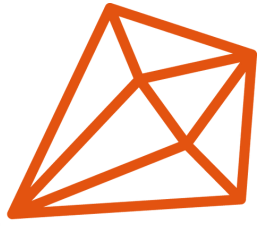




**HOME
START**

**Renfrewshire
and Inverclyde**

**Annual Report
2020/2021**





Our Mission

To give emotional and practical support and friendship to help parents with young children, in order to give every child the best possible start in life. To help parents grow in confidence, strengthen their relationship with their children and widen their links within our local communities.

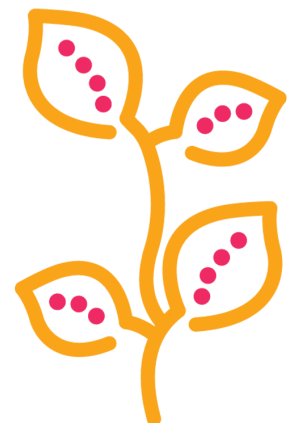
Our Vision

Developing a relationship with the family in which time can be shared and understanding can be developed: the approach is adaptive to take account of each families different needs.



Time
Respect
Choice
Responsive
Trust
Inclusive
Empathy
Non-Judgemental

Our Values



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Welcome from the Co-Chairs

Welcome

We are delighted to bring you this, our latest Annual Report after what has again been another challenging year. Although we were still not able to offer our 'normal' service for much of 2020/21 due to the COVID pandemic we constantly strived to offer support to our families through alternative means namely remote digital, telephone calls and doorstep deliveries when required for families having to isolate.

Staff, volunteers and families alike were elated when we were able to begin meeting outside and in the latter part of the year, resume home visiting offering a somewhat different return to normality.

Home-Start provides parent-to-parent support through locally trained volunteers. Our volunteers are usually parents themselves and work alongside families to empower parents and help their children to achieve their potential.

We believe that children need a happy and secure childhood and that parents/main carers play the key role in giving their children the best possible start in life. Our model of early intervention and peer2peer support is now recognised as a key component in mitigating the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences, as well as improving perinatal and infant mental health.

Our service would not be possible without the commitment and determination of our volunteers who support some of the most vulnerable families in our community. Going forward, the board will focus on ensuring the sustainability of the charity, and developing its service offerings in consultation with the needs of local families.

Please continue to support the vital work of this worthy cause.

Innes Turner & Jim McEleny

Co-Chairs



COVID Lockdown

In the week before lockdown, our core home-visiting and group support services ceased to meet face-to face and moved to provide remote 1:1 and group support. Our Trustees and staff recognised that this was an unprecedented international crisis and that the already challenged resources of Health and Social Services would be stretched even further with an increased number of isolated and anxious families.



We conducted a poll of families which shaped our COVID Emergency Response Work. In total we provided:

- 11,135 wellbeing contacts with families (phone, text, video calls)
- Emergency COVID support to the value of £108,247 for families experiencing food, fuel and digital poverty. These were composed in a variety of forms including supermarket vouchers; household furniture, laptops and mobile phones; hardship payments. This included funding from the following: Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund; Supporting Communities Fund with Linstone and Cloch Housing Associations; and the Communities Recovery Fund with Cloch Housing Association.
- A new online family support group was created offering peer2peer support which was funded by funded by STV Children's Lottery and Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund.
- Children's Arts and Crafts activity kits from Create Paisley and the Resilience Learning Partnership, as well as Parent Pamper packs for mums and dads from the Government Wellbeing Fund and National Emergencies Trust.
- 1,277 Food and Essentials doorstep deliveries by staff and volunteers. This was delivered in partnership with Fareshare Glasgow and West of Scotland, as part of Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils' community food initiatives.
- 653 fresh fruit and veg boxes distributed.
- Fast-track private counselling and play therapy for children and families whose mental health had been negatively impacted by lockdown and who were lacking the funds or wherewithal to access counselling support themselves.

**No child's
future should
be limited**



Some Normality Resumes

By mid August 2020 we resumed outdoor 'face-to-face' visits between families and volunteers, which continued during the second Winter Lockdown in 2020-21.

In May 2021, HSRI returned to delivering face-to-face indoor home-visiting and group support as its default service. In doing so we have continuously and rigorously adhered to Scottish Government FACTS and guidance on third sector support and for unregulated children's activities.

We have continued to offer online training opportunities for staff and volunteers including training delivered by other agencies.

These have included:

- Perinatal Mood Disorder Awareness training and Perinatal Counselling Skills training delivered by Crossreach Bluebell
- ACES and Trauma Informed Awareness training
- Domestic Abuse Training
- Theraplay

The charity secured a £45,200 grant from Renfrewshire Council to fund the core costs of our Renfrewshire service which continues to be a vital source of the charity's income. We would like to thank Renfrewshire Council for their consistent support for our charity over the past decade.

We were able to provide, via Connecting Scotland 10 laptops to allow parents to participate in Adult Learning Conversations and to enable them to maintain virtual contact with family and friends which they otherwise would have been unable to do.

