

Home-Start provides support to over 350 families per annum (approx. 1225 people) living in Suffolk. Engaging client families where they live, providing trained, experienced, volunteers, we provide the support necessary to give their family the best possible pathway to stability, happiness and cohesion.

During 2018/19 we supported 93 people residing within the town of Felixstowe. Of this 19% of supported parents were under 24, 23% of children had additional needs and 32% of those supported were lone parents.

This was made possible with a grant from Felixstowe Town Council which allowed us to train an additional 9 volunteers in the year.

Sue one of our Felixstowe volunteers who trained in the year was previously supported by Home-Start;

*Sue is a real Home-Start success story. On Friday 3rd December she received her level 2 Accreditation in family support, from Suffolk County Council Commissioner Stuart Hudson. Formerly a supported family herself she has now completed her training to be a Home-Start volunteer and has already supported two local families.*

*At Home-Start we celebrate all of our volunteers, they are people who have worked or are still working in a wide range of professions and from all walks of life. Sue Lloyd however has had quite a journey to becoming a volunteer.*

*6 years ago with a young baby Sue found herself in a difficult marriage and felt isolated due to relocating to a new town away from her friends. After completing the Freedom Programme at The Lighthouse Sue was referred to Home-Start where she was supported by our volunteer Nicci.*

*With encouragement and practical support Sue set up a new life for herself with her older children from her previous marriage and she can now be the parent that she wanted to be.*

*Sue has got a big heart and wanted to 'give something back and help people who are struggling too'.*

*Home-Start is a charity which supports local families who are struggling for all sorts of reasons such as illness, losing a job or having multiple births. We have over 200 trained volunteers who offer a professional friendship to parents and also signpost families to organisations who can provide specialist advice.*

*We believe the best start for a child begins at home with their family. Strong families raise happy children who in turn become better parents themselves.*

*In Sue's case she lost the emotional and practical support of her wider network. Home-Start in Suffolk feel privileged that we could help to fill this void and help her to glue her family back together.*