

HOME START

Lorn

Home-Start Lorn Scheme Newsletter

January 2025

Home is where we start from
across Oban, Lorn & the islands.



Since October 2024, so far we have supported....

39

Families
supported via
1-2-1 support

59

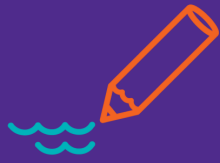
Children
supported via
1-2-1 support

280

Parents
supported via
group activities



New Year News 2025...



Manager's welcome...

Welcome to the first edition of our quarterly newsletter in 2025! As always, another busy period for us at Home-Start Lorn, filled with festive cheer and our continued work on our new premises!

We are thrilled to announce that we have welcomed two new volunteers to our service, with a third currently undergoing training! They have begun their volunteer journeys by assisting our family coordinators in groups, helping them support and connect with families. Soon, they will be matched with their very own Home-Start families to offer one-on-one support and friendship.

We are also pleased to share that, using data from our family assessment outcome measures within the last quarter, we have noted a reduction of 17% in levels of stress caused by conflict within the family, and families have reported a 10% improvement on managing the household budget while receiving Home-Start support.

In this past quarter, our primary focuses included spreading festive joy in the build up to Christmas at the end of 2024, as well as the ongoing transition into our new premises.



Family Centre latest update

We are excited to announce that, although we are not completely finished, we have officially moved into our new premises! Our Oban team now has a dedicated office space that includes a front workspace and a back room for meetings, training and to provide one-on-one support and friendship to families. Our new signage is also now up!

While the family centre is still in progress and currently serves as storage for old and new equipment, we are working hard to create a fun and engaging environment for families. We are pleased to share that our family centre kitchen has been fitted, thanks to a generous donation from Moors Direct. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Andy, the Project Manager for Scotland, and his team for their kindness and support during the design and installation of the kitchen. This donation was made possible by a recommendation from Ken, the Community Benefits Officer at the Link Group, for which we are also very thankful.

As the project end date approaches, we are excited to announce our **official launch event on Wednesday, February 19th, from 11 AM to 2 PM**. We invite you to join us to explore the space and meet the team behind our charity, who have made this possible. During the event, we will have information tables where you can learn more about the project, our mission, and the work we do. Refreshments and snacks will also be provided for everyone to enjoy. Please join us for the official ribbon-cutting ceremony and a welcome speech at 12 PM. We look forward to seeing you there!



Family Centre Launch...



Family Centre Launch Event
Wednesday 19th February 2025

11am—2pm drop-in window

Midday official ribbon cutting and speeches

All welcome! We hope to see you there :)

OPENING SOON

SAVE The Date

19.02.2025

New Family Centre

Everyone Welcome 11-2pm

Home Start Lorn

Telephone: 01631 250103

12-14 Stevenson Street, Oban PA34 5NA

Tel: 01631 250103

Email: manager@homestartlorn.org.uk



Mull Leadership Role

In 2012, we expanded our services to the Island of Mull to address the increasing needs of island families. Over the past 12 years, our presence on the island has flourished, with remarkable growth, particularly in the last three years. Currently, we support more than 63 families on the island, have two staff members, 10 volunteers, and conduct various groups from Tobermory to Bunessan. As our services continue to expand, we recognise the need for an increased leadership presence on the Mull side of the service, and we believe that our current Family Coordinator, Rebecca, is the perfect fit for this role. Rebecca will now serve as our Senior Mull Coordinator, which will involve an increase in her hours and responsibilities, allowing her and the fantastic Kirsty to effectively respond to the island's needs and further develop our services. Given Rebecca's impressive achievements over the past three years, we are excited about the bright future that lies ahead for Home-Start Lorn, Mull, and we can't wait for everyone to join us on this journey.



Oban Christmas Donations

Once again the community went over and above to provide Christmas gift donations to our families, we were able to provide gifts to over 40 local families. A special thank you to staff and students at Argyll College for their generous collection of gifts. Waterstones and their very generous customers for holding and donating to their toy drive in aid of Home-Start Lorn. Colin and team at The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service for their donations, Hope Kitchen for their lovely hampers and the many members of the public who dropped very kind donations into the office. Rose's Reads for the beautiful selection of books.

A very special thank you to Matthew who came in with his Mum to drop off some hand chosen gifts for other boys and girls and Lily who came in with her Mum to drop off a lovely box of Lego gifts. The support we provide to local families is only made possible by the support of the local community and we are incredibly grateful for this, especially around Christmas time.





Mulling over Mull!

News from Mull

A very Happy New Year from Mull! We hope everyone had a wonderful festive period and we're looking forward to getting planning for 2025!

Back at the beginning of 2024 we were nominated as the 'Peoples Choice' to win funding from our Mull and Iona Binman's Calendar sales. The Binman's calendars go on sale every year made up of pictures Colin, our local Binman takes on his rounds around the island. All the money made from these calendars go to local charities. Over the last 7 years a massive total of £42,000 has been donated from the calendar sales to local charities on the island! In November Colin, the famous binman himself, popped along to our Friday group to hand over a £500 donation! Some of this money was put towards our Christmas party and gifts over the festive period and the rest will be put towards community events in 2025.

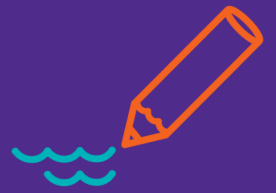
For the first time we had our own Christmas Tree festival organised by our minister on the island In early December. 39 Christmas trees from groups, charities, schools and individuals where put up in the Salen church for 3 days of festive joy with carols, arts and crafts and get togethers in this wonderful community event. Our tree focused on the importance of family at Christmas and it's who's around the tree that's the most important part. We had children who attend our groups from across the island make decorations to hang on our beautiful orange and purple, Home-Start coloured tree.

