

Listen!



The Elizabeth
foundation

What's inside?



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Addressing change through charity services

Julie Hughes, Chief Executive at The Elizabeth Foundation discusses how the changing needs of families and innovations in technology continue to drive change at the charity.

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Meeting the needs of families – wherever they live

We live in a world that is constantly changing. And with the changing times, the charity also needs to address the changing needs of families. We continue to offer Ofsted 'Outstanding' weekly educational nursery services for babies, toddlers and preschoolers with hearing loss at our purpose-built Family Centre in Portsmouth, Hampshire. For those families requiring a different level of support, we offer monthly 'Listen' groups to give families extra information and practice for listening development.

For those families further away, the charity offers support through Let's Listen and Talk – our unique and interactive online home learning programme. Parents receive support from our Teacher of the Deaf throughout the course and learn from a mix of written information, video support and correspondence through videocalls, phonecalls and emails. Parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles can all get involved with the support of listening and language development through this family programme (continues over...)

Our summer residential programme is another way that families can receive support from the charity – a one-week, intensive programme for all the family, that includes a preschool nursery, a sibling programme and a parent education programme. Over the past few years, families have flown in from all parts of the UK and Ireland to take part in this programme.

We have a unique partnership with Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust Audiology team that allows us to support families from the time of diagnosis, at about 5 weeks old. Our newest partnership is with the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service (UoSALS), providing outreach services onsite in our new test facility, the Garden Suite.

This allows us to provide wrap-around care from the point of diagnosis, trial with hearing aids, parent support and education, specialist nursery services, cochlear implant assessment and subsequent rehabilitation post-implant. All of the services are provided on-site, with all of the professionals working together to provide the best possible package of care for each child and their family.

And to ensure our services remain based on the latest evidence, we are supporting research, including a study with University College London / City University looking at early predictors of literacy difficulties for deaf children. We hope, through this study, we will have more information to ensure children who need it have the appropriate support

for literacy development in the early years. With difficult economic times, that include budget cuts to local authorities, cuts to SEN support across the country and a 15% decline in the number of qualified Teachers of the Deaf across the UK over the past 7 years (Consortium for Research into Deaf Education Report 2018), our charity views its partnerships with local authorities, cochlear implant centres, speech and language therapy services and audiology services as absolutely critical. We strive to work together to provide the best possible services for deaf children and their families. In this issue of Listen! you can read all about how our services are responding to these changing times.

A fond tribute to June Ardern

For almost forty years, June Ardern and her husband Peter have been involved with The Elizabeth Foundation – in fact June was the very first Secretary and Peter was the very first Chair of Trustees. This involved attending many charity events, such as fetes, charity dinners, fancy dress evenings, and shaking tins for coins. As always June threw herself wholeheartedly into all of this. Last year was the first time she missed the annual nativity show.

At one fancy dress event, June made the costumes for everyone on her table in the theme of Peter Pan. She was the best Tinkerbell ever – with a huge smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye, as you can see from her photo.

June, with Peter, has been supporting the charity since it began back in 1981. She has helped in so many different ways and you always knew when she was in the building because you just had to follow the laughter!

The children, parents, families, volunteers, staff and Trustees are so grateful to June for all that she did to help the charity. She brought an element of fun and energy to everything she did. Sadly, June passed away in February of this year.

June will always be remembered and she will always be loved.



Read about our impact

In December 2019, we published our Impact Report 2018-19 to celebrate the impact of our work helping deaf children learn to listen and talk.

This Impact Report covers our school year from August 2018 to July 2019.

If you'd like to read it, you can download the Impact Report 2018-19 from the news section of our website at www.elizabeth-foundation.org/news/impact-report

Alternatively, if you'd like to receive a printed copy please contact us.



Chief Executive's Message

Welcome to the Summer 2020 edition of Listen! It's been an eventful year around the world, to say the least. And in these uncertain times, it is important to take time to stop and reflect, to appreciate the positive things that take place every day, and to address those things that need addressing. As a team, we have been doing just that – and we have now published our 5-year strategy document that will guide the direction and work of the charity for the coming years.

Not one to rest on our laurels, it has been a busy year. Two new Trustees have joined the charity, Martin Waters and Tom Holloway. Katherine Swift has joined our team as the lead Teacher of the Deaf for the Let's Listen and Talk programme and Samantha Straker is our new Fundraising Coordinator. You can read more about our new team members in the following pages.

