



We believe in  
the best start  
for every child



Dingley's  
Promise

Annual Review 2016-17

# There is promise in every child

## We promise to do our best to unlock it

### Meet Issabella, aged 4

With confidence growing, Issabella has come on in leaps and bounds (quite literally) since starting at Dingley's Promise in Reading.

Developing from an unsure, immobile child who was quite poorly when joining Dingley's Promise, Issabella has flourished into a much more confident little girl who uses between 10 and 15 signs to help her communicate her needs, plays well alongside others and exudes a natural curiosity about her environment. Her enjoyment of the ride along car is evident and her own unique personality shines through for all to appreciate.

However, things haven't always been so easy for Issabella. Born with an as yet undiagnosed condition, but thought to be genetic, Issabella has a significant global delay, dysmorphic features and still has invasive genetic testing to undergo. Issabella can experience strong allergic reactions, both to food and via her sensitive skin. Careful consideration needs to be given to her diet and each activity thought through fully beforehand. Staff at Dingley's Promise have provided plenty of time, patience, trust and reassurance to Issabella. Learning more about her has helped pave the way for her development.

Issabella proved an inspiration, when one day, she took her first tentative steps without a walker, right here at Dingley's Promise. The moment touched deep for those working so closely with her and for her family. As a result her development has raced forward, not least her confidence. Initiating play with others, whilst expressing a sense of comfort, there is no better sight to behold.

We will support Issabella to move on to school next year, with opportunities to access mainstream provision. Knowing Issabella's incredible potential, we are confident that Issabella is ready to take her next bold steps in the world.



## We stand with parents and believe in every child's promise

Believing that children should have the same opportunities. Believing in their potential.

We're so passionate about this that it sits at the heart of our charity and underpins everything that we do.

**Early social/emotional development and physical health provide the foundation upon which cognitive and language skills develop. High quality early intervention services can change a child's development trajectory and improve outcomes for children, families and communities.**

Our mission is to deliver life changing support to under 5's with additional needs & disabilities and their families, by providing specialist learning through play, family support & training and advice to mainstream settings.

We support some of the most vulnerable, very young children with Autism, Asperger's syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome and Global Development Delay. Some of these children have life-limiting conditions.

**The best early intervention prevents children being placed in special education needlessly**

## It may surprise you...

We need to raise **£1,397 every day** to ensure we can deliver our work. We only receive **44% from the local authorities** and this is diminishing rapidly.

Our supporters are vital to ensure we can keep on supporting children in their early years. Giving every child the best chance of experiencing mainstream education, putting them on the right path of hope for the future.

**Their Future. Our Future. Together we change lives.**



**£26**

provides a support group meeting for parents



**£450**

for ten children to have one Playscheme day



**£40**

provides one home visit to a struggling family



**£630**

for a day of Learn Through Play sessions



**£300**

will support one child into mainstream nursery or school

**Support us today to help us to keep our promise**



**£3.75** per month means a child can join in the fun at one of our Holiday Playscheme days a year



**£5** per month allows a child to learn new skills in a Learn Through Play session once a year



**£10** per month means we can provide eight hours of support to one child moving on to a new setting

**Become a Friend to every child and family that will need our support in the future.** Just contact Sarah, our Fundraising Manager on:



sarah.affleck@dingley.org.uk



07495 445965



## Message from the Chair

Following a number of years of significant change, the 2016/17 year has been one of consolidation of our governance and day-to-day operational activities and services, whilst also being a period of preparation for changes in legislation and funding sources. However, we have not stood still - far from it.

**We have greatly extended the volume and range of our services, including:**



Improving our efficiency with the total cost per hour being **reduced to £19.75**



Child development levels have increased **4.3%** despite focussing on children with a higher dependency



**60%** of transitions were to mainstream settings, illustrating our role in building pathways to inclusion



Providing **6400 more hours** of Learn Through Play sessions

- We have produced briefing papers to assess the potential impact of the increase of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) from 15 hours to 30 hours for eligible children in September 2017.
- We identified the need for a training offering - to assist other settings to provide more SEND provision. So far we have developed outline course structures, content and potential delivery methods and sought funding for the full development and roll out.
- In summer 2016, we introduced an Advisory Board, significantly enhancing the expertise available to assist us with both day-to-day running and strategic planning.

The operating deficit for the year of £34k was disappointing, but not entirely unexpected. Local Authority funding has reduced and we continue to invest in the development of our services.

