

# Reading Families' Forum

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

## **MINUTES OF AGM, 29<sup>th</sup> SEPT 2020, via ZOOM**

### **ATTENDEES:**

9 parent carers attended the AGM, which included Trustees and members, Alafia, Autism Berkshire and Parenting Special Children.

### **APOLOGIES:**

Alison Ries, Trustee.

### **Chair's Report**

Ramona talked through the Chair's section of the Annual Report. Most activities have moved on-line. The 16+ Transition/Pathway conference has been postponed until next year.

### **Treasurer's Report 2019-20**

Accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM. Alice explained the expenditure and accounts. £15K is received from Contact per year. Had a further payment of £10K from RBC 2 years ago for Special United. Spent £20K in the previous year.

Youth Forum is funded by RBC. We will ask for more funding so that SU can continue. Alice had to do a tax return to HMRC – reported zero return. Ruth of PSC offered help in matters such as these, as PSC has had experience with this.

Jane thanked Alice for her work done for wheelchair friendly parks/roundabouts and loose-fill. Autistic children have been known to eat the bark chippings, and chippings do not give access for wheelchairs.

### **Nominations and Elections**

No new nominations were received or put forward at the AGM.

**[www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](http://www.readingfamiliesforum.co.uk)**

Registered Charity No. 1166585

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- Chair re-elected
- All Trustees appointed for another year in the same roles.

## **Issues to Raise with Managers in Health. Social Care and/or Education/Coffee Evening Speakers**

Jane said we should ask for something like Thames Valley Adventure Playground in Reading. This had previously been raised with Helen Redding – could approach Karen Rowlands.

Carol London-Baptiste is the new short breaks commissioner. Short breaks organisations are putting in bids for October half term – Forum has been pushing for this. *NB Brighter Futures have decided to go with a short breaks co-ordinator rather than a commissioner. Mark Hobson is the person appointed to this role. Carol has left Brighter Futures.*

Ruth said there is lack of aspirational thinking for the 19-25 age group, eg housing, employment etc. We need to be specific of what is needed preparing for adulthood and tell them in strand 4. What happens from age 26? There is not much for young adults.

Autism Berkshire has been asked to join the Kick-Start scheme.

On-going support in employment would be good.

Support for parent carers when their children are adults, respite also is needed. Coffee morning(s) to discuss the issues that the 19-25 age group face to be arranged.

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020 – Coffee Afternoon with Dr Deb Hunter to discuss mental health.

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Coffee Morning with Karen O'Leary to discuss parent carer experiences at RBH with the aim of improvement.

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## **AOB**

Rules of 6 does not apply for clubs for disabled children. Half-term clubs will be in the special schools and one at South Reading Leisure Centre. Jane said Autism Berkshire has not been able to use the Emma Green site since March due to Covid-19. RFF have raised this with the short breaks commissioner.

FM 16/10/19

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