In addition to running our variety of services, we've added a new parent education programme to the agenda here at the charity. We have developed a new programme for the parents, led by their wants and needs. We now meet regularly for Parent Education meetings, discussing topics that are pertinent to them. These face-to-face meetings are complemented by a series of new videos about language and communication. Our first few topics were Education, Health and Care plans, Choosing Schools, Emotional Literacy and Resilience and Preparation for Transitioning to School.

Over the last year we have been continuing to pilot our triangulated service for 'Let's Listen and Talk', our online programme for professionals and families. We have a growing number of local authorities who we are now working with to provide seamless support for families with deaf children across the country.

And if that doesn't keep us busy enough, we are in the second year of a three-year study with UCL / City University looking at early predictors of literacy difficulties for deaf children. It is important to identify children who may struggle with reading BEFORE they start learning to read, so that they have the appropriate support as they begin to learn.

The work of the charity is supported in so many ways and by so many people. It is impossible to thank everyone personally, but we are so very grateful for all the different support we get. To all of our many supporters, we say a HUGE thank-you. It is YOU that makes the difference to deaf children and their families and it is YOU that allows us to continue our work helping deaf children to learn to listen and talk.

Your support makes a huge difference in the lives of our deaf children and their families. Thank you!

Julie Hughes,
Chief Executive



Collaborative working

We continue to work collaboratively with other organisations, supporting deaf children and their families in a variety of ways.

Over the past year we have:

- Presented at the NDCS Newly Diagnosed Parent weekend in Belfast
- Hosted an Information Day for Advanced Bionics in May
- Hosted an Advanced Bionics Parent In-Touch day
- Hosted a 'Cochlear' Technology Day
- Attended the Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG)
- Presented about the charity's work at the local managers' meeting for the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme
- Attended the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NATSIP) / Head of Sensory Services (HOSS) meeting in London
- Prepared articles for the Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group (CICS) magazine
- Attended the British Cochlear Implant Group national meeting in Manchester
- Contributed to videos published by the AB (Advanced Bionics) Education and Training Department
- Provided articles for the National Deaf Children's Society magazine, 'Families'
- Met with the Winchester Science Museum to advise about accessibility needs of deaf children
- Presented at the Gloucestershire Sensory Support Group
- Presented at the CICS conference
- Presented at the AG Bell Global Conference on Excellence in Listening and Spoken Language Practice in Madrid

In addition to collaborations with other organisations and charities, we hosted a number of visits, including:

- Julia Katherine – Portsmouth City Council – Head of Inclusion
- Sarah Armstrong – CEO Ewing Foundation – collaborative working
- Liz Nash – Head of Sensory Impairment, Wandsworth Sensory Impairment Team
- Mary Hare Students – students from the Animal Care course brought animals in during our 'Pets' topic – all the students wore hearing aids or cochlear implants, so not only was this great for topical vocabulary development, but it provided young adult deaf role models for the children
- We also welcomed Teachers of the Deaf, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Nursery Assistants, Audiologists, Educational Psychologists and students into our nursery sessions

Parent Education

Historically, we have always prided ourselves in our parent education, which permeates all aspects of our education programme.

At The Elizabeth Foundation, we strongly believe that parents are the main educators of their deaf child. The role that they play in their child's early years will, without doubt, shape the future success of their deaf child. So, when parents find out their baby has a hearing loss, they understandably have many questions. Because parents attend our baby and toddler sessions with their child, they take part in parent education at each session. However, for parents in preschool, who may have only just found out about our services if they live further afield, we needed to think about regular meetings with parents to update them on information that is pertinent to them at their child's current stage of development. With that in mind, we developed a series of meetings for parents to take part in, giving them crucial information for their child's preschool years. The session topics are guided by the parents and their wants and needs for information. We meet regularly throughout the year for information sharing, mutual support and guidance. The sessions are informal, with discussion on various topics, with written information for parents to take away and refer to.

Alongside these written materials, our Speech and Language Therapists have started filming a series of informative videos about various aspects of communication.

The first two of these videos are now available on our website:

- The first video introduces speech and language development for young children with hearing loss.
- The second video explains how parents can use a technique called OWLing (Observe, Wait, Listen) alongside 'special time' to develop their child's speech and language skills.

These resources are under a process of continuous development, and we will publish new resources on our website as they become available. You can watch the new videos at:

www.elizabeth-foundation.org/services/parent-education



Looking Forward

We have published 'Looking Forward' our 2020-2025 Strategy, which outlines our aims and priorities as a charity for the next five years.

You can download Looking Forward from our website at:

bit.ly/lookingforwardstrategy



We would welcome any feedback you might have about the content of our strategy document and our future plans and goals.



