

Thank you to friends of HSES
who have organised
fundraising events and get-togethers
throughout the year



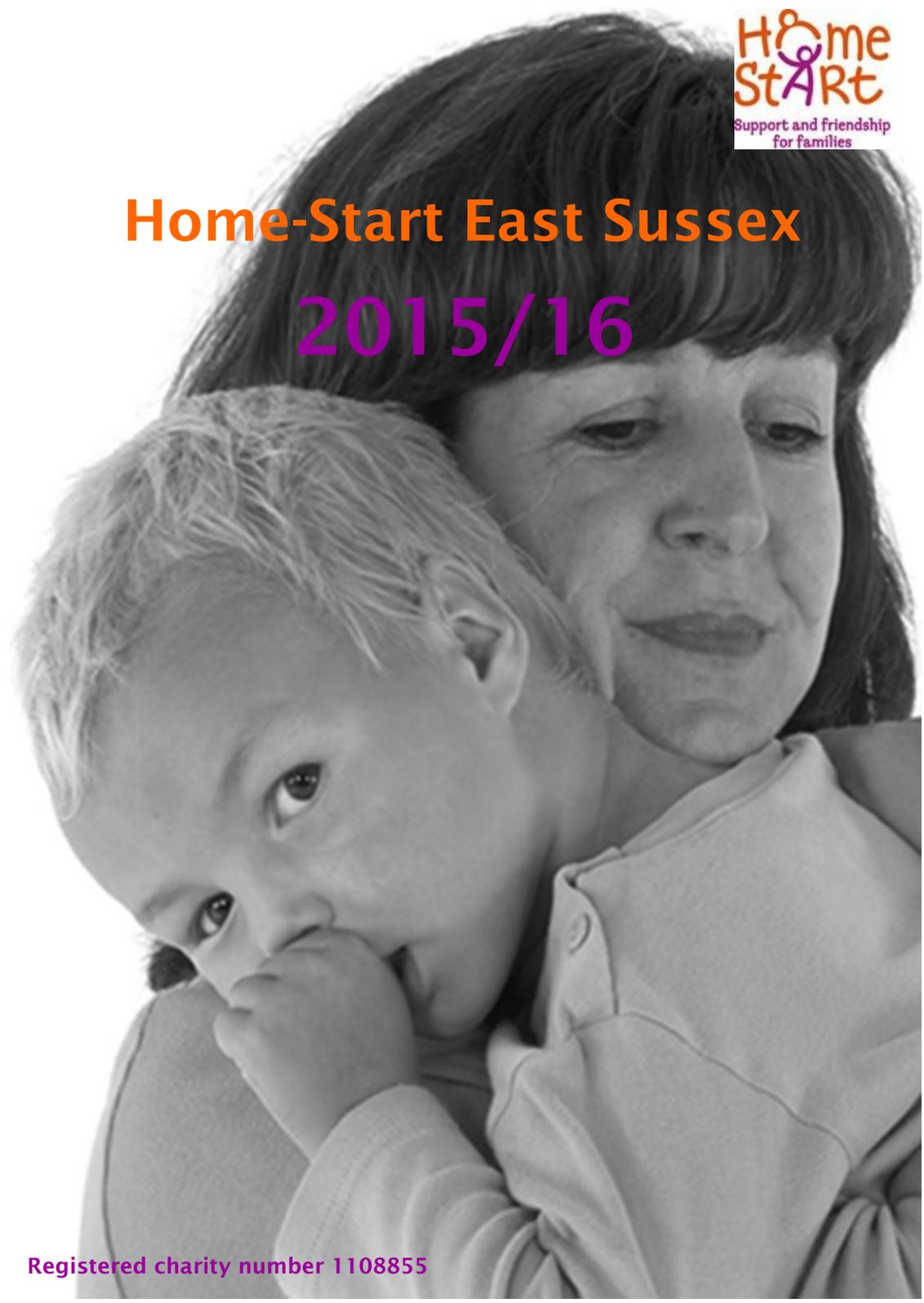
Maxine's Bagel Bash: In memory of Stella Harris (top left) who died June 2016. One of HSES faithful supporters.



Gill's summer party for our volunteers

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Home-Start East Sussex 2015/16



Overview of 2015/16

This was the second year that our family support services were co-ordinated across the whole of the county of East Sussex. Regrettably, it was also the final year of funding from East Sussex County Council; financial pressures resulted in their being unable to extend our last contract beyond its initial two year period.

For a second year, volunteers and staff worked tirelessly to meet the demanding ESCC contract. We supported 266 families during the year – 242 benefitted from regular home-visiting including six families receiving short breaks support for children under five (total of 36 more families than the previous year); 18 attended a group; 5 were given money management advice and one disabled child over the age of five enjoyed short breaks support. While the funding from ESCC ceased at the end of the year, the demand for family support did not. Thus, we agreed to continue to take family referrals from county colleagues for as long as we were able to survive.

