

Volunteer project delivers 2,000 shields

A WOMAN from Bookham is leading a volunteer-led project to make and distribute face visors to front-line health workers across the region during the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 2,000 face shields have been put together and distributed to hospitals, care homes and other health providers over the last few weeks thanks to the efforts of Louise Hallam and a large team of volunteers here in Surrey.

The Howard of Effingham School, school of Louise's daughters Katie and Cara, and Downsend School, where Louise is a teacher, donated the use of their 3D printers and laser cutters to help make the components of the shields, and Ibstock Place School in Richmond also offered its help.

The mum of five set up a Crowdfunder site to help pay for materials and recruited volunteers from across the community to help assemble the shields. A number of the volunteers became involved through Louise's work as an adult helper with the 1st Effingham Girlguiding Unit.

Louise's daughter Madeleine showed one of the shields she had helped make during a virtual meeting for the unit, leading to a number of Girlguiding families offering their help. So far, more than 2,000 shields have been made and delivered locally, amongst other places, to The Grange in Bookham, Epsom Hospital and a number of local care homes, including Limegrove in East Horsley.

Louise Hallam has been over-



Izzy, James, Katie and Cara assembling face shields. Right, Louise Hallam assembling face shields with her sons



whelmed with the response to the campaign. She said: "Setting up the #keepthemsafe-surrey project in our community has been an incredibly inspiring experience. I had the opportunity to do something practical to help the community and with four teenagers on lockdown at home, I knew I had a ready-made workforce."

"As the word spread, I have been overwhelmed by the offers of support from a number of families in our villages."

"As soon as our fundraising site went live, we were overwhelmed with the many kind donations, which have enabled us to purchase the materials we need. We have a

production line of volunteers producing and delivering over 100 face shields on a daily basis and we're so proud of what we've achieved so far. We wouldn't have done it, without everyone uniting together in such an amazing way."

For more information on what the group need and to donate, visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/keepthemsafesurrey.





Staff at Epsom Hospital wearing their donated face shields