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~~XXXXXX~~  
Town Clerk  
Didcot Town Council  
Britwell Road, Didcot  
OX11 7HN

6th December 2023

Dear ~~Feresa~~,

### **Didcot Town Council Grant Aid Award 2023**

I am writing as requested with an update for the Town Council following the grant of £7,000 awarded to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire.

Thanks to this funding from May 2023, we have been able to continue supporting families in Didcot who have young children and are struggling.

We have since been able to recruit and train five more volunteers. Four of the volunteers have become home-visiting volunteers and one is now volunteering in our referral-only Home-Start Parenting Group on Wednesdays (this volunteer was a previously supported family so can bring lots of lived experience to the role!)

We have received 18 referrals in from Didcot residents since May and have accepted 12. They have been supported with weekly home-visiting volunteers and at our Home-Start Parenting Group.

Both of our parent and child groups have been busy. At our First Babies Group 100% of parents felt their child enjoyed the group and 71% of parents felt more prepared in meeting their child's social and development needs. We've received great feedback such as:

***"I love the group, it's been an absolute lifesaver. Without it I would be in a much worse place. I've made many friends, thank you so much for running it."***

We are very grateful for the Town Council's continued support of our charity as without help from our local council we wouldn't be able to continue supporting all the families that need it most in Didcot. In these times where it's becoming harder to fundraise, we especially feel that having the backing and support from our local council really shows other potential supporters that our work is valued.

Thank you once again and please pass on our thanks to all the councillors.

Yours sincerely,

FGKing

Faye Golding-King  
Development Manager  
Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire



Our First Babies Group volunteer, Helen, at our afternoon tea themed group, where we raised money for Breast Cancer Now.



Our newly-trained volunteers after completing their 6-week preparation course!

