

# **Home-Start Hastings & Rother**

**Volunteer**

## **Role Description & Person Specification**



**Support and friendship  
for families**

Home-Start is a voluntary organisation in which volunteers offer regular support, friendship and practical help to families with young children in their own homes helping to prevent family crisis or breakdown.

This work requires a high level of commitment and reliability and will be supported by Home-Start.

**Home-Start Hastings & Rother**  
**66 London Road, St Leonards, East Sussex**  
**TN37 6AS**  
**Tel: 01424 443636**

Registered Charity Number 1107920  
Company limited by guarantee No 5137227

## Role Description

### Title:

Home-Start Volunteer



### Purposes of the work:

Home-Start volunteers are expected to work towards the increased confidence and independence of families by:

- Offering support, friendship and practical help.
- Visiting families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of each individual can be respected and protected.
- Reassuring families that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual.
- Emphasising the pleasures of family life.
- Developing a relationship with the family in which time can be shared and an understanding developed.
- Encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well being for the ultimate benefit of their own children.
- Encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to use the support and services available in the community.

### Commitment:

- Initial course of preparation (usually 6-8 weeks, one session per week).
- Minimum of 3 hours per week, following the Preparation Course.
- Regular on-going training, support and supervision.
- Ideally a commitment of 18 months to 2 years.

### Duties:

- To be familiar with and committed to the Home-Start ethos.
- To understand and implement Home-Start's policies.
- To be introduced to and support a family by visiting regularly for as long as necessary.
- To share information with Home-Start and make contact if there are any concerns about the physical or emotional well being of any member of the family.
- To take part in reviews and evaluations as requested by Home-Start.
- To keep records of the visits to families as requested by Home-Start.
- To attend support/supervision/training as arranged by Home-Start, where possible.
- To submit travel and telephone expenses promptly, on a regular basis, which will be paid at the agreed rate.
- To inform insurance companies of any car used for voluntary work with Home-start, expenses will be paid.

This is exciting and rewarding work which requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and a sense of humour. All volunteers can expect the full support of Home-Start.

## Person Specification

A Home-Start volunteer should:

- Have an understanding of the stresses and needs of family life.
- Have a positive attitude to working with people of any age, gender, family status or sexual identity, who may be from any ethnic background, culture or religion or who may have a disability and demonstrate a commitment to Home-Start's Equal Opportunities Policy.
- 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 the disclosure of a confidence is essential to the safeguarding of a child.
- Be reliable and understand the importance of reliability to the family.
- Have good communication skills including the ability to listen.
- Have a warm and open personality and a sense of humour.
- Have time and enthusiasm for Home-Start (3 hours a week to visit a family).
- Be prepared to keep basic records as requested by Home-Start.

