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Charity Number 1148298
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North West Kent

AGM STAFF REPORT

[Since 2019 Meeting]

- **10 new volunteers completed training December 19**
- **Dartford Borough Councillors assisted with initial I.T. update costs**
- **Distribution of food / clothes / equipment / bedding etc. greatly increased**
- **Autism Support Group was started (with ten families at session one) then had to stop due to Covid**
- **Lottery Year 1 Progress Report was submitted and approved**
- **124 referrals received and processed (compared to 155) at an average 13 per month, except for the first 2 months of lockdown when they dropped to two per month. 40% from minority ethnic communities**
- **A new bespoke database [funded by Co-op grants] has been created for our scheme this year, proving timely re staff working from home and improving practice in general. Our next Q.A. inspection, due early 2021, will be easier as a result**

- **Covid-19 practice has involved staff working from home, volunteers and families supported via phone / facetime / WhatsApp groups, Zoom meetings with other HS schemes, conference call Child in Need meetings with other professionals**
- **Washable face masks have been provided for volunteers and Home-Start UK guidance has this week been received indicating home visiting is now covered by our insurance once again (as it is not classed as 'social') with restrictions such as avoiding handling children**
- **A 'Covid-19 grant was applied to Lottery for £11,600 in order to upgrade I.T. etc in the Home-Start office and staff homes, inc. wipeable tablets / phones / printers + wifi boosters - plus office deep clean, washable flooring, Zoom account, room hire re socially distanced training + meetings and we heard this week that it has been approved, to be spent within six months 😊**
- **24 new volunteers are currently awaiting initial training beginning early October – most expressing a preference to meet face-to-face, socially distanced, rather than online. The 40-hour course will therefore be hosted by Dartford Healthy Living Centre – ending with our Christmas Meal for staff, trustees and all volunteers**