

Annual Review

2017-18



Dingley's
Promise

We believe in the best start for every child

Welcome to our Annual Review 2017-2018



We are very proud to be celebrating 35 years of amazing support for children and their families in Berkshire. In recognition of this achievement, our annual review this year features some of the families who have come through our doors over the years, and where they are now. I have been in tears at some of the comments that have been made about the long term impact of what we do – not just for the children, but for their families and the long term support and friendships they gain while with us. One parent said of the Mums from the 1980's:

'When one of our original group, an ex-Dingley mum, sadly died a few years ago, the lasting friendships she formed at Dingley supported her through her illness, taking her for days out and visiting her in the hospice right up to her last day and then supporting her husband to arrange the funeral and to get through it.'

The strength of the bonds families make in the early years cannot be underestimated, and this is why we have focused in recent years on a family support service that is now an integral part of what we do.

We continue to be committed to reach as many children and families as possible, and so this year we have launched our national training offer to help mainstream nurseries and settings to be better able to work inclusively with children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). While we may reach hundreds of children a year now, we hope that in the coming years we will be able to reach thousands by making sure mainstream nurseries have the skills and confidence to give every child the best start. This, and our national campaigning and lobbying work, will ensure we can contribute to wider inclusion in the mainstream for all children with SEND.

As always, a huge thank you goes to every one of our staff members and volunteers – without whom there would be no Dingley's Promise at all. Their hard work and commitment means that children are thriving and reaching their potential, and that families have the support they need.

I hope you enjoy reading about our year, and will be as proud as we are of the achievements we have made, and the long history and impact of our very special charity.

Catherine McLeod MBE,
Chief Executive

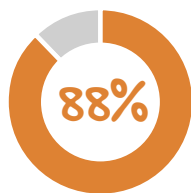


We see the promise in every child and promise to do our very best for each and every one.

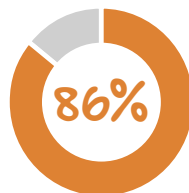
Our vision is the best start for every child and so we deliver life-changing support to children under 5 years with additional needs & disabilities and their families across Berkshire. Through specialist learning through play, family support & training and advice to mainstream settings, we seek to put children on the right path as early as possible and we support them to access mainstream education where suitable.

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

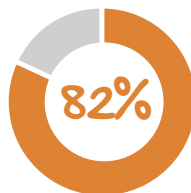
We support some of the most vulnerable, very young children with Autism, Asperger's syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, Down's Syndrome and Global Development Delay. Some of these children have life-limiting conditions.



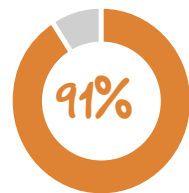
feel less isolated as a result of our support



feel more knowledgeable about effective strategies to use in the home with their child



feel more comfortable about their child's diagnosis



feel more positive about their future as a family

Families tell us:

It may surprise you...



We need to raise **57%** of our income from voluntary donations and charitable grants; that's **£1,093 every single day**



We only receive **24%** from the local authorities, with their funding being increasingly squeezed.

Our supporters are vital to ensure we can keep supporting children in their early years.

Become a Friend of Dingley's Promise to help children and their families who need our services in the future.

A regular gift helps us plan ahead more effectively, ensuring we can provide the best possible care.

A monthly gift of:



£3.75

a month for a year means one child can join in the fun at one of our Holiday Playscheme days a year.



£5

a month for a year allows a child to learn new skills in a Learn Through Play session once a year.



£10

a month for a year means we can provide eight hours of support to one child moving on to a new setting.

In return for being a valued Friend of Dingley's Promise, we will provide:

- Regular newsletters and updates about our work.
- An exclusive Dingley Bear pin badge.
- An invitation to an exclusive annual event hosted by our Chief Executive.

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

This year, incredibly our 35th, has been a very successful one, with most of our aims for the period having been achieved. We have noticed an increase in the number of children with higher needs, and therefore more of our transitions were to special education this year. We found that 70% more children needed I:1s, and the number of children with Education, Health and Care

Plans (EHCPs) almost doubled. While this inevitably led to us reaching a lower number of children, we believe it also signals a shift whereby more children with lower needs are able to access mainstream provision. This increase in inclusion is a key aim of our work and we expect to see a continuing shift in the future.

