

HomeStart Lorn

Newsletter September 2021



Welcome to the late summer edition of our newsletter, I hope you are all continuing to enjoy this fabulous weather, it makes living in this part of the world even more special! Homestart Lorn has had a busy summer, we have a new manager, a new member of staff on Mull and have changed the roles of others to ensure we can continue to develop and support more families. The referrals from the Health and Social Care Partnership and from families themselves has increased substantially and in response we've had a successful recruitment drive for volunteers. We are looking carefully at the training and support we offer to volunteers and will share our thoughts and ideas with you shortly. We have re-established a number of groups which are proving to be in high demand. We have a new office on Mull and are exploring whether we can develop a larger office in Oban. Unfortunately, whilst the spike in Covid cases has meant that we have had to be extra careful in the support we offer, we know that the challenges to families can be substantial and are wanting to be as responsive as we can. Please get in touch if you or families you know are struggling.

Wishing you all the best. **Mark Feinmann** - Chair Homestart Lorn

1

NEW OFFICE & STAFF

A new office on Mull & the appointment of a development officer.

2

GROUPS GALORE!

Chatting, Bouncing, Socialising and Wellbeing...

3

COVID UPDATE

How we aim to proceed in the "new normal".



Follow us on Instagram!

<https://www.instagram.com/homestartlorn/>



Why not friend or like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/homestartlorn/>



Send us a Tweet!

<https://twitter.com/homestartlorn>

New Staff



HANNAH - MANAGER
I am the new manager at Home-Start Lorn having started in June. I have lived in Oban for around three years and absolutely love its beautiful array of beaches and friendly community. I am so excited to be part of Home-Start Lorn and think it's a fantastic and unique organisation that aims at providing support to any parent/caregiver in their time of need.



REBECCA - COORDINATOR
I'm Rebecca the new co-ordinator on Mull. I was brought up on the island and am now bringing my own family up here. Having 2 young children, who are amazing but do keep me on my toes, I know first-hand the struggles families face on the island. I am absolutely delighted to be working with Home Start and am completely loving my new role.



KIRSTY - DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Following our expansion on the Isle of Mull, I took up the new position of Home-start Development Officer in September 2021 having worked as Co-ordinator since November 2017. I am enjoying the challenges and opportunities that the job entails. I also feel very lucky to work for an organisation which provides such a meaningful service within my community.



SIUBHAN - FAMILY SUPPORT WORKER
I live in Oban with my husband and children (9 and 5). After school I attended Strathclyde University and gained a degree in Community Education. I've worked mainly in the charity sector for charities such as Quarriers and Carr Gomm and most recently for Edinburgh based charity, Minority Ethnic Carers of People Project (MECOPP). I also work in a residential children's home supporting looked after children and teenagers. When I'm not working, I love to be outdoors with my family, on a bike, up a hill, on a beach or in the sea!



ANDREW - ADMINISTRATOR
I live in Taynuilt & took up the post in early 2021. I'm enjoying the diversity of the role so far. Following a long period working in a commercial setting, I wanted to work in an environment that was more about helping and meeting the local community rather than merely trying to make a profit for a faceless corporation.

GROUPS GALORE!

Since the lockdown's easing, we are pleased to let everybody know that many of our groups have restarted and that we have number of new groups now underway. To highlight a couple, we were lucky enough to have a **Soft-Play** gathering at Go-Banana's in Oban and will aim to make this a monthly meet-up. Soft play is very popular with children of all ages and needs, as it provides a safe and fun environment for them to explore and hone their sensory and interactive skills. We also have a weekly social meet in our **Stork Cafe** - at the Hope Kitchen where children and parents can meet and mingle, chat, play and relax with a soft drink.

Follow our Facebook group for the most up to date info or email Siubhan or Andrew at fsw@homestartlorn.org.uk or admin@homestartlorn.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/598832054834466>



BELOW: **Before** & **After** comments from one of our group meet ups.

How Do You FEEL THIS MORNING ?

knackered

A Bit Stressed
& Anxious.

ANXIOUS AFTER
A BIG TANTRUM.

fine
Enjoying the sun

Afraid. Anxious.

Tired.

How Do You feel Now?

Relaxed & Comfy.

Energized + Happy.

Karram was shy
and afraid, now
he is good and happy.

HAPPY :)

Much better -
nice to see everyone
happy the boys have
done something
Happy Child

energized + happy
Seren made pals ♥

New Premises on Mull



In order to further expand our support network on Mull, we have acquired a new office space in the town of Tobermory. We have also appointed a new development officer in order to develop our service so that we can expand to other areas in Argyll & the Islands:

Our **Mull Office** will shortly be open for day to day visits Monday to Friday and will be situated on the Main St in Tobermory on the Isle of Mull above the Virgin Money (formerly Clydesdale bank) branch. In the office we hope to be able to offer a more convenient space for local families & volunteers where our staff can provide a comfortable setting to hold groups/chats.

Kirsty Renton has transitioned into a new vital role as **Development Officer**. The development officer will support the service and assist with expansion, this role also includes some coordination duties as well as assisting with procuring the support we receive from our donors and funders on a year to year basis.

Mull office: Main Street, Tobermory, Mull
rebecca@homestartlorn.org.uk;
mull@homestartlorn.org.uk

COVID Update

Though vaccinations are now widely in place and on the whole the severity of cases is dropping, we are still mindful that we'd like our staff, families and volunteers to be as careful as possible. Scheme Manager **Hannah** has issued the following advice:

“Where possible please do home visits outdoors. If this is not possible or you feel it would negatively impact on the support or relationship with the family, we recommend wearing a mask when indoors, distance where possible & continue to use sanitiser. If you feel comfortable doing so you can also get lateral flow tests from most local pharmacies to test for COVID. It's currently recommended that this test be performed twice weekly or if you only visit a family once a week could be done just before your visit. Before completing a visit, we are also asking you to complete a COVID Risk assessment and attach it to your volunteer diary (hard copies available). We aim to review this after 2 weeks and provide further guidance. These can be considered uncertain times so please do call if you have any worries or questions - Mob: 07546500291.

If you or your supported family are isolating and requiring support, please let us know. The Hope Kitchen can offer food parcels and I am happy to do food shop/delivery for those isolating and unable to get a delivery.”

The next volunteer meeting will be in early October. We are hoping for a face to face meet up, possibly in the Oban Bay hotel, but will confirm the method of contact the week prior to the meeting.



AND FINALLY...

Following a successful social media and poster recruitment campaign we'll soon be welcoming a number of **new volunteers** to the organisation following their completion of the prep course.

Our new volunteers bring skills from a number of backgrounds including **tutoring and developing youngsters in the sport of swimming**, vast experience managing the challenges that exist within the **prison service**, advising on **housing and benefits services** with the Argyll & Bute council and of course the **raising & supporting** of a number of their own children & families.

The demand for Volunteers is currently at it's highest with a number of families now awaiting support, so if you are aware of any friends or colleagues who may be suitable and interested, we'd love for you to pass our details along - contact Hannah at manager@homestartlorn.org.uk or 01631 566749 for more details.

