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**HOME-START STIRLING**

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ANNUAL REPORT

**2024!**



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*“Home-Start helps our society to ensure we are not neglecting families.  
We neglect at our peril, for young brains are shaped by what parents are able to give their  
children. If we do not support parents in that giving, we hurt ourselves, in the costs of  
health, social work, prisons.*

*So Home-Start offers services not just to families but to taxpayers and politicians.*

*Thank you, Home-Start.”*

**Dr. Suzanne Zeedyk**

Suzanne Zeedyk is currently Senior Lecturer in  
Developmental Psychology at Dundee University.

Suzanne's work focuses on parent-infant relationships. She is frequently invited to speak to groups of parents and professionals on the importance of such relationships, and how babies' early experiences influence the development of their brain, bodies and psyche.



*“I admire greatly the work that Home-Start carries out in supporting families across the  
UK. Their volunteers do a fantastic job in supporting families with a diverse range of needs,  
everything from post-natal illness and multiple births, through to domestic abuse and  
poverty. Home-Start stops many families from reaching crisis point, and I am proud to be an  
ambassador of their work.”*

**Kirstie Allsopp - Ambassador for Home-Start UK**



*“I fully support Home-Start; I think what it does is absolutely fantastic. Some families need  
added support and, in my work, I've referred a lot of families to Home-Start because they are  
so good at providing help where it is needed. I'm keen to do all I can to promote awareness  
of what the charity does.”*

**Jo Frost (aka Super Nanny)**



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During 2013-2014  
we supported a total  
of  
59 families  
and 132 children

# WHO WE ARE, WHAT WE DO

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**Home-Start Stirling was established in 1999** to provide home-visiting support to local families who have a child under the age of five years who are experiencing some kind of stress or crisis within their lives. The stress or crisis can include illness, disability, isolation, mental ill health, parenting difficulties, multiple children under five years, substance misuse, domestic violence, deprivation or family breakdown. The geographical area of support is Stirling Town, Raploch, Cornton, Bridge of Allan, Dunblane, Bannockburn and Eastern Villages.

**The support is provided to families through trained volunteers** who have all been parents themselves or who have had parenting experience. Our volunteers do not require any special qualifications or special skills but to have an awareness of the difficulties of parenting and be able to provide practical and emotional support to families in need.

**Home-Start Stirling also provides group support** in the Stirlingshire area. The Family Group has been running since 2008 and is an established additional service to families. In the last year we have introduced an additional group "Play Together" providing support in the Raploch area in partnership with Action for Children PACCT (Parent Achieving Child and Communities Thriving). In the next year we are hoping to expand our group services to the rural areas and establish "Play Together" Callander through funding from Inspiring Scotland.

***In any one year Home-Start Stirling aims to support around 57 families and upwards of 110 children through either home-visiting or group support or a combination of both.***

***By working in effective partnership with other organisations such as education, health and social services we contribute to ensuring positive outcomes for Stirling's children.***

# HOME-VISITING

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**Home-visiting support is our core work** and the majority of families receive this type of support when referred to Home-Start Stirling. Over three quarters of our volunteers are home-visitors and they provide weekly support for 2-3 hours to families in need across the Stirling area. Support can take the form of either practical help, help with shopping, budgeting, attending appointments, household routines or emotional support; someone to talk to or being a listening ear. Our support is geared towards helping families to cope on their own and we have an ethos of working in partnership with parents towards their identified goals and outcomes.

**When families are matched with a volunteer** great consideration is given to the matching process and in most cases that volunteer will remain with the family through the duration of support which is anywhere between 9 months and 3 years. Family support is only ended when everybody feels that it is no longer required and the support is terminated on a phased basis.

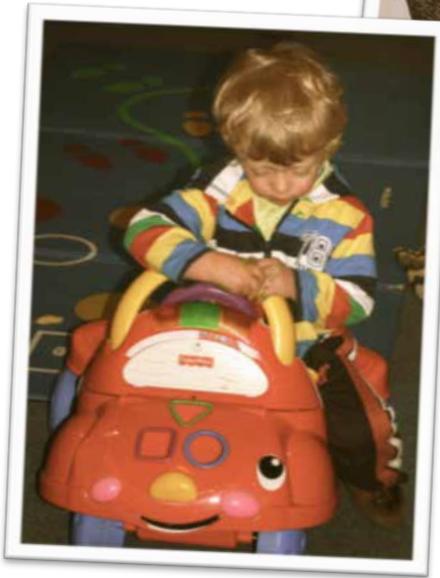
# GROUP SUPPORT

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**The Family Group has become an established service** within Home-Start Stirling and this is reflected in the attendance and participation of the families attending the group. The Family Group is held on a weekly basis and aims to reduce social isolation and enhance the positive interaction between parent and child. Every family who attends the group is provided with a hot and nutritious lunch and play activities designed to promote child development and enhance parent/child interaction. The Family Group has been so successful during 2013-2014 we are requiring to move to larger premises so we are able to continue meeting the needs of the growing number of families who utilise this service.

