

## Criteria for a Home-Start Teesside Volunteer

1. Applicants must be willing to work within the aims and objectives of Home-Start Teesside Project.
  - Implications of this commitment include requiring attitudes on the part of the volunteer which are generally non judge-mental and positive towards families referred. Applicants must be willing to work within all the policies and procedures of Home-Star Teesside.
2. Applicants must be over 18 years [there is no maximum age]
3. Applicants must have experience or interest in working with families and young children.
4. Applicants must be able to give friendship and support to families under stress.
  - Applicants who are suffering personal difficulties [such as stress, depression or recent loss] may find this could significantly impair the applicants reliability, ability to give friendship and support, or lead applicants to unreasonable expect support from families. A significant impairment would be reason to not proceed with an application although it would not prevent an application at a later date. Previous experience of such difficulties could be a real positive asset in a volunteer.
5. Applicants must be reliable, trustworthy and be able to offer common-sense guidance, support and friendship to families under stress.
6. Applicants must attend a Course of Preparation.
7. Applicants must be willing to undergo police checks. No person convicted of an offence against a child shall be accepted as a volunteer. If any such person residing in the home of an applicant has such a conviction this will debar the applicant. If an applicant or a person residing in the home of an applicant has been through procedures such as Child Protection, been identified as having committed harm [as defined within Children Act] to a child, he or she shall be debarred from being a volunteer.
8. Two personal written references will be required. Referees must be people who personally know the applicant rather than chosen for their status alone and have known the applicant for at least two years.
9. Applicants must be committed to attending on-going training and support meetings on a regular basis.
10. After completion of the Preparation Course, applicants must be able to offer between two to three hours per week to Home-Start Teesside.