Summer Residential Programme

We held our fifth Summer Residential Week during August 2019. Families attended from far and wide including all across England (Manchester, Northampton, Surrey, and Warwickshire), Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

As part of our busy preschool programme throughout the week, the children with hearing loss enjoyed a varied curriculum exploring shapes, colours, numbers and summer related activities. One of the most popular tasks was making and decorating their own gingerbread person, following step-by-step instructions. All these activities provided excellent opportunities for the children to extend their listening and talking skills whilst having great fun with their new deaf friends.

The brothers and sisters enjoyed attending our special sessions for siblings, it was important for them to have the opportunity to develop and have time for themselves as individuals. They loved having a key role in planning what they did during the week.

With their children in the classrooms, the parents had some valuable time during the week to learn themselves from a skilled range of professionals covering education, speech and language and health.

The families – who all stayed locally – enjoyed getting to know each other and sharing their journeys.

Nursery update

Our nursery sessions are full of fun opportunities where the children learn through play and parents share ideas for supporting their child's language development at home.

In our baby nursery (birth to 18 months), the babies get to experience language and listening through all their senses using our multi-sensory approach.

During the sessions we have demonstrated and discussed basic strategies and fun-filled ideas for the development of: attention, listening, preverbal, and early language skills.

We have also been working with parents so they know how to check and keep their baby's hearing technology working effectively

on a day-to-day basis. This means their child can access the fullest possible range of sound frequencies.

The Toddler groups (for children from 18 months to 2½ years) continue to extend the important building blocks necessary for language to develop and flourish. Through interactive sessions involving parents and carers, the families learn how to support their child's language at home, whilst sharing experiences and ideas with each other.

Recently, in our Toddler classes, we learned about all the things we can do with our hands and feet, using music and sensory games alongside messy play and stories to reinforce language. A particular favourite was taking off socks and shoes to experience different textures and running, jumping and walking to the drum. Photos we take in the sessions allow the children to share their learning with others in their family when they get home.



In the preschool classes (for children from 2½ to 5 years) we carefully design and plan our wide variety of topics – guided by the Early Years Foundation Stages (EYFS) – to help extend and enrich the children's understanding and spoken language so that they can eventually move on to school with confidence (see below).

Some of the topics we have covered so far this year have included: wild animals, houses and homes, minibeasts and transport.

Transport was a particular favourite as it culminated with a trip at the end where we experience as many different types of transport as possible including the school minibus, train, ferry and bus.

During our wild animals topic, we visited our local zoo. The children and their families came together for a real life experience day when they were able to reinforce the language from the classroom as well as developing existing and forge new friendships.

For many, these friendships, for both the children and their families, will be life long and will be a source of support and help when they leave The Elizabeth Foundation.

Enabling an effective transition

We would like to share this message we received from a parent about how we helped ensure an effective transition for her daughter Evie as she left us to start at Primary School.

We always strive to make sure every child who leaves The Elizabeth Foundation is able to meet their potential in the next phase of their education.

"I have just returned from Evie's annual Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) review at her primary school and wanted to let you know about the incredibly positive discussion that was had around the various people's visits to The Elizabeth Foundation last year in preparation for Evie's transition to school.

"The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and Speech and Language Therapist had both visited The Elizabeth Foundation to observe Evie prior to starting school, and the Teacher of the Deaf had I think visited for other reasons in the past.

"They all said how amazed they were by the consistently high quality of the teaching input, the differentiation of teaching: stretching each child individually, and the expectations, consistently met, for children to listen and engage for extended sessions.

"They and Evie's class teacher agreed that this had set her on an incredibly strong foundation for school, well beyond the majority of her peers in terms of attention and ability to engage and learn.

"We already felt ourselves that Evie's preschool year at The Elizabeth Foundation was really helpful, but it was fantastic to hear from her class teacher and SENCO that they also felt this setting had given her such a strong base, now showing in the academic progress she is making. Thank you!"



Staff news

Katherine Swift

Katherine joined The Elizabeth Foundation in September 2019 as the lead Teacher of the Deaf supporting families on the Let's Listen and Talk online home learning programme.

Katherine has extensive experience, having recently retired from working for the last 20 years as a local Specialist Teacher Adviser for Hearing Impairment. Prior to that Katherine had worked as a mainstream primary school teacher.

In addition to working at The Elizabeth Foundation, Katherine is a University Tutor for the MA in Deaf Education course to train the Teachers of the Deaf of the future.

Katherine also finds time to volunteer at classes in Southampton teaching English as a second language.



Samantha Straker

"Hello everyone, I'm Sam – the new Fundraising Coordinator at The Elizabeth Foundation.

