



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- ✓ forms A and B
- ✓ your organisation's last set of accounts
- ✓ the most recent bank statement

to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

Supporting vulnerable families in South Oxfordshire and the Vale of the White Horse District

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

We want to continue supporting vulnerable families in Abingdon. Our home-visiting volunteers visit families every week for 2-3 hours to support them in the ways they need. It may be practical or emotional support, such as listening to a parent and talking through issues affecting them or attending baby groups or appointments with them. Our overall aim is to create relationships with families going through difficult times in order to work towards increasing parents' confidence, independence and resilience.

COVID and the cost-of-living crisis have had a devastating impact on many families. Many are isolated, living in poverty or debt, or facing mental health issues. Domestic abuse has risen. The pandemic and resulting lockdowns impacted on many pre-school age children, with fewer opportunities to build their speech and language, and in some cases, they have experienced mental health issues. The challenges associated with COVID-19 mean many children are beginning their schooling without having experienced the usual levels of social interaction. This often determines how well a child will do not only in school, but in adult life too. Our trained volunteers and expert support make the vital early years count and ensure no child's future is limited.

Our support will enable loving, safe, nurturing and stimulating home environments where children can thrive. This means working together with families to build confidence, strengthen relationships and have fun for the ultimate benefit of children. We help families to connect with their local community and services and get the support they need.

We are currently supporting 14 families in Abingdon. In the last year we have seen a large increase in the number of referrals for families in Abingdon. Since January this year we have already had 7 new referrals in Abingdon. We see more referrals from families in Abingdon than we do any other town in the area. This shows the urgent need for our help in the area.

What is the total cost of the project	£2,000
How much grant are you seeking	£2,000
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	100%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	<p>The approximate annual cost to support one family is £1000. This includes.</p> <p>Salary of the organiser responsible for the family - £500</p> <p>Monitoring by the senior organiser - £250</p> <p>Staff travel expenses - £30</p> <p>Volunteer expenses - Approx £100 (this is the only payment volunteers receive) Admin time - £120</p>
What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years	We continuously fundraise all year round and apply for grants from trusts, parish councils and town councils.

3. Local benefit.

How many people take part in your organisation's activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.	As members	58
	As recipients	700

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members		48	10
- Recipients	350 e	350 e	

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	6	52
- Recipients	350 e	350 e

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	8		
- Recipients	80e	20 e	

4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council’s vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

We will encourage families to widen their network of relationships and to access community support and other services available to them. Our volunteers can accompany them to medical appointments and local baby and toddler groups in the town. They can help them with pre-school and school applications which some families find difficult to complete and this in turn prevents them from doing so. Integrating families within the local community helps reduce isolation and loneliness, improving the wellbeing of many Abingdon families.

Our Abingdon home-visiting volunteers will also benefit from this project. Many of our home-visiting volunteers report back how volunteering for Home-Start has really helped reduce their own isolation and improved mental well-being. It also helps with personal development and experience working with families which can support them with future jobs in the area.

4b. Objectives

1. **To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency**

We are working hard to recruit more volunteers that live in Abingdon so we can match most families we support in Abingdon with a volunteer in the same town. This reduces car use in the town.

2. **To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future**

3. **To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**

4. **To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity**

We support vulnerable families in the town. Our support helps boost confidence and encourages families to interact within their local community. We signpost them to local services in the area to get the further support they need. We work closely with local health visitors, midwives and schools in the town where many of our referrals come from.

Our home-visiting volunteers will work with families to help support them in making children school ready, which has a positive effect on the child's learning and development as well as creating a simple transition for the child and the school setting.

Our aim is to help families by intervening early before the problem they are facing escalates into something more serious and there is a need of statutory services. Our work in the area helps relieve the strain from local services such as health visitors and early help team.

5. Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

June 2020 - £1000 Abingdon Town council
November 2022 -£2000 Didcot Town Council
November 2022 - £2000 Wantage Town Council
April 2022 - £141,501 over a 3 period – The Henry Smith Charity

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

We are in the process of trying to secure funding for our work with armed forces families. We have applied to the Tambour Foundation for this work.

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

We are a registered charity and company limited by guarantee. We are independently run by an elected committee.

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£137,219.83 (February 2023)

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

N/a

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.