

# Pat bids farewell

JEWISH DEAF Association chief executive Pat Goldring, who this month steps down after 16 years in the post, is confident she is leaving the organisation in "good shape."

"I believe I have raised the organisation's profile and encouraged our members to integrate into society so their potential can be realised," she said this week.

Mrs Goldring, of Stamford Hill, joined the JDA as a part-time administration assistant 29 years ago and is to continue working for the organisation as a freelance consultant.

She will be succeeded by Susan Cipin, 38, assistant to the chief executive of Jewish Child's Day for the past nine years.

Mrs Goldring said she was particularly pleased to have overseen the JDA's move last year from Hackney to its new purpose-built community centre in Finchley. Fully accessible to the disabled, it is one of only a handful of such units in the country with a day centre and computer room, as well as lip-reading and sign classes.

Its resource centre, one of the most widely used facilities, is the service of which she is most proud.

"In the early 1990s, I saw what other organisations were providing and decided we needed a resource centre. It has proved a real success."

It is open to all deaf and hard-of-hearing people, carers and professionals, irrespective of religion or race. The centre provides advice on equipment to help the deaf lead more independent lives in their own homes, including telecommunications equipment, audio loop systems, doorbell and phone "enhancements" and alarm systems.

Mrs Goldring said she also felt "partly responsible" for the community's growing understanding of hearing-impaired people's needs. "I believe in the concept of hearing-impaired people as a distinct group in the community. Until the early 1990s, they were largely ignored."

Her one regret was limited success in getting young people to support the charity's work. "They seem reluctant to join fund-raising committees or get involved," she said.