Inverclyde Council's Grants to Voluntary Organisations awarded us £3,000 to fund cooking classes. This money is being held over until the next financial year due to the ongoing situation.

As with last year, **Professional Beauty Systems**, Inchinnan, supported our Christmas Box Appeal by providing a record **220** Christmas toy boxes for all the children in our families.



Fundraising and Donations

Fundraising Activities

Our fundraising activities over 2020-21 were severely impacted by COVID. We have always relied heavily upon significant sums of money raised through fundraising events, namely the Glasgow Bash and the Racy Ladies Afternoon Tea. These raised approximately £34,000 annually in 2017-18 and in 2018-19. To mitigate this loss we successfully applied to the 3rd sector Government Resilience Fund, the National Lottery Awards for All and the Small Business Bonus Scheme towards our core costs. In addition, whilst the 2020 Glasgow Kiltwalk was cancelled, we nevertheless received a donation of some £3,440 from **Kiltwalk** and £14,220 from **The Hunter Foundation**

A huge **thank you** to all the volunteers and donors who during the year have given us much needed funds to help the charity's work. We would like to thank in particular the following generous individuals for their wonderful fundraising activities on behalf of HSRI in 2020/21:

Christy Hyslop, Lorraine Cameron, Patricia Ross, Sofie Ross, Nanci Creedon and Ross McKenzie.



Thanks also too to **Barnhill Farm**, Inchinnan for their donations of fresh fruit and veg boxes for local families in need, to **Renfrewshire Coats for Kids**, **the Scottish Leather Group** for toys and stationery and to **Twa Burds Soaps**. Thanks once again also to **Professional Beauty Systems** for their donation of 500 hand sanitisers and to Linstone Housing for allowing us to access free storage for prams, cots and other essentials for children and families.



Due to COVID we were unable to run our usual Christmas parties, but with the incredible generosity of the following donors we were able to make up Christmas Hampers and extra presents and gift vouchers: **Amazon Gourock, John Lewis and Partners, Howdens Renfrew, A & D Logistics, Gryffe Valley Rotary Club, Arnold Clark; White Stuff, Tesco Port Glasgow, Mind Mosaic Child and Family Therapies, Renfrewshire Toy Bank and the Peter Brough Trust.**



Groups



Dad's Group - Renfrewshire

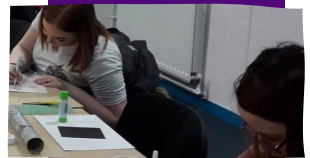
Our Dad's Group has been meeting face to face again on a weekly basis at KLAS Care CIC in Linwood. The dads and children come together every Saturday for 2 hours of creative fun and bonding. Our Group Worker Norma has been leading sessions making friendship bracelets, face painting, and lots of outdoor play. Norma helps the dad's and children learn about the benefits of imaginative play through puppet making and putting on their own show. Each session is planned to give the dads time with their children as well as giving them the opportunity to make friends and provide peer support for each other. Every week the group share healthy snacks, even this is an opportunity to get creative and the dads help the children make fruit kebabs and banana dolphin pots.

Dads Group sessions are also supported by our amazing volunteers who take it in turns to work with Norma encouraging play and lots of fun.

Parents Group - Inverclyde

This year, Karen our Group Worker got crafty with the parents encouraging them to explore different craft projects that they could do with their children at home. At Halloween the group made bat and pumpkin suncatchers and at Christmas they had lots of fun making 'melting' snowmen. One of the mums expressed that her child had anxiety when she threw out used toilet roll cardboard, so Karen came up with a craft to help the parent with this and everyone got involved!

This group gives parents in Inverclyde the opportunity to meet up in a friendly and relaxed setting on a weekly basis. During lockdown Karen supported all parents via an online group with the parents coming back to group when it was safe to do so.



Twins Group - Renfrewshire

Our monthly Twins Group meets on the last Friday of the month in KLAS Care CIC in Linwood and gives families of multiples the opportunity to come together and provide peer support for each other, a chance for the children to play in a creative and imaginative space. Our Group Worker Norma runs these sessions with the support of our lovely volunteers, following a plan to help the children develop their fine motor and social skills, building independence and confidence.



Words from Our Families

The pamper pack has helped when I was feeling low and needed some time for myself. The food pack helped to get through and saved me from going out to get fresh food when I should have been isolating (shielding) and the boredom and summer pack kept my little one entertained and saved my sanity.



Have been really touched by receiving these. Just knowing someone cares is a tremendous help. The children and I have both been thrilled by these. So kind and thoughtful.

Through lockdown we provided families with things like craft boxes to help keep children occupied, pamper packs for stressed parents to show that we care and summer activity packs to encourage families to enjoy the outdoors. Thanks to some cash donations and Fareshare West of Scotland we were able to provide and deliver essential food items and thanks to the amazing people at Barnhill Farm, we were able to provide fresh fruit and veg boxes.

We asked families what difference these doorstep deliveries had made and here are some of their responses.

