

# Home Start North Somerset – Side by Side



Homestart used UKSPF funding to build up their volunteer capacity, allowing them to continue and increase the reach of their valuable work supporting local families with practical help to manage the challenges and stresses that can come with parenthood and family life.

## UKSPF Achievements

**17** additional volunteering opportunities supported  
**146** people engaged by the project

## Wider impact

To give a sense of the value of the work of Homestart's volunteers, please see this case study:

*M has 3 children under 3 yrs and wanted help to have some 1:1 time with C2 who had delayed speech. C2's behaviour was difficult to manage and it was overwhelming for M to cope with the 3 youngest children on a daily basis. When I met M for the initial visit she described it as surviving every day and that she was reacting to C2 rather than offering play opportunities.*

*We matched the family to our volunteer (G) who had been a mother of twin babies and a toddler when her children were young. When I did the first review of support after 3 months, M said she feels 'it is ok the day the volunteer comes. She understands and I can breathe'*

*As support continued, C2 was diagnosed with speech delay and language disorder. The DLA was awarded. C2 started nursery and coped well there, and they helped M with the school application as C2 would need extra support. G continued to visit on a day when M had the three youngest children at home.*

*M commented at the end of support that 'our volunteer allowed us to access play groups and go outside when I would not choose to (with 3 under 3)'. She said that the visits 'gave us some freedom and me a lot of emotional support.'*

*M's scaling improved greatly by the end of support and she scored herself 4s or 5s at the final visit, having initially scored 2s.*