

Early Education

Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 7 November 2020

This meeting was held with all participants online, due to the current coronavirus lockdown, as agreed formally by the trustees

Present

Verity Campbell-Barr (Chair), Sue Allingham, Becky Cook, Aline-Wendy Dunlop, Sandra Mathers, Cathy Nutbrown, Nicola Theobald, John Tuck, Noreen Dawes, Clare Williams, Nathan Archer, Di Chilvers, Lesley Ferguson, Julie Fisher, Sue Hale, Sally Jaeckle, Myra McRobbie, Ros Marshall, Helen Mitchell, Catherine Morris, Helen Moylett, Marjorie Ouvry, Leslie Patterson, Liz Pearson, Dorothy Petrie, Margaret Sheward, Georgina Trevor, Elaine Wareing, Angelica Celinska, Zoe Breen, Tanja Fletcher, Justina Wielgosz, Yuwei Xu.

In attendance

Beatrice Merrick (Chief Executive)

Apologies

Kathryn Solly, Jas Shoker

1. Welcome and introductions

Verity Campbell Barr welcomed members to the AGM.

2. Minutes of the AGM held on 9 November 2019

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Vote of thanks to retiring trustees

Several trustees had completed their term of office, Kierna Corr, Junnine Thomas Walters, Anne Marie Gealy. They were thanked for the commitment of time and expertise they have given to Early Education. Noreen Dawes, who was remaining as a trustee but stepping down as Treasurer, was thanked for the tremendous amount of work she had done and the support and advice she had given to trustees in understanding financial matters. Verity Campbell-Barr was thanked for her work as Chair, and she welcomed Becky Cook, who was taking over the role.

5. Appointment of trustees

New trustees were appointed as follows and welcomed to the Board:

Northern Ireland	Glenda Walsh (second term) and Julia Henderson
Wales	Glenda Tinney
North West	Heather Lomas
South West	Emma Davis and Nicola Theobald

There was one unfilled vacancy for a trustee from Wales.

6. Trustees Report and Accounts

Noreen Dawes, Treasurer, introduced the financial summary for 2019-20, which was a successful year, with a surplus of £48,000. She presented a summary of the sources of income and expenditure and a five-year comparison chart which showed two years of surplus, following two years when expenditure had exceeded income.

In the year 2019-2020 COVID-19 had only a very small effect, but would have a considerable on 2020-21, with the cancellation of most events and consultancy. This would be partially offset by successful on-line training.

Noreen was thanked for her clarity and helpfulness.

Beatrice reported on activity for the year. Highlights had included completing the Exploring the Wider World project for the Stoke-on-Trent Opportunity Area and co-ordinating a sector response to the government's proposed reforms of the Early Years Foundation Stage in England, including the work of the Early Years Coalition which produced a literature review and practitioner survey.

Beatrice and the rest of the staff team were thanked for their work in keeping Early Education at the forefront particularly during this difficult time.

7. Resolution to re-appoint Stephen Jones of Myrus Smith Chartered Accounts as our Independent Examiner

This was agreed by members.

8. Members concerns and priorities

Oxfordshire noted that members from outside their area had booked onto their on-line events. Other branches have also experienced this. The office were thanked for the excellent support to branches for organising on-line events.

It was noted that on-line events were good for members with extended working hours and those geographically distant from usual venues. Even when face to face events could return there was likely to be a role for continued online events. Trainers were now very confident in training on-line.

In closing the meeting Verity thanked members for their attendance and the staff for organising the AGM and autumn conference.