

**COMMITTEE:** CENTRAL AREA      **REF NO:** CAC/23/14

**DATE:** 3 JANUARY 2024

**SUBJECT:** FUNDING REQUEST: HOME START IN SUFFOLK

**REPORT AUTHOR:** BETH ROBINSON

**SENIOR OFFICER:** ROBIN PAYNE

***Short description of report content and the decision requested:***

This report requests that the Central Area Committee consider allocating £730.39 to Home Start in Suffolk (HSIS), to fund their project which will support parents/carers with children with special educational needs and disability (SEND), including information, ideas, navigating health and social care systems, and supporting in education. This application is part of a multi-area bid, with HSIS requesting proportionate funding from all Area Committees.

***List of Appendices included in this report:***

- a) Appendix 1 - Completed Application Form

*This report has been prepared by Beth Robinson ,*

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***This report was prepared after consultation with:***

*Internal consultees*

*External consultees*

***The following policies form a context to this report:***

*Corporate Strategy – Proud of Ipswich: Championing our Community and Revitalising our Town*

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**1. Item of business and issues for consideration**

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- 1.1 To consider the application of Home Start in Suffolk and decide whether to agree:
- i) Option 1 - Fund the total amount requested.
  - ii) Option 2 - Fund a lesser amount to the amount requested.
  - iii) Option 3 - Not fund.
- 1.2 The Committee will make its decision based on whether the application meets the funding criteria and the funds available to the Committee.
- 1.3 HSIS offer early intervention services to families with children aged 0-12, with a vision that 'every child is given the best support in life because of the love, support, and guidance they receive from their caregivers.
- 1.4 HSIS's main activities are 1-1 support for families who display support needs such as isolation, poor mental health, isolation, bereavement, illness, disability and domestic abuse. In this work, HSIS act as a primary service, either reducing demand on statutory services, and/or empowering families to receive this support if needed.
- 1.5 HSIS currently receive thousands of referrals and work closely with other agencies to provide support, across health, education, and family support services.
- 1.6 This project will focus specifically on supporting families with children with special educational needs and disability (SEND).
- 1.7 Across the borough, there will be 75 beneficiary families, with 220 individuals. Proportions of funding have been calculated using geographical locations of the target 'families with SEND children' target audience.
- 1.8 In Central Ipswich, the project will support 15 families. This will be achieved through group work, owing to increased need in the area, allowing for funding to support more families.
- 1.9 Funding will also support 6 volunteer beneficiaries per area, often using a targeted approach to attract a broader demographic to reflect that of Ipswich.
- 1.10 Home Start in Suffolk track their referrals and Group attendees via their CharityLog Management/Monitoring system and as such can allocate attendees/referees to this specific project.

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**2. Links to Area Action Plan**

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- 2.1 Department of Communities and Local Government - Domains of Deprivation:

- **Education, Skills, and Training**, which is an Area Action Plan priority.
- **Health and Disability**, which is an Area Action Plan Priority.
- **Living Environment**
- **Barriers to Housing and Services.**

2.2 Proud of Ipswich underlying principles:

- **Promoting Community Wellbeing and Fairness in Ipswich, which is *the* action plan priority.**

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### 3. Financial implications

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3.1 There is £2,552.00 remaining unallocated in the Central Area Committee's budget, which is available to fund grant applications.

3.2 Cost breakdown:

Description of expenditure	Cost (£)
SEND Support [calculated costs <u>do not</u> include pensions]	<b>£9,173.08</b> Dedicated time to this project SEND coordinator (536h), admin (52h) and supervision (14h)
Volunteer recruitment and training [calculated costs <u>do not</u> include pensions]	<b>£470.65</b> £433.37 Volunteer & Training Manager (32hrs) £37.28 social media sponsored posts & printing leaflets
Funds to cope with extra capacity/demand	<b>£2,000</b> costs for extra capacity/demand – over the last 6 months we have recorded 28% of all referrals for Ipswich to include SEND needs, this proportion is an increase over previous levels and now appears to be a trend, rather than a blip in our incoming work demand. This funding will contribute to the Group work led by the SEND co-ordinator for Ipswich families.  <i>This £2,000 has been granted by” The 29<sup>th</sup> May 1961 Charitable Trust” as per table below</i>
Total project costs	<b><u>£11643.73</u></b>

Total amount requested from the Area Committee(s)	North West	£3353.56
	South West	£1500.28
	<b>Central</b>	<b>£730.39</b>
	North East	£1676.75
	South East	£2382.75

- 3.3 Home Start in Suffolk has secured £2,000 of grant funding towards the project from The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust.
- 3.4 HSIS are specifically requesting less money from the Central Area Committee, because they have recognised the reduced budget for the area and have thus decided to adapt their project into group sessions rather than 1:1s in the area, meaning the cost per family will be less than in other areas (£49/family).

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#### **4. Legal Implications**

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- 4.1 The Council has the power to make grants to community projects through the Area Committees. The Area Committees have delegated Executive powers and devolved budgets.
- 4.2 Area Committees have the power to award grants in accordance with part 3, section 2 of the Council's Constitution i.e., the Area Committee terms of reference.
- 4.3 Home Start in Suffolk (registered Charity no. 1105001), has provided its constitution, named officers, proof of bank account, year-end accounts, and safeguarding policy as required by the Area Committee Funding Guidelines.

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#### **5. Risks considered**

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<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Consequence of risk</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)</b>	<b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)</b>
Safeguarding risk to children and vulnerable people	Emotional or physical harm to individual	Safeguarding system in place	2	3

<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	All staff and volunteers use a vulnerable children and safeguarding policy.			
<b>Risk Description</b>	<b>Consequence of risk</b>	<b>Risk Controls</b>	<b>Probability of risk occurring taking account of controls (1: almost impossible - 6: very high)</b>	<b>Impact of risk, if it occurred taking account of actions (1: negligible - 4: catastrophic)</b>
Lack of funding from other Area Committees, or part funding.	Project may not be able to run as effectively if not fully funded across all areas.	HSIS have broken down their bid by families supported in the area and continue to seek other funding sources.	2	3
<b>Actions to mitigate risk</b>	HSIS have specified area-specific intervention by the proportionate number of families, thus can support families per area if not funded by all committees. Their project can be adapted to support fewer families.			

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## 6. Options

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- 6.1 Option 1 – Approve allocation of funding of £730.39 to Home Start in Suffolk.
- 6.2 Option 2 – Approve allocation of less than £730.39 as contribution to the same.
- 6.3 Option 3 – Do not fund.

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## 7. Record of Decision taken

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## 8. Exemption from call in (if applicable)

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I certify that this decision is urgent and therefore exempt from call-in for the following reasons:

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Signed.....

[This must be signed by the Chair of the Area Committee]