an animal. While many select farm animals, they often suggest wild animals, sea creatures, or insects, as we enjoy exploring the wide variety of animal sounds together. Every session finishes with Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star, which helps signal the end of the group in a calm and familiar way.

The children who attend the group have grown noticeably in confidence since they began coming. They arrive with smiles on their faces and clearly enjoy playing in a safe, welcoming, and non-judgemental environment.



My daughter loves the group; it brought a completely different side to her I thought she wouldn't show and that how confident she is with playing with others.

The Home-Start stay and play group is a wonderful group, nice and friendly and always welcoming without any judgement. I have always struggled to attend play groups with my children but here we all feel so comfortable and positive after leaving.

My two boys absolutely love the playgroup; both have grown in confidence. Before we started to attend my two-year-old didn't engage with other children outside the home. Over time I've noticed him blossom into a different child who now enjoys coming and playing with other children.

I cannot thank you enough for this amazing group, you are all so kind and caring.

74

group referrals
received

53

families accessed
group in the past year

14

families didn't feel
confident to attend
groups before being
referred to us

18

families from
different nationalities
attended group





Volunteer Report - Rita

I volunteer for Home-Start Kettering and help at the Stay and Play sessions on Tuesday mornings during term time. It's so lovely to see the children playing alongside each other, sharing toys and having fun. The parents can catch up, support each other, and spend time watching and playing with their children too.

I used to live in Harrow where I worked as a nursery nurse in a council-run nursery. After I had my son, I became a childminder, then worked in a playgroup and later in a school (not the same one as Matt). I also worked in a special needs school similar to Kingsley.

I met Mary through Sea of Support. She invited me to do the training, which was very good. After the training, I started going along to the Tuesday Stay and Play mornings. I loved it so much that I now go every week. It really feels like I have a family there now.

I also visit a family in their home one morning a week. I play with the children and keep them safe while their mum can get a few jobs done. I really look forward to going—it's lovely being with them. I'm getting to know them and they are getting to know me, which is really nice.

I get so much joy from spending time with the children and their families. It's lovely to be able to help and support young families when they need a little extra support. I'm so pleased I met Mary, as I wouldn't have known I could help with Home-Start otherwise.

**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

Greedy Gordon's Community Support Report

Supporting Home-Start Families Since September 2025

Since September 2025, Greedy Gordon's has been proud to work alongside Home-Start supporting vulnerable families across Kettering and the surrounding areas through practical food support, community engagement and ongoing development projects.



Over the past months, we have regularly provided freshly prepared community meals for Home-Start families, helping reduce food pressure on households facing financial and social challenges. Our aim has always been to provide warm, nutritious meals while also creating a sense of dignity, care and community support.

Alongside the meal programme, Greedy Gordon's has continued to support Home-Start events and initiatives, including providing and operating food stands at community open days and family events to help raise awareness and bring families together in a positive environment.

New Community Cooking Project

We are now developing an exciting new partnership project with Corby Catering College and its students to help families gain confidence in cooking affordable, healthy meals at home.

The project will involve students creating YouTube-based cooking videos inspired by the Home-Start slow cooker cookbook. The videos will focus on:

- Simple family-friendly meals
- Healthy budget cooking
- Batch cooking and freezing meals
- Money-saving shopping tips
- How to make food budgets stretch further
- Basic kitchen skills and confidence building

The project will also aim to provide families with the basic tools, equipment and knowledge needed to cook independently at home while encouraging healthier eating and long-term food sustainability.

As part of the ongoing development of the programme, we are also hoping to involve Booker Wholesale to support the initiative through weekly food donations and ingredient support.

Future Fundraising & Charity Events

Looking ahead, Sonya and Richard from Greedy Gordon's are planning a major charity fundraising challenge next year alongside approximately eight months of charity events and community activities designed to raise additional funds and awareness for Home-Start.

The long-term goal is to continue building sustainable support for local families while creating meaningful partnerships between local businesses, education providers and community organisations. Greedy Gordon's remains committed to supporting Home-Start and helping local families through food, education, community engagement and long-term practical support initiatives.



Kettering Area





Family Story - Sam

Home-Start has been such a huge support to my family. Everyone is so kind, and they really helped us through a difficult time when we were struggling financially. From food parcels to nappies and more, their support has meant so much to us.



I'm incredibly grateful, not just for the practical help but for the difference it has made to my confidence. Being able to get out and attend the Tuesday group has been so important for me. I've met new people and made friends, which is something I've always found difficult.