"After taking a career break from teaching, it became clear to me that my heart lay in supporting children. I came across The Elizabeth Foundation by chance and was completely bowled over by the work the wonderful staff and volunteers do in helping deaf babies and children learn to listen and talk.

"I was delighted to be given the opportunity to join the team and learn more about the Foundation and contribute my project management skills towards day-to-day fundraising.

"At The Elizabeth Foundation we are privileged to play a role in the early years of each child that benefits from our services. I am proud to be working alongside such a dedicated and motivated team to continue to provide outstanding services to parents and children at our Family Centre."



Meet our new Trustees

We would like to introduce our supporters to the two newest members of our Board of Trustees, who both joined in 2019.

Tom Holloway

Tom is a Director & Chartered Surveyor at Holloway Iliffe & Mitchell, looking after all sectors of commercial agency and investment across our region, acting for clients including local investors, occupiers and corporate organisations. His many skills include advice to clients on rent reviews and asset valuation, understanding of finance, personal and project management.

Tom is a father to three young children and outside work, spends a great deal of time, as many parents do, keeping up with his children's busy activities outside school including scout camps, rugby coaching and various sporting activities.

Tom Holloway first came into contact with The Elizabeth Foundation during his two-year period of tenure as Chair of The Portsmouth Property Association (PPA), during which time the PPA

raised over £11,000 in support of The Elizabeth Foundation's charitable services for deaf children and their parents / carers.

Tom was able to see first-hand the positive difference that The Elizabeth Foundation makes teaching deaf children to learn to listen and talk, and how the PPA's donation would genuinely improve educational and social outcomes for children.

"When asked to consider a role as Trustee of The Elizabeth Foundation, I was honoured and delighted to be able to help with the continued success of the charity. Seeing its work first hand and the positive impact this has on children, their development and families and the fact that this service is not on the NHS and that the charity requires constant funding to continue, was enough of a driver to want to help in any way possible."



Martin Waters

Martin has worked for the Hospitality Industry for over 15 years. He first came across The Elizabeth Foundation when he was 19 years old. The work that the charity did in the local community really hit home with him. Since then, he has had a passion to actively help the charity and support their work with young deaf children and their parents.

Martin has held many roles within his career which have covered all aspects of hotel management. He started off in housekeeping making beds, and over the years has held roles such as General Manager and Cluster Sales Manager. Martin currently looks after two hotels on the South Coast of England.

These demanding roles allow him to utilise his many skills and talents. These include customer service, management, finance and marketing, each of which will add to the skills and experience of The Elizabeth Foundations Board of Trustees.

Martin has two children who take up most of his time when he is not working which he loves. He was born and raised in Portsmouth and is pleased to support a local charity that means a lot to him and the City.

"I am passionate about The Elizabeth Foundation and the difference it makes. I am grateful to be able to support its work in any way I can."



Volunteer profile – Adam Hall

“After taking a bit of a career break, and having previously completed an apprenticeship working for a community charity, I was looking to gain more experience in admin as well as supporting a local charity.

“I came across The Elizabeth Foundation on a volunteering website. I'd heard of the charity through a family member who is involved in fundraising with her ukulele group, however I wasn't familiar with the work they do. After doing

some research I was very impressed, so I applied and started as an Admin & Fundraising Volunteer in November 2019.

“It's an amazing place to volunteer, having seen the work they do, including spending time in the preschool, I've become very passionate about the charity. I've gained a lot and I'm glad to be able to help using the skills I learned during my apprenticeship. I hope to continue supporting them in any way I can for a long time.”



Leaving a lasting legacy

Pass on something wonderful with a gift in your Will. Has The Elizabeth Foundation made a difference to you or someone you care about?

Gifts in Wills are vital for us to continue our important work and we wouldn't have been able to develop our new Garden Suite test and therapy facilities on the lower ground floor of the Test Centre had it not been for the support of a legacy and a family's fundraising efforts. Statistics show that many people, however, simply aren't aware of this form of giving. Would you consider leaving a gift, no matter what size after you've taken care of your family and friends?

Every gift, however large or small, has a lasting impact on deaf babies and preschool children.

For more information contact us or take a look at the legacy information on our website at:

www.elizabeth-foundation.org/help/legacies

We are currently creating new legacy resources so watch this space! We have already added a new video in which Joan – one of our supporters – explains why she has chosen to support The Elizabeth Foundation in her Will.



With grateful thanks

A big thank you for thinking of us and leaving a gift in your will: Josine Connell, Veronica Evelyn Wood, and Winifred Dockerill.

