



Background: Oundle School Mencap Holiday (OSMH) is a charity running residential holidays hosted by Oundle School, Northamptonshire. The scheme has been running since 1983 and is a core part of the school. SuperTroop adopts this model, adapted for a Scottish context, and hosted at Fettes College.

The Founders: Sue is a developmental psychologist at the University of Edinburgh with expertise in learning disability research. She volunteered with OSMH for 20 years and sat on their board of trustees from 2005 to 2016. Sue will be one of the managers of the holiday, with specific responsibility for specialist learning disability support.

Frankie is a childcare professional with experience working in secondary school, further education and pre-school settings. She is registered with the Care Inspectorate and the Scottish Social Services Council. Frankie will be a manager of the holiday with specific responsibility for staff and pupil support.

Max is a consultant to the Scottish Government, Audit Scotland, NHS and local government on governance and performance oversight of health and social work services. He is also the vice-chair of a housing association. Max is the inaugural Chair of the board of trustees.

Mission Statement: The goal of *SuperTroop* is to provide excellent holidays for children and young people with learning (and sometimes also physical) disabilities. At a minimum, the people in our care should be: safe; happy; respected; nurtured. In particular, we aim to achieve a convivial environment in which holiday makers feel surrounded by peers and friends. The focus of our organisation is not just on the children and young adults who attend our holiday schemes. We also aim to have an impact on three groups of individuals: *families and friends of holiday makers; members of the public; pupil volunteers.*



Our role: We have constituted the new charity, convened a board of trustees (including a representative from Fettes), developed a full handbook of policy and procedure, begun the process of registering with the Care Inspectorate, and fundraised about half of the required costs for the week. Frankie and Sue will be managers on the holiday and will provide suitable training and support to senior helpers, group leaders, and to helpers. We will also recruit expert managers to oversee medical care, special diets, communication and behavioural support. Holiday-makers will be drawn from the local community using a 'gatekeeper' referral scheme from local schools and charities.

Fettes' Role: The school is providing a team of volunteer pupils, who will provide one-to-one care to the holiday makers all week. The school is also giving access to a boarding house, dining hall, and facilities such as outdoor spaces, swimming pool, and sports hall.

More about the holiday: We envisage welcoming 16 children and young people, aged 8-18, with learning disabilities, to the holiday. The children are likely to have a developmental level significantly below their chronological age. Some may have physical disabilities and complex medical conditions such as epilepsy. They will be supported at all times, one-to-one, by helpers drawn from pupils at the school. These helpers will in turn be organized into groups of four, supervised by a group leader, recruited locally and carefully vetted and trained. The holiday will be further overseen by a senior team with relevant skills, including six managers with designated responsibilities (e.g. staff support, medical care). During the holiday, we will run a program of activities such as swimming and games on site, arts and crafts, and trips to the seaside or funfair.