We have seen a significant increase in the volume and range of services delivered over the past year.



Holiday Playscheme hours increased by **23%** and our Family Support Worker, now operating across all three centres, increased her contact hours with parents by **150%**.



We have also **greatly increased** the number of hours (and attendance) at our additional activities (stay and play, coffee mornings and trips), with over **1,250 children hours** vs 330 last year.



This means that our sessions are fuller, and we are able to **build better relationships** between children and families and make the most of our resources.

We continued to invest in the well-being of our staff, who do a fantastic job throughout the year. One significant step here was to contract with Incahoot who provide staff benefit, loyalty and rewards solutions. We also signed the national 'Time to Change' Employers Pledge showing our commitment to staff wellbeing and to talking openly about wellbeing and mental health. Our latest staff survey at the end of 2017 showed a marked improvement in how staff felt about their own role and the quality and impact of our services.

We were delighted to be able to welcome Christopher Khoo DL and Naomi Khoo as our new Patrons in early 2018, and doubly delighted when Paralympic gold medalist Helene Raynsford agreed to join Christopher and Naomi in a Patron role in May 2018. All three of our Patrons are passionate about what we do, and we see them as great ambassadors for our work, and the impact we can have.

I look forward to another great year at Dingley's Promise, and to seeing us spreading our expertise even wider to reach more children than ever before.

Dave Ormrod, Chair
June 2018



Message from our Patrons

We were delighted have Naomi and Christopher Khoo join us as Patrons this year. Christopher Khoo is a recently retired Plastic Surgeon, having spent his career specialising in hand and breast surgery at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury and Wexham Park Hospital in Slough. Chris was

High Sheriff of the Royal County of Berkshire in 2014/5, when his motto for the year was "Healing, Harmony and Hope" and he now continues in civic service as a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire. Naomi Khoo used to teach at schools in Berkhamsted, Oxford and Windsor. She is Chairman of the Windsor and District Guild of the Medical Charity and The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund and an Honorary Member of the Windsor Medical Society.

"In the short time that we have been associated with Dingley's Promise, we have come to recognise the commitment of all the staff who work together to support and help children with additional needs and their families.

We are fortunate to have had active and lively children and grand-children and are glad to be involved with Dingley's Promise, sharing in the goal of helping children in Berkshire to achieve their fullest potential in their early years."

Naomi and Christopher Khoo DL, Patrons
June 2018



Welcome to Helene Raynsford, our newest Patron

Helene was a member of the Great Britain wheelchair basketball team, winning two Paralympic Cup silver medals before entering rowing. From here, Helene became the first ever Paralympic rowing gold medallist at Beijing 2008.

"I was very humbled to be asked to become a Patron following my visit at Dingley's Promise. The charity does incredible work really changing the lives of the children and families they work with, giving them a supportive and nurturing environment to thrive. I am looking forward to meeting more families along with the supporters at various events later this year."

Helene Raynsford, Patron
June 2018



The new Dingley's Promise Training Offer – building wider inclusion



This year we have launched an exciting new training offer, which aims to spread our expertise much wider and into mainstream early years settings across the country. We want to share our way of working with as many people as possible so that more children with SEND can access mainstream early year's provision.

Our research showed that 63% of settings felt they could not accept more children with SEND without better support and training. With a generous grant from The Garfield Weston Foundation, we set to work capturing our learning from the last 35 years and using it to create a four month long course – the Certificate in Early Years Inclusive Practice. After reviews from expert professionals, we presented this to ncf – a national training body – who agreed to accredit the course. We have now had 22 trainees start the course and are aiming for a further 100 trainees to join the course in the current year. Grants from the Greenham Trust and RCVYS Reading will enable us to offer the course at a fraction of the cost in West Berkshire, North Hampshire and Reading to a limited number of trainees.

We are very proud of this huge step forward and our staff appreciate that their skills and knowledge are recognised and valued in this way. We will continue to provide training for as long as it is needed by mainstream settings, in order to build wider inclusion in the UK.

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in accessing our training, please contact theresa.bowers@dingley.org.uk, who will send you more information and link you with one of our trainers for a chat about the course if necessary.

