

Social Care Support Network – Minutes of first Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, 7th July 2014

Time: 7.15 pm start; concluded 8.20pm

Venue: Queen Mother Gardens, 6 Elm Tree Road, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9AP

1. Present: Robin Beeson (Chair); Janti Champaneri OBE (Secretary); Andy Merker (Trustee); Maureen Bradley (Trustee); Liz Taylor (Member); Cllr Sue Anderson (Member); Vic Citarella (Member); Mike Walker (Member); Janet Fox (Member).

2. Apologies: Steve Kiekopf (Trustee); Nargis Kapasi (Member); Nina Osborne (Member); Julie Talbot (Member); Kathleen Lane; Heera Gowda; Pat Thomas (Member); Safina Mistry (Member); Helen Wilcox; Allan Barker; Marie Hopkins; Romi Arora; Des Kelly; Fharat Rehman (Member); Sian Morton (Member);

There were 2 Members who had indicated they would attend but did not show.

3. Chair' Opening Comments: Robin Beeson formally opened the first annual general meeting of the network with a warm welcome to all the attendees. He asked for brief introductions, so that everyone could be familiar with people's background and interests. It was noted that all the attendees were members of the network and came from quite a geographical spread.

4. Minutes of the General Meeting, 6th June 2013: Robin briefly went through the minutes for the benefit of all the attendees and asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the minutes as an accurate record for that meeting.

Proposed by: Andy Merker

Seconded by: Janti Champaneri OBE

All members approved the minutes.

5. Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes. Robin thanked Janti for doing them and circulating them last year.

6. Report of the Chairperson: Robin Beeson as the current chair gave a verbal account of the activities of the Social Care Support Network, since its inauguration on the 6th June 2013. He reported that network had not 'set the world alight' but had steadily made progress with a number of activities during the year. The general meeting elected 7 Trustees and him as the chair. The number of trustees increased to 9 within a few weeks. However, during the course of the year 2 trustees had to step down due to other priorities.

The foundations set by the steering group in the early days had been built on. It had been a busy year with meetings with the Chief Executives of BASW and NSA to explore how the new network could work with each other to promote the values of each organization. There had been some very positive dialogues with both these organizations which need to be followed up and explored further. With BASW, the network needed to decide how it can support their programme of learning events put on in partnership with BCC. With NSA, the network needed to see how the merger of NSA and Skills for Care pans out and see what funding is available to host programmes. It was felt that the new merged organization would continue to support events around registered Managers. This in turn had led to exploration meetings with CPEA about having a Birmingham based event for Registered Managers undertaken in partnership with BCDA, BCC, CPEA and the network. Vic Citarella indicated that the news from the launch of the merged organization seems that they will support networks like this one to host local events for Registered Managers and therefore funds will be made available to bid against. They will continue to be a membership based organization with registration fees set at £35.00.

The Network supported Birmingham City Council with hosting of the Tri-city Exchange in Birmingham from, 29th September to 5th October 2013. Furthermore, Janti Champaneri was asked to lead the Birmingham Delegation to Chicago in a Voluntary capacity representing the network.

Janti reported that membership of the network had steadily increased to 40 members in total. This required a lot of promoting and seizing opportunities to recruit members despite membership being free. The main problem appears to be uncertainty about what people signing up to and understanding the implications of being part of a network. Robin acknowledged Janti's efforts in this area and thanked him for ensuring the administration continues to operate smoothly.

7. Nomination of Trustees: Janti reported that by the mid-day today, he had not received any nominations from any one to stand to be a trustee. There were current trustees present, one regrettably could not attend due to illness and he had not received any contact from the other 2. The chair asked if 4 present would like to continue in this role. They confirmed. Robin asked if any within the audience would like to stand as trustee. The remaining 5 attendees could not undertake this role at this stage but pledged their support in other ways.

8. Election of Trustees: The chair confirmed the four attendees that were willing to be Trustees as Robin Beeson; Janti Champaneri OBE; Andy Merker and Maureen Bradley. Liz Taylor recommended that Stephen Kiekopf, should also be elected as a trustee given he would have been at the meeting had he not fallen ill. In respect, of Steve Eyre and John Gordon, who had not made contact for some time, the meeting asked that chair write to them to find out their views. It was agreed that, If they wish to be trustees, then committee can agree to use the power of co-optation at a later stage if required.

Liz Taylor proposed that the 5 nominations for trustees should be elected en bloc. Mike Walker seconded this proposal. Robin asked if there were any objections to this proposal. There being none, the five nominations were accepted and duly elected to be the Trustees of the network for 2014/15.

9. Election of Chairperson by Trustees: Janti reported that by the mid-day today, he had not received any nominations from any one to stand to be the Chair. The attendees asked Robin if he would continue in the role of Chair. He confirmed his willingness to continue.

Robin Beeson was nominated by Andy Merker and seconded by Mike Walker. Robin Beeson was duly elected by all the trustees as the chair of the Social Care Support Network for 2014/15. Robin Beeson was congratulated on his appointment.

10. Business Discussion: The meeting picked up the discussion about membership and it was felt that there may be a need to concentrate efforts around Birmingham and immediate surrounding areas. Support may be difficult for potential members to access if members were based further afield. The aims and objectives were debated and it was felt that the trustees should look to prioritise those listed. It was suggested that the last 3 seems to encapsulate the essence of the network and that this consideration may help to focus the trustees' efforts. It was felt that once it started working in Birmingham the model could potentially be spread further afield. Birmingham had always been a vibrant area in respect of social activities.

The trustees were keen to take up Vic Citarella's offer to assist with further development of the web site. It was thought that the web site could be used as a tool to survey all the members in asking Why they signed up; What they wanted from their Network; What support meant to them. Vic also requested that in developing the web site we needed to regularly input regular news worth items and updates of the activities of the trustees.

The attendees requested that the Network set up a bank account so as it can start operating and functioning, as well as apply for and receive funds and donations.

Robin would ensure these issues are agenda'd and discussed at the earliest opportunity.

11. Date for next Annual General Meeting: This would be set by the trustees for about a year's time and the date would be notified in line with the constitution.

12. Date of the first Trustee's meeting: Monday, 28th July 2014; 6.30pm QMG.