



**Parents supporting parents  
in Garioch and Formartine**

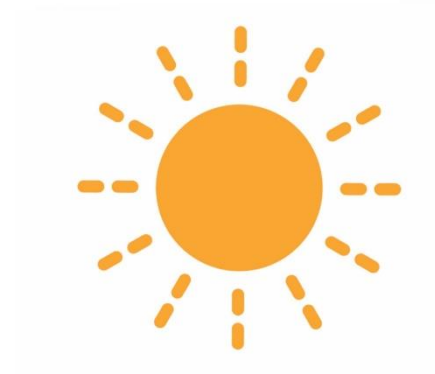
# **Annual Report**

## **2022-2023**

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Registered Charity No: SC022057

Website: [www.homestartgarioch.org.uk](http://www.homestartgarioch.org.uk)  
Scottish Registered Company No: 280871



# Structure and Organisation

## Board of Trustees:

Chair: Joe Greener

Treasurer: Robert Anderson

Secretary: Angela Gowdy

Trustees: Jackie Loder, Lorraine Lee, Sandra McCorry, Nicola Strachan  
Maeve McDowall, Alice Perry, Phyllis Smart and Gail Winchester

## Staff:

Scheme Manager: Mhairi Philip

Co-ordinators: Lynn Davidson, Wendy Paterson & Claire Ashcroft

Administrator: Valerie Tennant

## Acknowledgements

### Our main funders for 2022-2023



## Background Information

Home-Start Garioch has been supporting families in Garioch and Formartine since 1995 through their most challenging times. We recognise that the earliest years make the biggest impact. We want to ensure those years count so that no child's future is limited by working with families to build on their strengths and give them the support they tell us they need. A unique service, recruiting and training volunteers, usually parents themselves, to support families, visiting them weekly in their own homes. Parents supporting parents through friendship offering practical and emotional support for parents with young children who are experiencing stress and difficult times.

Garioch and Formartine and the Deveron Valley covers an area of around 700 square miles. This represents 30%, just under a third of the geographical area of Aberdeenshire. The area has a population of 106,745, (2021) a growth of 10% in the past 10 years. The increasing population, and need, has seen Home-Start Garioch grow over the past 27 years from a lone co-ordinator to a team of a Scheme Manager and 4 co-ordinators supporting 155 families this year with the support of around 75 volunteers.

Nearly 50 years' ago our Founder Margaret Harrison set up the first Home-Start built on the belief that supporting a family was best done in their home where it can be shaped to the needs of the family.

Since then, Home-Starts across Scotland and the UK work every day with families to build parents' confidence and get them to a more secure place because we know that the very best place for a child to grow up is with their family.

'Where children are safe in their families and feel loved they must stay – and families must be given support together to nurture that love and overcome the difficulties which get in the way.' - The Promise – A vision for Scotland, a change to make sure that all Scotland's children grow up to be “loved, safe and respected” #KeepThePromise



The Promise

# Chairs Report

Home-Start Garioch exists to put into practice our belief that early intervention in situations when family circumstances are impacting negatively on young children, provides the best chance of good future life prospects for both children and parents.

Many thanks to Aberdeenshire Council, our core funders who clearly recognise and share our aspirations. Having said that, like all third sector organisations we are feeling the pressure of austerity measures in the present economic crisis.

Our work starts with our dedicated staff, sincere thanks are due to our core staff, Mhairi Philip, Lynn Davidson, Wendy Paterson, Claire Ashcroft and Tracey Sharp. Tracey replaced Valerie Tennant who retired as Administrator after 27 years and who we wish to thank for this long and dedicated service. Thanks are also due to Shona Reynolds who resigned to move onto a post with AVA. Claire Pickard will join us in July 2023 to replace her.

As always it has been a busy year with continuing demand for our services. The cost-of-living crisis is responsible for increased requirements for our service as we see more families in work living in poverty. It is anticipated that this situation will continue to deteriorate.

Unfortunately, Home-Start Deveron was forced to close due to lack of funds. To continue to provide Home-Start services to the Banff and Deveron Valley area, Home-Start Northeast Aberdeenshire and Home-Start Garioch divided the area into 2 equal parts. Home-Start Garioch has substantially increased the geographical area it now supports. To allow us to provide this support we have opened an office in Huntly and recruited a part time co-ordinator.