**In 2013-2014 Home-Start Stirling was asked to provide group support** within the Raploch community of Stirling. This was part of a Public Social Partnership supported by the Scottish Government and between Home-Start Stirling, Home-Start Clackmannanshire, Action for Children and Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils. The group "Play Together" occurs on a weekly basis and is available to any family living within the Raploch area. It provides support to parents and play opportunities to encourage development and interaction and that can be easily replicated within the home environment.

**Home-Start Stirling has been successful** in gaining funding from Inspiring Scotland to expand group services to the rural areas. Play Together Callander will be launched through 2014.



# SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

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**Through 2013 - 2014 we have continued in providing a range of social events and activities for supported families.**

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY**

Our main highlight of the year remains the Christmas Party where families are invited to join in the festive fun and our younger children look forward to a visit from Santa. As in years gone by, we have enlisted the support of musician and puppeteer, Scott Lovat who keeps the children entertained until Santa arrives.

The Christmas party remains a lot to organise and special thanks are given to all volunteers who helped to organise and wrap gifts, baked and cooked for the party and attended and tidied up.

Every year we have more good quality presents donated by various different organisation which allows each child to receive a present from Santa. This is always greatly appreciated by the staff, volunteers, families and especially the children of Home-Start Stirling.

## **EASTER PARTY**

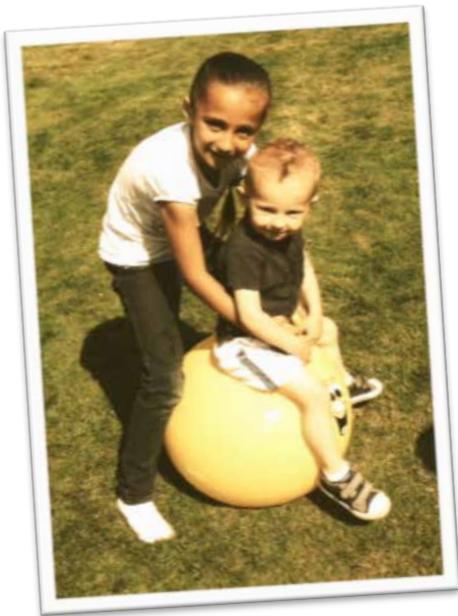
The Easter Party has now become a fixed event in the Home-Start Stirling calendar and was held again during a Family Group session at Cornton Baptist Church. The activities included an Easter Egg Hunt, face painting, guess the eggs in the jar and the age of the bunny and Easter themed craft activities. The Easter Party was organised by staff and volunteers at the Family Group and was open to all Home-Start Stirling families.

## **SUMMER PICNIC**

The summer picnic was held again this year In July which saw a beautiful summer's day where supported families, staff and volunteers met at Kings Park to enjoy the good weather, have some fun and a picnic to eat. The parents enjoyed the time to catch up with others and the children played in the glorious sunshine whilst volunteer and staff entertained the children with a variety of games.

## **TRIP TO BRIARLANDS FARM**

On the 13th August 2014 it was a glorious day as we all ventured off to Briarlands Farm for a few hours of fun on a beautiful sunny afternoon. There was a really good attendance and we had lots of fun on the bouncy pillows, go-carts and in the sand pits. Many of the children visited the small animals to watch them being fed and others went to pick some of the super sweet strawberries that Briarlands is famous for. The staff at Briarlands were very helpful and made us feel very welcome and everybody agreed it was a lovely day out for the children. After the success of previous trips to Briarlands it was decided to make this an annual event.



# OUR VOLUNTEERS

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**The majority of support to Home-Start Stirling Families is through our committed volunteers** who provide a minimum of 2-3 hours a week to support at least one family. All home-visiting and family group volunteers who join Home-Start Stirling are expected to undertake the Preparation Course that covers all aspects of being a Home-Start Stirling volunteer including child protection, confidentiality, child development etc. We have volunteers of all ages from 21 – 80 years and they all have an important part to play in supporting families. Our volunteers do not require any special qualifications but many bring with them the attribute of compassion and the ability to listen and empathise.

At any one time Home-Start Stirling aims to have a pool of about 30 home-visiting/family group volunteers which is sufficient to support our target of around 57 families per year.

**In 2013 – 2014 we would like to welcome** Julia McDonald, Sheila Smith, Emma Stark, Nicole Scott, Debbie Monaghan, Lisa Wright and Sonja Carr to our team of volunteers.

**In addition to home-visiting and family group volunteers** we have other volunteers who we refer to as management volunteers to support with various operational issues such as Human Resources, Profile Raising and Information Technology. These volunteers play a vital role in ensuring the effective running of the organisation.

# VOLUNTEER TRAINING

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**Along with attending the Preparation Course all the volunteers are encouraged to attend training events that are organised throughout the year.**

Within Home-Start Stirling we organise four training evenings each year which always includes a Child Protection update. Other subjects have included substance misuse awareness, domestic violence awareness and childhood nutrition. In addition to these short training events many of the staff and volunteers completed Level 1 Child Protection Training that was facilitated by Anne Salter (Lead Officer, Child Protection, Stirling and Clackmannanshire) and family group volunteers completed First Aid Training and Food Hygiene Training.

