

South Lanarkshire Self-Directed Support Network

Tuesday 11th March 2014

13.00 pm to 15.00 pm

Middle Section of Main Hall, Lifestyles Fairhill, Neilsland Road, Hamilton, ML3 8HJ

Present: Andrew Kousourou (Chair), Scott Nicol (Treasurer), Kevin McGoldrick (Secretary), Suban McGoldrick, Gillian Howie, Marie Carracher, Stevie Sutherland, Zoe McPartlin, Terry McQuade, Robert Jackson

Apologies: John Dykes (Vice-chair), Morag MacKay, Helen Clark (Speak-Out) Cathy Smith.

In Attendance: Rachel Walker (Self Directed Support Scotland)

ITEM		ACTION
1.	Chairman welcomed all at meeting	
2.	Apologies - Apologies were noted as above	
3.	Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting 28 th March 2013 Minutes of the meeting were approved by Scott Nicol, seconded by Andrew Kousourou. The minutes were signed as approved by the Chairman and Secretary	
4.	Matters Arising from minutes There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.	
5.	To Receive the Chairman's Report 2013 was a busy year for the Network with your committee members representing the network on so many occasions attending various forums, consultation meetings and events. We have been active in attending other disability organisation's events where we were able to give out information and answer questions on Self-directed support. We have also attended, along with other interested organisations, every meeting of the SDS User and Carers Framework meetings with South Lanarkshire Council Social Services staff where ideas are exchanged on how the new Social Care (Self-directed Support) (Scotland) Act 2013 which comes into force on 1 st April 2014 will affect everyone. Away from these meetings we have also had several private meetings with senior social work staff and with politicians both local and national. Our own main event of the year was of course our Development day held in September which gave your committee some confidence that we were heading in the right direction and also gave us some ideas for working on in the future. Some targets were set for us as to where we wanted to be 12 months hence, some of which have already been accomplished, such as Developing our constitution, which is before you today, Diversify the Network, we have moved from being solely concerned with direct payments to now encompassing all 4 options of the new Act, the website is up and running and more use is being made of the social media, the rest of our targets are being worked on constantly. We do have one aim for which we need all your help and that is to increase the membership of the Network and I would like to challenge each and every one of you to actively talk to other people receiving social care and recruit at least one new member every month.	

	<p>As a consequence of the Development day we also severed the direct link between the Network and the Local Authority by dismissing the facilitators supplied by the Council and we are now able to work more closely with Self Directed Support Scotland with whom we are affiliated.</p> <p>Towards the end of the year members of your committee were fortunate enough to receive some funding in the form of funded training on how to prepare the network to be in a position to tender for Public Contracts, so at least we now have some idea of what is involved and will be working towards getting the network to a suitable place to be able to consider these in the future.</p> <p>As there has been no independent advisor for Self Directed Support in S. Lanarkshire for most of 2013 we have been receiving an increasing number of enquiries from the public looking for advice or assistance on SDS and I am able to say that we have taken on this role as best we can until a new independent advisor is in place – there may be more to say on this matter shortly.</p> <p>Plans for this year include more training on various aspects of running our organisation, submitting more applications for funding, and if successful, staging a series of 'Roadshow' type events throughout South Lanarkshire to expand the knowledge about self-directed support to other areas.</p> <p>We are planning at the earliest opportunity to convert from an ordinary charity to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), a new legal form for registered Scottish charities. The SCIO is a corporate body which is a legal entity able to enter into contracts, employ staff, incur debts and own property.</p> <p>I would like to thank all of the Management Committee for their support and their willingness to work on behalf of the Network throughout the year and I would like to give special thanks to Rachel Walker from SDSS who, now that we have dispensed with the negative interference of the Local Authority, has been able to work more closely with us, thank you Rachel for your help and guidance and your enthusiasm to see the Network evolve into a force to be reckoned with.</p> <p>Lastly I will remind you of my challenge to you to get out there and recruit more members for the network, "the more members we have the stronger our voice becomes."</p> <p>Andrew Kousourou Chairman SLSDSN</p>	
6.	<p>Treasurers Annual Financial Statement</p> <p>The Treasurer distributed copies of the signed annual financial statement from September 2012 - December 2013, gave a brief synopsis, and invited any questions. A member asked about funding applications and Rachel Walker gave a brief summary of the 55 funding applications applied for to date which will allow the network to carry out a South Lanarkshire Roadshow empowering the residents of Self Directed Support.</p> <p>There were no other questions on the accounts and the Treasurer finished by thanking Accountants Plus for collating the Network's accounts.</p>	
7.	<p>Approve The Auditor's Report</p> <p>Scott Nicol proposed approval of the Auditor's report and this was seconded by Gillian Howie. This was agreed by the meeting.</p> <p>Scott Nicol proposed that we continue to use Accountants Plus as our Auditor for a further year and this was seconded by Terry McQuade and approved by the meeting.</p>	

