

HOME-START SURREY

1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021 – Report to the Annual General Meeting held on 20th September 2021

As required by the company's Articles of Association, this is the written report on the company's activities, for the Annual General Meeting of 20th September 2021

The company was formed on 22 July 2013, in order to pursue and secure the provision of early help services to Surrey County Council from January 2014, as a consortium of the nine Home-Start schemes in the county.

Home-Start schemes in Surrey, as 'Home-Start Surrey', have continued to provide services to families in the county in line with this contractual service specification. From 2014 to 2019 our primary work together was in a Surrey wide contract with the council to provide home visiting services across Surrey.

In 2019 – 2020 however, our relationship with SCC changed and for the past two years we have been providing services in independent contracts across the county, along with Surrey Care Trust. Therefore, the Consortium has during this time been less of a contractual one, and more one of support and collaboration.

The period of April 2020 to March 2021 was largely dominated by the COVID – 19 pandemic. Despite the challenges of COVID, the eight branches have been extremely successful in delivering services to Surrey families. The pandemic enabled / facilitated the move of our offices to home working, and many of our schemes are now incorporating an element of home working into their practices on an ongoing basis.

As groups of Home Starts, we are engaged in several contracts and initiatives. The Surrey Care Trust contract as mentioned above which involves all eight schemes in delivering home visiting services to families with children under 6. Five of the schemes are also engaged in the Heartlands Contract which is co-commissioned by health and SCC, again to deliver home visiting. Several schemes are also partnering with HSUK to deliver school readiness programmes through funding bid for as a group. Many of the schemes are also collaborating on other initiatives such as work on obesity and launching a new service called Dad Matters. Collaboration on a day-to-day basis, through Managers' meetings,

Trustee meetings and joint training events for all staff continue to help us share best practice across the different offices.

As individual offices, we continue to go from strength to strength. Many of us now offer services to families with older children (5 – 11), have improved and expanded our group work, and are involved in initiatives with the NHS such as the first 1000 days programme helping with new mums across Surrey. Our relationships with the County as well as with the NHS are strong and growing. We are also working closely with other charities such as Surrey Care Trust but also with the Armed Forces, family centres, mid wives, nurseries and play groups. Partnering and sign posting add extensively to the support we can provide families, even if we cannot provide direct services ourselves. Offices have also been able to take advantage of the John Lewis “Give a Little Love” campaign to receive funds and raise their profile locally.

At the end of the financial year, Home Start Surrey Schemes are all in a strong financial position, however the pandemic has been difficult for some schemes and we are aware that as we move into 2022, there is potential that financial difficulties will arise and careful management of reserves and planning is in place.

Thanks are due to all the staff, trustees, volunteers, friends and supporters who have been involved in this work over the year.

Lisa Kent

Chair of the Trustees, 20th September 2021