Iris has loved going to the group as well. I often feel "stuck" because I can't get out much when I'm in pain, so it means a lot knowing she has such a great time whenever we're able to attend.



Volunteer Story - June



I am in my 20th year of volunteering for Home-Start Kettering and have been thanked in various ways, but the card Emma gave me this year blew me away. I had no idea she felt that way.

"Thank you for everything you do for us. Thank you for being kind when I thought there was none left in the world. Thank you for making me laugh when I thought I couldn't and thank you for making me smile when I thought I had nothing left to give"

Emma and her husband have a 13-year-old, a 19 month and 8-month-old. She very often only has 4 hours sleep at night and for financial reasons will be starting work soon. She is extremely grateful for the kindness and generosity of Home-Start in supplying food parcels which are always bigger than expected. She enjoyed Tuesdays play group with her middle daughter which she found to be fun and supportive. Emma is feeling a little less anxious since receiving help from Home-Start.

Mary-Lee's Referrer Report – Health Visitor

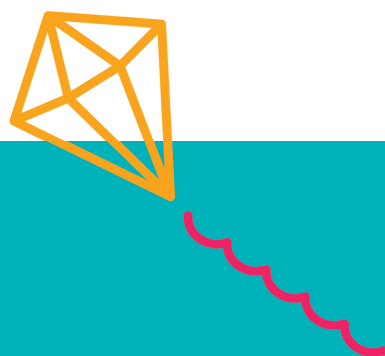
I am delighted with all the support myself and my health visiting colleagues have received from Home-Start. I am sure most of the team would have referred into Home-Start during the year. They provide valuable help for families needing charitable support, for example white goods, children's clothes, and signpost families to where they can get further help as needed, as well as help with the everyday things in life.

I have referred a family needing support with decluttering their home, as well as emotional support. One of the mother's I worked with was able to pop into Home-Start to see a mental health worker,

which gave her timely wellbeing support rather than having to wait which may have caused her more distress and ultimately would have impacted on her parenting and caring for her baby. I also have an Iranian family being supported by Home-Start where there has been domestic abuse and the mother is isolated and has no family support network. She has been supported moving into her own flat and finding items she has needed for the home and her baby. She has been provided help integrating into a new town and introduced to some of the baby groups that are happening locally. She gets invaluable help learning how her household bills work and where certain services are which is what she needed to manage to live in Kettering. Initially she found it hard settling but more recently she has seemed much happier and more settled, which I am sure is attributable to the support received from Home-Start. This means her baby will feel more stable and settled and will allow better outcomes for him in the future.

I feel very privileged to work alongside Home-Start and this year I did the brave thing of setting myself a personal challenge to run the Kettering Half Marathon to raise funds for Home-Start. I run alongside others who wanted to raise funds, and we all have a passion to help vulnerable families in our locality. I am so pleased I did this for such a worthy cause, and it helped me to complete this by knowing that this is helping a young family that are struggling and giving children a better chance of success.

Thank you, Home-Start, from your local health visiting team for all you do. We are very appreciative.



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area



Family Support Co-ordinator - Mary

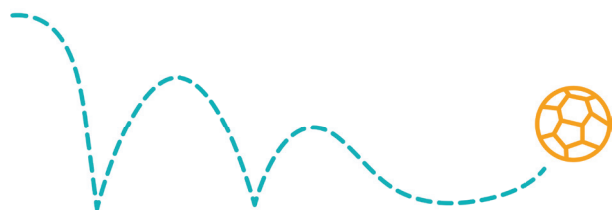
I have now been in my role for nearly two years, and I can honestly say that I love my job. The people I work with, the volunteers, and the families I support make every day incredibly worthwhile. I enjoy that no two days are the same, and I have the opportunity to meet so many wonderful volunteers who play such an important part in making my role so enjoyable.

Spending time getting to know the families I support is truly rewarding. Seeing the positive difference that our support can make to their lives is priceless. In my role, I support families during meetings in nurseries and schools, which can often feel overwhelming and difficult for parents to absorb everything being discussed. I help ensure they feel supported and can clearly understand what has been said.

I also assist families with form filling, including Personal Independent Payment (PIP) and Disability Living Allowance (DLA) applications. Additionally, I have supported families with requests for their child to be assessed for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC), as well as referrals for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) assessments through the Right to Choose pathway.

