

TFN Impact Report

Name of your Organisation:	Home-Start Oxford
Name of the project TFN funded:	Learning to Live Again
Date Funded by TFN:	18/05/2017
Were you able to undertake your project as planned?	Yes
Can you describe and/or demonstrate the specific impact that TFN funding has had against your initial objectives?	<p>Funding from The Funding Network has enabled us to pilot tailored support to 6 families, including 6 parents and 13 children, all victims of domestic abuse. The key difference between this funded work and traditional Home Start support has been the open dialogue around domestic abuse and its impact on the family; helping to make the necessary changes to overcome this trauma, in particular to the children and breaking the cycle of repeated abusive relationships.</p> <p>Families have been visited weekly by a Home Start Family Support Worker, to help with a range of identified support needs, measured at 3 monthly intervals via parents' coping scores (0 not coping - 5 coping well). The following figures indicate the progress from start of support to its mid-point or end:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting parents' and children's wellbeing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parents' wellbeing: physical health 3 - 4; mental health 2.5 - 4.3 ○ Children's wellbeing: physical health 4.3 - 4.7; mental health 3.7 - 5 • Parenting (managing children's behaviour/being involved in children's learning and development) : 3.5 - 4.8 • Household management (moving house, keeping on top of the home, financial issues): 3.4 - 4.2 • Reducing isolation (accessing services, attending appointments, building positive relationships): 3.2 - 5 • Stress caused by conflict in the family - (relationship with ex-partner/ child's contact arrangements): 2.2 - 4.7 <p>(All coping scores are averages for the project)</p> <p>The increase in coping scores evidences the support having a significant impact on these families' lives.</p> <p>A notable change is the increase in coping scores for the children. Conventionally we find parents do not provide low coping scores for their children, resulting in little increase in outcomes. This is typically attributed to either, fear of admitting to, or lack of understanding on the impact of their family life on their children.</p> <p>This pilot work has enabled the effects of domestic abuse on children's wellbeing to be a fundamental focus of support, helping parents understanding and acknowledged in the coping scores for their children's wellbeing.</p> <p>5 of the parents remain separated from their abusive partner.</p>

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	<p>1 parent has returned to her husband due to the pressures of her extended family and culture. The couple have received relationship counselling with an emphasis on the impact of domestic abuse on their children. Mum reports “I am stronger now, he knows I can cope on my own. I can do things that I didn't know before, like manage my money”.</p> <p>We have observed parents' emotionally more available to meet their children's needs. Children who were displaying challenging behaviour are much calmer and happier, responding to introduced parenting strategies. Through play activities including going out to local parks and Peep sessions we have encouraged parents to have fun with their children. With their increased confidence to cope, parents and children have healthier relationships and are able to enjoy being together.</p> <p>Our biggest challenge has been obtaining referrals for the project from the domestic abuse service, Reducing the Risk. A combination of circumstances including changes to service provision and not having appropriate families' need for an interpreter, no children aged under 5 or the family not at the 'right place' for Home Start support. We have accepted referrals from other sources including Health visitors (2), social care (2), Reducing the Risk (1) and 1 self-referral.</p>
What portion of the project did TFN fund?	60%
How many direct beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	19 (13 children and 6 parents)
How many indirect beneficiaries did the TFN funded project reach?	5 (including partners and volunteers)
Were you able to leverage further funding as a result of TFN support?	Yes
If yes, how much were you able to raise?	£5,000 from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, to date. We have two funders interested in helping us develop the work further, with the potential for a further £70,000+ investment, on which we are awaiting decisions.
Did you receive any pro-bono support, volunteer offers or introductions as a result of the event?	Yes
If yes, please can you provide details of the support you received?	The event introduced us to potential longer term supporters for our work, who we have been delighted to engage with following the pitch.

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<p>How important was TFN funding in helping you achieve your objectives?</p>	<p>We wouldn't have been able to achieve our objectives without TFN funding</p>
<p>Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any other significant changes?</p>	<p>The project has provided us with a great foundation to develop our support for victims of domestic abuse. We are through to the second stage with two funders interested in helping us to develop our support in this area, and our planned pilot with PACT, to develop their recovery programme 'Bounce Back 4 Kids' with parents and children under 5. Meanwhile securing funds for the essential salary costs of our Family Support Workers remains a real challenge.</p>
<p>Do you have any other comments or feedback on the experience of the TFN process?</p>	<p>The process was really well planned and supported, and although daunting felt like a huge, positive achievement for our small charity. It was great to have the platform and kudos of the event, as a way to engage our volunteers and supporters, encouraging several to give. We really appreciated being able to reach a wider audience of donors through the TFN contacts, and were so heartened by their generosity on the night. It was a valuable way of raising our profile locally.</p>
<p>Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of the project?</p>	<p>Kate referred herself to Home Start after her marriage broke down following violent domestic abuse. Until this point she had been an ordinary working parent accessing main stream services following the birth of her baby. The support of Home Start not only provided practical and emotional support in the home, but connected her to support services which she wouldn't otherwise have known about including, Oxfordshire Domestic Abuse Service (ODAS).</p> <p>“I was reeling from the shock of not having been able to protect my son in the way I had hoped. I was in a terrible place: newly single, in despair, depressed, sleep deprived, and not eating properly, whilst trying to breastfeed, as I was still fearful for our safety. I was struggling both practically and emotionally.</p> <p>That's when Home-Start stepped in. They were a lifeline. I thought I wasn't eligible for any additional support but my Coordinator, Family Support Worker and Volunteer helped me get back on my feet: they helped me access the services I needed, whilst my Volunteer helped me prepare and cook meals and played with my son so I could catch up with work.</p> <p>It was fantastic how easily they slipped into my world: I can't really describe how important their emotional support has been. They were mind-readers when I couldn't think clearly and are the only people who have ever offered me any heartfelt praise and encouragement as a parent. It's incredibly powerful to be told “<i>you're doing a great job</i>”.</p> <p>Thanks to them, I am now in a much better place and feel much more capable of coping with the challenges life brings.”</p>