On behalf of everyone associated with Dingley's Promise I would like to thank our patron, Lady Catherine for her commitment to our cause over the past 5 years. She will be sorely missed by us all - happy "retirement"!

**Dave Ormrod, Chair**  
August 2017



## Message from our Patron

I have been truly honoured to have been the first Patron of Dingley. Over the past five years, I have seen enormous changes in the Charity; not only have new premises been opened for two centres, in Wokingham and Newbury, but the Charity has re-branded with a new name. However, what has remained the same is the extraordinary devotion from the staff to the well-being of the children, the resilience and gratitude of the families and the commitment of the Chairman and Board of Trustees to the development and well-being of the Charity.

I have found myself in awe of the work undertaken to help the children progress and it is clear; a place at Dingley's Promise enhances their chances for the future.

**Lady Catherine Stevenson**  
August 2017





## The future - spreading the word

At Dingley's Promise we are committed to reaching as many children and families as possible. Over the past year, our vision of how we can do this has shifted substantially and we are now working hard to campaign on issues that affect our families, and to spread good practice to build wider inclusive practice in the early years.

In 2016 we worked on our first campaign, raising awareness about how important it is that children with SEND get equal access to the new 30 hour offer from the government. We teamed up with national organisations to feed our research and case studies up to them, while they gave us the national information and statistics to use in our briefings and discussions with local authorities and MPs. Our briefings were used by Central Government to consider how to ensure the 30 hours is available to all eligible children with SEND. We are now actively working with national organisations on this issue, and on ensuring the early years are as inclusive as possible. In summer 2017 we presented our model of specialist early intervention building more widespread inclusion, and have had interest from a number of local authorities who would like to understand the model and possibly adopt it in more areas across the UK.

As a result of this work, we also identified the need to share our strategies and model with more early years practitioners, since 63% of nurseries we surveyed said that they could not deliver more places for children with SEND unless they had more advice and training. Nationally, there was no accredited course available that would give practitioners a general overview of working with children with SEND in an inclusive way, and we observed an over dependence on 1:1 support for children meaning that even where children with SEND were in mainstream settings they may not be experiencing real inclusion.

We have now developed our own training programme that will launch in autumn 2017 and is accredited by ncf at Level 3. We aim to build the skills and knowledge of more practitioners in mainstream early years settings so that they can better include children with SEND, and ensure more children can experience mainstream inclusive education.

In 2017-18 we will launch and build our training offer, and continue to work with local and central government, as well as national charities to ensure every child with SEND who is eligible can access their 30 hours.

**Catherine McLeod MBE**  
Chief Executive

## Innovation and development

Here at Dingley's Promise, we're always looking for new ways to work with children to optimise the time they spend with us. Here, we wanted to highlight two new activities that have demonstrated impact and seen tangible results in children's skill development.

### Boogie Mites Music Education Programme

We give thanks to The Shanly Foundation, who kindly funded this programme, whose legacy will continue to feel its impact for years to come.

Studies have shown that when music is used as part of early intervention strategies for children, it can impact on closing the literacy attainment gap at age five. Regular music making opportunities, that develop rhythmic and melodic awareness through singing, movement and percussion, will develop the auditory processing skills of children. Movement to music helps children develop motor and co-ordination skills, vital for independence.

Six staff in our Centres have received training in order to use the Boogie Mites sessions with the children in our care. We look forward to the next phase of the programme, starting in September 2017, where we can train parents and carers to use the strategies at home, enhancing the opportunities for music and movement in children's lives.

*'It was great fun, Michelle kept it so interesting and would love to do it again! I can't wait to get into action in the centre.'*

## Attention Bucket!

We give thanks to the NHS and their Partnership Development Fund for developing our staff in Speech and Language Therapy Interventions. All staff undertook training and on-going coaching in 'The Bucket Activity' as part of Learn Through Play sessions. So far **40 children have benefited** from the activity in our Centres and as a result:

- Shorter and more frequent sessions being delivered to all children, every day. Thus, more children can benefit from the activity, more often.
- Staff have reported feeling more confident with supporting children with their speech and language development.
- Paperwork is being completed in line with guidelines laid down by the NHS.
- With many children saying the word 'bucket' at home, we receive many enquiries into this activity. We are pleased to be able to support parents with utilising the resources and using this activity at home.

