



### **Role Description of a typical Home-Start Volunteer:**

Home-Start volunteers can help increase confidence and independence in the families they support by:

- Offering support, friendship and practical help.
- Reassuring families that almost all parents, at some time or other, experience difficulties in bringing up children.
- Emphasising the positive aspects of family life.
- Developing a relationship with the family, in which time can be shared and a friendship developed.
- Encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their own children.
- Helping and encouraging families, to widen their network of relationships and to use effectively the support and services available in the community.
- Visiting the families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of each individual can be respected and protected. **(This is a Pre Covid requirement – currently indoor home visits do NOT take place but as restrictions relax, can be reintroduced)**

The work of the volunteer requires a high level of commitment and reliability and will be supported by the Home-Start Co-ordinator.

### **We would like a Home-Start volunteer to:**

- Be a parent or have parenting experience
- Have a positive attitude to working with people of any gender, family status or sexuality identity, or who are from any ethnic origin, culture or religion, or who may have a disability
- Demonstrate a sensitive and caring attitude towards others
- Have a non-judgemental attitude
- Be clear about confidentiality and when a confidence remains so, but be able to decide when disclosure of a confidence is essential to the well-being of the child
- Be reliable and understand the importance of reliability to the family
- Have good communication skills including an ability to listen
- Understand the need to support a family
- Demonstrate commitment to the Preparation Course
- Have a warm and open personality and a sense of humour
- Have time and enthusiasm for Home-Start
- Be able to work as a member of a team of volunteers
- Be prepared to keep records as requested by the Scheme

**Responsible to:**

The Home-Start Coordinators, who are in turn responsible to the Management Committee.

**Commitment:**

- Initial training course
- Criminal records check (DBS)
- Two to three hours per week, depending on the family's needs.
- Regular support and supervision.

**Following training we would like our volunteers to:**

- Be familiar with and understand the aims and ideals of Home-Start.
- Be familiar with the policies of Home-Start on:  
Confidentiality  
Equal Opportunities  
Looking after children in the absence of their children  
Child Protection  
Health & Safety
- Be introduced to and support a family or families by contacting regularly (usually at least once per week) for as long as is necessary.
- Share information with the Coordinator and contact them immediately if there is concern about the physical or emotional well-being of any member of the family.
- Inform the Coordinator if unable to visit family due to ill health, etc.
- Keep records of contact/visits to families as requested by the Coordinator.
- Take part in reviews with the family and Coordinator, as requested.
- Attend support, supervision and training sessions as arranged by the scheme.
- Submit travel expenses monthly, which will be paid at the agreed rate by the Management Committee.

**What does Home-Start offer?**

- Continuing support, supervision and training sessions arranged by the Coordinators.
- We hope that volunteers will always feel they have sufficient back-up to enable them to carry on supporting families effectively.
- Home-Start can provide references for Volunteers, (based on their voluntary role with Home-Start), seeking employment or training.
- All Volunteers can expect the support of the Coordinators, Administrators, other Volunteers, Management Committee and through the Coordinators, other professionals involved with the family.
- There are also opportunities for self-development and social contact with others in Home-Start.

*This is an exciting and rewarding voluntary role, which requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and a sense of humour.*

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