

SCHEME NEWS

Newsletter for referrers to Home-Start West Lothian

Tel: 01506 415755

E-mail: admin@homestartwl.org.uk

November 2015

Home
START

Support and friendship
for families



Just a reminder that we've moved! We now have a shiny new building with loads more space!!!
Our new address is Cameron House, 13a Fairbairn Road, Livingston, EH54 6TS and our new telephone number is 01506 415755.

Our fabulous volunteer, Lesley, through her employer, has gifted us £500 so we can provide a **FAMILY ROOM** for our families and we are now offering a drop-in session every fortnight for families who have ended with their Volunteer but would still like a bit of 'cushion' or just want to come and meet socially while the children play in our lovely wee family room.

FESTIVE FAMILY FOOD HAMPERS

It's that time again when we're starting to think of the festivities ahead but Christmas isn't Christmas without that special family dinner!

We would like to be able to offer our families a Food Hamper, which we have done in previous years thanks to kind donations from local people and companies like Stoddart's of Broxburn, Food Options Limited and Russell Investments. We hope everyone will come together and help us again this year.

We would therefore be grateful if you could display the attached poster in your clinic where people can see it and hopefully help us achieve our goal. Thank you!



Also if you are aware of any upcoming events that we could attend where we could help raise awareness of our organisation and the service we offer to young families, we would be really grateful if you could let us know.

VOLUNTEER TRAINING

We currently have a massive **56** home visiting volunteers which is just amazing – what fabulous, kind and caring folk we have across West Lothian. This is the most we have EVER had in our 15 years existence 😊 we already have potential Volunteers waiting to come on the next Preparation Course which will start at the beginning of February 2016; hopefully we will increase our numbers even further in order to continue to provide the high quality service that we pride ourselves on.

BACK TO SCHOOL BANK - WINTER WARMERS APPEAL



In addition to their school uniform collection, the Back to School Bank are also appealing for Winter Warmers - anything that will keep our kids warm in the Scottish winter while they are at school. They are specifically looking for new items, but will accept good quality used items also. Any donations can be dropped off at the Home-Start office!

They are also accepting referrals, so if you know of a family who would benefit from this all they need is a list of items required and size!

REFERRAL FORMS

Attached is a copy of the Referral Form that we now use. There is more to it than there used to be but we really need all of the information that is asked for so we would be really grateful if you could complete all sections of the form especially things such as Dates of Birth and ALL children living in the house – not just under 5's. We are happy to accept referrals by e-mail if this is easier. Please do not use the old forms as we will have to return them. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need any information about completing the form.



BECOME A TRUSTEE



As you know we are governed by a Board of Trustees who meet up every 6 weeks and oversee the running of the office. If you would like to become even more involved with Home-Start and have a few hours a month to spare and would like find out more about becoming a Trustee contact **Gillian at the office**. (Board meetings are normally held on a Monday at 12.30pm every 6-8 weeks.)

AND FINALLY.....

We are always striving to be the best that we can be and to that end we do like to engage in an evaluation process with our Referrers. However, over the years it has been difficult to gather thoughts and opinions mainly due to the heavy caseload that our referrers have - can I ask if you have any suggestions or comments please let us know! We will be sending round Evaluations Forms in the New Year - please support us by giving us your views on the service we offer. Thank you.

Contact us by phone or e-mail

Shelley - manager@homestartwl.org.uk

Carol-Anne - coordinator@homestartwl.org.uk

Lisa - 2coordinator@homestartwl.org.uk - or on the usual office number - 01506 415755

You can also find us on Facebook at



<https://www.facebook.com/HomeStartWL>.



Or our website: www.homestartwl.org.uk