

## Solent Mind

### Annual General Meeting 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 6pm-8pm

Held via Zoom online platform, in accordance with the Government guidelines on Covid-19 and in person events

Attendees:

1. Bryan Palmer,
  2. Jed Wheelband,
  3. Anastasia M,
  4. Richard Pullen,
  5. Adrian Shippey,
  6. David Knox—Johnston,
  7. Polly Hicks,
  8. Gareth George,
  9. Robin Goater,
  10. Chiara Bannister,
  11. John Wilderspin
  12. Sarah Clements
  13. Emily Merrell
  14. Haseeb Shakoor
  15. Nichola Gordon-Jones
  16. Mark Collis
  17. Ruth Poyner
  18. Ann McGlade
- Ben Allen, Neil Evans, Angela, Kevin, Debbie, Emma F

Minutes of the AGM

#### **1. Welcome and opening remarks:**

The Chair, John Wilderspin welcomed staff, members and service users, to the 2020 Solent Mind digital AGM, advised how the digital meeting would be undertaken, and confirmed that there were 18 voting members in attendance to form a quorum.

Apologies had been received from 8 voting members, and 1 non-voting member, 4 of whom appointed the Chair of Solent Mind to vote for them and on their behalf at the Annual General Meeting.

John Wilderspin asked if there were any other apologies: No other apologies were given.

## **2. Minutes of Solent Mind AGM 23rd October 2019 & Matters Arising**

John Wilderspin presented the Minutes of the last AGM and asked if there were any errors to correct.

No errors were noted.

Bryan Palmer proposed the approval of the minutes with no amendments, which was seconded by Emily Merrell and agreed by the members.

## **3. Chief Executive's Report for 2019/20 – Kevin Gardner**

Kevin Gardner, Chief Executive presented his report for year 2019/20

The first ever online AGM for Solent Mind. Thank you for coming along. Given everything that has happened this year, it feels like a long time ago. Today the update includes service developments, campaigning, how we move to improve the organisation, challenges, Covid-19 and our response, our vision adopted by the board following your input last year, and the impact of our work

Service developments – we've renewed our services in Portsmouth Support and Recovery and Remind, and have confirmed 2 contract extensions for italk and wellbeing centres.

We have also opened PositiveMinds in the centre of Portsmouth following the wellbeing centre pilot – It's intended to be a non-institutional, non-clinical setting to offer advice and support. And opening the Lighthouse in partnership with the NHS – to support people to seek help when struggling outside hours. We started our SO:Linked partnership initiative through our peer support community peer navigation service, and began offering workplace wellbeing training

Were successful in our time to change bid to set up a Southampton/Portsmouth hub with a range of partners. Working with the Mind network on instituting positive changes on social housing locally and awaiting a government response – much of this year has been about working in partnership.

Improvement -

Itrent system giving the organisation greater resilience, and efficiencies through employee self-service. And we've launched our new website!! This gives us new and improved ways of communicating with stakeholders. We've introduced a revised approach to performance monitoring this year, to ensure we meet our objectives. Lost advocacy. This is a reminder that when Local Authorities find it challenging to meet obligations we must be alive to the risk of national cheaper competitors. We adopted our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategy and relaunched our EDI group, supporting Black Lives Matter.

Mayfield Nurseries has addressed a number of challenges including staffing with a new action plan and structure, and despite having to close March-May, they've come through, and we're planning for the future, with new services ready to launch/grow.

Covid-19

We're in as strong a position as possible for charities – we have been able to manage the impact of Covid-19 so far, and offset losses through careful vacancy management. We've put health and safety and wellbeing of our workforce and service users at the centre of all our decisions. We closed many services, and converted them to phone and online delivery. We are slowly reintroducing fully risk assessed face to face services also. This pandemic has created increased need, with health inequalities and difficulties regarding finance and mental health increasing the number of people approaching us for support. We can expect economic consequences, when Local Authorities have to reassess budgets.

The digital work we launched during Covid-19 has proved popular so we expect the future to be a blend of hybrid services mixing face to face, digital and phone support.

Our Vision – you'll see our new vision launched on our website. Thanks to the input of members, service users and stakeholders, we have developed this plan for 20-23, focussed on the 4 pillars.

