

**FAMILIES AND CARERS TOGETHER IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 29th November 2018 at 10.30am in Missenden Abbey.

**PRESENT: Andrew Howard Chair**

 **Phil Ogley**

 **Penni Thorne Treasurer**

 **Emma Hopkins**

 **Ena Smale Admin**

 **Margaret Nyambayo**

 **Kelli Evans**

 **Ruth Goodman**

**Charlotte Holliday**

**Bridget Levson**

**Sara Warrick**

**Sylvia**

**Lo Smith**

**Maggie Walker**

**Katherine Watts**

**Caroline Steadman**

**Jim Morrisroe – Eden Care At Home**

**Millie Boyd**

**IN ATTENDANCE** Sarah Callaghan (Director of Education, Bucks CC)

**WELCOME**

Andrew Howard, Chair of the Steering Group, welcomed members to the meeting and also welcomed Sarah Callaghan, Director of Education for Bucks CC.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH DECEMBER 2017**

The Minutes, which had previously been circulated, were agreed as a true record.

**REPORT**

Andrew Howard presented the report of the Trustees in the work of the Charity in the year ending 31st March 2018 and updates on matters since that date where applicable.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Financial Statements, which had previously been made available to all members, were reviewed. Phil Ogley proposed and Margaret Nyambayo seconded that the Financial Statements should be approved and this was agreed.

**TRUSTEES**

The Chair noted that Sarah Shaw had come to the end of her term as a Trustee and would not seek re-election. Kelli Evans has also reached the end of her term but had offered to seek re-election. There being no other nominations, Kelly Evans was elected a Trustee.

**QUESTIONS TO THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION**

In the discussion the following issues were raised:

Preparing for Adulthood – currently very scarce support and focus. Too many Young Peoples’ futures are determined by the persistence of parents

Training for parents is needed on how to engage with the process of drafting a Plan and its annual review

Improving the quality of Plans – how to broaden the knowledge of SEN officers – how to improve the input of professionals – how to engage social care in the process – how to learn from audits of quality how to better resource SENCOs

Training for SENCOs – there is a very patchy picture of quality and knowledge, yet they are often the linchpins of the system. Integration of Specialist Teaching and SENCO training within the SEN team offers an opportunity to remove barriers.

Continued staff changes both in leadership and officer roles is breeding uncertainty and frustration. Contacting the SEN team has been a long-standing challenge but this is made impossible if you do not know that you are chasing the wrong person.

School Places – there are increasing numbers of SEN CYP who have been told they need a special school place but that one is not available.

Influencing the decision makers with real stories (including Jim Morrisroe about his son Patrick) could be a significant tool in getting resources allocated to tackle the issues.

The meeting closed at 12.15pm