8.	<p>Election of Office Bearers</p> <p>1) Chairman. At this point Mr Kousourou stood down as Chairman and the Chair was taken by Kevin McGoldrick. Nominations were then invited for the position of Chairman. Andrew Kousourou was nominated by Gillian Howie, seconded by Scott Nicol, there were no other nominations and Mr Kousourou accepted the position and resumed in the Chair.</p> <p>2) Vice-Chairman. Nominations were invited for the position of Vice-chairman. John Dykes was nominated by Terry McQuade, seconded by Andrew Kousourou, there were no other nominations and Mr Dykes accepted the position.</p> <p>3) Secretary. Nominations were invited for the position of Secretary. Kevin McGoldrick was nominated by Zoe McPartlin, seconded by Andrew Kousourou, there were no other nominations and Mr McGoldrick accepted the position.</p> <p>4) Treasurer. Nominations were invited for the position of Treasurer. Scott Nicol was nominated by Andrew Kousourou, seconded by Gillian Howie, there were no other nominations and Mr Nicol accepted the position.</p>	
9.	<p>Election of Management Committee Members</p> <p>Gillian Howie was nominated by Andrew Kousourou, seconded by Scott Nicol.</p> <p>Zoe McPartlin was nominated by Kevin McGoldrick, seconded by Andrew Kousourou.</p> <p>Marie Carracher was nominated by Andrew Kousourou, seconded by Scott Nicol.</p> <p>There were no further nominations and the aforementioned were elected as Management Committee members.</p>	
10.	<p>To Discuss and Approve Proposed New Constitution</p> <p>The Proposed new Constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman highlighted proposed changes and explained that the main reason for changes to Constitution was that once passed by Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) we would be in a position to apply for a change of status to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).</p> <p>It was proposed that a section be added at the end to cover Members Liability in the event of the Network being wound up as per the SCVO Model SCIO Constitution. "The members of the organisation have no liability to pay any sums to help to meet the debts (or other liabilities) of the organisation if it is wound up; accordingly, if the organisation is unable to meet its debts, the members will not be held responsible.</p> <p>The members and charity trustees have certain legal duties under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005; and clause 7 does not exclude (or limit) any personal liabilities they might incur if they are in breach of those duties or in breach of other legal obligations or duties that apply to them personally."</p> <p>This was proposed by Scott Nicol, seconded by Kevin McGoldrick, and approved by the meeting.</p> <p>The Proposed new Constitution, as amended, was approved by Gillian Howie, seconded by Scott Nicol, and approved unanimously by the meeting. The Chairman stated that the new Constitution would have to be approved by OSCR before being brought into use and requested the member's approval that if any amendments or alterations were required to be made by OSCR, these could be accepted and incorporated into the Constitution by the Management Committee without the need to call a Special General Meeting. This was formally proposed by Gillian Howie, seconded by Zoe McPartlin and approved unanimously by the</p>	

	meeting.	
11.	<p>AOB</p> <p>In answer to a question the Chairman explained that Management Committee meetings would be restricted to members of the Management Committee. Open meetings, which will be called from time to time, will be open to all members.</p> <p>Rachel commented that Self Directed Support Scotland (SDSS) can offer a number of training opportunities, including Peer and Good Governance Training.</p> <p>Kevin explained that Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living (GCIL) now have the contract from S. Lanarkshire Council to provide an Independent Advisor Service for Self-directed Support and will be moving into the old Spaen offices next to Lanarkshire Carers Centre, in Campbell Street, Hamilton on 1st April 2014.</p> <p>It was suggested that once GCIL are settled, a welcome party will be arranged</p>	
12.	<p>Date and Time of Next Meeting</p> <p>Next Management Committee Meeting will be Tuesday 1st April 2014 at 13.00 in the Youth Room Lifestyles Fairhill, Neilisland Road, Hamilton, ML3 8HJ</p>	
13.	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>The meeting closed at 15.00</p>	

Kevin McGoldrick
Secretary

Chairman Secretary