

HOME-START

LORN



Support and friendship  
for families



ANNUAL  
REPORT

2009-2010

Home-Start Lorn

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## Co-ordinator's Report

2009-2010

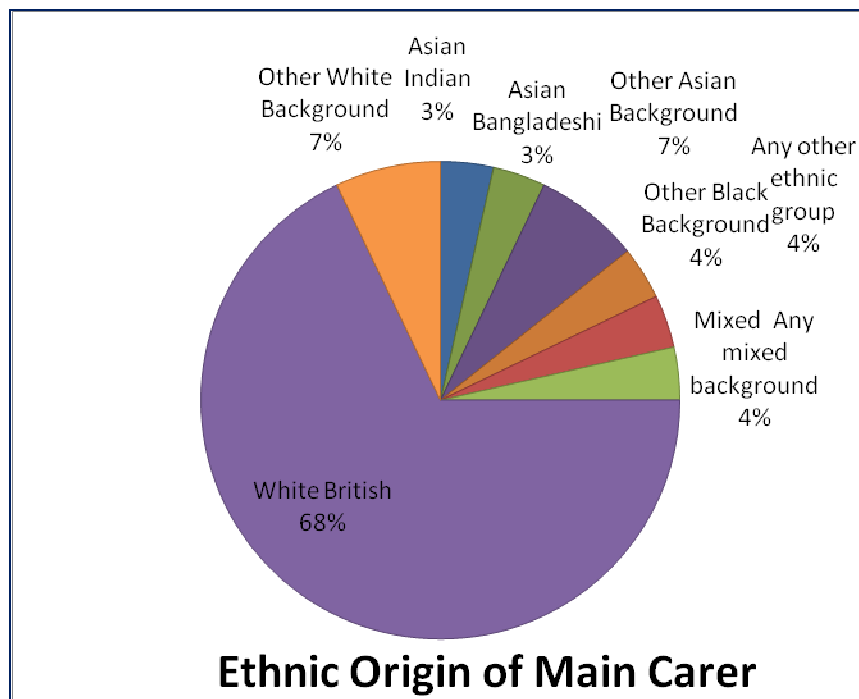
It's always good to take some time to reflect on the year which has gone by. It's so easy to recall some of the 'challenges' with which we were faced, and we often overlook the really good & positive experiences. I'm pleased to say that when I had time to give some thought to last year I was able to identify lots of those 'good & positive experiences' and I can say Home-Start Lorn has had another great year! I hope that the fact we have had a great year also reflects the fact that for some of our families – they may not be able to say they have had a great year, but perhaps it is thanks to us that they have coped with some very challenging & sometimes 'dark' situations. Our volunteer numbers peaked at 20 for a short time. Although they have dropped to 18, none of our volunteers are resting which is very good news for families. Our only disappointment last year was that we supported only 28 families and not the 30 – 35 which was our target – as my old school report used to say – should try harder!! We had our usual summer picnic and Christmas party – both very successful and enjoyed by both families and volunteers. We are very grateful to Mrs. S. Troughton for allowing us to picnic in the garden at Ardchattan Priory. The Art Group has been an exciting new development & we have been very fortunate that Community Learning & Regeneration have funded this. As can be noted from our annual statistics we have seen a large increase in the ethnic diversity of the families we have supported. For many of these families their English has been very limited and they have benefitted greatly from the opportunity to attend the Art Group. Maureen Evans from Community Learning has been a great support in identifying funding for this group. Our Quality Assurance review was carried out last week & with only 3 relatively minor points which need to be addressed I believe we should be very pleased with how our scheme is regarded both within the local community and within Home-Start Nationally (and perhaps, also internationally). I know I say it every year – but it is only right that the people who make Home-Start Lorn such a professional, valued organisation should be acknowledged. I am very grateful to our volunteers, both Home-visitors and the trustees, who give so willingly of their time and energy. Gill, who herself is so organised and meticulous, somehow manages to tolerate my rather 'less organised' fashion. There are others, who no longer closely involved with Home-Start still offer great support. People like Seonag Morison & Marie Grier who still provide generous support; Seonag with her jam & Marie with her energy staffing our fund-raising Stalls. This year we had tremendous support from Alex Needham & his staff from the Waterfront. Alex's offer to cater for a Burn's Supper helped us raise over £1000 and gave lots of people a really good night out. Last year's report ended with the news that Irene Harrower had been chosen as Volunteer of the year. It seems fitting to end this year's report with an up-date...

Irene's award was presented in the Council Chambers in June last year, at what was an extremely emotional ceremony, particularly when it was announced that Irene was also the recipient of the Sargus Memorial prize - £1000 of travel vouchers. I know I'm biased, but I don't believe there has been a more worthy winner & she has been an amazing ambassador for Home-Start. I'm very pleased that Irene has agreed to attend the AGM & share some of her experiences of her visit to Home-Start in South Africa.



Irene Harrower,  
outside Home-Start  
Benoni in South Africa

An important factor in Home-Start support is our flexibility and willingness to adapt to the changing needs of families in our area. The chart below shows the ethnic origin of the main carer in each of the families we supported in 2009 -2010. You can see from the Pie-Chart that 32% of the families we supported described themselves as other than White British, this compares with only 3% in 2008-2009. This has also meant that we have supported a number of families for whom English was not their first language and that has been an added challenge for the volunteers as well as the families.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
Argyll & Bute Council (Sure-Start)	25000	Salaries	39391
Robertson Trust	8000	Travel Expenses	4086
Children in Need	5500	Telephone	445
Cattenach Trust	5000	Insurance	661
Scottish Community Foundation	5000	Rent	3000
Donations	1771	Repairs & Maintenance	804
Fund Raising	4016	Postage, Stationery, etc.	1270
Bank Interest	25	Advertising, Literature, etc.	127
		Subscriptions, Fees, etc.	890
		Training expenses	396
		General Expenses	706
	<b>54312</b>		<b>51776</b>
<b>Net Resources Expended</b>	<b>2536</b>		
<b>Brought Forward</b>	<b>16197</b>		
<b>Total Carried Forward</b>	<b>18733</b>		

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### TRUSTEES

**Chairperson - Bob Clarke**

**Treasurer - David Hodge**

**Gela Rose  
Susie Hutchison  
Fiona Campbell  
Elizabeth Carson  
Ann MacLeod (retired May 2010)  
Val Woodman  
Robin King  
Cassi Carey**

**Advisors- Andrea Lines  
Janice Frank**

### **Our thanks to our funders**

**Argyll & Bute Council, Robertson Trust, BBC Children In Need, Cattenach Trust, Diageo,  
Scottish Community Foundation**