
Presentation by Amanda Hourmand to NHDC - Royston Area Committee (20 October 2021)

“Thank you for considering our application for a Community Grant to provide home-visiting support for a vulnerable family living in or around Royston and many apologies for not being here in person.

Following our application, I would like to update you on our latest position, including:

- The families supported so far this year
- How we are currently able to support them with our Home-Visiting Service
- Our financial situation.

The effects of the pandemic continue to be felt by our Home-Start Scheme:

(Families)

We are continuing to see a surge in demand for family support, as families struggle to cope with the pandemic’s long-term effects.

Unsurprisingly, needs around isolation and mental health have escalated since the start of the pandemic, with 92% of families telling us they felt isolated when we first met them and 89% reporting mental health issues. This includes already fragile families who face additional apprehension and uncertainty about what lies ahead.

This financial year (as at 14 October) we have supported 26 families residing in Royston or surrounding villages, with a further 2 awaiting their first visit.

(Home-Visiting Support)

To ensure we are able to deliver support to families in a safe and measured way, in-depth COVID risk assessments are undertaken before support starts with each family and during support. This vital, but time-consuming and therefore costly work adds considerably to the workload of our staff.

Once support starts, we now have the flexibility and technical expertise to meet with families face-to-face at home, in parks or gardens, and/or support them online/by phone, depending on each individual family’s circumstances.

cont./....

(Financial Situation)

Our budget for 2021/22 is £185,000, which is needed in order to support the current and anticipated increased demand for our services. As at 14 October we have achieved 36% of this budget, with another 12% confirmed funding between now and the end of the financial year.

In order to achieve this challenging budget, we are continuing to work hard with our applications to statutory sources, such as yourselves, trusts & foundations and businesses and are concentrating our efforts on the fundraising events and community initiatives, which we have not had to cancel due to the continuing effects of the pandemic.

I do hope this presentation, together with my original application, gives you all the information you need and thank you again for considering our application for a Community Grant.”

Prepared by: Amanda Hourmand, Fundraiser, 15 October 2021