

Meet the team

Elizabeth Homewood

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What do you do at Outset and how do you support our clients?

Since joining Outset as Financial Controller in 2013 the business need has changed and evolved leading my role to do the same and I now hold the position of Director of Group Finance. My role is varied and can see me hands on in busy times with the finance team to supporting the more strategic decisions.

Give us a brief timeline of your career so far

Following A Levels and a fortuitous conversation in the sixth form common room I commenced on a graduate training programme within an accountancy practice, studying first for AAT followed by ACCA. Whilst in practice I was responsible for auditing and preparing statutory accounts and tax returns, gaining experience of a large number of industries all of different shapes and sizes. In practice you only see a snippet of the business you're working with and there is a limit to the difference you can make and value you add this and personal ambition drove the change to an in house role.



What has been your biggest challenge in your role?

In order to provide meaningful/relevant management information (MI) the source data needs to be gathered, the challenge is striking a balance of asking a busy colleague to complete such info when they may not see the end result and the benefit to the business of having it. Fortunately for a little while now Outset has embraced technology to allow for more system generated/automated methods of producing MI alleviating some of the burden and leaving colleagues to focus even more on service delivery.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

At varying degrees I get to be involved in a number of elements of the business sometimes that's after the event or more appealingly it's before and I can contribute to any resulting decision, this suits my inquisitive (some might say nosey) nature and also makes me feel valued.

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What do you think sets Outset apart?

Outset strives to be better in all aspects be that through quality of service, technical innovation or added value to both our clients and colleagues. It is only acceptable to do something a certain way if it's the right way and not simply because everyone else does it. I see examples of this passion and drive every working day.

When you were young, what did you want to be when you grew up?

Up until about 13 I wanted to be a vet I grew up on a small farm where we kept pigs and sheep, as a farmer you have a love and responsibility of care for your livestock and being a vet meant I'd be able to deliver on that and get to play with the piglets more often.

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What do you wish someone had told you when you started out? Or what piece of advice were you given early on that has stuck with you?

Once upon a time success in business was visibly defined by wearing a suit and it was advised to dress for where you want to be, I wish I'd grasped early on to re-interpret this and visualise what good/success looks like be that imagining a free space in the work car park, a tricky conversation with a colleague going well or ££££s on a bank statement, once your head can see what it needs to achieve your body and actions have a far greater chance to make it happen.



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What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?

Spending time with family and friends and being outdoors either working on the aforementioned farm, walking by the sea or trying to get (seemingly elusive) fitter.

Who inspires you most and why?

Inspiration comes from all sources and depends on my mood of the day but I tend to admire people who are real to me rather than public figures.



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What piece of advice would you give someone in business?

I'd advise that one be mindful that the human brain can differ in a person as much as their appearance so how you might interpret a word or a phrase may be different to how someone else will. One person could be oblivious to something that seems obvious to another. I'm also a fan of the phrase you can't change the output without changing the input.

And finally... What is one thing you've learnt during lockdown?

Sadly that I can survive staying in the house for more than 24 hours something that otherwise would rarely happen! I can also now crochet a granny square – Etsy here I come.



Elizabeth Homewood

Finance Team

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Scan the QR code below to save Liz's contact details

