

WADDINGTON STREET CENTRE LIMITED



Minutes of a Meeting of the Board of Directors held on Monday 12th June 2023

Present: - Directors: - Fred Robinson (Chair), David Blazey (Company Secretary), Jeff Dean (Treasurer), Jen Lamb, Daniel Rippon, Janet Dodson

In Attendance: - Steve Wakefield (Assistant Manager), Claire McGrother (Finance Officer), Peter Graham-Smith (Admin), Tom Raine (Waddy Member), Ellen Thomas (Waddy Member)

Apologies for

Absence: - Louise Toms, David Shipman, Kay Parker, Ali Lee (Manager), Sam Mason (WFGS Coordinator)

- 1) **The Minutes of the previous meeting of 24th April 2023** – were read and agreed as a correct record with some corrections. Item Members Present: David Blazey incorrectly noted as present at the meeting. The minutes were signed by Fred Robinson
- 2) **Trustees' Reflections on the Meeting of 24th April 2023** – Nothing to be report.
- 3) **Matters arising from the Minutes (not covered in the Agenda)** – New Support Worker recruited on the 5th May, David Boyd. He previously was a support worker for HomeGroup and self employed while caring for a family member. We are currently awaiting his DBS check. His induction process will start with Ali and Steve on 19th June.
- 4) **Valued Views Report** (presented by Steve Wakefield)
This meeting takes place 10 days before the next board meeting. 4 people were present at the last meeting 2 of which were new members to the Centre. It was good to have new members views at the meeting. There was good feedback from the group. Mindfulness walks on Monday and a Book Club have been set up and seem to be popular. The Centre currently has 3 volunteers who are very hands on at present. It is hoped that the LGBTQ+ group will be peer led in the future.
Chairs in the lounge are one of the main issues raised at the meeting.
New members to the Centre and how they are help when the first start attending was raised by the group. It is hoped that a new system can be set up where new members would be supported by a buddy system or something similar supported by volunteers and waddy helpers. This could be complicated to set up and run within capacity and having someone available on a regular basis for each new member.
There was a suggestion that small badges could be use to indicate if members needed support but didn't want to approach a member of staff verbally. It was felt by the board that there could be issues with this.
There was a question of if the Spirituality Group that used to be held at the Centre could be restarted.

- 5) **WFGS Report** – (presented by Steve Wakefield)
The service is going well but have to make sure that Sam doesn't get overloaded and also make sure that the service can be covered in the event of staff absence.
The service has to keep the core activities as these are part of the Alliance provision, all of the new activities are in addition to this.
The service needs more volunteers and Waddy Helpers to help out with the activities.
- 6) **Assistant Manager's Report** (presented by Steve Wakefield)
The Cree project has been going since 2012. A report has been published which surveyed 5 men from 26 locations that run Cree projects around the County. The results show that Cree have been helpful in supporting men around the county. Durham Community Action did well to gather the data for the report. They also facilitate the network of Cree's in the County and the network meets every 3 months via zoom to discuss the groups. The Cree network is important but it is unclear how it will be supported in the future.
The Women's Group Scrap book that was created was shown to the Board.
- 7) **Manager's Report** (presented by Ali Lee – in meeting papers)
- a. Grant Funding – Ali is currently writing a funding bid to Durham AAP to cover half of the annual costs of Helen Ogilvie's post. She also is writing a bid to Believe Housing for a potential £5,000 to help with the funding of the Saturday sessions.
 - b. Fundraising – The music group are looking at fundraising ideas to help raise money for a new drum kit.
 - c. New College – The term will end on the 10th July. Celebrating Learning Day will take place on 21st July, 11am – 4pm.
 - d. Alliance – Jeff has met with the independent evaluator for the Alliance Natalie who is from Teeside University but works with Durham County Council Public Health. Jeff brought up the issue with financing of the Alliance and also thought it was a good idea in general but seems to be cost shifting. Durham is the first rural area that a Alliance has been set up in the country. Fred will meet with Natalie in the near future.
 - e. Mental Health Awareness Week – The Anxiety Booklet produced by Ali was well received and will hopefully be available in GP surgeries at some point.
 - f. MHNE Conference – The event will take place on 16th June. Fred is chair of the event. The Centre music group will be performing during the lunch break at the event. Representatives from TEWV, public health and Kevan Jones MP will be in attendance. It will hopefully be a good event.
 - g. Annual Report – The annual report needs to be proof read by Fred and David Blazey.
- 8) **Any Other Business** – The date of the next meeting has been changed to the 14th August at 4pm.
The fundraising update newsletter is on the Centre website.
- 9) **Dates of Board Meetings in 2023** (All on Monday at 4 pm unless otherwise stated)
14th August, 25th September, Friday 24th November AGM - 3pm, 27th November.