

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2010 - 2011

In the words of the song "When the going gets tough...the tough get going" and this year has seen Home-Start NEA moving with the difficult times we live in. This past year has been challenging and extremely busy. We moved office, said goodbye to Helen, our Co-ordinator of 8 years, and welcomed Lorna in December as her replacement.

In October we moved from an upstairs and not very accessible base, into the Hub, which is owned by The Fraserburgh Development Trust (FDT) and has proved to be a positive and beneficial move for the service. The Hub is a home for community organisations and charities and the friendly, supportive environment provided by FDT, along with the potential for partnership working where we can all share our experience, is already having positive effects.

The Trustees are very pleased to welcome Vicki Lamont onto the Board. Vicki's background includes working with volunteers to organise clubs for people with disabilities, organising rota of volunteers to work with a Dial-A-Bus scheme as well as the assessing and provision of services to assist older and disabled people to maintain independent living.

Despite the current deep recession, I am pleased to report that the scheme has been financially stronger this year, which is encouraging news in these troubled times.

Unfortunately as our new Co-ordinator was not in post for long, we do not have a Co-ordinators Report this year, but the work of supporting families has continued successfully with the hard work of the Home-Start NEA team of Volunteers, Staff and Board Members.

As always with a successful team effort, there are so many people to thank. I would like to make special mention of Alison our Administrative Assistant, for all her hard work and support to all the volunteers, including Board members and we would also like to thank Alasdair MacRae, our Home-Start UK Consultant, who is constantly there to offer advice and help.

As a former volunteer visitor myself, I know how important Home-Start volunteers are to those families with whom we work. Schemes such as Home-Start NEA are vital to the welfare of local families who for whatever reason require our support.

We would also like to thank Aberdeenshire Council for our core funding which enables us to support this life changing and unique home visiting community service.

Finally, may I express my appreciation to the Board, staff and the volunteers for their hard work, dedication and commitment, and a big "thank you" to everyone who carried out fundraising, or made donations or grants toward the excellent work of Home-Start NEA.

Flora Todd, Chairperson



TREASURER'S REPORT 2010 - 2011

Let me introduce myself, I am Elaine Ritchie and I am the treasurer for Home-Start North East Aberdeenshire.

I took over the duty of treasurer in October 2006 having been a board member for just over a year. Previously, I was the Admin Assistant for Home-Start NEA for 4 years before moving on to become Coordinator of a group of volunteers.

Successful funding applications have enabled the scheme to be a bit more financially stable this past year, staff vacancies has also contributed. Although funding applications must still be a priority for the coming year. Fundraising and raising the profile of Home-Start NEA also is a priority.

The scheme moved premises in October and this has helped reduced the cost of the schemes overheads considerably. Having moved to "The Hub" the scheme has become more accessible and the staff can interact with other agencies who will be sharing the premises.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the board members, volunteers, Helen and Alison for all their fundraising efforts throughout the past year.

Elaine Ritchie, Treasurer