We are also grateful to receive donations in memory of: June Arden, Deborah Allman, Michael Berry, Dorothy Cloake, Kenneth Green, Patricia Harding, Brenda Jell, Mrs K Knight, Gwen Pope, and Graham Uttley.

We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to family and friends.

Listen! Support Groups

Our Listen! Support Groups continue to meet monthly at our Family Centre and demand remains high for the sessions. The groups help to support children with a variety of needs – and oh, what fun we have!

The purpose of each session is to provide parents / carers with information about hearing, hearing loss, language, listening and communication. More importantly, we demonstrate and practise everyday games and activities that help to build strong, confident communication skills. We listen, we sing, we dance – we have a great time! But in all our fun, we are learning all the crucial skills that children need to become confident communicators.

The families who attend have formed close ties and are so supportive of each other. And the children have all become friends who interact, engage and play with each other. It is truly a joy to watch!

To find out more about our regular Listen! Support Groups – call us or visit our website.

Research update

Deafness, Early implantation, Language research project

The research project DEL – Deafness, Early implantation, Language focuses on speech development in French and English, in children aged 2-4, fitted with cochlear implants at an early age.

To collect data in English, Prof. Laurence Vincent-Durroux (University of Grenoble Alpes, France) has visited The Elizabeth Foundation five times (February 2018 – July 2019) to film playing sessions between a child and one of their parents. Six families have been involved so far and 24 films have been made. The transcription of the films is not yet completed but several aspects have already been examined, such as the use of humour in dialogue. A comparative

study of humour in French and English children was presented at a conference in Melbourne (Australia, February 2019). Two research papers are to appear in 2019-20, one on humour and one on the use of pronouns. The role of dialogue and repetition in speech development will be Prof. Vincent-Durroux's next theme of interest in the data.

Research into Preschool Language and Literacy

Researchers at City University of London and University College London are undertaking a new and exciting research study called 'Preschool Language and Literacy'. Their aim is to better understand how preschool language and emerging literacy skills are related to later ability.

Some hearing children and many deaf children find learning to read challenging.

This study is looking at whether you can predict which children are at risk for literacy difficulties from their preschool language and listening skills. Early identification of those who are likely to go on to have literacy difficulties will help ensure that children who need it, have the appropriate support as they begin learning to read.

Children from The Elizabeth Foundation are now in the second year of the three-year research period, which has the potential of changing practice for the better as we learn more about literacy skills and the impact of listening and language on early development of literacy for deaf children.

Let's Listen and Talk – Update

Let's Listen and Talk is our online programme for parents and professionals, offering support, guidance, and practical advice for the development of listening and spoken communication.

At a time when all statutory and voluntary services are being increasingly stretched to capacity, we believe it is important for professionals to work collaboratively and in partnership to provide the very best family-centred services.

We are currently using the programme in two ways: directly with families and working with the family and their local Teacher of the Deaf, in a 'triangulated' service.

By March 2020, there were 22 families who participated directly by subscribing to the online courses, with a fairly balanced mix of babies, toddlers and preschool children from around the country.

The pilot programme we initiated last year, working with local Teachers of the Deaf using the material with families continues to expand. By March 2020 – we were working

with 14 local authorities all over the country from Belfast to Berkshire to Bolton. These local authority Teachers of the Deaf supported 34 families. All communications are triangulated which enables us to work equally with the family and the local Teacher of the Deaf in order that we can provide effective, consistent support to the families.

We recently asked for some feedback from the Teachers of the Deaf and the families they work with and a selection of their comments are below:

Parents

- “The communication activities were insightful and reassuring.”
- “I also loved the ‘making requests’ video and have been using it during our quiet times. It is really helping me identify his verbal and non-verbal reactions when he wants something.”
- “It was really helpful to hear from other parents with deaf children about their experiences.”

- “Learnt how to communicate better with my son when he's not verbally communicating with me.”
- “The messages are clear and I don't get bored or lose interest. Also having another Teacher of the Deaf is extra reassurance for support and second opinion when needed.”

Teachers of the Deaf

- “I went through the first section of the course and found the descriptions of the different hearing losses very clear and family friendly and it was so useful to see the video clips of the ENT Consultant explaining things as we don't usually have any contact with them.”
- “Thanks again for sharing this – it is very useful to see.”