#### **4. Financial Statements for 2019/20– Robin Goater**

Robin Goater presented a summary of the financial statements for 2019/20 (item 4 in the agenda papers) and advised that a full set of accounts had been provided for all attendees and further copies were available if needed:

Group			Mayfield Nurseries	
Total Income	£6,255,000		Total Income	£270,000
Total Outgoings	£6,087,000		Total Outgoings	£293,000
Net Income	£168,000		Net Loss	-£23,000

Robin stated that the majority of our income is received from major contracts, with the bulk of our funding from Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, Hampshire County Council, and Solent NHS Trust, which has supported us through the Covid-19 pandemic due to the longer term stability of the contracts in comparison to fundraising which has fluctuated.

Robin advised that in 2019/20 Mayfield Nurseries made a small loss of -£23,000, but have been managing the risks around staff sickness and Covid-19. Mayfield Nurseries remains a 'going concern' and as we look to the future, we aim to continue to grow to support our local communities through services, fundraising endeavours and plant sales.

John Wilderspin acknowledged the efforts and resilience of the Solent Mind and Mayfield Nurseries workforce to respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and continue to support our communities through this uncertain time, using flexible and digital services to build on the success of the year.

#### **5. Appointment of Auditor**

Robin Goater proposed the reappointment of Sheen Stickland as Auditors for Solent Mind for 2020/21. This was seconded by Adrian Shippey and Haseeb Shakoor and the motion was approved.

#### **6. Proposed Special Resolution to amend the Articles of Association**

John Wilderspin explained the advice from our legal guidance, and Mind, and support from Mind, and following government guidance to facilitate online meetings, and noted that this would support the opportunity to respond to future changes or risks

Kevin Gardner explained that we are able to adopt the proposed resolution to allow us the option to hold AGMs online (not guaranteeing they all will be). 75% of the present voting member attendees required. No questions.

This was proposed by Richard Pullen and seconded by Anastasia Mihailidou and Robin Goater, and the proposed resolution approved by all members present.

## **7. Election of Trustees / Directors**

John Wilderspin advised that the election of 4 new trustees who had been recruited through an open procedure was proposed by Sarah Clements and seconded by Bryan Palmer. The meeting agreed that the following were elected: Richard Pullen, Nichola Gordon-Jones, Haseeb Shakoor, and Emily Merrell. The meeting also noted the previous resignations of Julie Todd and Sharon Hill and the previous during the year 19/20

Richard Pullen took the chair on behalf of John Wilderspin and advised that our Articles of Association required one third of the trustees (in the case of this year - three) to stand down at the AGM, being those trustees longest in office since the last election. Polly Hicks stood down therefore and was not seeking re-election. John Wilderspin and Robin Goater stood down and were seeking re-election in accordance with the Articles. The re-election of John Wilderspin and Robin Goater was proposed by Emily Merrell and seconded by Ruth Poyner. This was agreed. The meeting noted Polly Hicks' retirement and John Wilderspin thanked her for her service over 3 years, championing support for children and young people, and asking all the right questions to ensure Solent Mind is providing the best support for people with mental health issues.

## **8. Election of Officers – Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer**

John Wilderspin and Robin Goater stood down from their roles as Chair, and Treasurer. Richard Pullen, trustee, chaired the item and explained that both John Wilderspin and Robin Goater were offering themselves for re-election as Chair and Treasurer respectively. There were no other nominations. Robin Goater also offered himself for election to the post of Vice-Chair. The election of the following was proposed by Bryan Palmer and seconded by Sarah Clements and agreed by the meeting.

### **Chair**

John Wilderspin.

### **Vice Chair**

Robin Goater.

### **Treasurer**

Robin Goater.

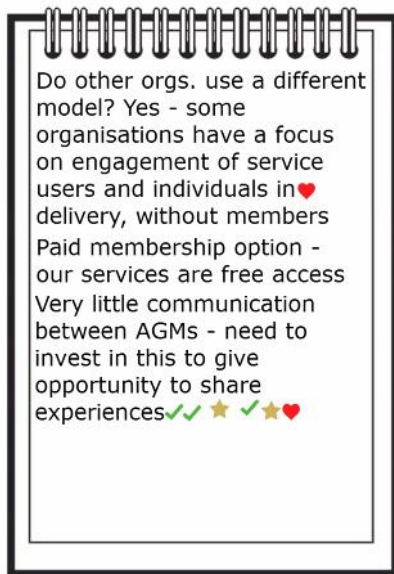
John Wilderspin then continued in the chair.

