At Seashell Trust, we’re here to make things happen. The day when a vulnerable or disabled child or young person comes to Seashell, is the day everything changes. We can make a real difference to the lives of those suffering with a combination of deafness, blindness, autism, physical disabilities, multiple learning difficulties or significant brain damage. And now, we want to do more, for those who need us the most.”

Mark Geraghty, CEO & Principal

Sometimes, making things happen, means making big choices. To help us continue and extend our work, our big choice has been to create the very first National Centre of Excellence that will help us to reach out to many more families across the UK, earlier and more effectively.

The Seashell Trust vision is that by 2020 we will be able to support any child and family in the UK that needs the specialised help we provide. The new centre will enable us to do more than ever before to transform the lives and communication skills of children with the most complex needs so that they and their families can enjoy bright, positive futures.

To achieve this we are embarking on a major transformation plan that by 2020 will see £20 million worth of investment. Our first step is to provide new homes and new services to reach out to hundreds more families in need, requiring £10 million of investment by Seashell and people like you. We are committing £2 million of our charity’s own funds.

Right now, our priority is to attract the support of likeminded individuals and organisations with the ability to make leadership gifts, share their business acumen and influence others to establish the foundations of our campaign.

We have set the bar high but without this level of ambition many of the UK’s most vulnerable children are in danger of being left behind. We hope you will feel moved to become one of our founding campaign partners to help us achieve our vision.

The future. It’s something everyone should be able to look forward to.
Before we look at where we want to be, it’s worth taking a look at where we’ve come from.

Back in 1823, our charity began as a school for deaf children funded entirely by public subscriptions. As demand grew, so did the school, moving premises and adding an infant and upper school.

Post Second World War, a new residential school was built in Cheadle Hulme. The move to inclusion for children with disabilities in the late 1970s changed our focus to deaf children with additional needs and in 1998 the charity’s first residential home for those requiring year-round care was opened.

By 2005 growing numbers of referrals to our college led to major expansion.

Today, we support more than 50 young adults through our Royal College Manchester and more than 50 children through our Royal School Manchester.

The pupils and students we help come to us with little or no ability to communicate and are unable to express even their basic human needs. With national demand growing as more babies survive complications at birth, the need for more support for the most profoundly disabled young people and their families is growing increasingly acute.

Without our new centre, the outlook for those children is bleak, with many children destined to lead lonely lives with little meaningful interaction, or sedated in institutional accommodation. With the new centre, we aim to make Seashell’s expertise available to every child and family across the UK for generations to come.
Transforming lives, by taking care to a new level.

The next part of the journey is to create a new centre of excellence to transform the lives of the most vulnerable and disabled children and young people.

Why is it so important? Because the numbers of those in need are growing and intervention at the earliest opportunity is absolutely key to their future prospects in life.

And because our new centre will enable us to support many hundreds more children and families than we do now.

Seashell Trust aims to become the UK’s foremost centre of its kind. By 2020, we will be able to support any family in the country who has a child with complex, challenging needs and disabilities.

Better care and better life outcomes.

Currently in the UK, there is a lack of early intervention programmes, coordinated family-focused care or appropriate specialist treatment.

The new centre will help with all of these issues, enabling the country’s most vulnerable young people to experience better life outcomes and become valued and valuable members of their communities.

For instance many of our residential homes are out of date, because they were designed over 50 years ago to house able-bodied deaf children, not to support children with complex needs. To meet those needs, the new centre will include 17 purpose-built homes providing highly specialised residential care.

“Sadly, services often fail children with the most profound and complex disabilities. Seashell’s developments will lead the way in supporting families and professionals to achieve the best outcomes for some of society’s most vulnerable children and young people.”

Professor Adrian Davis, OBE.
Chief Advisor, The NHS Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, Director of Population Health Science, Public Health England
Our Transforming Lives aims

Our £20 million appeal will enable us to:

Ensure greater dignity, independence and security for those whose only option is to live away from a traditional family environment by building 17 new homes.