**Providing training for volunteers is very important as it gives the organisation an opportunity to share news, guidance and ideas about pertinent issues.**

**We would like to extend special thanks** to those volunteers both home-visiting and group who have committed a significant amount of time to volunteering with Home-Start Stirling.

This commitment was recognised recently through nominations for :

Marcia Godon, Chrissie Morrison, Brenda Lees, Barbara McElhinney, Christine Neil, Jacqueline Paterson, Katrina Preston and Sarah Malcolm to the Volunteer Awards Ceremony by SVE (Stirlingshire Voluntary Enterprise)

**A special nomination was made** for Mike Seal (Trustee) who has committed a huge amount of time and energy and has implemented significant changes to Home-Start Stirling which were fundamental to recent developments. The Awards Ceremony is being held on 24th Sept 2014 and we look forward to celebrating the success of our volunteers.



# WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

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**Home-Start Stirling has always shared a close working relationship** with health, education and social care. In the last year we have developed some very positive aspects of partnership working with other organisations.

## **The Family Support Public Social Partnership was initiated by the**

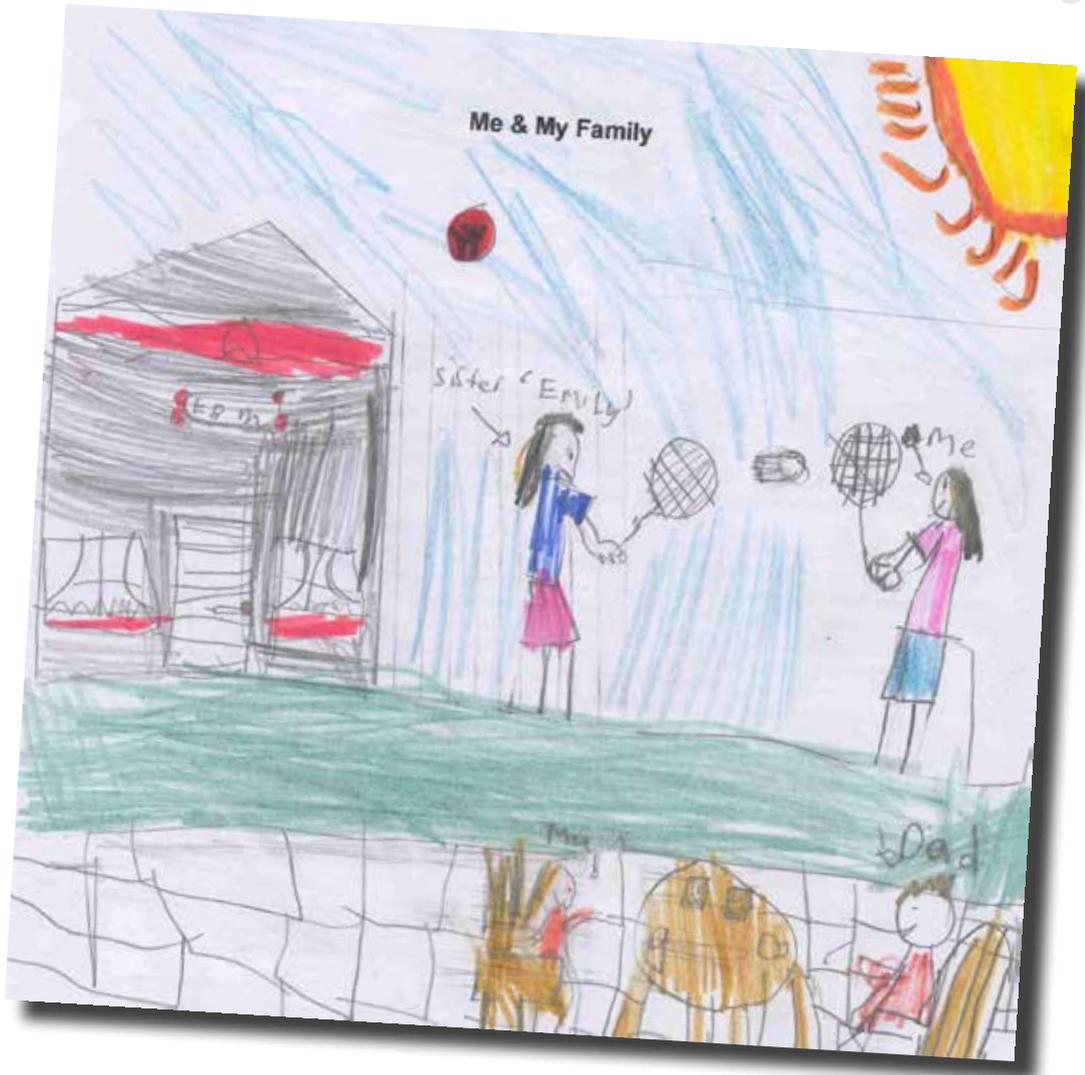
**Scottish Government** and led to a partnership between Home-Start Stirling, Home-Start Clackmannanshire, Action for Children, Stirling and Clackmannanshire Councils and Cultenhove Opportunities. For Home-Start Stirling this resulted in the introduction of a new group "Play Together" in Raploch. This group provides a safe place for families with children aged 0-5 years to interact with their children. We are also leading on a specific piece of work in the Cultenhove called "The Jigsaw Group". The Jigsaw Group brings together professionals delivering services to families in Cultenhove and includes Borestone Primary School, St. Ninian's Primary School, Hillview Nursery, Cultenhove Opportunities and Home-Start Stirling. The purpose of this group surrounds early intervention with families in identifying their needs, outcomes and gaps in support and delivery of service. The a Jigsaw Group can develop innovative and effective interventions delivered in a collaborative nature to secure outcomes for families.