My passion lies within Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and I am currently undertaking SEND law training. Later this year, I will also be completing Triple P Stepping Stones training, which is SEND-focused. I have already completed Triple P for Babies training, enabling me to support families with babies under one year old, Level 2 SEND training, and The Solihull Approach training. All of this training has strengthened my ability to effectively support the families I work with.

I am really looking forward to continuing in my role, especially now that we have secured permanent funding. This is amazing news and gives me confidence that I can continue supporting families who need it most.



Safeguarding Trustee Report - Abbie Underwood



This year has been my first full year in role as Safeguarding Trustee for Home-Start Kettering. Over the last year I have worked with the team to deliver safeguarding training to our new volunteers and have also delivered the annual refresher training to our wonderful team of existing volunteers. We do this every year to ensure everyone is up to date with changes especially in our digital age where the internet can pose risks. Throughout the year I have also met with Nikki our Kettering Home-Start Manager to support her with the safeguarding of both the families we work with and also our volunteers.

As any organisation working with families and children we have throughout the year dealt with a number of Safeguarding concerns which have in some cases resulted in families and children receiving some extra support. In some cases, this has meant Home-Start have not been able to continue to support the family, but they have received the right level of support to meet their needs.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and a responsibility that at Home-Start Kettering we take very seriously. Please remember if you have any worries in relation to Safeguarding in our Home-Start community don't hesitate to contact myself or Nikki.



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

Treasurer's Report

During the last financial year, Home-Start Kettering received income of £118,194 and incurred expenditure of £125,716, resulting in a deficit of £7,522.

Income included £68,553 in grants, £17,620 in donations, £28,444 from fundraising activities, £1,655 from Gift Aid and the remainder from bank interest.

Expenditure was primarily directed towards the delivery of family support services, including volunteer coordination and training, alongside resources to support families with food, white goods and other essential items. A proportion of expenditure also supported the essential operational costs required to sustain the charity's activities. Looking ahead, the charity will continue to seek funding opportunities to maintain and develop its support for families across the local community.

The deficit reflects the planned use of reserves to maintain support for families during a period of increased demand. Trustees continue to monitor the charity's financial position closely and remain committed to ensuring funds are used effectively and sustainably.



Source of Referrals Received

42%

Health Visitors



16%

Schools/Nurseries

9%

Family Support Services



6%

Portage

7%

Other Health

8%

Mental Health Navigators

1%

Self Referrals

3%

Social Services



4%

Police/Domestic Abuse Services

3%

Midwives

HOME
START

Kettering Area

Volunteer Story - Amanda

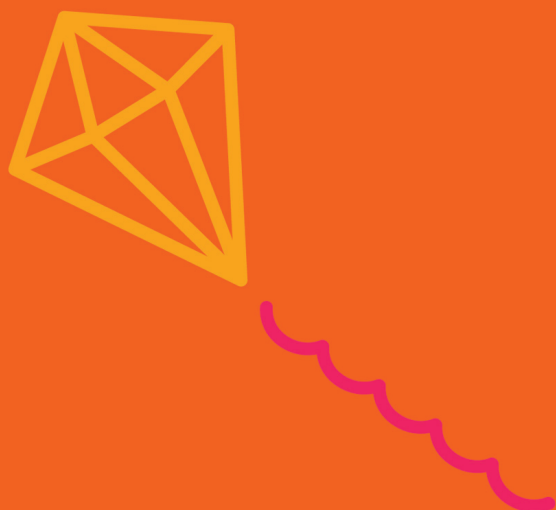
I heard about Home-Start when I was training to be a Postnatal Practitioner with National Childbirth Trust (NCT) way back in 2006, I knew of a family that had had twins and really benefitted from the support that they had received. At the time I was also volunteering with NCT and life was full so there wasn't an opportunity for me to take it on.

As my family grew and my youngest child was no longer needing me for so much of the time, I felt that I could fit a few hours a week into my schedule. It seemed important for my children to see me volunteering my time to support others and I would also get the opportunity to use and develop skills that I may not otherwise use. I had just been through a period of being really unwell and as I got better and had more energy, it was wonderful to be supporting other people that may be struggling in other ways and benefit from a few hours of non-judgmental, supportive, kind time.

