



Bedfordshire

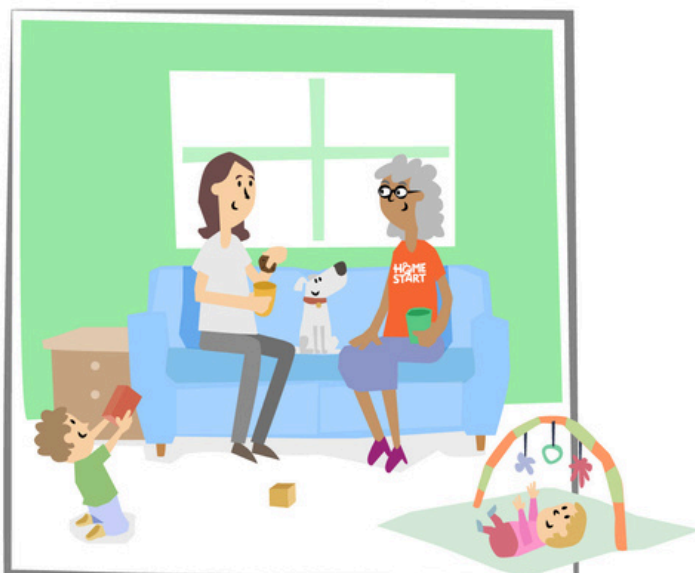
Your Local Children & Family Charity

Since 1984

Home-Start Bedfordshire is a charity providing free early help support to local families (including families who have children in need or are on a child protection plan).



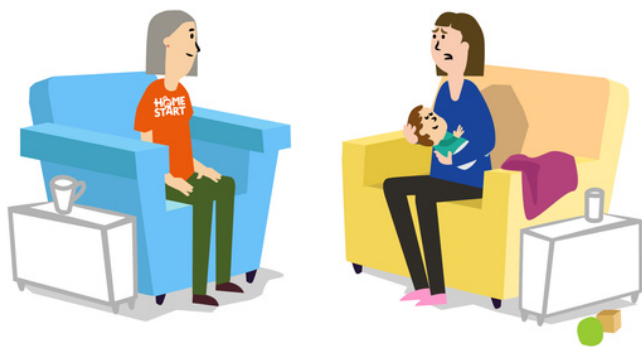
Service users report that they view our volunteers as being less threatening and stigmatising than support from a paid worker. It is a confidential and non-judgemental service.



Our Home Visiting Service has been running since 1984. It is aimed at local families with at least one child under 5 (can be an unborn). The service is beneficial for parents and their children experiencing difficulties who would benefit from weekly support in the home.



A trained volunteer is carefully matched with the family according to their own experience, skills, availability etc. They will visit the family in their home for two hours each week, during school time. Support is tailored to a family's needs. This can include...



Emotional Support

Emotional support for parents who are:

- Suffering from mental ill health.
- Dealing with trauma or bereavement.
- Isolated.
- In need of advocacy.
- Living in Refuge.

Practical Support

Practical support for parents who:

- Have a disability or additional needs.
- Are suffering from poor physical health.
- Are overwhelmed with multiple parenting pressures.



Modelling & Mentoring

Modelling, mentoring and encouragement for parents with:

- Child bonding.
- Managing children's behaviour.
- School readiness.
- Positive parenting strategies.
- Attending Children's Centres.
- Accessing local resources.



Assistance

Assistance for parents with:

- Attending medical appointments (we cannot offer transport).
- Developing household routines.
- Cleaning and decluttering the house.
- Budgeting, nutrition and meal planning, cooking.
- Making the home child safe.



Our Volunteers

Come from a wide range of social, educational and employment backgrounds. They all have experience of looking after children. We have a robust safer recruitment policy.

Volunteers complete an induction course before being placed with families. This includes training on safeguarding, domestic abuse, confidentiality and equal opportunities. In addition, volunteers attend mandatory yearly safeguarding updates and ongoing training.

Following each home visit, volunteers complete diary sheets. During the course of supporting a family, volunteers have 6-8 weekly face-to-face supervisions with a paid coordinator.

It should be noted that we are unable to transport families or provide babysitting or childminding.



Make A Referral

You can make a referral via our referral form or an EHA or SC assessment form.

What Happens

Our staff coordinator will complete an initial assessment with the family. The desired outcomes will be identified and recorded, and progress will be tracked throughout our service support.

The coordinator will manage the case which includes regular support and supervision of the volunteer, reviews with the family and attendance at any meetings such as core groups/CP conferences.

Further Information

Please contact us at office@home-startbedfordshire.org.uk or call 01525 213522.

Visit www.home-startbedfordshire.org.uk to find out more about our charity and other services.