35 stories for 35 years campaign

As part of our 35th birthday celebrations, we have been asking well known or inspirational people to read a story for our children. We have been overwhelmed by the support from people such as **Chris Jarvis** (CBeebies), **Helene Raynsford** (Paralympic Gold Medallist), **Timmy Mallett** (TV personality), **Rebecca Jackson** (Racing Driver and children's author), **Amanda Drew** (Actor), **Ryan Moore** (Jockey), **Hayley Goleniowska** (Disability Rights Activist) and **Sally Phillips** (Actor and Disability Rights Activist).



Our readers read a story for our children either in one of our Centres or by video to be played for the children. We have had great fun seeing different people, and even recognising some of their readers from the television!

“What an incredible achievement – 35 years of seeing the promise in every child! It's really inspirational.”

Amanda Drew, Actor

We will continue to announce readers throughout the year, and plan to show all of our readers in a Christmas birthday video at the end of our special year.



Celebrating 35 years of Dingley's Promise – where are they now?

Back in 1986, twin boys were born; **James and Thomas.**

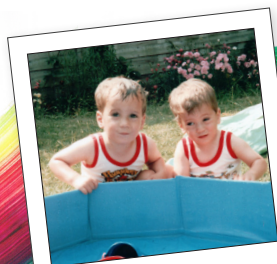
“My lads are happier than they have ever been, now living in supported accommodation in Wokingham, about a mile apart from each other. They see each other frequently and are well supported to have a great life.”

Diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in their early years, James and Thomas' severe learning disability meant that they had no spontaneous speech and very little understanding of the world around them. Struggling to cope at home, their mum was referred to Dingley's Promise in 1989, opening up a circle of support of parents with newly diagnosed children.

“Meeting other mums was a life line for our children, who rarely got invited anywhere by mums who didn't understand. It was great to develop friendships that are still strong 30 years later. With many miles between us, we still meet at least twice a year.”

Dingley's Promise supported James and Thomas to get to the Centre via a taxi and unlike other playgroups, had the added advantage of providing advice from health professionals including speech and occupational therapy. Dingley's Promise provided a springboard onto other opportunities to support the twins' development, which has proved invaluable for paving the way for their future happiness.

1980's



Then...



...Now!

In 1994, we welcomed **Charlie** to Dingley's Promise and in 1996, his sister **Gabriella.**

1990's

“Charlie now has two degrees from Exeter University, lives in London and works for a charity. Gabriella also has two degrees and is building her career as a teacher in a special school in Poole. I am so proud of all that they have achieved. Gabriella has taken her childhood roots and turned them into something so valuable and Charlie has a big group of friends and a better social life than me!”

When Charlie was referred to Dingley's Promise, he was just two years old and recently diagnosed with Asperger's Syndrome. Charlie didn't really play with other children and needed speech therapy each week. Other parents seemed wary of him, as he never spoke and didn't behave like other children.

Back then Dingley's Promise was in one room, buried in the depths of Battle Hospital. In the ensuing years, Charlie's sister joined him at Dingley's Promise, having been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy and in need of physiotherapy.

“The group at Dingley gave Charlie the chance to interact with adults who weren't me and to learn that there were other people who could meet his needs.”

Travelling to and from Reading from their home in Wokingham, four days a week, whilst caring for another sibling was taking its toll on the family. The idea for satellite centres was born and the family passionately supported the new development of services. Securing a clinic room for one morning a week at Wokingham Hospital and financial support from the Electricity Board; Wokingham Dingley's Promise was opened.



Then...