Christmas is a magical time but it can also be an incredibly worrying and stressful time. We put together 3 Donation drop off boxes in Tobermory and Salen and asked the local community if they'd like to donate to a local family to pop anything appropriate in our boxes. We were inundated with amazing gifts and donations, members of the community also reached out directly to gift presents and gifts. We were able to collect and distribute these donations to families in time for Christmas. We would like to extend a massive thank you to everyone who donated to our drop off boxes – we were overwhelmed by the amount of donations and our families were incredibly thankful for them at a very busy time of year!

Our final week of 2024 saw the return of our Christmas party. This was a wonderful festive morning with tree decoration making, biscuit decorating, festive snacks and a great opportunity to catch up with friends before the festive period. We also had a very special visitor who brought gifts for all the children. It was a lovely morning filled with festive tunes, laughs and fun to top off our 2024 year.



Community Ceilidh



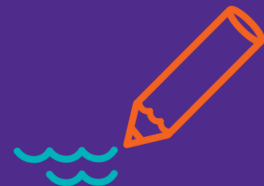
Family Coordinator Kelly MacColl took the lead organising another fabulous community Ceilidh on Saturday 23rd November. Kelly reports:

The Ceilidh was a huge success with over 140 attendees. Thank you so much to everyone who came along and supported us. Thank you to the Royal Hotel for the venue and going above and beyond – Staff were great! Thank you to the band, Angus J MacColl and Friends for providing us with great entertainment and also to every single local business and person who donated raffle prizes, it's greatly appreciated. In total we raised an amazing £1,445.40 which will go towards the running of our groups, family support and it also let us throw our families a Christmas Party, which included food, a bouncy castle and Santa with a present for each child.

We were able to make this year's ceilidh bigger and better thanks to the Safe Deposits Scotland Community Fund who funded the event. It meant we were able to purchase new merchandise which we can use at future events to promote an increased awareness of Home-Start Lorn. With this money we were also able to offer hot rolls and refreshments to everyone who attended the ceilidh. It was a great night and brought all ages of the community together, it was also lovely to see so many of our families and young children there and getting involved. We hope these events will continue to bring awareness to the charity and bring in some more volunteers.



Festive photos



Home-Start Lorn 'Dummy Tree' at St Conan's Kirk Christmas Tree Festival (Loch Awe)

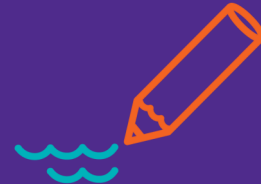


Mull Christmas Tree Festival - Home-Start tree



Christmas parties took place in in Oban and on Mull

Other news...



Home-Start Lorn Chair shortlisted for Trustee of the Year!

Every year Home-Start UK has an awards ceremony to celebrate specific nominated volunteers across the UK-wide network. We recently received the exciting news that our Chairman, Mark Feinmann, has made it to the final shortlist of 19 within the Trustee category, from over 160 nominations. We are delighted that Mark's dedication to the Home-Start Lorn service is being recognized in this way and is very well deserved! It also means that Mark, along with our manager Hannah Gillies, will travel to the award ceremony at The Royal Automobile Club in London in March.



Update from our Board of trustees...

Trustee Toril Frantzen on her experience of being a Trustee for Home-Start Lorn:

A few years ago a friend asked if I would consider becoming a Trustee with Home-Start, she thought my previous work experience as a social worker might be relevant. At that time I had retired and although I was busy catching up on a number of things I had on my Wishlist for retirement I thought maybe some of my skills and knowledge could be useful and also a very long time ago I had actually been a Home-Start volunteer so I was aware of the ethos of the organisation. I've had the privilege to be part of Home-Start Lorn as a Trustee over the last 5 years or so. It has been an interesting journey with lots of changes and challenges along the way but when you see and hear about the difference the service makes to the lives of families and children, it makes it all worthwhile. With the many demands and strains on families now, most parents can probably think of a time when they felt the need for some extra support or just someone to talk to. And Home-Start Lorn is very good at this, with its dedicated and enthusiastic staff and volunteers any parent with a young child(ren) can come along to a group or ask for some support. The move into the new premises is opening a whole set of opportunities and we are all excited and hopeful for what this will bring.

SHARE STORIES OR EXPERIENCES OF PREGNANCY OR BEING A NEW MUM

HOME START
Lorn

Are you pregnant or have a child under 1 year?
Come along and meet other new and expecting mums

FRIDAY 10.30-12
ROCKFIELD CENTRE CAFE

INFORMAL GET TOGETHER FOR TEA/COFFEE, CAKE AND A CHAT

Funding News



We were really delighted to be able to apply for, and successfully secure some additional funding from the Scottish Government via the Argyll & the Islands Community Led Local Development Fund (CLLD Fund). The CLLD Fund has provided the most substantial contribution to the Family Centre development project, both the renovation of the premises and equipping the space. We were originally awarded funding in August 2024 and received confirmation that our application for further funds had been successful in December 2024. Most excitingly this latest award will allow staff to fulfil some specific training which will best equip the team to deliver the new phase of the service within the Family Centre.

We were also delighted to be awarded funding through the SUEZ Community Fund which is one of the approved bodies through which funding from the Scottish Landfill Trust is distributed. This was brilliant news as it has covered the remaining gaps in funding which were outstanding for the Family Centre renovation. The contribution from SUEZ was the 'final piece in the puzzle' which has allowed us to finish the work and prepare to officially open!



An enormous thank you to all of our funders! Without their support, belief in the service, and financial backing, we would not be able to operate.



As a charity, our continued service provision is always reliant on securing ongoing funding.

If you are reading this newsletter and are in a position to make a monetary contribution, please see our website for full information about different ways to donate:

<https://homestartlorn.org.uk/funding>

