E2 Arundel Court, Park Bottom, Arundel, BN18 0AA
01903 953799
admin@home-startawa.org.uk
www.home-startawa.org.uk

Chair of Trustees – Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur

Could you help shape the next chapter of a local charity making a real difference to families?

Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur is looking for a new **Chair of Trustees** to lead our Board and help us build a strong, sustainable future.

Our current Chair is stepping back after several years in the role and will remain as a trustee, providing continuity and support. We're now looking for someone who can bring strategic thinking, sound judgement and an inclusive leadership style to our committed and friendly Board.

About us

Home-Start is a local family support charity, working alongside families when they need us most.

In 2025/26, we supported **196 local families**, with the help of **34 fantastic volunteers**, our dedicated staff team and trustees. We also held two successful fundraising events and ran our third Christmas Appeal.

We're proud of what we achieve, but we're also ambitious about our future.

An important time to join us

Like many charities, we're operating in a challenging funding environment. Securing traditional grant funding is becoming harder, which means we need to think differently about how we build a resilient organisation for the years ahead.

That could mean developing new partnerships, diversifying our income, deepening our engagement with the local community and exploring new ways of working.

We're looking for a Chair who will help us navigate those opportunities: someone who can support and challenge us, bring people together around a clear direction and help turn good ideas into sustainable action.

At the same time, we want to protect something that matters enormously to us: **the warm, local and family-centred culture that makes Home-Start special.**

What would you be doing?

This is a strategic leadership role, working closely with our CEO and fellow trustees.

As Chair, you would:

- Chair six Board meetings each year, including our AGM in November
- Meet monthly with our CEO, ideally in person where possible, with Teams available when needed

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- Help the Board understand the challenges and opportunities ahead and make good strategic decisions
- Act as a trusted sounding board for our CEO and wider team
- Support the development of our strategy and help the Board monitor its delivery
- Maintain positive relationships with Home-Start UK and our local partners
- Contribute to our Quality Assurance reviews
- Help create an inclusive and effective Board where trustees can contribute at their best

Some of our trustees also speak to local community groups about our work. If that appeals to you, we'd welcome your involvement, but it isn't a requirement.

Who are we looking for?

You don't need to have been a charity Chair before.

Could this be you?

You might already be a trustee or non-executive looking to take on a Chair role. Or perhaps you're a senior or recently retired leader from business, the public sector or another organisation who would like to use your experience to make a difference locally.

Your background could be in strategy, leadership, finance, HR, communications, commercial development, professional services, or something entirely different. We're less interested in a particular job title or career path than in what you can bring to the role.

You may be a good fit if you:

- Enjoy thinking strategically and looking ahead
- Can bring different perspectives together and help a group reach good decisions
- Are comfortable offering both support and constructive challenge
- Build positive relationships and bring out the best in others
- Are curious, open-minded and willing to ask the questions that matter
- Care about strengthening your local community and improving outcomes for families

We're looking for someone with the right combination of **strategic thinking, leadership, good judgement and people skills**, together with a genuine interest in what Home-Start does.

You should be comfortable looking at the bigger picture, asking thoughtful questions and helping a group reach good decisions.

You don't need to be a financial expert – our Treasurer leads finance – although a general understanding of accounts would be helpful. We can provide training where needed, including the safeguarding training required for all trustees.

Most importantly, we're looking for someone who wants to get involved, contribute and work collaboratively with the rest of the Board and team.

What's the commitment?

The core commitment is:

- **Six Board meetings per year**, including our AGM in November

- **A monthly meeting with the CEO**, ideally face-to-face, although Teams can be used when needed
- Some additional time for preparation, emails and occasional work between meetings

Safeguarding training is an annual requirement and we'll support you with this.

We recognise that people have busy lives, and we want the role to be manageable alongside other commitments.

What will you get from it?

This is a voluntary position, but it is a role with **genuine substance and influence**.

You'll have the opportunity to help shape the future of an established local charity and see the difference your contribution makes to families in your own community.

You'll join a supportive team of trustees, staff and volunteers who care deeply about what they do, while gaining valuable Board leadership and governance experience.

We'll provide a tailored induction, ongoing training and development, and support you in getting to know Home-Start and the communities we serve. Reasonable out-of-pocket expenses are reimbursed.

Above all, you'll be joining an organisation with a strong sense of purpose, at a point when thoughtful leadership can make a real difference.

Interested?

If this sounds like an opportunity you'd enjoy – or you're interested but not sure whether you have exactly the right background – **we'd still encourage you to get in touch.**

We're interested in the person and what you could bring to Home-Start, rather than finding someone who ticks every box.

We'd be very pleased to hear from you.