



**North and West  
Gloucestershire**

December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers;

Home-Start North and West Gloucestershire is a local charity covering The Forest of Dean. We have recently launched a variety of services for families with at least one child under five in the Forest. We offer various groups (currently run online) for mums and mums to be and we are also currently working on an exciting project to support Dads in and around the Forest too. But the core part of Home-Start's work is our parent to parent home visiting project. Home-Start will train volunteers who are parents and sometimes also grandparents themselves, and equip volunteers with everything they need to know before they are matched with a family in need and then they begin visiting the family in their own home for a couple of hours a week for as long as is needed.

There are so many reasons why families might need some extra support, and now more than ever, Home-Start is aware of families in need throughout the Forest who would like to be matched with a home visiting volunteer. Families are facing issues such as financial pressures, job losses, mental health challenges, isolation and loneliness issues, physical health issues of either a parent or a child and lack of access to other forms of support due to Covid-19.

Home-Start will offer all volunteers 40 hours of initial high-quality training and then ongoing support and training. Becoming a volunteer with Home-Start is a way of making a real difference to a family in your community, preventing a future family breakdown or crisis and ensuring that children are given the very best start in life. Home-Start is committed to supporting a volunteers own goals too and will always do whatever we can to help you achieve these, whether this is giving back something to your local community, wanting to get back into work after a career break, or upskilling or changing careers. We also pay all out of pocket expenses. Our next volunteer training courses start in January and we would absolutely love to hear from people just like you.

Please do feel free to contact us if you would like to know more or would like to secure your space on our next course. Also, please do pass this information along to anyone you know who might be interested in becoming a home visiting volunteer.

<https://homestartnwglos.org.uk/> 075844 72025 [enquiries@homestartnwglos.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@homestartnwglos.org.uk)

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Kind Regards

The Team at Home-Start North and West Gloucestershire