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Ms E Dillnutt

Clerk
East Tisted Parish Council
C/o The Nutt House
1 Bridle Close
East Tisted
Hampshire
GU34 3QQ

24th March 2017

Dear Ms Dillnutt

Financial Year 2017/18

We are writing to all Parish Councils within our area to ask if they are able to support Home-Start WeyWater with core costs. We recognise Parish Councils have limited resources so we are approaching each council for £500 and understand this may not be attainable but we would be delighted to receive what was felt achievable and we would be willing to come and speak to the Council about our work.

About Home-Start

Home-Start WeyWater is a voluntary organisation which provides a unique service for families: we recruit and train volunteers to support parents with young children at home. Volunteers support parents in situations as diverse as isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness, disability or who are just finding parenting a struggle. They provide non-judgemental, practical and emotional support and help build the family's confidence and ability to cope.

Volunteers visit families in their own homes on a regular basis for as long as needed. The support they offer a family is varied and according to each family's needs. For example:

- Friendship
- Time to talk
- A listening ear
- Practical help such as sharing shopping trips or occasionally taking children out to give a tired parent a much needed rest

There may be times when a volunteer is unable to provide all the help a



family needs, but they will know of local resources to which the family can be referred for appropriate help.

We also run a weekly support group for all families – the group is run term-time only as and during the school holidays we apply for funding to run such events as a Easter Egg Hunt and nature walks/picnics at Alice Holt once a week during the long summer holidays. At these gatherings, families and volunteers have an opportunity to meet each other and forge new friendships. Our aim is to provide a valuable family support service which makes a real difference to the lives of families through practical help, advice and support.

Currently we have 32 volunteers and 8 trustees. We currently have volunteers who live in your Parish and families that receive Home-Start support. All home-visiting volunteer musts attend a 40hr training course. The cost of training a volunteer through the preparation course, expenses, supervision and ongoing training can equate to £1,500 per year.

In the current economic crisis, parents are going to find it more and more difficult to access formal support services especially with the closure of over 40 children centres in Hampshire. Volunteer organisations such as Home-Start provide valuable support at the grass roots where it is most needed. It is well researched that the foundations of being a good citizen are laid in early parent/child relationships.

Current Funding

- Parish Council Grants
- County Councillor Grants
- Town Council Grants
- Alton Mayors Charity 2016/17
- Garfield Weston 2016/17
- Truemark Trust 2016/17
- On-going fundraising
- We received a one-off grant from Sport England of £1908 to deliver 12 yoga sessions as part of our Parent Wellbeing initiative which have now all taken place.

I enclose a copy of our annual accounts and our most recent AGM report.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Angela Small". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Angela Small
Senior Co-ordinator