The last quarter of the year was dominated by anxiety about future funding. We took some hard decisions to reduce spending in the knowledge that, even with our well-managed reserves, the service could not survive beyond six months without income from new sources. Staff activity was thus re-focussed toward fund-raising. This was no easy task as many charity funders were also struggling financially and shifting the focus of their support away from our core service. By the end of the year, a total of £30K had been secured from a variety of sources including very welcome continuing funds from the Wealden District. The major task for the coming year is to secure significant multi-year funds so that Home-Start East Sussex can continue its vital work, helping some of the most disadvantaged families in our area to move forward with confidence.

We know that there is a great deal of enthusiasm out there for the work that we do. It is the aim of everyone in Home-Start to secure our existence for the longer term. Without the dedicated efforts of our volunteers, our small staff group, the trustees and our community supporters, we would not be able to carry on our essential work - helping young children get the best start in life in difficult family circumstances. I am proud to be associated with Home-Start and offer my heartfelt thanks to all that place their confidence in it. It is my fervent hope that a year from now I shall be able to give you good news about our future.

Pop in and Play Group Newhaven Children's Centre



Thank you to Sarah for her commitment in managing Pop in and Play, in partnership with East Sussex County Council for the year it was funded

Who We Are and What We Do

We work with struggling families across East Sussex to give their children the best start in life.

Volunteers are trained to work with the families in their homes
Families with pre-school children are visited for 2-3 hours a week over 3 months.

Support is tailored to the individual needs of the families.

As well as the home-visiting service, in 2015/16 we offered;

- Short break outings for disabled children and one-to-one attention in their homes
- Music therapy groups for pre-school disabled children in Uckfield
- Pop-in and play toddler group in Newhaven
- Money management and debt support in Uckfield.

**Local charity, training local people,
to support local families**



Newly Trained Newhaven Volunteers with Coordinator Sarah and Mayor, June 2015



Newly Trained Hailsham Volunteers with Coordinator Sarah and Mayor, March 2016



Newly Trained Battle Volunteers with Coordinator Marion, Mayor and Cllr Hart, March 2016



Home-Visiting Service

"It was a massive help. I never would have had the confidence to go into a group without M's support – I wouldn't have gone and N wouldn't have started nursery; She was so bubbly and chatty, it took away all the tension that I otherwise felt. I'm now able to go on my own. She helped me learn how to deal with things; before I would have gone home upset and not gone back."

"Having someone to talk to who understands has completely affected my psychological and physical well-being - I never went out before."

"Cleverly integrated my son's speech exercises into his play."

"J has given me the freedom to be able to take my two young children (one autistic escape artist) out to places I couldn't manage alone. Both boys have greatly benefited from his enthusiasm, thoughtfulness and 100% engagement with them. I really appreciate that I have never felt patronised or like I can't cope alone. "

"R has been a fantastic support enabling me to build up confidence and routines with the kids".

"M helped with the twin's injections; I can't get the double buggy through the GP doors and M was able to hold one twin while other had injection, and then swap over - they are now up-to-date with vaccinations."



Newly Trained Volunteers in Hastings with Coordinator Sarah
and the Mayor, June 2016

Music Therapy Group for Disabled Children



"Both my children love coming to the group and it teaches them valuable skills like turn-taking. My eldest daughter is blind so music and song are very important to her."

"The music group has helped my child with waiting, talking and singing."

"We look forward to our weekly music group! It's a great way of learning new songs, actions and rhymes."

"Really helpful for sharing with other parents."

"Wish the group wasn't ending." "Shame it's finishing."

Thank you to Marion for her commitment to managing the project over the three years that it was funded.

What our Partners Say About Us

“The child is now in nursery and mum has secured part-time work as a result of the increase in her confidence. This is not something I would be able to offer support with to families, and Home-Start has been essential in ensuring families can be supported to make positive changes in their lives.” Health Visitor

“It is great to know that Home-Start is available after we have closed with the family, it’s a brilliant way of stepping down to less intensive support, as opposed to suddenly having no support. Home-Start can give the practical/hands on support that we may not have been able to give. It also helps the families to sustain the changes.” Keyworker

“For the health visiting service, Home-Start is a great help as there is no capacity within our service for extra contact with families, it not only takes pressure off the service, it also is a very safe and comfortable service for the family. The support the family receives is so well tailored to suit their needs that it is very acceptable and they do not feel judged or criticised. When a family require support/input they need it fairly soon and Home-Start provided this very efficiently.” Health Visitor

“The family and myself were very appreciative of the Home-Start support that you provided to “J”. Our services are under a lot of pressure to prioritise families with children that have health needs and to reduce our visits to level 2 families if that is not the case. This means we need to use your services as they are vital to support such families as these.” Health Visitor