## **The staff group within Home-Start Stirling also provide contributions or**

**voluntary sector feedback** to various working parties across Stirling. This includes the Voluntary Sector Sub Group of the Child Protection Committee, Early Years Core Group, Early Years Collaborative, Parenting Strategy Group, Child Protection Training Group and Families Forum.

## **Home-Start Stirling recognises the benefit of working together with our partners**

in health, education, social care, local government and other voluntary sector organisations as ultimately this will result in better service delivery and outcomes for the families and children within Stirling.



# CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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## **This last year has been a year of inspection and review for Home-Start Stirling.**

In August last year we were given 2 days notice by the Care Inspectorate Scotland, that they were coming to inspect us. Although it meant a little extra work for our Senior Co-ordinator, Rachel and the staff team, we were confident that Home-Start Stirling operates to the high standards required by the Care Inspectorate and that our inspection would not be a problem for us. So we were delighted to be notified shortly after the inspection that we had been graded at level 5 in all areas of our practice. Grade 6 is the highest grade that can be awarded.

Following this inspection, May 2014 saw our Home-Start UK review take place. This is a planned review and it assesses how we operate overall in terms of operation, governance, financial matters etc. We were very pleased to achieve 92% at this review in May and we fully expect to achieve 100% by November this year. The downside of this review process is that it takes up a lot of staff time preparing during the months beforehand. However Rachel and the staff coped very well, supported by members of the trustee team, and the process went smoothly.

At the end of June we were reviewed by Stirling Council, as part of their priority based budgeting exercise. This was a financial review of services and as a key service provider we continue to be under scrutiny.

However, we also review, at every board meeting, how we are operating. We do this to ensure that we are delivering the highest quality service to our families, maximising services within our budgets and looking after our staff team. 2013/14 has seen Home-Start Stirling operating on a reduced budget from previous years as a result of a 5% funding cut from the local authority. Nevertheless, we have continued to support our target number of families (59) through home volunteering support and through our family group. Cuts and efficiencies have again been made without affecting the support we give to our families.

The next financial year will be a crucial one in terms of funding. Up to this last year, we have been almost 60% funded by Stirling Council and Forth Valley Health Board and for that we have been very thankful over the years. However, with budget cuts in local authority spending, we at Home-Start Stirling know that this funding is not guaranteed. We will therefore double our efforts over the next year to ensure that we can continue to fund our service to families in the Stirling area and, in addition, we are also endeavouring to secure funding to offer a rural service. Even with the worry of impending funding cuts, Home-Start Stirling continues to work towards broadening our service to those who currently cannot access our support.

Our prime role has always been to offer parent to parent support in the home. Over the last 4 years

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we have very successfully added to our core service, support through our family group. As a result of the success of this group, in February this year, and in partnership with Action for Children, we started up a family group in Raploch. We are now preparing to start up a family group, towards the end of this year, in Callander, working in partnership with Inspiring Scotland.

Partnership working is a key focus going forward and Home-Start Stirling is embracing this fully. To this end, we are also fully involved with the Culterhove Opportunities Programme which is being very well received. We welcome opportunities to work with partner organisations to support families in our area who need a little bit of help.

Other achievements this year include the establishment of a parent's forum. It is important that we work in partnership not only with other organisations but also with our families, and so our parent's forum will increasingly help to inform our service delivery. Another achievement is the re-development of our website and a much needed upgrade to our IT systems. We have also established a fundraising/profile raising group to help increase local awareness of our service.

We could talk endlessly about the business of supporting families, but we must never forget that we could not do any of this without our volunteers. They are caring and committed and they are invaluable to the families they support and we thank them deeply for everything they do for our families, both home-visiting and at the family groups.

However, our volunteers could not do what they do without the staff team. So we take this

opportunity to publicly thank our Senior Co-ordinator Rachel, our Co-ordinators Ashleigh and Angela, Maureen our Administrator and Ally our Group Worker for their continued hard work and dedication to the work of Home-Start Stirling.

The trustees play a key role supporting the work of Home-Start Stirling and our group of trustees is equally committed and caring and once again we formally thank them all for their contribution to the work of Home-Start Stirling.

Of course, none of the above is possible without funding, so we take this opportunity to register our sincere thanks to all organisations that have supported Home-Start Stirling in the past and especially over the last year. These include Stirling Council, Forth Valley Health Board, The Robertson Trust, Lloyds, The Barrack Trust, The Cattenach Trust, the Moffat Trust and the STV Appeal. We thank these organisations for their faith in the work that we do and the financial support that they have given us.