We are continuing to expand this service and we look forward to helping more children and families from further afield as we grow and develop this programme. For more details, visit www.letslistenandtalk.org

Elliott's success story

Elliott's story

Elliott was born three weeks early after a difficult pregnancy. Thankfully, he arrived safely and, aside from some initial issues with feeding and gaining weight, he was a happy and healthy baby. At five days old, Elliott failed his newborn hearing screening, and after subsequent tests, was found to have a mild to moderate bi-lateral sensorineural hearing loss. This came as a complete shock to us, with no history of hearing loss in either side of our family.

After the diagnosis, we were introduced to Julie (CEO of The Elizabeth Foundation), who explained things in greater detail and offered the support and guidance of The Elizabeth Foundation from there on in. That week, Elliott and I started attending the baby group. It helped me enormously to chat to other parents, and I felt reassured that we were not alone and that Elliott could still thrive and achieve in life.

At 12 weeks old, Elliott was fitted with hearing aids, and although the journey to Elliott keeping his aids in most of his waking day was long and arduous, he now wears them consistently, and not only helps in the care and maintenance of them, but he is also extremely proud of them. Elliott has moved from the baby group up through the toddler group and is now part of Adele's preschool

class which he enjoys immensely. Earlier in the year he started attending a mainstream nursery to prepare him for school and his confidence has come on in leaps and bounds, and he enjoys teaching his teachers and his friends about his hearing aids and how to sign!

As Elliott has got older, more in-depth tests have shown that he has a mild loss on the low frequency and a moderate to severe loss on the high frequency. This means that he struggles particularly to hear the sounds he needs to hear to form speech. Thanks to the hard work of Charlotte, The Elizabeth Foundation's Speech and Language Therapist, and an outside Speech and Language Therapist he was referred to, Elliott's vocabulary and speech clarity is coming on amazingly and he particularly enjoys practising his letter sounds; he writes well and has even managed to read a couple of words at three and a half years old! He is a very cheeky, funny little boy who, although can be very shy to begin with, will chat for hours once comfortable. Elliott is now an extremely proud big brother to baby Henry, who is hearing, however on their first meeting, Elliott was very perturbed to find that Henry was not born with hearing aids!

We are so thankful to The Foundation for all the help and support over the last few years;

not just in an educational sense for Elliott, but in an emotional sense for us as parents, and we and Elliott have made lifelong friends in other Foundation families.

Becky and Dan Lock



A graduate's experience



Ruby when she was at our preschool...

"Hi my name is Ruby Biddiscombe and I am currently 18 years old.

"When I was between the ages of 3-4 years old, I attended The Elizabeth Foundation one day a week and went to a mainstream preschool nursery 3 days a week. I then went to mainstream primary and secondary schools and got some good GCSEs that I am proud of.

"I used to wear hearing aids when I was at these settings, but now I wear two Advanced Bionics Niada processors. My time at The Elizabeth Foundation, paired with my cochlear implant processors have helped me to hear so confidently and be independent in lots of different ways.

"I am currently studying towards a Level 3 Children's Play and Learning Development course at Brockenhurst College where I get the opportunity to do time in college and time on placement. I passed my driving test first time, which is amazing as I can get myself from A to B.

"The Elizabeth Foundation helped me and my family to understand deafness more and gave me the stepping stones to go to school, helping with my listening, speech and understanding and more importantly helped me to be confident with my ears!"

Ruby Biddiscombe



...and in the same room when she came for work experience this year!

Masonic supporters

We are always delighted to receive community support from the Freemasons across the counties.

We have been particularly well supported this year from 15 Masonic groups and would like to pass on our sincere thanks to their members who between them have given £5,970: Absit Invidia Lodge 6751; Alwarestoch Lodge 7805; Bishops Waltham Lodge 8190;

Caer Gwent Lodge 5071; Gosport Masonic Centre; Lodge of Hospitality 7927; Portsmouth Temperance Lodge 2068; Portus Magnus Lodge 6530; Prudence Lodge 7813; Solent Lodge 6182; St Boniface Lodge 8790; St Swithun's Lodge 4795; St Thomas Lodge 6574; Thistle & Shamrock Lodge of Mark Master Masons 1048; Wessex Lodge of Fidelity 8681.

Marvellous map room memories

Through a donation from St Thomas Masonic Lodge we were introduced to William Dick, a volunteer speaker and guide at Southwick House and the D Day Landings operation.



In conjunction with long-time supporters, Caroline and Nick Keys from Keys Trips and Events, 106 people firstly had tea and biscuits at The Elizabeth Foundation where Julie's inspirational talk reinforced the information given on every Keys Trip and Events outing. All on board the coaches to the Map Room at Southwick House and a fascinating fact – filled talk by Willie. This was followed by a delicious lunch whilst being entertained by Greg, Landlord at The Golden Lion in Southwick and an opportunity to visit The Brew House for samples of local craft beer and wine. These events raised a fabulous £2,980.

