THE ROLE OF A HOME-START WSBA VOLUNTEER

To help give children the best possible start in life, Home-Start WSBA supports parents as they grow in confidence, strengthen their relationships with their children and widen their links with the local community.

Home-Start WSBA offers support, friendship and practical help to parents with young children across the WSBA community (Episkopi & Akrotiri).

The work of the volunteer requires a high level of commitment and reliability and will be supported by the Home-Start WSBA Manager and Operations Assistants.

The Home-Start WSBA Approach

Home-Start WSBA volunteers are expected to work towards the increased confidence and independence of the family by:

- Developing a supportive relationship with the family in which time can be shared and an understanding can be built
- Visiting the families in their own homes, where the dignity and identity of every person can be respected and protected
- Offering support, friendship and practical help
- Reassuring families that difficulties in bringing up children are not unusual
- Emphasising the positive aspects of family life
- Encouraging parents' strengths and emotional well-being for the ultimate benefit of their own children
- Encouraging families to widen their network of relationships and to use effectively the support and services available in the community

Support for Volunteers

The Home-Start WSBA Manager & Operations Assistants support volunteers in their work with families offering regular 1:1 supervision and training for the role.

Commitment required

- Initial course of preparation – this is made up of a two-part structure whereby volunteers are required to complete an online preparation course, followed then by a one day in-person session
- Volunteers are required to complete Safeguarding Level 2 – this course is ran by BFSWS and runs quarterly throughout the year

- Time with families each week – to meet the needs of families and ensure the best support, we ask volunteers to offer to spend time with their family/ies at least once per week, depending on the needs of the family and the support being offered
- Willingness to accept regular support and supervision in respect of their voluntary activity
- Fulfil an expectation to offer their time to Home-Start for at least one year

Expectations of volunteers

In line with the guidance provided on the Volunteer Training Course, volunteers are expected to:

- Be familiar with and committed to the Home-Start ethos
- Understand and implement Home-Start's policies on:
    1. Equality, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
    2. Looking after children in the absence of their parents
    3. Safeguarding and protecting children policy
    4. Safeguarding and protecting adults at risk policy and procedure
    5. Confidentiality policy
    6. GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) Policy

- Be introduced to and support a family or families by visiting for a minimum of 1 hour once a week (this support will be regularly reviewed by a Co-ordinator)
- Share information with the co-ordinator and contact the co-ordinator immediately if there is concern about the physical or emotional well-being of any member of the family
- Take part in reviews with the family and co-ordinator as requested
- Keep records of each visit to families by completing the Volunteer Diary on Charitylog
- Attend support, supervision and training sessions as arranged by the scheme
- Submit travel and out of pocket expenses on a monthly basis, which will be paid at the agreed rate by the MOD
- Inform their insurance company that their car is being used for voluntary work with Home-Start Cyprus WSBA for which expenses are paid.

This exciting and rewarding voluntary activity requires energy, commitment, reliability, creativity and a sense of humour.

All volunteers can expect the support of the Home-Start manager and co-ordinators, other volunteers and, through the co-ordinators, other professionals involved with the family. This volunteer role offers opportunities for self-development and social contact with others within the Home-Start team.

If you have any queries or further questions about the role of a Home-Start volunteer, please get in touch by contacting the office on +357 2596 3748 or via email: homestartwsba@yahoo.com

Team Home-Start Cyprus WSBA.