**It has been a good year, not without its' ups and downs, but we continue to think ahead and plan for the future. We are all proud to be part of Home-Start Stirling and will continue to be so in the face of whatever challenges fall at our door!**

**I have been with Home-Start Stirling now for 12 years. It is a wonderful charity that does amazing work and we will strive to ensure that it continues to do so.**

*Gill McBride*

# SENIOR CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

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**2013 -2014 has been an interesting year and again has provided some challenges to us as an organisation.**

We have again seen some staff changes and were delighted to welcome Angela Douglas as a temporary Co-ordinator covering for Ashleigh while she was on maternity leave and Maureen Scobie as Administrator.

Throughout this year we have continued to support families who have a range of difficulties and needs. As I am going into my fourth year at Home-Start Stirling I am delighted to watch our little Home-Start Stirling people grow and develop and go off to school. I also enjoy watching our families as a whole grow in confidence and develop their own skills and support each other. In this last year I have seen real evidence of how our support has assisted families to develop and build their own local support networks thus minimising the need for our involvement.

Our services are beginning to grow and develop as we respond to local need. The theme of 2013-2014 has been about partnership working.

We have developed partnerships with Action for Children, Home-Start Clackmannanshire, Stirling and Clackmmananshire Council and are assisting in delivering an early intervention service to families living in Raploch and Clackmannanshire. Our input has been the opening of Raploch Play Together.

We have also established a partnership with Cultenhove Opportunities Project and are assisting in the delivery of a multi-agency assessment called the Jigsaw Group. At Home-Start Stirling we recognise the importance of partnership working to meet the needs and reach outcomes for the families we support.

Although there may be new partnerships developed I feel that we have continued to deliver a very robust and highly regarded service. The support we provide is family centred and empowers parents to identify their own difficulties and the outcomes they desire for their family. Many families throughout the last 3 years have told me that Home-Start Stirling has played a vital role in them developing and growing as a family. Without a doubt this support is important to our families and we would not be able to deliver this without the commitment and dedication of our volunteers. I am consistently impressed by the genuine generosity of volunteers in giving their time to a family in need.

Through 2014 -2015 I can only hope that the service will continue to grow. After the summer we are hoping to launch Play Together Callander which will be our first service within the rural areas and hopefully a stepping stone to launch a full home-visiting service to families living rurally.

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Despite the economic difficulties that surround us and across all sectors there is a real motivation to continue to develop the service and improve on the family support we currently offer.

As we go into our 15th year of delivery I hope that 2014-2015 will be a very exciting year for Home-Start Stirling!

*Rachel Cameron*

# TREASURER'S REPORT

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## **Our finances for the year to March 2014 proved to be an improvement on the good performance of the previous year.**

This was due to greater success in obtaining funding from various grant giving bodies.

The income from our main funders, Stirling Council and NHS Forth Valley, has not fallen away by as much as we feared. The public sector does value the work we do and we hope to build on this in future years.

Income for the year was £119,477, a 17% rise on last year. Spending came in at £99,699, an increase of 5% on last year mainly as a result of being fully staffed in 2014 compared to 2013.

The increased number of earmarked grants has meant that more of the money we received has to be kept for specific purposes, rather than simply used to meet core costs. We have therefore had to be much more specific in our grant applications about what the grant will be spent on, and also to account carefully for how it was spent.

While this involves a little more administrative work, the increase in grant income more than justifies the extra work required.

The reserves at 31 March 2014 were £57,608. This is in line with our policy of maintaining reserves sufficient to meet 6 months' expenditure in line with recommended guidelines.

In addition to the reserve in the general fund, the trustees have set aside an additional designated reserve of £11,000. This is held against the potential deficit on the pension fund, which may become payable in the event of a decision in favour of independence following the September referendum on Scottish independence. As the pension fund of which we are members is based in England, the EU rules on cross-border pension funds would require the deficits of members in countries outside England to repay the deficit in full rather than being allowed to spread the costs over a period of years.