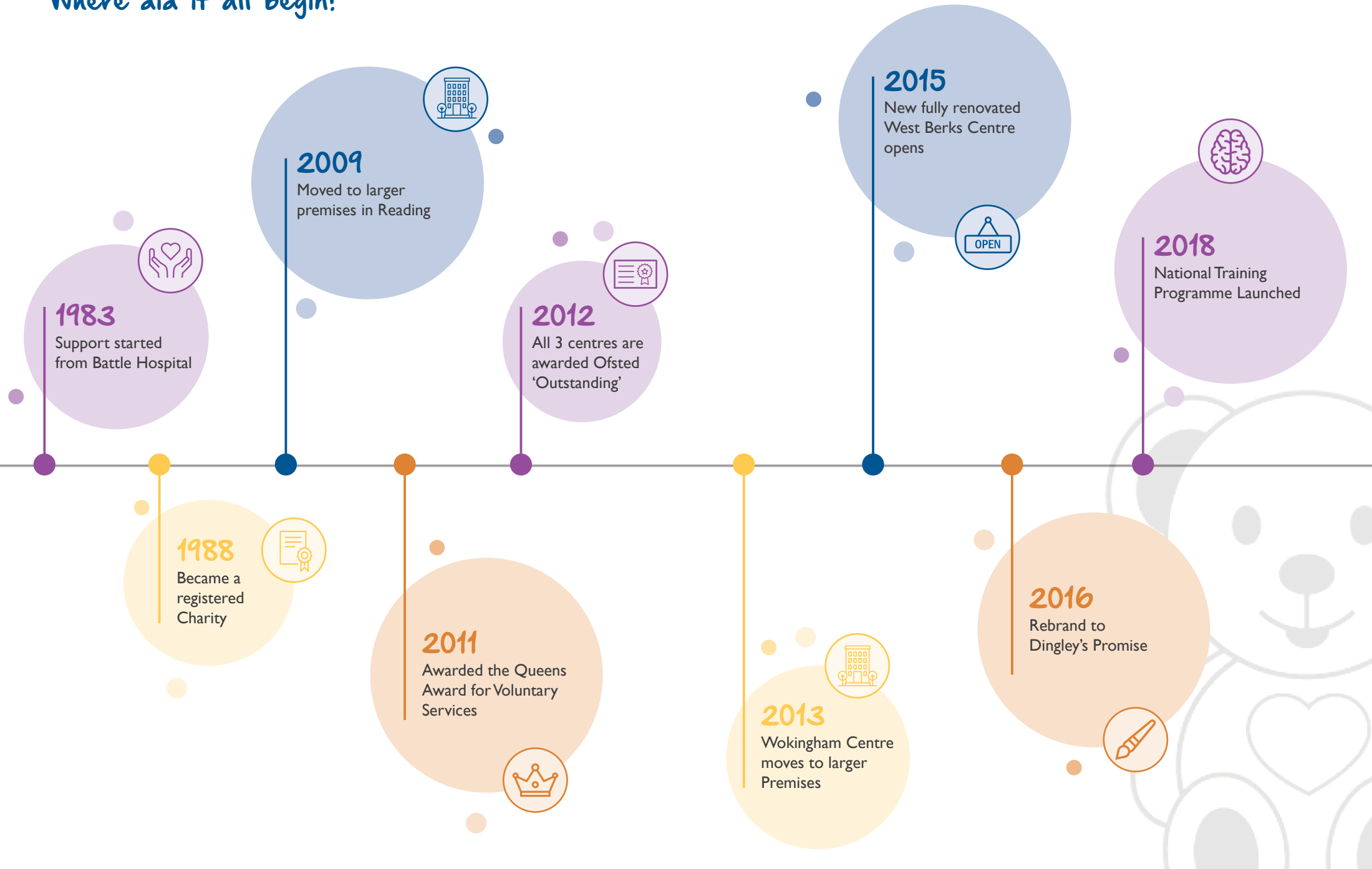


Gabriella now!



Charlie now!

Where did it all begin?



Meet **Louise**, who is nearly 11 years old

2000's

Dingley's Promise provided Louise with a safe, creative and fun place to be herself and achieve her best.

Having moved back to the UK, when Louise was only 2 years old, her family were struggling to access vital health services including physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and occupational health. Searching on-line, they found Dingley's Promise and Louise was soon invited to join in sessions at their local centre.

Straight away Louise was engaged in therapy through play to help her develop and learn. She was socialising with children her own age.

"The early positive socialisation at Dingley's Promise made Louise become a confident child, who will interact with anyone now."

Louise started progressing physically, mentally and socially. The family were taught exercises and fun games to help continue Louise's learning at home too. With a taxi service to overcome the barrier of getting Louise to the centre, a library service and support from experienced staff, Louise flourished.

"We had a place we trusted to look after Louise while we could have a break; a coffee and a chat with other parents."

Louise is now nearly 11 years old and is doing remarkably well. She still sees friends that she made all those years ago and her family feel assured that giving Louise the best start set her off on the right path.



Then...



...Now!

