

# HomeStart Lorn

Newsletter June 2021



## Our first Newsletter

Welcome to our first Newsletter which we aim to publish monthly to share an update on all things Homestart Lorn.

The past few months have been particularly challenging for us all with Covid still constraining us and the office missing the gentle hand of Aileen to keep the show on the road. Covid has hit families and the service we provide hard and we have had a fall off in the number of referrals that are made to us and in the numbers of volunteers that have expressed an interest in working with us. Apart from using the time to find a replacement for Aileen, members of our Committee and those staff who have joined us, have been thinking hard

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### NEW RECRUITS

We're pleased to welcome a number of new faces!

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### SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Saying THANKS to Aileen Binner.

3

### VOLUNTEER MEETINGS

Connecting and supporting volunteers.



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about the service we provide and how we can ensure we are supporting as many families as possible. We want to use this newsletter, not just to keep you informed and to share some of our ideas with you but find better ways of hearing from you. We are planning for a larger event in September where we hope to see and hear from you but meanwhile a short update on what we have been doing...



## New Recruits

Much of our time has involved recruiting and inducting new staff.

Homestart Lorn will shortly have a complement of four staff. After a lengthy interview process we have appointed:

**Hannah Gillies** to replace Aileen Binner as our Service Manager. Hannah is a Social Worker by background and lives in Oban. Hannah starts with us on the 12th July and I know will be wanting to meet with you all to build on the strong foundations that Aileen left in place.

**Siubhan O'Rourke** joined us as our Perinatal Family Support Worker in May. Siubhan will complement the support volunteers provide to families by offering direct support prior to a baby being born. Siubhan has established an excellent track record of supporting families in the Glasgow and Oban areas.

**Andrew Parker** is our new administrator and joins us with lots of ideas, particularly in helping us to use Social Media to improve the image and awareness of our service.

**Kirsty Renton** as ever continues to coordinate support to volunteers and families on Mull.

The new staff team will take time to acclimatise and find their feet, we have taken on a larger office area in the Homestart building to help accommodate them and we look forward to a summer where we can think hard about the service we offer and the ways in which we can improve it.

**“Call in to the office anytime!  
Or contact us on  
[admin@homestartlorn.org.uk](mailto:admin@homestartlorn.org.uk)  
or 01631 566749 - Andrew”**

## AILEEN'S SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Homestart Lorn has a long tradition of holding a summer garden party. We were unable to hold one last year because of Covid, but this year we are confident that an outside event is possible. We will hold the event on **July 13th** at **Dunollie** and will use it to personally thank Aileen for all the effort she put into Homestart Lorn.

We will provide more detailed information and send invites to you shortly but wanted you to **save the date!** It will be an opportunity for us all to say our goodbyes to Aileen and welcome the new staff to Homestart Lorn....We look forward to seeing you there!







## Volunteer meetings

Following Aileen's departure, we are well aware that the regular support that was provided by her to volunteers has reduced.

One of Hannah's first tasks will be visiting all volunteers from July. Andrew will be in contact to arrange suitable times for you to meet. We also want to establish regular volunteer meetings, which I propose we continue to do on-line for now. One of the skills we have all learnt during the lockdown period is how to use Zoom and it seems to me that regular online meetings can be much more convenient and focused for many. Members of our Committee would also like to join these meetings so that they may get to know the volunteers and help, in addressing any issues that may arise. The suggested dates for future volunteer meetings are as follows:

July 5th  
August 2nd  
September 6th  
October 4th  
November 1st  
December 6th

## Covid update

The resurgence of Covid in the Oban area is a worry and we should be extra careful about visiting families and in particular should continue to wear masks, maintain social distance and wash hands. Where possible indoor meetings should be kept to a minimum and since Covid Tests are freely available on the NHS, we advise you to use these, as and when necessary. We have sent out specific advice to those volunteers who are meeting with families but we are not out of the woods yet and it is very important that we stay safe and look after ourselves. I hope all of you have been able to have a double vaccine by now but if not, please contact us and we will do what we can to help.

Thanks for reading!

**Mark Feinmann**

- Chair Homestart Lorn



**“Home is where we start from” Homestart UK**