Generous golfers hit the greens

A big thank you to Penny James, Lee on the Solent Golf Club ladies' captain who, with the support of the men's captain, raised a fabulous £3,663.30 during her year in office.

The Hampshire Hackers, a Golfing Society that has been supporting many charities over the years, raised £4,431 for The Elizabeth Foundation with other local charities benefitting too!

Rain did not stop play at the Elizabeth Foundation's charity golf day at Romsey Golf Club last June, where 16 teams braved the drizzle and raised over £5,000.



Ray Cook from Hampshire Hackers with Fiona Heath our Fundraising Manager



Annabelle and friends

Fundraising youngsters lead the way!

Our #GotheDistanceforDeafness fundraising campaign aims to encourage our supporters to 'go the distance' by challenging themselves and setting their own target. This could be anything from running, walking, swimming or cycling to abseiling or skydiving.

Local heroes

Thank you to Stubbington Stitch and Knit for your ongoing support knitting to raise funds for the Foundation. The group had not been able to visit us before due to most of them giving up driving and taking a slower pace to life in retirement. So we were happy to be able to pick them up in our minibus for a very special visit last year. Everyone involved had a great time!

Our Fundraising Coordinator Sam also welcomed Janet and Elizabeth from the Titchfield Women's Institute at the Family Centre. Janet and Elizabeth walked an impressive 26 miles over two days along the Clarendon Way raising a combined total of £750.

A huge congratulations and thank you to both ladies for their support!



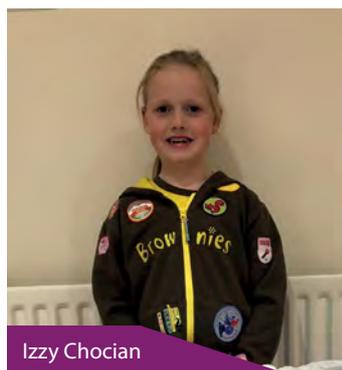
Janet, Elizabeth and Sam

Here at The Elizabeth Foundation we appreciate all of those who support us and are always particularly inspired by our young fundraisers who have been going the distance for deafness:

- Izzy Chocian used the Happy School Bag recycling scheme and raised £116
- Beth, Flo and Winnie took part in the Great South Run weekend last year raising £734
- Young swimmers Katy Lambert raised £220 and Gracie and Jenna Carey raised £175 at The Oasis Swimathon,
- Annabelle and her friends swam hundreds of lengths in their local pool in Surbiton and raised a phenomenal £1,176
- Sophie and Jacob Bavin undertook the Bubble Rush run last year raising £155
- George, Minnie, Charlotte and Tilly cycled 18 miles of the Camel Trail, raising £1,815



Beth, Flo and Winnie



Izzy Chocian



George, Minnie, Charlotte, Tilly and parents



Stubbington Stitch and Knit

Business partners getting busy

Corporate support comes in many forms, whether it is gifts in kind or teams of willing volunteers keen to tackle tasks around our Family Centre – such as contributing to the upkeep of the grounds as a 16 strong team from Proagrica and NexisLexis did, or removing unwanted heavy items such as an old-fashioned metal and concrete safe by the specialist team at Britannia Reeves.

Pictured: Our willing helpers from Proagrica and NexisLexis.



Special support from Specsavers

As a charity, it has been truly wonderful to work with the fabulous Specsavers team in Whiteley over the past 2 years. Their wonderful team truly understood the difference that hearing technologies and early intervention can make to the life of a deaf child.

Karen Vaughan, Deputy CEO at The Elizabeth Foundation said: "The whole team have matched our mission to support young children with hearing loss and to make their lives better. Importantly, they have shared the Specsavers family and customer service ethos that they are so rightly proud of, and made a hugely positive difference.

"We can't thank the team enough; they really have become part of our very special Elizabeth Foundation family!"

During the partnership, the team at Specsavers raised over £24,000 towards the delivery of our education sessions.

But it's not just been about the fundraising; the team helped increase awareness of our services, gave us a helping hand at our Easter Fayre, donated much-needed IT, made improvements to our Family Centre playground and even provided handmade costumes for our Christmas nativity!

Rick Kocher (recently retired Director of IT Quality and Technical Delivery at Specsavers) commented, "We have never experienced such an engaging relationship with a charity before now.

"The Elizabeth Foundation have always made us feel valued and appreciated, letting us visit the Family Centre, meet with staff and children and join in the fun!"

