

# SCHEME NEWS



**Newsletter for volunteers, families, funders and friends of Home-Start Warrington**

April 2020

Charity Number 1116515

***Celebrating 20 years supporting families in Warrington***

Company Number 5563277

## **Business as usual!**

Firstly, an update from our Scheme Manager, Ellie Harrison. "It is business as usual at Home-Start Warrington! We are all working from home and only a phone call away. I would like to thank all our Staff, Volunteers and Trustees for all their hard work at this time in continuing to support our families".

## **A quote from the Ministerial Support Team, Department of Culture, Media and Sport.**

This quotation resonates with many local Home-Start schemes in these times, and it is a great endorsement of the work currently being done to support families and their children.

**"It is clear that Home-Start UK does vital work to support the most vulnerable children and families in communities across the country.**

**In particular I would like to thank you for the work that you have done to move essential support services online and mobilise staff and volunteers to help with local community response efforts".**

## **Referral Criteria.**

Due to the difficult circumstances we all find ourselves in, we quickly realised that we needed to widen our criteria to enable more isolated families to access our services during this time, especially those identified as 'shielded' (meaning that they are unable to leave the house, due to their health needs or the health needs of a family member). In consultation with the Safe and Well Team and Warrington Voluntary Action we are now delighted to be able to accept referrals of this nature.

Families referred via the service will:

- Have regular wellbeing calls from a Home Start member of staff
- The option of telephone counselling from a trained counsellor
- Gain access to our new Staying Connected programme, providing guided activities and support to their children during this time.

## Funding Update.

We have been successful in receiving joint funding, from Cheshire Community Foundation and the Steve Morgan Foundation. This has enabled us to purchase smart tablets for families for them to access crucial home-schooling resources and keep in touch with their family and friends which is so essential for all our wellbeing during this time. The funding has also enabled us to increase the counselling support offered to our parents currently provided by Marsha Roberts at South Warrington Counselling. We have also purchased smart phones for the staff to enable them to continue the great telephone support given to families and volunteers and aid them in the roll out of our 'Stay Connected' programme (watch this space for more detail!). Thank you to our friends and I.T. support at NP in Widnes for securing us a very favourable deal. A big thank you to all our partners, without whom we could not keep supporting families in our local community.

## Fundraising.



A great big thanks to Dr Beats DJ, Matthew Washington, assisted by Leanne Smith, for the great fundraising events they have been doing for us weekly. We have a quiz and music requests for you, and we raise funds too.

So far, we have raised £506.34, not bad for a fun night in!

Please follow us on social media so that you can get a notification of when we are live, and you can join in the fun and help us to increase our much-needed funds.

Our Facebook – HSWarrington

Or Dr Beats Mobile Disco on Facebook

## Purchases from Fundraising activities

