



 **Lloyds TSB** | Foundation for England and Wales

Press Release

Issued: 4 May 2010

Home-Start Milton Keynes secures funding to continue Family Group Coordinator

Home-Start Milton Keynes, a charity that supports local families with at least one child under the age of five, has been successful in securing £17,000 towards the salary of a Family Group Coordinator working in deprived areas of Milton Keynes.

Funding has been secured from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales for £15,000 over a period of two years and a further one year grant of £2,000 has been received from Guinness Midsummer. This funding secures the ongoing success of three of Home-Start Milton Keynes' five weekly family groups which currently run at The ArtRoom Children's Centre in Bletchley, Hedgerows Children's Centre in Netherfield and Rowans Children's Centre in Fullers Slade.

The Family Group Coordinator oversees the groups, rings families weekly to encourage them to attend, coordinates taxis to transport parents to and from the groups, ensures there are sufficient volunteers to support parents and arranges speakers, healthy snacks and craft activities. Senior Coordinator, Steph Ellis said, "We are delighted at securing these grants. Our family groups are a vital part of the support we provide and often complement the support offered by a home-visiting volunteer. The groups provide the opportunity for young families to meet together in a structured setting which provides

valuable support and friendship and the opportunity for the children to play and socialise.”

Over a period of twelve months Home-Start has supported over 75 families at the three groups and has encouraged parents to link into a wider network of support at the Children’s Centres.

For more information about us please visit our website www.home-startmk.org.uk.

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Case study and Home-Start spokesperson available upon request

Notes to Editors:

Home-Start is the UK’s leading family support charity. We recruit and train volunteers to support parents with at least one child under the age of five. Our home visiting work is unique in the UK. The charity was set up in 1973 and now has 336 Home-Starts supporting nearly 34,000 families and over 71,000 children each year. Almost 16,000 volunteers visit families in their own homes – parents supporting other parents in a variety of situations including isolation, bereavement, multiple births, illness or disability.

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