

# Home-Start Glasgow South

## Home-visiting Volunteer – Role Description

### Purpose of the Role

We rely on our amazing volunteers to support families, who have at least one child under the age of 8, across the south side of Glasgow. Home-Start Volunteers use their unique skills and experiences to help local families struggling to cope with the challenges of being a parent and of day to day family life. Our Home-visiting volunteers come from all walks of life and generally help by offering emotional support and / or practical help – all with the aim of enabling families to lead less stressful and more enjoyable lives.

Becoming a Home-visiting volunteer is a serious commitment but it provides a rewarding opportunity to support families in ways that make a lasting impact.

**Home-Start take their responsibility for safeguarding the wellbeing of children seriously. This role is subject to a PVG check; 2 personal references and a medical reference are also required.**

### Opportunities of the role

- Gain rewarding experience of working directly with family members
- Build knowledge of working with children, young people and parents
- Develop skills to communicate with families in challenging circumstances

### Responsibilities

The needs of individual families will vary but a Home-visiting Volunteer role could involve:-

- *Activities with children:* playing, reading, outdoor games, helping parents with routine and managing behaviour
- *Practical support:* help with budgeting, writing letters and phone calls, shopping, cooking, improving hygiene, helping the family to enjoy a day out
- *Emotional support:* being a listening ear for a parent and empathising
- *Support to access services:* accompanying to appointments, signposting to services and groups

### Qualities/Skills/Experience needed

- We welcome volunteers from all backgrounds with all sorts of skills but it is **essential** that volunteers have experience of parenting or childcare
- Ability to work well with others
- A good understanding of the role and of Home-Start Glasgow South's training and expectations
- Good communication skills
- Reliability, commitment and engagement
- Initiative and creative problem solving skills
- A good level of self-awareness

### Interviews and Training

At Home-Start Glasgow South we value volunteer support, but are also aware that not all our roles are suitable for everyone. The selection and training process aims to ensure that Home-Start Glasgow South staff get to know you, ensure you are given the correct training and for both parties to decide if this is the best role for you at Home-Start Glasgow South.

The process of becoming a Home-visiting Volunteer is as follows:-

- Phone call – to get to know you a bit and find out about why you're interested in the role
- Completion of an application form – a chance for you to tell us about yourself and why you want to volunteer with us
- Initial Meeting – to find out more details about you and your experiences, qualities and skills
- Volunteer Training Course – 9 weekly sessions of 2 ½ hours. We run regular courses throughout the year with daytime and evening sessions available
- Final Interview – to tie up any loose ends following the course and check your availability and preferences.

### **Ongoing commitment**

We ask our volunteers for 2 - 3 hours once a week for home-visiting, to complete a record of their visits and to meet with a Family Support Co-ordinator once a month for support and supervision.

### **Location**

Home-Start Glasgow South Glasgow South supports families across the whole of the south of the city, from Govan to Castlemilk.

### **Minimum Age**

18 years – must have parenting experience.

## **Want to find out more?**

If you feel you have skills, experience and time to share, and would like to become a Home-Start Glasgow South Volunteer, we'd love to hear from you! Please phone **0141 570 8735** to speak to a Family Support Coordinator and find out more. Alternatively, you can email

[theteam@homestartglasgowsouth.org.uk](mailto:theteam@homestartglasgowsouth.org.uk)

to request a call back at a time that is convenient to you.

Thank You.