## **9. Future Membership Options: Presentation and Discussion**

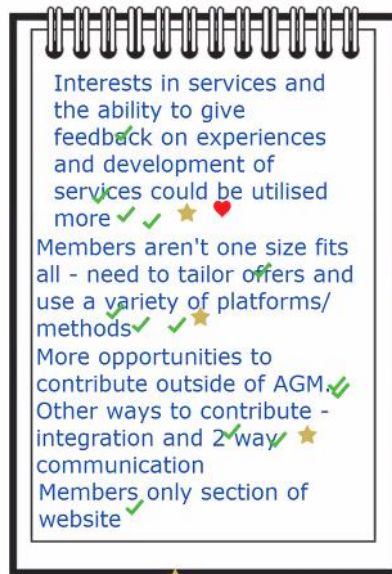
Kevin Gardner presented the current position of Members at Solent Mind and invited everyone to consider what a membership organisation means and how it can add value, support communication with those who support us and hold Solent Mind to account.

Kevin emphasised the importance of this co-production to enable us to support our communities as much as possible, and thanked the attendees for their discussions and input. This input is reflected below in 'stamps' on the suggested 3 areas for focus – accountability, involvement and communications

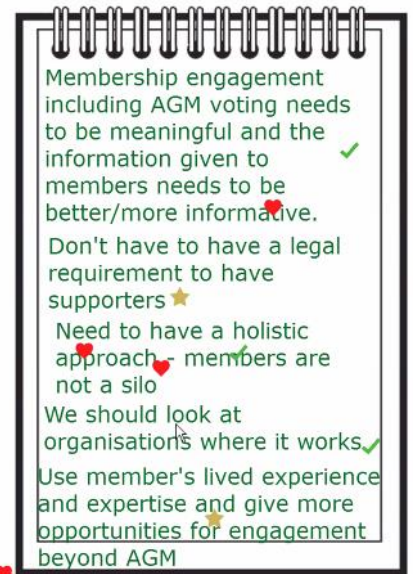
## Accountability



## Involvement



## Communications



### 10. Questions & Answers

Four questions were submitted from the floor:

1. "Can you tell us how Solent Mind intends to meet the needs of people who in this pandemic who have felt lost and bewildered?"

Kevin advised: We continue to offer the services we know are held in high regard and ensure they are able to be accessed in a range of ways, including the Covid-19 helpline – we know this has been accessed by people who haven't used services before, and the change from walk in to digital for the Lighthouse resulted in wider support. We're putting the service user at the centre of our decisions and promoting self-care and support resources as well, and utilising our face to face network of supporters, volunteers and communities

2. "Is there a time-frame in mind, for when to start the volunteering positions again?"

Kevin advised: Not in terms of a specific timeframe – it is different for each service depending on a number of factors including suitability of the group or building. We are following a risk assessment approach on a service by service basis. We want to do these as soon as possible, but personal safety including that of volunteers is paramount.

3. "What help is being offered to those of us who have no computer link up at all and limited computer experience"

Kevin advised: We're very conscious of this, and we see the way forward as not being just digital, but also including face to face – we're not moving away from these services! The route of access, should be the one which works best for the service user. We can offer help where there isn't any kit thanks to Mind funding, and we encourage these people to get in touch with us through the Service they are in touch with or via Head Office.

4. "Is the level of contact between Board Trustees and services users (non-staff) known and understood? Is it possible to estimate a figure for last year? (Est average Hours/trustee member)"

John advised that the Trustees do not spend enough time with Service Users and that more direct exposure of what Service users are experiencing and what they would like to see is required. Covid-19 has restricted their ability to meet with Service Users and hopefully the new Service User Involvement Group will be able to advise on how best the Trustees can improve their contact

#### **11. Any Other Business**

There was no further business. John Wilderspin thanked the Executive Support team for their work arranging AGM, and thanked attendees for their support, and input in the discussion regarding membership and how we engage more widely with the public. The meeting closed.