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10<sup>th</sup> August, 2019

Didcot Town Council,  
Britwell Road,  
Didcot,  
Oxon. OX11 7HN

Dear Town Council,

I am writing to update the Council on the grant awarded to Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire in April this year.

Home-Start Southern Oxfordshire was very grateful to be granted £2,000 by Didcot Town Council in April 2019.

We are extremely proud this year to be celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> year of supporting families in Didcot and surrounding areas.

Since April we have supported 12 families with home-visiting volunteers in Didcot, 27 at our First Babies Group and 11 at our Monday Group.

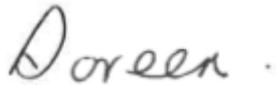
The First Babies group is a drop-in group open to all families who are either expecting their first baby or have a baby under the age of 15 months. It is held in All Saints Community Hall on the Ladygrove estate. The group provides a space where new parents can meet other new parents in their local area, talk about their experiences and for babies to start interacting with one another with a range of toys. The group has been running for 26 years now and remains as popular as ever!

Our Monday Group is for referred families who are either experiencing post-natal depression, anxiety or mental health issues and prefer to attend a smaller group. Families are usually referred to this group by Health Visitors. At the group, parents and children are supported by an experienced group worker who provides stimulating play activities for the children and parents to do together. The group is a supportive environment where parents can share their fears and concerns in a 'safe' environment. This group has met at the local park during the school holidays for 'teddy bears picnics', sharing the benefits of outdoor play for children and encouraging parents to engage with their children in a different environment.

We are in the process of recruiting more volunteers to visit families in Didcot and surrounding areas, and plan to run a volunteer preparation course in Didcot, starting in September. We aim to support local families with local volunteers, building a stronger community for the future.

We were pleased that the Mayor of Didcot was able to join us for our AGM in July and hear more about the work we do with young families in the town. We are planning a further celebration to mark our 30<sup>th</sup> year in September and invitations will be sent out shortly. We do hope members of the Town Council will be able to attend, and would like to thank them for their continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Doreen .".

Doreen McNulty – Chair  
Trustees