

Presentation to Grant Aid Sub Committee

17 May 2016

Agenda Item: 4

Homestart – Presentation to Grant Aid Sub Committee by Liz Sheldon – Homestart Ashfield

Presentation will cover:-

- What Homestart do and how they work together in Nottinghamshire
- How they work with and support Children's services and other partners
- The difference Grant Aid makes to their organisation

Background

Homestart began life back in 1973 – A worker from the City of Leicester Children's department was convinced that volunteers could help families with young children in a variety of settings. They would support the parent as the 'sustaining agent' in the child's life and see the home as the 'sustaining background'. Volunteers would offer individual programmes of support and help, to suit the needs of particular families and give children the best possible start in life.

Today they operate in 288 local communities in the UK and helped develop similar programmes in 22 countries.

The Charity operate a model where each local home start is an independently registered charity, set up and run by people from the local area, and responsible for raising all its own funds. A small local staff team recruits and trains local volunteers and carefully matches them with local families who need support. Each local Home-Start is managed by a board of volunteer trustees.

In Nottinghamshire there are 4 Homestarts working in the County – Ashfield, Mansfield, Newark & Nottingham (Nottingham covers Broxtowe, Gedling & Rushcliffe).

Grant Aid

During the period 2012-15 – NCC provided combined grant aid to the Nottinghamshire Homestarts of £105,000.

The current round 2015-18 we encouraged a consortium application and they were awarded £85,100.

Delivery

Parents are offered support, friendship and practical assistance through home- visiting and group work to improve their understanding of the needs of their children and build resilience to deal with future problems.

Home-Start supports and encourages parents to create better outcomes for their children. Supporting families through difficult times and empowering them to make better choices to provide a happy, safe and stable environment in which their children can grow and fulfil their potential.

Some parents have gone into volunteering which eventually may lead to further education and training, while others have successfully found employment or been supported to remain in employment.

Parenting courses/ confidence building courses are provided

Advice is given on leading healthy lifestyles; volunteers model positive interaction with children; parents are helped to get their children nursery and school ready.

In 2015 they supported 361 families with 678 Children.