



Centre for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People

Minutes of AGM

Date: Wednesday 24th August 2022

Time: 6:30pm -8:30pm

Venue: Burges Salmon, One Glass Wharf, Bristol, BS2 0ZX

Interpreters: Naomi Bearne, Moira Jackson, Connor Lalitte

Live Captioners: Karen Pritchard, Susanne Willdig

Present: Trustees: Claire Wickham, Faye Stewart, Gill Behenna, Alasdair Grant.
Approximately 35 of the Deaf and hard of hearing communities were in attendance.

1. Welcome and Apologies

1.1 There will be two AGMs in one this evening, for 2019/20 and for 2020/21.
The Charity Commission has said that, given the circumstances, there is flexibility around arrangements.

1.2 Apologies received from Lorna Allsop, Laura Welti and Matthew Collins.

2. Approval of Minutes 2020

2.1 The minutes from the 2019-2020 AGM have been approved and accepted by the trustees.

3. Chair's Report 2019/20 – presented by Justin Smith

3.1 Achievements of 2019-20

- Successfully bid for funding from Bristol City Council to run the equipment service for a three year period.
- Focused on developing operating practices and policies, including data protection.

- Had an ‘away day’ where the trustees put together business plans and worked on plans for the future of CfD.

3.2 Projects undertaken 2019/20:

- Equipment service
- Worked on the Voice and Influence project with Bristol City Council to encourage Deaf and hard of hearing people to participate in decision-making in Bristol and to make sure deaf people’s voices can be heard in those forums.
- Provided deaf equality training to a number of organisations, some small, large, local and volunteer groups.
- Played an ongoing role in the Bristol Deaf Health Partnership.
- Established regular coffee mornings for Deaf and hard of hearing people.
- Worked with the Deaf Studies Trust to run a dementia workshop and with Dr Emma Ferguson Coleman to set up training for interpreters who may work in situations involving Deaf people with dementia.

4. 2019/20 Accounts

4.1 The total income for the year was £321,886.00.

4.2 Legacy funding amounted to £221,422.00.

4.3 £93,836 was received in restricted funding from BCC for the equipment service.

4.4 The Voice and Influence work brought in £3,000 and the Bristol Join Up project brought in £2,985.

4.5 Total expenditure was £159,702 for 2019/20, with the Equipment Service accounting for 68% of that total (£108,016).

4.6 Centre costs made up 11% of expenditure, the office made up 14%. Income from legacies increased greatly in 2019/20.

Question: *The Influence project and collecting information – could you explain that a bit more?* Justin explained that this was a project with Bristol City Council and the aim was to allow us to engage with as many Deaf and hard of hearing people as possible, so that deaf people could have their voices heard in BCC decisions that would affect residents. This project is no longer running.

5. Chair's Report 2020/21 – presented by Justin Smith

5.1 Achievements of 2020/21

- Covid meant a change to the way things were done including the coffee mornings happening online.
- Voluntary and Community Sector in Bristol (VCS) collected research and praised CfD's response to Covid, commending our flexibility and the fact that we set up an on-line shop.
- The equipment service continued as best it could with assessments being carried out remotely:
 - Well-being calls were made to clients to ensure they were coping.
 - Check-ins and repairs were also carried out remotely.
 - An Operations and Marketing Manager was recruited for the equipment service.

5.2 Projects undertaken 2020/21

- An employment project, funded by the National Lottery, to support Deaf people back into employment after covid restrictions.
- Living with Hearing Loss: a government-funded project that offered workshops to hard of hearing people to reduce isolation, look at technology and see how people could understand their hearing loss better and the way it impacts on their lives.
- We worked with Sarabec to create an online shop.
- We continued being part of the Bristol Deaf Health Partnership.
- Again, CfD was part of the Voice and Influence project with BCC, helping people's voices be heard in decision-making processes, and enabling people to fully participate in council decisions.
- We supported the national 'Where's the Interpreter?' campaign.

6. 2020/21 Accounts

6.1 Total income was £111,521 – much less than last year due to a decrease in legacy funding.

6.2 Restricted funds (for specific projects) totalled £107,000. Unrestricted funds, donations and legacies amounted to just over £3,000.

6.3 Expenditure was less than last year at £135,000.

6.4 The highest percentage of expenditure was on the equipment service. Centre staff costs made up 19% and office expenses made up 30% of expenditure.

6.5 Unrestricted funds were smaller this year because of receiving fewer legacies but CfD's reserves are still healthy.

6.6 The finances are healthy and CfD hopes to launch a small project giving grants to support local activity groups in achieving their aims.

Question: *You talked about Covid funding. What was that for?* Claire Wickham explained that CfD received two bits of funding. One was Lottery funding for the employment project with Gloucestershire Deaf Association doing online workshops for anyone who had been furloughed or was worried about losing their job, or who had lost their job. These were open to Deaf or hard of hearing people all over the country as they were on Zoom. The other bit of funding was from the government's Disabled People's Organisation funding for any organisation that was led by disabled people. CfD ran workshops, as mentioned by Justin, teaching people how to use technology and Zoom so as not to be isolated.

The first project focused mainly on Deaf people and the second on hard of hearing people.

Questions: *Do we have any reserves?* Justin replied that unrestricted funds is another way of saying reserves. CfD is being well-led financially and is in a healthy position after a robust auditing process.

Meeting closed.