

## South East region: puppy raising update - October 2023

Dear South East Puppy Raising Team,

Since my last update I'm delighted to let you know that we've successfully recruited two new Puppy Development Advisors (PDAs) to join our team. Once they join us, Kelly will be covering parts of Surrey and Ashley will be taking on Sussex. With these additions, we now have a full complement of PDAs, and can place puppies across our whole region and ultimately this will help us make a positive impact on our guide dog 'ready to train' list.

Whilst we wait for Kelly and Ashley to start and complete their initial training with us, we understand that some volunteers have experienced, or are currently experiencing, long waits to start or continue their volunteering puppy raising journey. We truly appreciate your understanding during this process, and I'd like to personally express my sincere gratitude to each one of you for your patience.

As mentioned in our previous update, we are still committed to running regional learning sessions. While it has taken us a little longer than anticipated to set these up, please rest assured that we are actively working towards making these sessions happen. We want to ensure the best experience for everyone involved so we will make them available as soon as possible.

A quick reminder: Your feedback is invaluable to us. If you have any thoughts or feedback on our change to contact us through Guide Line is working for you please feel free to share them with us via email to either [lisa.cooke@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:lisa.cooke@guidedogs.org.uk) or to myself at [helena.gibbons@guidedogs.org.uk](mailto:helena.gibbons@guidedogs.org.uk).

Once again, thank you for being an essential part of our volunteering community. Your commitment and contributions are making such a difference. We currently have over 230



**Date: October 2023**



puppies in our region and couldn't possibly deliver our services without you.

Many thanks,

**Helena Gibbons**  
**Canine Assisted Services, Operations Manager - South East**

**Document ends.**



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