Meet **Lewis**, born in 2014 and now aged 4

2010's

"Since he joined Dingley's Promise, Lewis has started talking, walking with assistance and has become more independent with his food."

Lewis is a fun loving, little chap, whose laugh can be heard all around the playroom!

At six months, he suffered a seizure and was diagnosed with epilepsy. This was the point when his family found out that he also has Cerebral Palsy, Cortical Visual Impairment (Lewis is registered blind) and Microcephaly (a congenital condition associated with incomplete brain development). Pointed towards Dingley's Promise by his Paediatrician, Lewis started attending our West Berkshire Centre before his first birthday.

"When we heard about Dingley's Promise, the approach used really struck us and the initial home visit was so reassuring."

At first Lewis was unable to talk or communicate in any way. He relied on other people to move him from place to place and feed him. Lewis wears specialist splints to keep his feet in a good position and needs textured, noisy resources and consistent and repetitive activities. Lewis has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place to support his development and we have welcomed a teacher for visually impaired children into the Centre to support Lewis with the hope of introducing Braille. To assist us, we often use equipment to support Lewis, including a specialist chair, stander and walker.

It was incredible to hear Lewis say his first word – "more" at mealtimes and he has progressed to using a variety of words. Furthermore, he has also started using a closed beaker by himself, eating with finger foods and trying a spoon. Lewis can also now sit independently and with our recent purchase of a ceiling hoist, can move around the playroom at his own pace.

Lewis is always such a happy little boy, showing his excitement when he arrives and recognising staff by their voice. We wish him immense success in his new school in September!

"Lewis has come on so much. It has been so very worthwhile and we would highly recommend to others. His attendance has also given my husband and I more freedom and a community of friends. The staff instil a great sense of confidence in you and as such, Dingley's Promise now feels like part of our family."



Now!

A special thanks goes to all those who donated to Dingley's Promise in memory of a loved one.

Thank you to all those who donated in loving memory of Rebecca Barnard, a special girl who attended our West Berkshire Centre, raising over £1,400. This money has supported more children to have the best start, like Rebecca did.

We wish to express our gratitude to Keith Ormrod, who donated in memory of his late wife, Dr Pamela Ormrod. Donating through our Big Give Christmas Campaign enabled us to unlock matched funding. With such a generous gift, we were able to purchase various pieces of equipment for all three Centres, including a PAL chair in West Berkshire, sensory and role playing toys in Reading and Wokingham.

Our appreciation goes out to Carol Richardson, a wonderful volunteer from Marks & Spencer who donated in memory of her late husband, Gareth Richardson. We used this kind donation to purchase a water feature for our recently renovated garden in West Berkshire.

We also wish to extend our thanks to Wokingham Lions Club who donated in memory of Norman Sutton. We were able to use this donation towards buying some new wooden tables and chairs for the children at our Wokingham Centre.

2017- 2018 saw our supporters being an active bunch; running, canoeing, zip-lining and asking for donations in lieu of presents. We could not be more grateful!



Tim Rees ran the London Marathon, not long after running the Brighton Marathon and raised nearly **£1,300!**

Matthew Knight continued his pledge to run multiple races dressed as Daisy! A half marathon, two 10K races and eyes on an Ultra Marathon sees Matthew running hard for his **£500** target!

Nicky and Charlie who raised **£150** by asking for donations as part of their wedding day – we feel very honoured to be included in your special day.

Jeremy Canning donated **£125** from the Nifty Fifty Endurance.

Abi Preston-Rees our Centre Manager in West Berkshire along with Lorna, Leanne, Sue and Sarah completed the Inflatable 5km Gauntlet raising over **£480!**

Members of BNI Bourne – Newbury; **Tim, Chris, Linda, Rob, Mark, Katie, Rob, Stuart, Peter** and **Hannah** for fundraising towards their Velocity Challenge; the longest zip-line ins Europe and the fastest in the world! So far they have raised over **£4,600** and even though the weather ensured their challenge was postponed, their commitment is still strong – you are a brave bunch!