Many funding awards came to an end during 2022 – 2023 which could have resulted in a significant funding shortfall; however, plans are in place to ensure our ongoing financial viability. Reserves remain healthy and Home-Start Garioch will be in a position to continue to operate should some funding applications be unsuccessful.

Finally, I would like to thank the Board members, home visiting volunteers and all other supporters of Home-Start Garioch

Joe Greener - Chair Home-Start Garioch

# Managers' Report

The five years between birth and school are vital for a child's development. What goes on inside a family determines the opportunities and life chances that children will experience. Children who are raised in a stable, loving family environment are more likely to have a positive and healthy future. Home-Start Garioch recognises that bringing up children can be hard work and all parents and carers will, from time to time, encounter problems which can often make the task even harder. We aim to be:

**Supportive** - We will support families to address the challenges of bringing up children themselves.

**Non-judgmental** - We do not judge families or measure them against others' standards.

**Approachable** - We will be approachable and friendly at all times and develop good relationships with the families we support.

**Professional** - We will maintain the very highest professional standards.

**Collaborative** - We will work in partnership with any individual, group or agency who can help us achieve our goals.

**Inclusive** - We value and celebrate diversity and offer our services to all families, irrespective of their circumstances or backgrounds.

**Family-led** - We place children and families' needs at the heart of our work.

**Safe** - The safety of the families and children we support, and the staff and volunteers we engage, is our highest priority.

*"Thank you. Home-Start has been the biggest blessing in our house. It has brought weekly joy when we needed it the absolute most and I am so grateful for my volunteer and Home-Start coordinator. The work you do is so impactful. We appreciate you so much and you'll always hold a very special place in our heart."*

**We will be there for parents when they need us the most – because childhood can't wait.**



## Finance

<b>INCOME</b>	
Grants Received for core activities	121,771
Donations and Gifts	48,370
Fundraising events	16,578
Other income	5,524
<b>Total</b>	<b>192,243</b>

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
Staff Costs	110,884
Volunteer costs	10,742
Family outings and expenses	5,405
Rent and Insurance	17,154
Fees (incl Home-Start UK)	3,520
IT costs	1,236
General office costs	4,080
Governance costs	3,029
<b>Total</b>	<b>156,050</b>