As always, we are deeply grateful to our funders, including

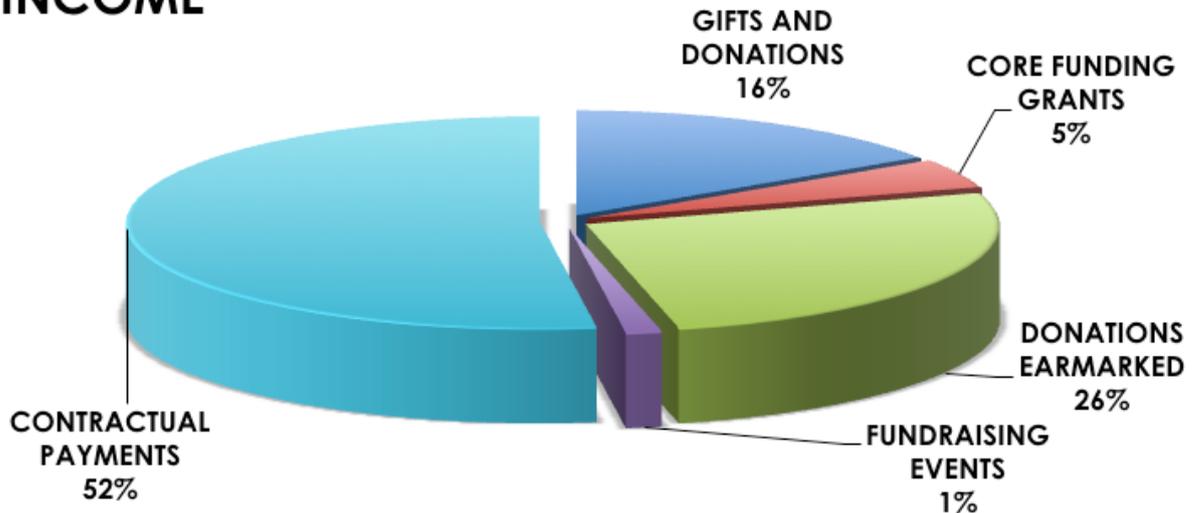
- Barrack Trust
- Big Lottery Fund
- Buttle UK
- Cattenach trust
- Forth Valley NHS Trust
- Mothers' Union
- Robertson trust
- Scottish Government
- Stirling Council
- STV appeal
- Sons of the Rock

*Charlie Armstrong*

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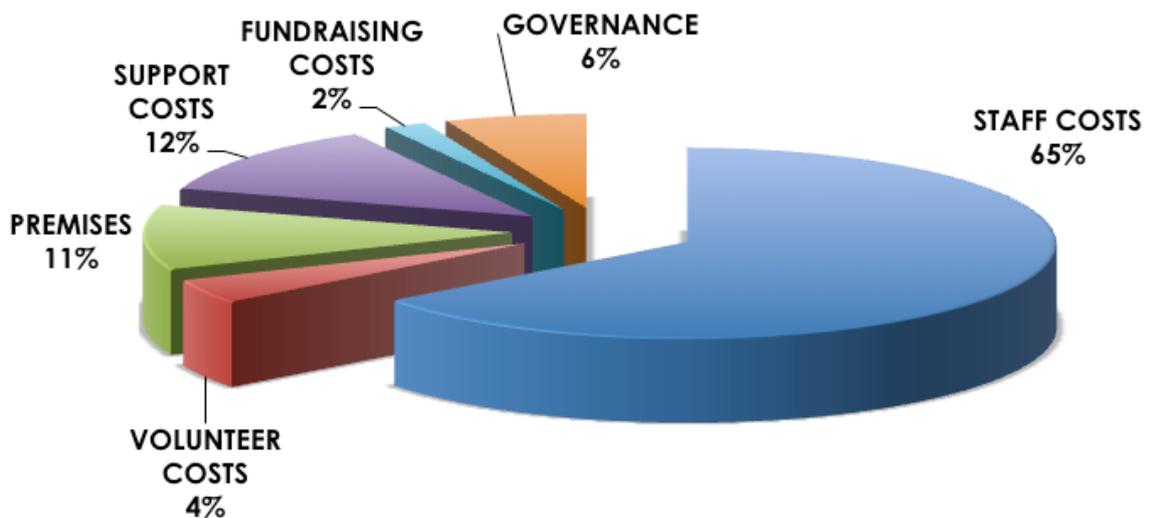
## WHERE THE MONEY CAME FROM

### INCOME



## WHERE IT WENT

### SPENDING



# FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

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## **BINGO**

This year's annual Prize Bingo event was held on 22nd Oct 2013 at the Mayfield Centre in Stirling and once again we had a great turnout for the evening. We had a fabulous selection of prizes including vouchers for trips to Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, The Peak, Blair Drummond Safari Park, Vue Cinema, supermarket vouchers, and vouchers for Debenhams, Marks & Spencer, Boots, case of wine, lots of other lovely donated by supporters of Home-Start and the star prize of £100 cash donated by an anonymous benefactor.

The evening was supported by many of our volunteers and trustees and we raised over well over £800 which goes directly towards local support to families. We would to extend thanks to all those who supported the event in so many different ways and a special thank you to Leona Gilhooley who was our fantastic Bingo caller for the night.

## **MORRISONS BAG PACK**

On Sat 3rd May 2014, we were fortunate to be able to do a fundraising bag pack at Morrison's supermarket, Stirling where we manned up to nine tills from 10am till 4pm helping customers with packing their shopping. We had great packing support from members of staff and Trustees/Trustee's family members not to forget one of our supported mums who was delighted to help. We also had fantastic packing support from friends who turned up with big smiles and a lot of enthusiasm. The day was a great success with us raising well over £1000.

A huge thank you goes to Morrison's supermarket for the opportunity and the generosity of the shoppers who so kindly supported our fundraising efforts and put up with our various bag packing techniques. But without all our packers, we couldn't have done so well, so a huge thanks you to Rachel and Maureen (staff), to Rod, Chris and Jane who were there for the entire day, to Gill, Jean and hubby Scott, to Heather and Caroline (Mike's wife and daughter who came in Mike's place) and to Renata, Chris' wife. We also had wonderful support from our friends - Lois Simpson, Karen Leask, Sue Berits, Di Blackmore, Dorothy Matheson, Emma Freeman, Katrina Preston and her lovely 12 year old daughter, and volunteers Sheila and Fiona (and Fiona's children).