Investing in our staff to learn new skills, adopt new ideas and become confident with new approaches promises long lasting rewards for children.



## Learn Through Play

At our three, Ofsted Outstanding Centres, our qualified and highly experienced staff work tirelessly over the school year to provide play sessions like no other.

### Following the Early Years Foundation Stage, activities include:

- Music and movement to develop co-ordination skills to help with fine and gross motor skills; pincer grip and rolling.
- Physiotherapy and massage to develop strength and muscle tone. Improving functional mobility; sitting, standing and walking.
- Communication strategies, such as Makaton and Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) to stimulate the senses and help non-verbal children express themselves.
- Table-top activities and story-telling to support socialisation.

### Our sessions provide a safe and stimulating environment; that promises to make development imaginable

Our Learn Through Play sessions are the perfect environment for further assessment and therapy by professionals working with children and their families. This can include Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists and General Practitioners.

### In 2016-2017:



We delivered **28,394** hours to **131** children



We received **62** referrals for our support

*'My daughter has progressed so much since starting at Dingley's Promise. She can feed herself and communicates what she wants and needs.'*



## Holiday playschemes

Here at Dingley's Promise, we don't forget about the school holidays. These breaks in the school year are perfect to kick back from the routine of education. However, we want to optimise the time that we can make a difference.

Our Playscheme days offer the chance for brothers and sisters to join in the fun and learn some of the best communication techniques for their sibling. We believe in strengthening this special bond to improve understanding between siblings.

We also recognise that our Holiday Playscheme Days are essential respite for families. Caring for a young child with additional needs and disabilities is a full-time job, demanding, both physically and emotionally.

**It's important to give time back to a family, that promises to make growing together conceivable**

## Providers Advisory Support Service (PASS)

We want children with additional needs and disabilities to fly. We provide them with the wings and let them seek their potential in their next setting.

We work hard to ensure children in our care are working towards their next educational step. It makes us proud when a child no longer needs us and can move on to another nursery or even school.

Here at Dingley's Promise, we partner with other health and education professionals to make this step as smooth as possible. With a planned approach of visits to the next setting, meeting new faces and learning new routines. Here at Dingley's Promise, we share best practice, offer the tools and techniques that have worked well and upskill new staff to ensure continuous development.

**Equipping a new nursery or school with the strategies that help a child develop, promises to make change possible.**

**In 2016-2017:**



We offered **26 Playscheme Days** in the school holidays providing **5,850 hours** of support to children and respite to parents



**60%** of transitions were into a mainstream setting illustrating our crucial role in building paths to inclusion for as many children as possible.

## Support for the whole family

Caring responsibilities are all consuming, demanding and tiring.

We know the importance of caring for the carer. We work with parents to ensure they attend to their own health and well-being so they can really be there for their child. We also empower families with sharing successful strategies with their child so they can be used at home. This holistic approach sees children flourish and families better connected.

### Our Family Support work provides:

- Regular parent/carer activities such as coffee mornings, parent workshops and social activities.
- Collation and sharing of information on other groups and organisations that might benefit our families.
- Support to families when attending appointments with other Professionals (e.g. Health and Education).

Families provide one of the strongest building blocks in life; we promise to support our families to unlock a child's potential.



'Dingley's Promise has provided me with time to physically rest and recover from my child's needs.'

## Involving families every step of the way

Our families help guide us and keep us on track so we continue to deliver aspirational Early Years provision. Parents and Carers know their children best and we seek to join forces to achieve what can be considered by some, the unachievable.

We have parent representatives in every Centre, approachable family members, with one thing in common – to challenge us to deliver first-rate early years provision to their children. Views, opinions, thoughts and questions can all be directed to our Parent Representatives. These will either be addressed locally in the Centre or can be taken to the Parent Committee Meetings. Held quarterly with regular attendance from the Operations Manager and Chief Executive, information can flow both ways. With a Trustee responsible for Parent Support, we ensure information, views and concerns can be addressed quickly and truly shape our services.

### In 2016-2017:



We provided **330** hours of family support to 126 families



There were **51** stay and play sessions and 9 trips away from home

'Dingley's Promise has made a difference to my wellbeing. I can support my family better, knowing my child is progressing.'

'My son is less anxious, has changed as a child. Our family is a lot less stressed as we understand our son's needs more.'

We promise to truly listen, care and adapt in response to what our families have to say – helping us shape the future, for their child's future.