<b>Surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>36,193</b>
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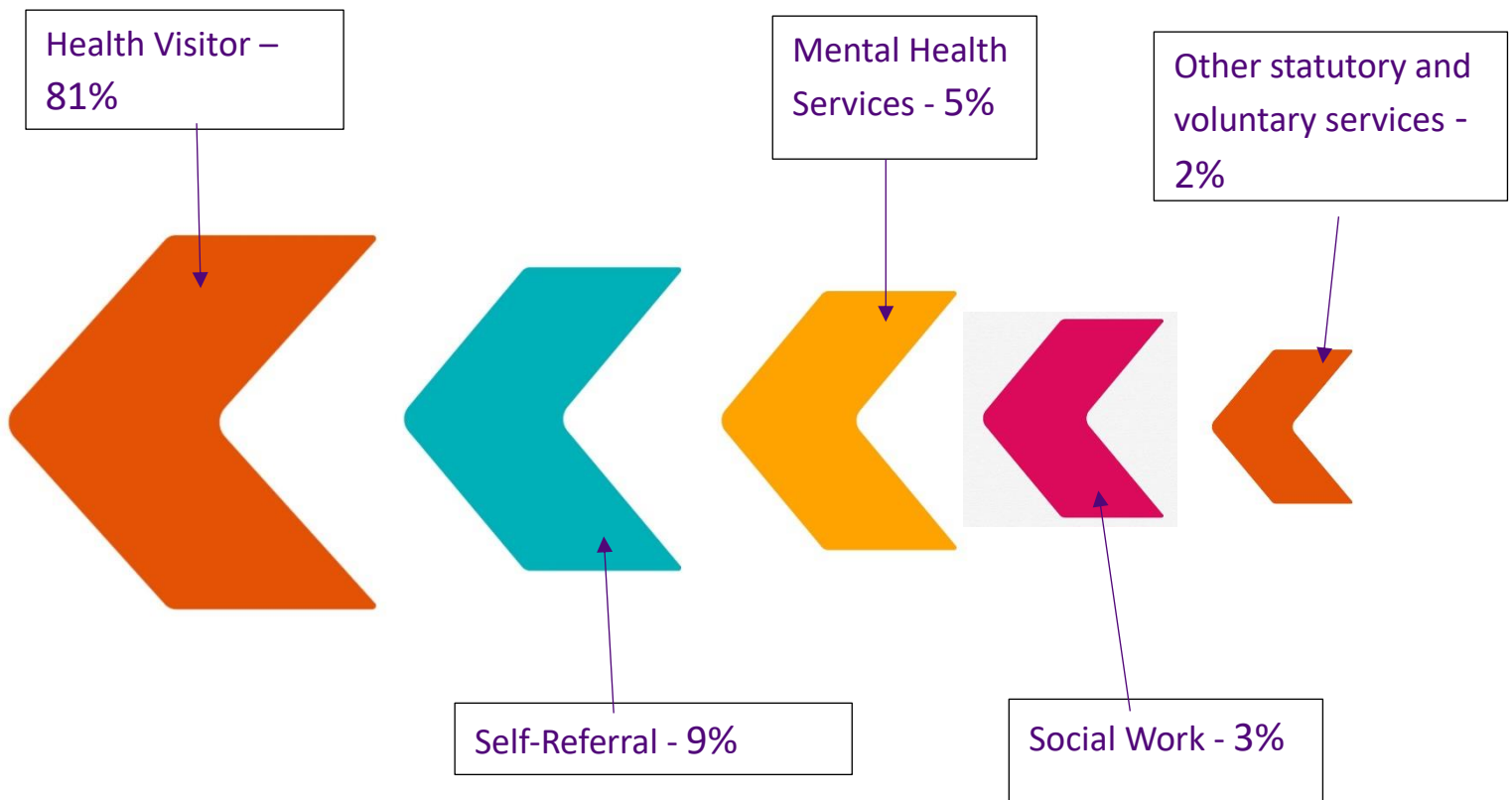
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>144,882</b>
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Home Start Garioch is in a healthy position financially and well placed to continue to provide services to families in need of help due to good fundraising within the community, and good support from donors.

Our unrestricted year-end reserves are strong at 75% of the year's expenses which will provide some security against expected future financial uncertainty. We anticipate a significant increase in expenditure as we develop the service across Deveron Valley. Costs will include a new member of staff, volunteer expenses and rent costs for additional premises in Huntly.

The charity's accounts were reviewed by an independent examiner and no issues were identified.

## How families came to Home-Start Garioch in 2022- 2023



*"I don't think my volunteer realises the impact she is having on my life and how much she helps me. She is s godsend, and I don't know what I would do without her."*

*"I didn't expect my volunteer to make such a difference."*

*"She's been absolutely brilliant, good at giving me advice or pointing me in the right direction."*

*"I've never connected with someone so quickly and she was patient and understanding."*

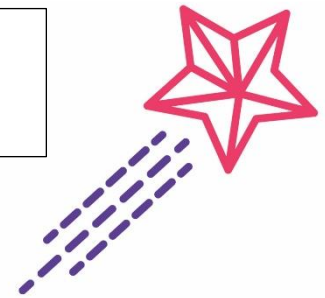
## Of the families that came to the end of their support in 2022-2023



92% reported more confidence in being involved in their children's learning.

97% reported improved children's emotional health and wellbeing.

79% reported improved self esteem.



96% stated they felt less isolated.

92% reported improved children's emotional health and wellbeing.



*"You have given me the opportunity to meet a range of mums and make more local connections. In turn I have recommended you to other mums I know have felt isolated. You create a really inclusive environment."* Mum who was supported by her home visiting volunteer to attend groups.



**155** families supported.

**151** Families supported  
one to one by a home visiting  
volunteer.

**31** Family members have  
received counselling.

**419** Children nurtured.

**3360** volunteer visits

**7560** volunteer hours