Made a big difference for me as I can't always get out. The pamper pack made me cry was so lovely summer pack was good for my wee boy fruit veg delivery vouchers for a new laptop which helped me keep in touch through facetime calls with the support group



We have been so grateful and frankly overwhelmed with how much we have received. It has definitely helped us through tough times to receive activities to keep us occupied, food to stretch our meals further than they would have and eased the worry of having to leave the house in dangerous health conditions.



Our Volunteers

Volunteer Training

We were part way through our prep training in both areas when we were put into lockdown with both Renfrewshire and Inverclyde not being able to complete the course until September 2020.

Subsequently, 24 new home-visiting volunteers were fully trained to meet the demands of referrals. With the changing restrictions, we took the decision to hold off running any new courses until things were more certain with plans to recruit and train later in the year.



Existing Volunteers

We would not be able to operate without our team of volunteers. Those matched maintained contact through what's app and phone calls and we were inundated with offers of help when we needed it with doorstep deliveries. We cant thank them all enough!

Moving On

Obviously COVID has had a huge effect on everyone and during this time a few of our volunteers decided to move on. 10 of those have moved onto employment or further/higher education.

Again, we hope they know what they have done for all the families that they have been involved with and we thank them for the time they spent with us and wish them well in the future.

Volunteer Success

One of our long standing volunteers, Debbie Scott undertook an HNC in Social Services. She kept on volunteering during this time with her dedication to us seeing her taking on two families and also completing her college placement with us. She was awarded the Social Services Student prize and was also West College Scotland's student of the year.

Now that she has completed her HNC, she has decided that she will no longer be able to volunteer with us having been offered employment with Renfrewshire Council.

We are delighted for Debbie and wish her every success in her new career.



Debbie Scott
Student of
the Year Prize



“Securing my dream job and finding out I'd been awarded my class prize and student of the year is so overwhelming. I'm so proud of what I have achieved.”



April 2020 - March 2021



Supported Families

166



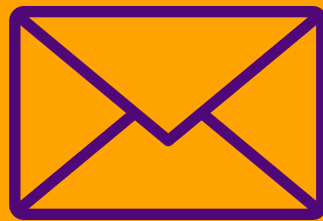
Supported Parents

243



Supported Children

346



New Referrals

91

Referral Source

Health Visitor

44

Social Work

20

Community Organisations

16

Self Referral

11



Our Impact



Accounts

Income

Donations	21,494
Charitable Activities	355,660
Other Trading Activities	3,659
Investments	82

Total Income 360,895

Expenditure on:

Charitable Activities	282,292
Total Expenditure	282,292

Net Income 78,603

Transfer Between Funds -
78,603

Reconciliation of Funds

Total Funds Brought Forward 124,885

Total Funds Carried Forward 203,488

**Because
tomorrow
starts today**



Our Funders 2020/21



**Thank you all
for helping us to grow**



Our Supporters 2020/21

Individuals Who Have Donated to us Directly

Patricia Ross

Jackie Reid

Diane Madsen

Christy Hyslop

Lorraine Cameron

Nanci Creedon

Sophie Ross

Lose it and Love It

Ross McKenzie

Individuals Who Have Donated to us via Local Giving

David Lee

Joanne Thomson

Stewart Hunter

Paul Cameron

Elaine Kerr

Organisations Who Have Donated to Us

Barnhill Farm

Twa Burds Soaps

Renfrewshire Coats for Kids

Gryffe Valley Rotary Club

The Peter Brough Trust

Houston and Killellan Kirk

Mind Mosaic Child and Family Therapies



 **thank you all**

Lastly, to all those who have donated **anonymously**.

We don't know who you are or the reasons why you chose us, but **thank you**.

Our People 2020/22

Scheme Manager

Iain MacDonald

Senior Family Support Coordinator Inverclyde

Lisa Carberry

Family Support Coordinator

Inverclyde

Kerry Dickson

Family Support Coordinators Renfrewshire

Paula Gibson

Mags Gibson

Julie Goldie

Jane Hamilton

Dads and Twins Group Worker

Norma Martin

Parents Group Worker - Inverclyde

Karen Berry

Administrator and Volunteer Liaison Officer

Susan Anderson

Administrative Assistant

Anna Gielty

Trustees

Jim McEleny (Co-Chair)

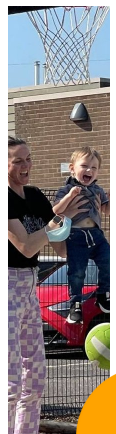
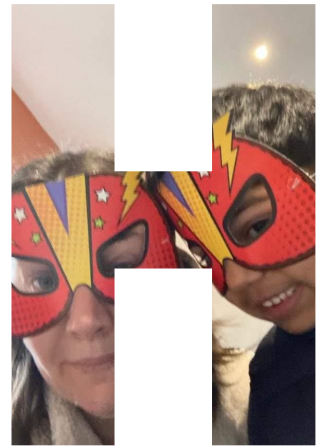
Innes Turner (Co-Chair)

Susan Burgess (Treasurer)

Mari Lee

Fiona Whitefield

Geri Taylor



Keep In Touch

Home-Start Renfrewshire and Inverclyde

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