The training was great, Nikki at Home-Start Kettering, has been doing this for a long time and I really enjoyed the delivery and the content. We also have regular reviews and support is on the end of the phone whenever we need it. Nikki is also really skillful at matching families. I am now on my third family since I completed my training, as well as having helped out at Christmas events, summer events and occasional visits to our weekly Stay & Play meet up at the Family Hub. I have really enjoyed the opportunity to support families one to one over 6 months and build relationships with both the adults and children. As volunteers, a lot of what we do is role modelling, signposting to other services as needed and listening – it really isn't any more complicated than that and it is so rewarding. We also get rewarded with coffee and cake quite often and I never feel pressured to do more than I can manage, they are a brilliant team.

Some of the highlights of my experiences so far – lots of trips to Wicksteed Park, playing Badminton at the Green Patch with one of the mums, taking one of the mums to get some counselling when she was really struggling to go on her own, delivering Christmas presents and food parcels from Home-Start, visiting the library with a family, going to the park, playing games and discos after school amongst many other fun things!!

If you have been thinking about volunteering – I would highly recommend Home-Start Kettering.



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

The Year in Numbers

Over
700
volunteer
visits



Summer Trip 2025

27
families

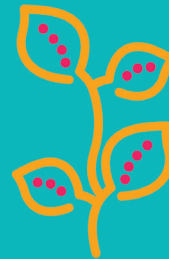


67
children

46
adults

●●●●●●●●●●
101
Wicksteed Park
wristbands
given to families

111
picnics



Over

4000

volunteer hours
in total

Over 
£28,000
raised through
fundraising events,
with over
1000 fundraising
hours given

Christmas 2025

24 families
50 children

102
families
supported with gifts
& food hampers

219
children received
toys & gifts



**HOME
START**

Kettering Area

Financial Statement

Incoming Resources	25/26	24/25
Grants	68,553	50,730
Donations and Fundraising	46,064	32,176
Gift Aid	1,655	1,971
Bank Interest	1,922	2,002
Total Income	118,194	86,879
Charitable Expenditure		
Service Delivery	119,468	98,085
Administrative Overheads	5,567	8,368
Depreciation	681	503
	125,716	106,956





Fundraising Report

We have had another fantastic year of fundraising, with over £28,000 raised through events alone. With no statutory funding, we rely entirely on raising more than £70,000 each year through events, grants and donations to sustain our much-valued service. The dedication of our volunteers, staff and supporters is phenomenal, and we truly could not do it without every single one of them.

The highlight of the year was the Kettering Half Marathon and 5K in March, where we raised over £8,000—an incredible achievement. A total of 21 runners took part in support of Home-Start Kettering, ranging from Couch to 5K beginners to experienced runners. With support from Hanwood Park Run Club and dedicated parkrun volunteers, our beginners were encouraged every step of the way. We extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved we are immensely proud of you all.

A special mention goes to our Chair of Trustees, Keith, who committed wholeheartedly to training, raised an impressive £1,000, and then sadly sustained an injury just weeks before race day. Determined not to let the team down, he still took part, completing the 5K despite considerable pain. His resilience made us all incredibly proud.

We would also like to recognise Alex, our youngest runner, aged 13, who took part as part of his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He raised nearly £500 through sponsorship and by organising and baking for his own coffee morning. A longstanding member of the Home-Start family, he has now raised close to £2,000 through multiple fundraising efforts, including a bike ride and swimathon.

Throughout the year, a number of additional events and activities contributed to our fundraising success. In March, our Bingo Night raised £1,600. In May, Gill Parton once again kindly held an open day at her home, raising £2,200. Our annual Family Fun Day in June raised £500. October saw UE's annual Golf Day raise an impressive £6,000. In November, our Quiz Night raised £1,834, while LOL Theatre contributed £680 through performances and collections. A further Quiz Night in February raised £1,100, and in March, long-time supporter Maggie Don raised £320 through a chocolate tombola at the Newlands Centre.

In addition, some of our dedicated volunteers generously chose to donate their expenses, contributing a total of over £4,200 across the year.

Looking ahead, we have many exciting plans for the coming year. To help us achieve even more, we are seeking support—particularly someone to lead and develop our fundraising activities. If this is something you would be interested in, we would love to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts throughout the year. Your time, energy and generosity make a significant difference and enable us to continue supporting families in our community.