Achievements and Performance

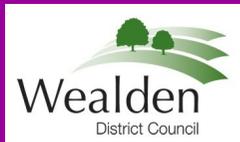
- 266 total families supported by 77 volunteers
- 242 families with a child under five benefitted from the home-visiting service and Short Breaks service. One family with a child over five benefitted from the Short Breaks service.
- 88% of families supported in their homes reported positive outcomes.
- 292 objectives set with families; 198 met; 70 partially met; 24 not met (primarily due to disengagement)
- 19 families attended music therapy or baby and toddler groups. 5 families received money management and debt advice. 31 families were visited by a member of staff and referred to another specialist agency
- 5 preparation courses for 32 new volunteers were held across the county. Volunteers worked with Home-Start on average for 29 months
- Efficiencies continued to be implemented to meet second year of ESCC contract for home-visiting
- 36 more families benefitted from home visiting service compared with previous year



Newly Trained Ticehurst Volunteers with Coordinator Marion and Mayor, November 2015

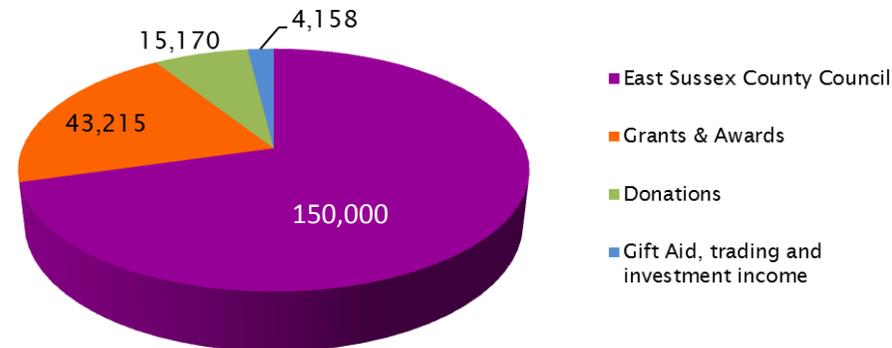
Funders and Donors

- East Sussex County Council
- Wealden District Council
- Henry Smith Charity
- Garfield Weston
- Uckfield Citizen’s Advice (partnership work)
- Skillshare
- Brighton & Sussex Universities
- Waitrose Uckfield, Hailsham and Lewes
- Town Councils in Uckfield and Crowborough
- Parish Councils of Horam and Hadlow Down
- Mayors of Newhaven
- Heathfield & Waldron Parish Council
- Cranbrook & Hawkurst Inner Wheel
- Rotary Clubs of Bexhill, Hastings and Battle
- Lions Clubs of Hastings, Crowborough, Lewes, Eastbourne and Battle
- W.I of Crowhurst
- JN
- D OConnell
- J Tunalay
- HM Carpenter
- J Ratcliff
- John’s marmalade sales
- Maxine’s Bagel Bash
- Derek’s Quiz Night
- Our wonderful volunteers who donated their travel expenses and winter fuel allowance

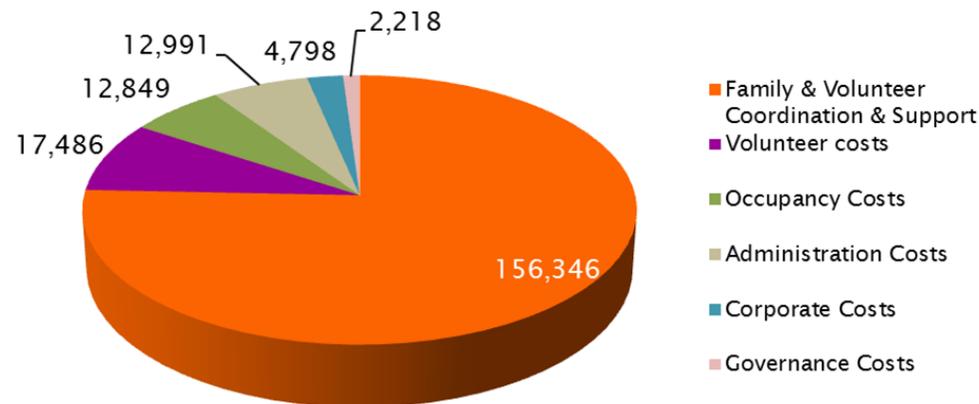


Finance 2015/16

Income: £212,543



Expenditure: £206,688



Surplus: £5,855

At the year-end, total reserves stood at £124,326. This included £40,000 contingent liabilities in case of closure plus £25,000 to ensure we have ring-fenced 6 months restricted reserves based on the 2016/17 projected £130k expenditure. Our principal funder, East Sussex County Council provided 70% of total income in 2015/16 but this will not continue into the new financial year. Therefore £59,326 reserves left will be available to support the 2016/17 home-visiting service while we secure ongoing funding. Full Financial Statements available on request