

**Home-Start Lomond
(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Trustees' Report
to the Annual General Meeting dated 8 April 2025
for the year ended
31 March 2025**

Charity Registration Number Home-Start Lomond [SCIO], SC053026

Parent Charity Registration Number in Scotland SC039172

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Legal and administrative information

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| The Name the Charity is Known By: | Home Start Lomond |
| Address | Drumfork Community Centre Churchill Square Helensburgh G84 9HL |
| Website | https://homestartlomond.org.uk |
| Parent Charity Name | Home-Start UK |
| Parent Charity Registration Number | In Scotland SC039172. Registered in England Company no. 5382181. |
| Regulatory Type | Standard |
| Trustees: | Peter Kemp (Chair) Emily Gregson (Treasurer) Anne Louise Mathis (Secretary) Irene Edwards Garth Atkinson Mhairi Murning (retired to join employed staff) Kay Gilhespie (retired – moved south) Victoria Fletcher (retired to prioritise Family Support Volunteering) |

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Report of the trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2025

The trustees present their report for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees, who are also directors of Home-Start Lomond for the purposes of company law and who served during the year and up to the date of this report, are listed below.

Home-Start Lomond was established on 1st April 2024. This report covers the first year of operation as an independent charity.

Mission Statement

Home-Start Lomond is a volunteer-led early intervention, bespoke and person-centered family support service. We provide non-judgmental and compassionate support and advocacy to promote whole family well-being and to enable children to thrive.

Our Underpinning Values and Core Beliefs

- A whole family, compassionate approach supports families to flourish.
- Families should have a safe place to call home, an income that keeps them out of poverty, and access to health, care and welfare.
- Families should have access to the support they need, when they need it, and they should have a voice in shaping this support.
- All children and families should know and enjoy their fundamental rights and should never be subjected to discrimination.

The purpose of Home-Start Lomond is to improve the wellbeing of expectant mothers and families with young children. The family support provided is delivered by trained and committed volunteers, professionally managed by a small team of qualified operational staff employing best practice in fund-raised and financial controls, safeguarding and information management.

Home-Start Lomond's 3 year Strategic Target is to be a financially secure, operationally resilient, and efficiently managed charity with the capacity to provide bespoke one-to-one support to meet the demand of families with young children in Helensburgh, Lomond and West Dunbartonshire.

Organisational Structure

In September 2022, a Home-Start service serving the Helensburgh area of Argyll and Bute was initiated under the governance of the Home-Start Lorn Board in Oban. Arrangements to transition this service into a self-sustaining, independent charity operated from offices in Helensburgh progressed and in December 2023 the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) granted Home-Start Lomond independent charitable status. On 1st April 2024 Home-Start UK gave formal endorsement for Home-Start Lomond to operate using the Home-Start name, governance regime and associated intellectual property.

Now fully established, Home-Start Lomond is managed by a board of Trustees whose members are elected in accordance with the Charity's constitution. All Trustees follow a set recruitment and training programme as detailed in the national Home-Start Handbook. This includes the standards and methods of practice, the code of conduct and the policies and procedures of the organisation.

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The office bearers include a Chair, Treasurer and Secretary. Trustees are appointed for 3 years at which point they must re-apply if they wish to remain on the Board. A third of Trustees must also resign at the AGM and must apply to the remaining members of the Board for re-election.

The Board Trustees meet on a monthly basis to overview and discuss selected areas service delivery. Minutes of these focussed meetings are taken and the required actions recorded and tracked. Full Board Meetings including attendance from the employed operations team with a comprehensive agenda and minutes are held every quarter.

A 3 year strategic plan has been developed by the Board. The financial strategy to resource this plan has also been discussed and agreed for the year ahead. Workshops and training workshops are held as required which both volunteers and families are invited.

The service is managed and delivered by a full-time Operations Manager, who is supported by three part time administrative and support staff.

Family Support

Family Support Volunteers are the core of our service. The Board are indebted to all these volunteers and we would like to formally recognise their commitment in this report.

All volunteers receive an induction programme and regular training and support. A routine programme of appraisals with volunteers is undertaken by the Operations Manager. Regular meetings with volunteers occur to inform service delivery and development.

In addition to bespoke one-to-one family support, a programme of group-based support is also provided.

Risk Management

The Trustees have discussed the risks associated with the Charity's service provision and is developing a risk management process to identify and mitigate. Formalising this process is a priority in the coming year.

Board of Trustee Priorities and Achievements

Home-Start Lomond has successfully completed its first year as an independent charity. In the months prior to being established the focus was to recruit a Board of Trustees, open a bank account, arrange insurance and employ a professional book-keeper to manage the pay-role. The process of breaking away from Home-Start Lorn also required the transfer of responsibility for the line-management of the operations manager and professional administrative and support staff. Transferring the finance that had been banked and managed by Lorn for the operation of Lomond was also a complex process that took time to negotiate.

Once registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator, the first priority of the Board was to ensure the service delivery to our families was 'safe and legal'. The Board was also committed to maintaining continuity of service for those Lomond families who were previously being supported by Home-Start Lorn in Oban. One year in, the charity can report that it is financially secure, policy compliant and has a strategic plan for the next 3 years.