Everyone turned up with a big smile and I think we did quite a good job especially having never done this sort of thing before.

## **WELLY WALK**

This year, our supported parents decided to organise a fundraiser as a way to become more involved in Home-Start Stirling, by giving something back and ensuring some extra funds were in place for the extras that help make life a bit more comfortable. So parents and children donned their wellies for a sponsored walk and a picnic in the grounds of Stirling University in April of this year. It was deemed a great success by our supported parents who are very keen to repeat the experience.

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## **RUNNING RONNIE**

Our AGM of 2013 saw the launch of our Million Penny Challenge featuring Running Ronnie. It is Ronnie's task to run the distance of one million pennies which equates to 20.3km or a half marathon collecting pennies along the way. We are so glad to report that Ronnie has indeed collected enough pennies to have so far covered a distance of 4.7km. He still has a way to go but we know he will succeed...!

## **FRIENDS OF HOME-START STIRLING**

As part of our exercise in promoting awareness of Home-Start Stirling we launched Friends of Home-Start Stirling whereby anyone could sign up to receive regular news and updates about what we are doing and also giving people the opportunity to donate.

## **NEW WEBSITE**

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website which is going live during the month of September. We have a new and fresher look with a website that is bright and easy to navigate. It will feature regular updates, news items, an events calendar and also have documents that can be downloaded very simply and easily.

Our new website address is **[www.homestartstirling.org.uk](http://www.homestartstirling.org.uk)**

## **FACEBOOK PAGE**

This year we decided to get modern and join the social media networking site, Facebook. It's a great tool for getting news items out quickly along with information about Home-Start Stirling. You can find us quite simply by logging onto Facebook and searching for **Home-Start Stirling**

# OUR STAFF

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## **Rachel Cameron, Senior Co-ordinator**

*"Since qualifying as a Social Worker in 2000 I have worked with children in a variety of settings but mainly residential care. I have known about Home-Start for many years as I completed a student placement with Home-Start Leith in Edinburgh. I fully believe in the notion of early intervention and prevention to be the key of the work we undertake with families and feel this is pivotal to the work of Home-Start Stirling. I am also mum to two small boys so I can understand the pressures that parenting can bring."*



## **Ashleigh McDiarmid, Co-ordinator**

*"I joined Home-Start Stirling in 2008 as Co-ordinator, having previously worked for Home-Start Denny. My main role with Home-Start Stirling was to establish and run our weekly family group, which I am pleased to say is a very successful additional service to the families supported by Home-Start Stirling. I fully believe in the ethos of Home-Start, that of one parent helping another through a difficult time and as a mum of four children I can certainly empathise with what they are going through. I also believe in the concept of early intervention and feel that this is the key to enabling children to reach their full potential in life."*

## **Angela Douglas, Co-ordinator**

*"I decided to take a break in my Midwifery degree due to personal reasons and I wanted to fill the year with a job that would give me experience I could use in my course. I was delighted to join Home-Start Stirling as temporary coordinator to cover Ashleigh's maternity leave. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience, it has added so much to my knowledge of supporting parents. I am a mum of two girls and I know that being a parent is often a struggle but when I am qualified as a midwife I will be referring new mums for support as I recognise the important Home-Start plays in supporting vulnerable parents."*

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### **Ally Cullen, Family Group worker**

*"My career to date has mainly involved working with children and young people, apart from a few years working in the music business. I was interested in working with Home-Start as it gave me an opportunity to work with children and their families. I find working with people both challenging and rewarding and being a single mum of two I hope I can empathize and understand some of the issues that families face on a day to day basis."*



### **Maureen Scobie, Administrator**

*"After several years of working in social care, I joined Home-Start Stirling at the end of September last year. I have two grown up children and a four year old grandson. My opinion of Home-Start Stirling is that they provide a valuable service to local families who can benefit from the various types of support offered."*



# OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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## **Gill McBride, Chairman**

...came to Home-Start 13 years ago, when she was a Children's Panel member. Attending the first Home-Start Stirling AGM for the Panel Gill was so drawn to Home-Start's work that she signed up there and then to become a home visiting volunteer!

*"I volunteered for nine years and then was asked if I would consider joining the board. This was perfect. I could continue to work for and support a charity that I respect and believe in. I've now been on the board for three years and hope to continue for many years to come!"*



## **Mike Seal, Vice Chair**

...enjoyed a successful management career across a range of industries and then ran his own management support company until retirement in 2000. Mike has participated in management committees for several community and charitable organisations, including Home-Start Stirling, where he has been a trustee for nearly years, including being Chair of the Board.

*"My commitment to Home-Start is driven by a belief that children brought up in a stable and caring home with parents who enjoy being parents stand the best chance of becoming responsible and caring parents themselves."*



## **Charlie Armstrong, Treasurer**

... joined the Board in 2010 when he retired from a life-long career in local government finance, with his last 10 years as Director of Finance for Aberdeenshire Council.

