

Elisabeth Hoodless, DBE: Summary Biography

Dame Elisabeth Hoodless is the Executive Director of Community Service Volunteers, the UK's leading volunteer agency. She is responsible for 227,000 volunteers aged 5-106, working nationwide helping children to read, supporting the patients of family doctors, protecting trees and rivers, encouraging blood donors and mentoring young offenders to reduce crime. Nine hundred colleagues and a budget of £45.8m underpin the operation. She chairs Islington Youth Court, is Vice President of Attend, President of Volonteurope (European network of volunteer agencies), and Vice Chair of Innovations in Civic Participation (USA).

In 1966, Elisabeth Hoodless worked on the development of the USA's VISTA programme (Volunteers in Service to America), and in 1972 she helped design and implement the Jamaican National Youth Service Programme.

In January 2004, Elisabeth was made a Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.

Her husband Donald, an economist, is Chairman of Skills for Care and the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital. They have two sons and two granddaughters.