2016-2017 saw an incredible year for those supporters who took to the skies, walked and ran round courses in aid of Dingley's Promise. We want to thank you all!

Carolyn, Charles, Danny, Emma, Mark, Charlie, Richard, Rosie, Sarah, Simon, Trud and Tara threw themselves out a plane for a Sky dive, raising over **£9,100!**

Osborne Clark employees, Zora, Kelly and Jason ran the Vitality Reading Half Marathon raising over **£2,900!**

Julian, Former Trustee, ran the des Sables Marathon raising **£5,000!**

Matty, Shashirekha, Zora, Jennifer and Arti walked the Wokingham Walk raising over **£1700!**

Rebecca ran the London Marathon and raised over **£1100!**

Kathryn undertook several 'Dashed for Dingley' including Endure 24 and the Brighton Marathon raising over **£470!**

Richard cycled the Three Counties Cycle ride raising over **£680!**

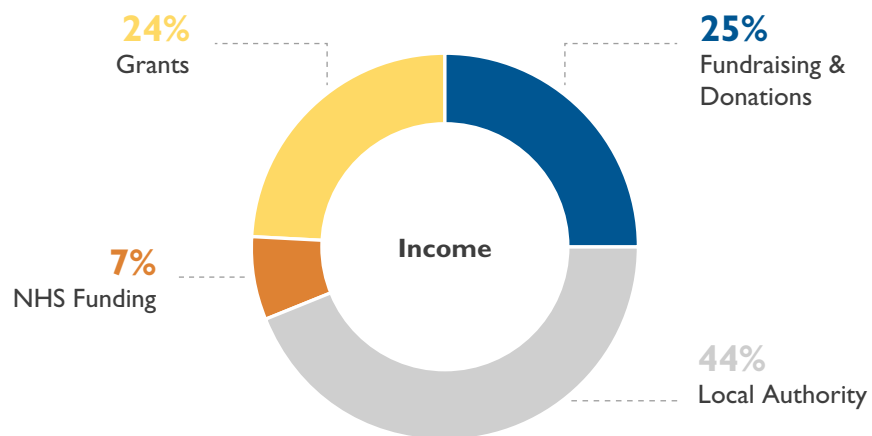
Helen and Alex Uden who raised over **£1,600** by asking for donations in place of gifts for their wedding day – how thoughtful!

A special thanks go to all those who donated in loving memory of Dawn Scott, grandmother of Alfie Baker-Scott who attends our Reading Centre, raising over **£1,200.**

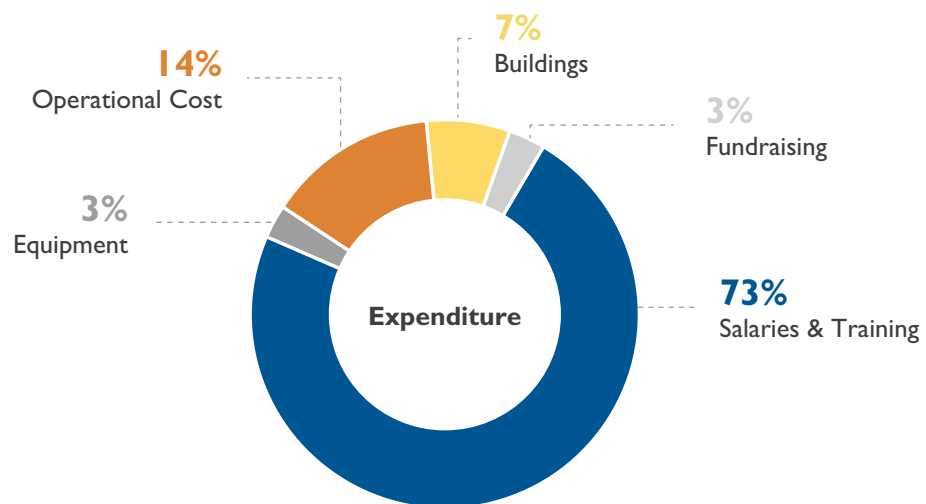
**If you would like to raise money for Dingley's Promise through a challenge – please get in touch!**



