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SEPTEMBER

Donation to Home-Start Eastleigh

Home-Start Eastleigh, the charity that helps parents with young children, was given a donation of £1000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland on behalf of two former employees from First Wessex Housing Group on Friday, September 28, 2007.

Former Group Chief Executive David Smith and Group Finance Director Barry Neaves supported the charity throughout their careers with the housing association. When they left earlier this year, the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), one of the lead financiers to the Group, offered to donate £1000 to a charity of their choice.

The cheque presentation took place at the brand new Home-Start family headquarters at the Centenary Hall building on Chamberlayne Road, Eastleigh.

Scheme Manager for the charity, Mary Diaper, said: "I'm very pleased to receive this donation, we need every penny we can get to run our charity which is a vital support service for local parents. First Wessex have always been involved with us through Barry Neaves and David Smith and although we continue to receive an annual donation from the Group, this is on top of that and is very welcome."

Mr Smith who presented the cheque to Mrs Diaper together with RBS Senior Director Fred Goymour, said: "Home-Start is a project that works with parents with young children and I believe they are a very important part of our future. It is a wonderful organisation and it is a pleasure to support it."

As one of the original lead financiers for the transfer of the housing stock in Eastleigh, RBS, worked closely with the former chief executive and finance director through the years.

Mr Goymour, said: "This donation is a personal expression of thanks to Barry Neaves and David Smith for their business friendship over the last 11-years and it is a privilege to be associated with this today."

Current Group Chief Executive, Peter Walters was also at the presentation, he said: "I genuinely think that this is a crucial service that voluntary organisations provide.

Without a scheme like this, parents with young children would not get the vital support that they require.”

Group Technical Director, Tom Antrobus, said: “Home-Start helps a lot of Atlantic Housing Association tenants. They give them friendly advice and support on all parenting issues. They help the most vulnerable and most in need and they are a wonderful charity to support.”

The charity which has been providing support to local parents with children under five-years-old has been in Eastleigh for 13-years. Previously based at the Swan Centre, it has now moved its ‘Group Support’ to the newly refurbished Centenary Hall, owned by the 1st Eastleigh Scout Group. As well as providing other trained volunteers to offer advice and support to parents within their own homes, Home-Start Eastleigh runs a host of other vital services. Their Wednesday and a Friday club is just one of such services where families can meet in support of each other and where children learn through play.

For more information on Home-Start, please visit their national web site at:
<http://www.home-start.org.uk/>

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