



If you would like to know more about volunteering for Home-Start, please call or email us.

Our telephone number:

01843 609 665

Our email address:

admin@homestartthanet.org.uk



Home Start Thanet
The Kent Innovation Centre
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Millennium Way
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IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR HAVE PARENTING EXPERIENCE,

BE A GIFT TO

THE COMMUNITY:

VOLUNTEER FOR HOME-START THANET



Home-Start is helping families to step into a brighter future

Home-Start offers support and practical help to parents with children under 11 years of age in local communities throughout the UK. Home-Start offers a unique service recruiting and training family Mentors to visit families at home and to give them emotional, practical, confidential, and informal support. To help give children the best start in life, Home-Start supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the local community. Mentors can provide invaluable support to families by making weekly visits to the family in their own home where their confidentiality and individuality can be respected.

Becoming a Mentor — the procedure



You will be invited to an informal coffee morning to meet others interested in volunteering as well as members of the Home-Start staff team. If you are keen to apply to become a Mentor you will have a one-to-one meeting with a member of staff, it will help us to find out more about you and your motivation for volunteering. The next stage is the 'Course of

Preparation' which is designed to prepare you to meet local families. During this period you will be asked to complete a DBS check (police check) & supply us with two referees, in accordance with our recruitment policy.

The Course of Preparation

Currently this is run over 5 consecutive days and will cover topics such as: what Home-Start is about; the role of the Mentor; Values & attitudes; child protection/safeguarding children; and listening skills, to name but a few. On completion of the course - following an end of course Interview, a satisfactory DBS and references - you will be ready to meet your first family.

Being a Mentor

Becoming a Mentor is an important step in helping and supporting a parent who may be experiencing a difficult time. As a Mentor you can provide invaluable help by offering a few hours of your time to commit to visiting a local family. Volunteers, on completion of the Course of Preparation and becoming Mentors, will be placed with at least one family. The majority of Mentors support two families but you don't need to worry, we are sensitive to your own commitments. You will be introduced to the family by a member of staff who will ensure you have full knowledge of the family's

situation and their need for support. Offering around 2 to 4 hours of your time per week (Mon — Fri), you will build up a trusting relationship with the family, enabling them to make positive changes. Families are referred to us for a variety of reasons: isolation; depression; demands of children; financial issues; or just feeling low and unable to cope with everyday issues.

The support you offer will depend on what the family's needs are, whether it is to be a listening ear, a practical or emotional support, or guidance with parenting.

What we offer you

Our Course of Preparation is an excellent way to build skills and knowledge of working in the community. We offer on-going training, regular support, supervision and guidance, and we pay out-of-pocket expenses.

To find out more, please call us on:

01843 609 665 or email us at:

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