"At every stage they have told us how our support is making a difference and I would recommend The Elizabeth Foundation to anyone looking to engage with a great charity."



Fantastic funding from grant-makers

Over the past 12 months we have continued to receive much-needed support from grant-making Trusts and Foundations towards our outstanding services and facilities.

Without such generous support and understanding of the impact that grants have, deaf children and their families would not have access to our essential education and support programmes and would simply not make the steady progress that we aim for them to achieve.

We remain so grateful to all our funders, with every grant making a positive difference to the charity and to our beneficiaries. Here are just a few of the funders that have supported

us in 2019: The Sobell Foundation, The Henry Smith Charity, The Mikado Trust, The DM Thomas Foundation for Young People, BBC Children in Need... and many more!

If you would like to know more about opportunities to support specific projects or our core costs through grant funding, please do get in contact with our **Deputy CEO, Karen Vaughan** karen.vaughan@elizabeth-foundation.org

We were also delighted to have our work featured during the BBC South segments of the BBC Children in Need broadcasts last November.

New Charity of the Year partnerships

We are proud to be the new Charity of the Year for Biscoes Solicitors and also Lightning Fire and Alarm Systems. We are looking forward to working with our new partners.

We are always on the lookout for more corporate partners, so if your company supports local charities please let us know.

Contact **Karen Vaughan** our Deputy CEO karen.vaughan@elizabeth-foundation.org



The winning team from February 2020!

Fingers on the button...

During the last year we have continued our popular and fun quiz nights at our Family Centre in Cosham, with 12 to 14 teams meeting at each event to be quizzed on a wide range of topics.

100 and 200 Clubs

If you are stuck for a present for someone, why not gift them a subscription to one of our prize draw lotteries – our 100 Club or our 200 Club? We run two prize draw lotteries each month which provide The Elizabeth Foundation with a stream of income and gives our supporters the chance to win valuable cash prizes. We currently have spaces in our 100 Club. For just £2 a month you could be in with a chance of winning cash prizes.

100 Club prizes are:

- £300 – December
- £200 – January
- £100 – February
- £50 – for each of the remaining months

Alternatively, we have a very few remaining places in our 200 Club. £10 per month enters you into our 200 Club draw. 200 Club prizes are:

- monthly prizes of £200
- increasing to £2,000 in November
- an outstanding £7,000 in March!

Congratulations to our winning numbers below:

Month	100 Club	200 Club	Month	100 Club	200 Club
April 2019	47	58	October 2019	95	170
May 2019	26	62	November 2019	26	128
June 2019	97	43	December 2019	85	34
July 2019	77	72	January 2020	63	35
August 2019	20	196	February 2020	10	147
September 2019	79	199	March 2020	7	100

Thank you for all your continued support. To find out more about the Elizabeth Foundation prize draw lotteries please contact us or visit: www.elizabeth-foundation.org/help/lottery

How you can help us

We do everything we can to keep charges for our nursery sessions and other services as low as possible. The amount we ask parents to pay is considerably lower than the actual cost of providing our unique learning programmes.

The Elizabeth Foundation is a registered charity and we rely on fundraising and the generosity of our friends, families, local business and the community to support as many deaf children and their families as we can, wherever they live.

Please consider making a one-off or regular donation

- I enclose a donation (cheque made payable to 'The Elizabeth Foundation') of £ _____
- I would like to become a regular giver – please send me details

You can also make one-off or regular donations securely through our website:

www.elizabeth-foundation.org/donate

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK tax payer, by signing this Gift Aid declaration and providing your address we can reclaim an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 you give:

- Gift Aid: Yes, I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid my donation, and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years to The Elizabeth Foundation. If I pay less Income Tax and or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Become a Facebook Fundraiser! (or Instagram)

Facebook Fundraisers have become more and more popular with our supporters on the platform.

If you are a Facebook user why not have a look at setting up a Facebook Fundraising event to celebrate a special event whilst supporting our work. It is quick and easy to do and you can then share with all of your family and friends on Facebook.

To set up a Facebook Fundraising page:

1. Go to our page www.facebook.com/elizabethfoundation
2. Click on 'Fundraisers' in the left hand menu.
3. Then click on the blue '+ Raise Money' button and follow the steps to set up your fundraiser.
4. Once you have set up your fundraiser, share it with all your family and friends on Facebook!

If you're on Instagram you can also add a donate button to your stories.



The Elizabeth Foundation

To donate or support our work please visit our website:

www.elizabeth-foundation.org



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The Elizabeth Foundation – helping deaf children learn to listen and talk.

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