The weather was kinder to **Lisa** and **Amy**, who did complete the mighty Velocity raising over **£450!**

Sarah, Charlotte, Andy and **Charlie** from Valspar Paint all took part in Rough Runner in Manchester as part of their on-going support to our work. They raised over **£1,600!**

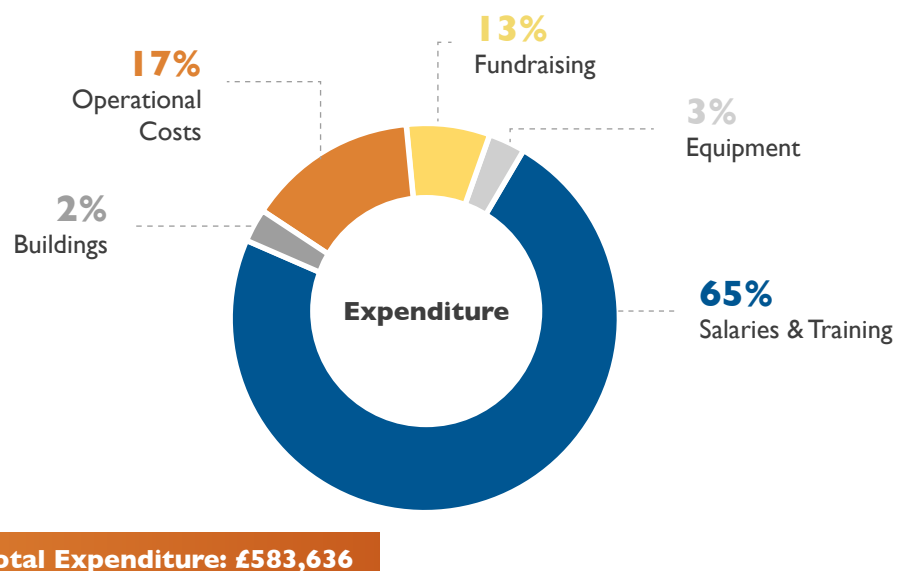
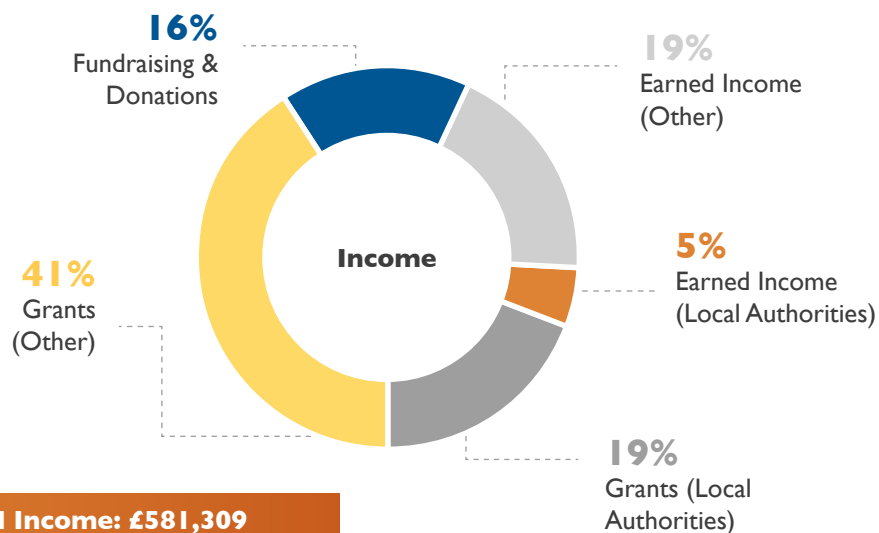
Ruth Stacey, our fabulous volunteer from Reading who took part in the International Canoe Race from Devizes to Westminster, raising **£505**.

Zora, our Wokingham Centre Manager who trained for the Reading Half Marathon to be cancelled due to the snow! Kindly, Zora signed up for the Royal Berkshire 10K later that year.

If you would like to support Dingley's Promise through a challenge – please get in touch!