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area

Thank Yous



23rd Kettering Scout Group
 Alex Clarke
 All Saint's Church
 Arena Slimming World Groups with Angela
 Asda Kettering
 Barton Seagrave Primary School
 Ben Holborrow
 Bethany Blissett
 Bewers Turner & Co
 Biker Masons
 Bosworths
 Burghley House
 Cadent
 Charlie Hay
 Charly Davis
 Chris Arthurs
 Cllr Ben Jameson
 Cllr James Hakewill
 Cllr James Towns
 Cllr Lauren Glanfield
 Cllr Liane Robinson
 Cllr Polly Shackleton
 Courtney Lewis
 Crispin Holborrow
 Currys Kettering
 David and Gill Parton
 David Gwinn
 Dunelm Kettering
 EA Timson Trust
 Geddington Church
 George Carr
 George Holborow
 GMB Union Corby
 Graeme Carr
 Greedy Gordons
 H Dunbar Brickwork Ltd
 Hanwood Park
 Hanwood Park Run Club
 Happy Together Ukulele Group
 Havelock Schools
 Hawthorn School
 Hayfield Cross Primary School
 Hugh Raven
 Ian Dennett
 Ironstone
 John and Sue Leach
 John Armitage Charitable Foundation
 Johnnys Happy Place
 Josh Docherty
 Katie Hackney
 Kettering Green Party
 Kettering Motorist Centre
 Kettering Park Hotel
 Kettering Science Academy
 Kettering Town Council
 Landrover Experience
 Latimer Arts College
 Linus Quilts

Lisa Bates
 Lisa Irons
 Loddington Church
 Loddington School
 LOL Theatre
 Louisa Scotney
 Maggie Don
 Malcolm Hill
 Mancave
 Margaret Giffen Charitable Trust
 Mary-Lee Wild
 Mash Dance
 Massive Hits Radio
 Maud Elkington Charitable Trust
 Mawsley Primary School
 Michael Guest Charitable Foundation
 Mike & Rayna Smith
 Millbrook Infant School
 MP Rosie Wrighting
 Nicki Fantei
 Norman Bristow
 Northamptonshire Commuity Foundation
 Old Bridge Club
 Old Village Hall Committee
 Paul Hay
 Peter Wilson Family Trust
 Poppy Design Studio
 Ralph Beresford
 Rhys Dennett
 Robin and Maureen
 Rockingham Primary School
 Rotary Club of Kettering Huxloe
 RS Components
 Rushton Hall
 Russell Atwood
 Sarah Watkins
 Shaun Clarke
 Shurgard
 Spratton School
 St Peter's School
 Steven Hitches
 Stockburn Memorial Trust
 Stuart Bates
 Sue Wood
 Sulina Chatburn
 Tesco Kettering
 The Daylight Centre
 The Faraway Children's Charity
 Timson Family Trust
 Tony Morgan
 Tricia Neal
 UE Group
 William Holborow
 William Walford
 Willmott Dixon Foundation
 Woodcroft Scout Centre
 Youth Works

Risk Management and Key Policies

The Trustees ensure that the major risks to which Home-Start is exposed are reviewed and assessed and that systems are in place to mitigate those risks. The Trustees have agreed a risk assessment policy for which they have overall responsibility. All key policies within the organisation are regularly reviewed and updated as appropriate to reflect any legislative changes and the latest developments and thinking in relation to best practice.

Home-Start's work is primarily of a long term, fixed nature. The objects of the Charity are:

- To safeguard, protect and preserve the good health, both mental and physical of children and their parents.
- To prevent cruelty to or maltreatment of children.
- To relieve sickness, poverty and need amongst children and parents of children.
- To promote education of the public in better standards of childcare within the area of Kettering and its environs.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the Charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and agreed to set aside reserves equal to six months of running costs, set at £50,000 for the upcoming year.

At 31st March 2026 the charity held £46,150 in unrestricted funds, close to the target level, and £45,362 in restricted funds for specific purposes. The Trustees consider the financial position to be stable and adequate for ongoing operations.







Volunteers

Without you, none of this could happen...

Abbie	Jane A	Louise	Sean
Abigail	Jane P	Lynda	Sonal
Alison	Joanne	Lynn	Stephen
Amanda	Julie	Marion	Sue
Beccy	June	Michelle	Teresa
Bernadette	Karen	Natalie	Tina
Catherine	Kate	Rita	Trudy
Chris	Keith	Ruth	Ursula
Christine	Keli	Ruth	Victoria
David	Laina	Sandy	
Elaine	Lisa	Sara	



**HOME
START**
Kettering Area





Kettering Area

**Because
tomorrow
starts today**