*"Working in the public sector and with social work departments had shown me just how much of a difference early support and guidance can make, which is why Home-Start's ethos appealed to me."*



## **Jean Hamilton**

... joined the Board of Trustees at Home-Start Stirling board when she retired in 2009 from primary education.

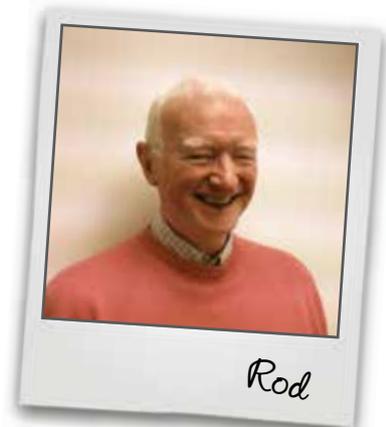
*"I am very aware of the needs for early intervention to get the best possible outcomes for children. I have recently become a grandmother to two baby girls so my parenting skills are being put to the test yet again!"*

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## Rod Matheson

...has been a trustee of Home-Start Stirling for over five years coming from a career in financial services.

*"Prior to becoming involved with Home-Start I had only a vague impression of the charity. I knew it did good work with families but didn't know the details. I now know the difference our volunteers can make to the lives of local families. Life can be hard for so many these days and having an experienced person to help and mentor somebody can be a huge asset."*



## Chris Whaley

...left the oil industry in 1991 and became both employee and volunteer in the Stirling social work environment, with Stirling & District Association for Mental Health and served on the board of directors of the Princess Royal Trust Stirling. After 2000 Chris worked for Streets Ahead, supporting adults with learning disabilities, and served on the Stirling Children's Panel.

*"Appreciating the need for early intervention and the practical support parents can bring to young families in difficulty, I decided to rejoin the voluntary sector."*



## Jane Hunter

...joined the Board of Trustees in 2012 having served on a number of small charitable committees in rural Stirlingshire for the past 17 years.

*"The hard work, dedication and energy of the whole team at Home-Start Stirling were great inspiration for me to join. Life is tough for so many people especially when raising young ones. The support Home-Start provides is crucial to a lot of families and provides an essential lifeline."*



## Sue Berits

...is welcomed onto the Board this summer of 2014. Sue was self-employed for the last 10 years running a deli franchise business before selling it. Previously her experience was in general management for a multi-national company.

*"I have always admired the work of Home-Start but being unable to commit to volunteering with families due to other work commitments, I was very happy for the opportunity to offer time as a Trustee on the Board."*



# WITH HUGE THANKS TO...

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**Although people are still finding times financially hard, so many still continue to give us donations – either in cash or in kind.**

**We are very grateful and it really does make a difference to the amount of support we can give to local families.**

St Saviour's

St Mary's

The Church of the Holy Rude  
all of whom helped make Christmas extra special for our families

with their donations of gifts,  
cash and hampers

Bridge of Allan Round Table

Carse of Stirling Rotary

Meadows Nursery

K Peart

Marcia Gordon

Drs D and N Brown

Dr Richard Simpson MSP

Janette Wilson

Stirling Observer 'Give a Gift

Appeal

Chrissie Morrison

Jennie Heaney

Doris Littlejohn

Cathy Johnstone, owner of

Acrewood Nursery for a

bingo prize

RSVP for their knitted chicks and chocolates for our Easter Party

**Many thanks also to:**

## **OUR HOME VISITING AND FAMILY GROUP VOLUNTEERS**

Marcia Gordon

Jennifer Heaney

Jean Kelly

Brenda Lees

Barbara Mcelhinney

Sarah Malcolm

Chrissie Morrison

Christine Neil

Jacqueline Paterson

Katrina Preston

Karen Bellingham-Baird

Mary Perry

Mair Gilbride

Lynn Hatton

Melissa Sutton

Maureen Mcbrearty

Maragaret Currie

Julie Morrison

Kathy Doherty

Mike Youde

Pauline Mccluskey

Amy Beaton

Janet Murtha

Margaret Sinclair

Amanda Arkell

Debbie Monaghan

Sonja Carr

Nicole Scott

Lisa wright

Julia McDonald

Emma Stark

Sheila Smith

## **THE BOARD**

Gill McBride, Chair

Mike Seal, Vice Chair

Charles Armstrong, Treasurer

Rod Matheson

Jean Hamilton

Chris Whaley

Jane Hunter

Sue Berits

## **MANAGEMENT VOLUNTEERS**

Nick Pascazio

Jane Mcdonald

## **AND NOT FORGETTING...**

Jan Grant

Anne Salter And Murray Swan  
From Stirling Council for all their help and advice and everyone else who helps and supports us - sometimes anonymously.



*To minimise cost and maximise funds going to support our families in need, this entire report has been produced by our in-house Team and volunteers - huge thanks to them all. We print this report on request, hence there is no cost, paper or environmental wastage associated with its production.*



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Co-ordinators: Rachel Cameron & Ashleigh McDiarmid

Family Group worker: Ally Cullen

Administrator: Maureen Scobie

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