Financial information 2017-18



Position at end – March 2018	Unrestricted Funds (£)	Restricted Funds (£)	2018 Total (£)	2017 Total (£)
Incoming Resources				
Incoming Resources from Generated Funds:				
Donations and Legacies	£86,626	£6,380	£93,006	£103,720
Investment income				
Bank interest	£1,531		£1,531	£2,574
Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities				
Earned Income	£3,658	£137,370	£141,028	£0
Grants	£45,900	£299,844	£345,744	£427,534
Total Incoming Resources	£137,716	£443,593	£581,309	£533,828
Resources Expended				
Cost of generating funds	£73,897	£3,211	£77,108	£74,789
Charitable activities	£7,080	£499,448	£506,528	£493,204
Total Resources Expended	£80,977	£502,659	£583,636	£567,993
Transfers	-£72,091	-£72,091	£0	£0
Net (outgoing)/incoming resources	-£15,353	£13,026	-£2,327	-£34,165
Fund balances brought forward at 1st April 2017	£145,026	£105,705	£250,731	£284,896
Fund Balances c/f at 31st March 2018	£129,673	£118,731	£248,404	£250,731

Balance sheet	2018 (£)	2017 (£)
As at March 31st 2018		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	£100,584	£92,523
Current Assets		
Other debtors and prepayments	£17,024	£21,246
Cash at bank and in hand	£176,856	£175,996
Total	£193,880	£197,242
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Other creditors and accruals	-£46,060	-£39,034
Net current assets	£147,820	£158,208
Net Assets	£248,404	£250,731
Funds		
Unrestricted funds	£129,673	£145,026
Restricted funds	£118,731	£105,705
	£248,404	£250,731

These figures are correct at the time of printing and full accounts will be available on our website at the conclusion of our independent examination.

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

BBC Children in Need
Berkshire Community Foundation
Berkshire Masonic Charity
Big Lottery Fund
Cardy Beaver Foundation
Cultural Partnership
DMThomas Foundation for Children
Englefield Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gerald Palmer Eling Trust
Greenham Common Trust
Mobbs Memorial Trust
Mr & Mrs J A Pye's Charitable Settlement
Peter Harrison Foundation
RCVYS
Reading Mayor, Cllr Mohammed Ayub
Reading St. Laurence Church Lands
Souter Charitable Trust
St James's Place Charitable Foundation
Thatcham Town Council
The ACT Foundation
The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
The Hobson Charity
The Lake House Charitable Foundation
The Medlock Charitable Trust
The Percy Bilton Charity
The Peter Baker Foundation
The Sackler Trust
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust

The Sobell Foundation
The Theodore Roussel Memorial Trust
The Toy Trust
The Welton Foundation
Wokingham Town Council

A special thanks to our key partners:



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

321Media
Alfresco Group Ltd
Amica Live
Ascot Racecourse
Barrett & Coe Photography Studio
BNI Bourne - Newbury
Calcot Women's Institute
Chalkhill Blue Ltd
Compton CE Primary School
Costco Wholesale
Create IT Group
Direct Wines Ltd
Dynamiq Management Ltd
ebpSource Ltd
Fatface
Formwork Direct International Ltd
Freixenet UK
Herma UK Ltd
Hilton Reading Hotel
Immunocore Ltd
Las Iguanas
Lions Club of Reading
Maiden Erlegh Rotary Club
Marks and Spencer
Newbury Racecourse
Newbury Weekly News
Newbury & Reading Wargames Society
Osborne Clarke LLP
Plough on the Green
Porsche

Prudential plc
Reading Football Club
Rockwell Collins UK Ltd
Rotary Club for Henley-on-Thames
Rotary Club of Reading Abbey
Sainsbury's
Santander Foundation
SIRE Technology Ltd
Snappy Snaps
Softtalk Consultancy and Services
Tesco Plc
The Carnarvon Arms
The Castle Inn
The Lions Club of Henley-on-Thames
Tim Lowe & Associates
Waitrose
Welford Park
Wokingham Lions Club
Valspar Paint

A thank you to our creative partner in helping us to produce this document:

onebite



Dingley's Promise



£700,000
needed to run Dingley's
Promise for one year



3
Centres



152
children
supported



144
families
supported



12
Volunteers



23,633 hours delivered by staff and volunteers



Operating for
35 years



523,000 hours delivered
by staff and volunteers

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

Reading Centre

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

Telephone: 0118 327 7424

Email: admin.reading@dingley.org.uk

West Berks Centre (Newbury)

Poplar Place, NEWBURY, RG14 1NA

Telephone: 01635 552458

Email: admin.westberks@dingley.org.uk

General Enquiries

Telephone: 07940 259 355

Email: admin@dingley.org.uk



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Annual Review 2017-18

www.dingley.org.uk

Artwok by Jayden, aged 4



**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 resisted 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