Establish comprehensive outreach and early intervention programmes to support more families in need.

Maintain our outstanding OFSTED ratings across all areas of our operation.

Create a national residential assessment centre to provide holistic assessments from as early as birth onwards.

Provide excellence in teaching and learning by constructing a new Royal School Manchester to cater for the needs of the children/young people who will be referred to Seashell in future years.
At Seashell Trust, we’re passionate about what we do and proud of what we achieve with every student. We can and do make a difference, every single day. For us, there is simply no substitute for seeing someone released from a life of isolation and inability to communicate and instead, enjoying the fullest life they can possibly lead. Our exceptional staff to child ratio, which in some cases can be as high as 3:1, enables us to provide each child and young person with a tailored programme of care and learning. The difference this makes can be empowering and life changing.

Helping Evie: a case study.

Evie was referred to Seashell by her local authority for a residential placement when she was 8 years old. Evie has CHARGE Syndrome which means she has a severe hearing loss and is blind in one eye with impaired vision in the other. Evie also has physical, communication and learning difficulties.

When Evie was born she was very delicate and required surgery and spent long periods of time in hospital. When she came to Seashell she had limited mobility and required a wheelchair and her nonverbal communication was limited to reaching towards items of interest; she was unable to express her wants and needs.

After 18 months of intensive support at Seashell Evie’s life had been transformed. She is now able to walk without the use of a frame, use the stairs and is beginning to communicate with her family through pictures and technology. Whilst her disabilities will always be challenging Evie now enjoys a level of independence which before Seashell was unimaginable.

“Every day, we make a difference.”

“Our son is much more settled, happy, self-confident, has learned a multitude of new skills and looks forward to going to school every day.”
We knew if Evie got the expert help in deafblindness we would learn ways of helping her to communicate. She is now making progress in every aspect of her life. The whole world is opening up to her. I don’t know where we would have been without the help of Seashell. It’s changed our family’s lives and Evie’s and I want her to stay at Seashell forever.

Evie’s mum

Caring more has never mattered more.

The possibilities of what can be achieved with the most vulnerable and disabled children and young people in our communities have never been so exciting.

At our National Centre of Excellence, we will create a national assessment and early intervention service bringing together specialists in education, medicine, therapy and care to provide coordinated functional assessments in babyhood and early childhood. Families will stay in special accommodation on site, allowing professionals to observe and interact with children in an environment that recreates their home circumstances.
With profound and multiple disabilities, getting assessed as early as possible is crucial. Our assessment and early intervention service will enable us to recognise and respond to the needs of babies and children with the most severe and complex disabilities as soon as possible, making children more likely to reach their full potential and less likely to require full time care away from home.

For the first time, families will also be able to take advantage of an innovative programme of web-based face-to-face consultations, helpful parent-to-parent support and the latest research, practice and learning.

Our experienced team will be able to help increasing numbers of students to develop new life skills, from personal health to citizenship, home management and travel.

It’s an approach that works. The numbers of our college leavers returning to their home communities and undertaking meaningful and rewarding supported work is growing.

Our vision is to make the future a better place for the people we support. With your help we can greatly improve their quality of care and their quality of life. At Seashell Trust, we’re dedicated to making that happen.

For a confidential discussion about how you or your organisation can get involved please contact: **Mark Geraghty**, Chief Executive  
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or **Dominic Tinner**, Head of Development  
dominic.tinner@seashelltrust.org.uk  

or call 0161 610 0117.
“Our son has excelled beyond all expectations since joining the Seashell Trust. The dedicated time spent with him by staff from the Seashell Trust has brought out the best in our son.”

“Seeing the difference in my daughter has given me strength and reassurance.”

“Seashell Trust has changed the lives of our whole family. Before she started at Royal School Manchester we were at the point of adoption breakdown.”

“The Seashell Trust has had a fantastic, positive impact on our family life. Our son has access to professional expertise, inspirational staff and a safe and caring environment. Since he can’t be at home with us all the time, this is the next best thing!”

To help us to transform lives, please contact

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