

Helping Chesterton Parents Group with their financial systems



Chesterton Parents Group is a newly formed support group for parents in Chesterton in Cambridge. Originally formed with the support of the local Children's Centre they are now an independent community group and looking at registering as a charity. The group put on regular events for children under 5 as well as holding a regular clothes swap. Where ever possible all events are free of charge.

The group approached CCVS to help them with their accounts and to get guidance and support to get their financial reports in order so that they could register as a charity.

The group had a meeting with the CCVS financial development worker who was able to review their current bookkeeping spreadsheets and suggest some changes to make the system easier to use. This resulted in suggesting they change to a different spreadsheet format for day to day bookkeeping. Guidance was also given on preparing year end receipts and payments accounts. Example spreadsheets were sent to the group following a meeting with the volunteer treasurer.

As a result of the work of CCVS the group put into place a new bookkeeping system. This has allowed them to use their financial information more effectively; this has helped them with budgeting and reporting and ensures that the committee are kept aware of the financial position of the organisation. It also means that they have in place the systems to report to funders and the charity commission as required. They are also now aware of their legal obligations with regard to the preparation of year end accounts and financial records. All this helps them to run the group more effectively, helping them to make the most of their money and make more informed decisions.

Their treasurer said

*"I think we've pretty much implemented everything you suggested. It has helped us tremendously in keeping the rest of the group informed as to what's going on, now that it is straightforward for me to give a monthly update on our grant balances, unrestricted reserves etc. I think in the past we have not made optimal use of our grants, just because we did not effectively keep track of what we'd spent of them verses what we proposed. But I feel now like decisions are being made on more accurate data.
Thank you again for your help."*

For more information on Chesterton Parents Group activities check out the [website](#) or follow them on [Facebook](#).