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**Disability Sheffield Centre for Independent Living**

**Thursday 1st December 2016**

**Virgin Lounge, Fargate**

**Present**

**Trustees**

Kate Whittaker, Neil Simpson, Lee Harker, Brian Hodges, George Lindars-Hammond, Natalie Yarrow, Tony Purcell, Lynne Newark

**Staff and Volunteers**

Val Bowen, Andrew Crooks, Lucy Davies, Karl Dudley, Jake Green

**Other attendees**

Bessie, Graham (student), Kai (student), Ben Curran

**Apologies**

Matt Gibson, Samantha Spain, Geoff Pick, John Fuller

**Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Kate Whittaker (Acting Chair) welcomed everyone and gave apologies.

Kate thanked all the staff, trustees and volunteers for their hard work over the past year.

Kate talked about the national context including the impact of the loss of ILF, continued squeeze on social care, and the transition from DLA to PIP

Kate then talked about the local context and the affect it is having on people. She talked about social care re-assessments leading to loss of funding especially for those who were previously in receipt of ILF

Disability Sheffield has continued to develop links with national DPPOs including organising a conference on behalf of ROFA, and joining the ALFIE consortium. Kate talked about the importance of DPULOs working together nationally and regionally.

Locally through the Disability Hub and other partnership work Kate highlighted how we have increased our links with other disability organisations in the City, increasing our reach to disabled people

It was a difficult year for the organisation. Financial and organisational needs led to a re-structuring of the organisation. Cath Sorsby worked as an assistant advocate for 6 months which enabled the advocacy service to expand its provision but we were unable to renew her contract. Anastasia Kelly, our Director Finance and Fundraising was made redundant in March 2016. Anastasia had been with the organisation for 8 years and Kate thanked her for her contribution in contributing to Disability Sheffield developing into the organisation it now is.

Going forward Kate talked about the organisation developing a reputation as the leading DDPPO in Sheffield, with new projects always emerging and requests for information, support and training being received from other organisations. An away day in the summer helped the organisation to refocus its vision.

**Approval of AGM Minutes**

**Minutes from the AGM on 3rd Dec 2015**

Approval of the minutes for last year’s AGM was proposed by Brian Hodges and seconded by Lee Harker

**Election of New Trustees**

There were no new trustees elected to the Board and no resignations. Samuel Cropton who joined the Board in September was welcomed.

**Presentation of Accounts**

Matt Gibson (treasurer) provided a written presentation of the accounts. Approval of the accounts for 2015/16 were proposed by George Lindars-Hammond and seconded by Tony Purcell

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**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

It was proposed that our Independent Examination for 2016/17 be carried out by Voluntary Action Sheffield in order to support another local third sector organisation. Thanks was given to Hewitt Card who have carried out this role over the past few years. The appointment of Voluntary Action Sheffield as our Independent Examiner was proposed by Brian Hodges and seconded by Lee Harker

**Brief overview of the Year**

Emily Morton, Chief Executive gave a brief overview of the past year talking through the Impact Report we have produced.



**End**

Everyone was thanked for attending