# Financial information 2016-17



**Total Income: £533,828**



**Total Income: £567,993**

Position at end – March 2017	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2017 Total (£)	2016 Total (£)
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
<b>Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:</b>				
Donations and Legacies	99,708	4,012	103,720	77,982
Investment income				
Bank interest	2,574	0	2,574	1,748
<b>Incoming Charitable Activities:</b>				
Grants	24,000	403,534	427,534	350,919
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>126,281</b>	<b>407,547</b>	<b>533,828</b>	<b>430,649</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Cost of generating funds	62,992	11,797	74,789	54,568
Charitable activities	6,535	486,671	493,204	442,164
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>69,525</b>	<b>498,468</b>	<b>567,993</b>	<b>496,732</b>
Transfers	(65,275)	65,275	0	0
<b>Net (outgoing)/incoming resources</b>	<b>56,756</b>	<b>(90,921)</b>	<b>(34,165)</b>	<b>(66,083)</b>
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2016	153,545	131,351	284,896	350,979
<b>Fund Balances c/f at 31st March 2017</b>	<b>145,026</b>	<b>105,705</b>	<b>250,731</b>	<b>284,896</b>

Balance sheet	Note	2017	2016
<b>As at march 31st 2017</b>			
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
Tangible fixed assets	1	92,523	113,686
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Other debtors and prepayments	2	21,246	14,398
Cash at bank and in hand		175,996	208,112
		<b>197,242</b>	<b>222,510</b>
<b>Creditors: amounts falling due within one year</b>			
Other creditors and accruals	3	(39,034)	(51,300)
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>158,208</b>	<b>171,210</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>250,731</b>	<b>284,896</b>
<b>Funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		145,026	153,545
Restricted funds		105,705	131,351
		<b>250,731</b>	<b>284,896</b>

# Thank you message and list of supporters

## We wish to extend a huge thank you to our main supporters:

Berkshire Community Foundation  
BBC Children in Need  
Berkshire NHS  
Big Lottery Fund  
Cardy Beaver Foundation  
David Solomons Charitable Trust  
DM Thomas Foundation for Children  
Englefield Charitable Trust  
English Provender Co Ltd  
Gerald Palmer Eling Trust  
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Souter Charitable Trust  
St James's Place Foundation  
Thatcham Town Council  
The Childwick Trust  
The Dr Mortimer & Theresa Sackler Foundation  
Theodore Roussel Memorial Trust  
Trusthouse Charitable Foundation  
Wokingham Town Council

## We also wish to extend a special thank you to all of our corporate supporters:

Academy of Learning and Management  
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Easthampton Rotary Club  
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Plough on the Green  
Primark  
Sire Technology Ltd  
Softtalk Consultancy Ltd  
Starting Gate Public House  
Welford Park  
WiPro Ltd  
Wokingham Lions Club  
A thank you to our creative partner in helping us to produce this document:

**onebite**

## A special thanks to our key partners:



**LOTTERY FUNDED**



**WOKINGHAM  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**



**Reading**  
Borough Council  
Working better with you



# Dingley's Promise



**£600,000**  
needed to run Dingley's  
Promise for one year



**3**  
Centres



**167**  
children  
supported



**126**  
families  
supported



**10**  
Volunteers



Operating for  
**34 years**



Delivered over **500,000**  
hours since Dingley's Promise started

We believe in the best start for every child



## Contact

### Wokingham Centre

Norreys Avenue (on the site of All Saints Primary School), WOKINGHAM, RG40 1UX

Telephone: 0118 977 1234

Switchboard: 0118 978 7173

Email: [admin.wokingham@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.wokingham@dingley.org.uk)

### Reading Centre

Kennet Walk Community Building, Kenavon Drive, READING, RG1 3GD

Telephone: 0118 327 7424

Email: [admin.reading@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.reading@dingley.org.uk)

### West Berks Centre (Newbury)

Poplar Place, NEWBURY, RG14 1NA

Telephone: 01635 552458

Email: [admin.westberks@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin.westberks@dingley.org.uk)

### General Enquiries

Telephone: 07940 259 355

Email: [admin@dingley.org.uk](mailto:admin@dingley.org.uk)



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## Annual Review 2016-17

[www.dingley.org.uk](http://www.dingley.org.uk)



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**



Dingley's Promise is the working name of Dingley Family and Specialist Early Years Centres, a company limited by guarantee and resistered charity. Company Registered in England and Wales No. 07279320. Registered Charity No. 1137609. Registered Office Kennet Walk Community Centre, Kennet Walk off Kenavon Drive, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3GD