



A voice for families of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities

MINUTES OF AGM, 11th OCT 2022, via ZOOM

Attendees:

11 parent carers attended the AGM, which included Trustees and members/non-members, Autism Berkshire, Local Offer, Reading Mencap and TuVida. A further 7 had booked on but did not join the meeting.

Apologies:

2 received by Trustees and 2 parent members .

Chair's Report

Ramona talked through the Chair's section of the Annual Report – (attached), which had been circulated prior to the AGM to all members, detailing the work covered.

Treasurer's Report 2021-22

Accounts had been circulated in the Annual Report prior to the AGM. Alice explained the expenditure and accounts. Expenditure is down because of events being held on line. We therefore spent some of the surplus funds in March 2022 on infrastructure for the Forum and also ran a survey to gain parent carers' views. The survey went to members, and eligible new members - allocating a £10 Amazon voucher for members and those who signed up as a new member. We also received £10K from BFfC to run the Youth Forum – Special United. BFfC have agreed to fund this for another 2 years.

Nominations and Elections

No new nominations were received. Ramona asked if there were any more nominations – none put forward. Existing Trustees stood for re-election in their existing roles:

www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1166585

Reading Families' Forum

*A voice for families of children and young people with
special educational needs and/or disabilities*

Ramona Bridgman – Chair

Alice Carter – Treasurer

Pauline Hamilton – Trustee

Lynsey McDonald – Secretary

Karen O'Leary -Trustee (not present)

Alison Ries – Trustee (not present)

A total of 6 members voted for the existing Trustees to remain in post.
RFF need 15 members to be quorate.

*We would be grateful if members could give us their comments by Friday
28th October. If there are any questions about who is elected, or we do
not hear from at least 15 members, we will recall the AGM for new
nominations and voting to take place.*

*Addendum: Karen O' Leary stepped down as a Trustee after meeting due
to personal circumstances.*

Planning for Next Year

Coffee Mornings

These have been less well attended since they have been held on-line,
although for the first 6 months, numbers were sufficient. They haven't
resumed face to face yet due to health vulnerability of some of the
potential participants, and the venue closing that we used to hire.

Ramona asked if we should return to face to face coffee sessions.

**Agreed. FM/Trustees to look for new venue and employ a bank of
care workers to help with child care at the coffee sessions.** It was
suggested to have a Zoom link to join the meetings for those who are
unable to attend face to face.

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Jane said that our website seems out of date. Alice explained that we have already been working on a new website so that we can update it more quickly. The website should become live soon.

TuVida

Adrienne spoke of the Parent Carer Needs Assessment service they have been providing. They receive self-referrals or receive referrals through other organisations. The aim is to get support from BFFC. It can take 6 – 8 weeks. An article to go in their newsletter to explain.

AOB

A parent spoke of her difficulties over the last 2 years and another parent joined the meeting later who had also had significant difficulties. Specific issues about SENDIST Tribunals have been raised with the Children's Director.

It is thought that BFFC is trying hard to improve service. The high turn over of staff has not helped matters.

A question was raised about young carers – what is on offer for them? Adrienne said they held a YMCA camp. Reading Mencap used to do a holiday service, but it has been handed over to BFFC. Alice said that young carers need on-going mental health support. No5's Counselling Service - waiting list was a year long (in 2020). Reading Mencap said they would contact No 5 to find out about the waiting list for young people. Maryam of Local Offer and Ramona to raise at Strand 3 meeting.

FM 16/10/22

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