

## **Early Education**

### **Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 13 November 2021**

**This meeting was held with all participants online, due to the ongoing Coronavirus situation, as agreed formally by the trustees**

#### **Present**

**Trustees:** Becky Cook (Chair); John Tuck (Treasurer), Sue Allingham, Noreen Dawes, Heather Lomas, Nicola Theobald

**President:** Cathy Nutbrown

**Vice presidents:** Laura Henry-Allain, Aline-Wendy Dunlop, Nancy Stewart, Kathy Sylva, Elizabeth Wood

**Members:** Catherine Morris, Cathy Gunning, Dorothy Petrie, Elaine Wareing, Elizabeth Pearson, Helen Mitchell, Julie Cigman, Leslie Patterson, Margaret Sheward, Marian Mccouaig, Maureen Mathieson, Menna Godfrey, Monica Hingorani, Myra McRobbie, Nicole Hunt, Penny Webb, Ros Marshall, Sanne Aldrich, Verity Campbell-Barr

**In attendance;** Beatrice Merrick Chief Executive

**Apologies:** Carla Cornelius, Julie Fisher, Sue Hale, Sian Hudson, Sandra Mathers, Marjorie Ouvry, Jas Shoker, Clare Williams

#### **1. Welcome and Introduction of trustees**

Becky Cook welcomed members to this AGM, and asked trustees present to raise a hand so that members could identify them.

#### **3. Minutes of the AGM held on 7 November 2020**

The minutes were agreed as a true record.

#### **4. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Vote of thanks to retiring trustees**

Several trustees had completed their term of office, or were resigning. Noreen Dawes, formerly Treasurer, Sandra Mathers, who has been Vice Chair, and Sue Allingham had all completed two terms in office. Aline-Wendy Dunlop had stepped down as trustee, but remained as a Vice President. Three trustees were standing for a second term. They were all thanked for the commitment of time and expertise they have given to Early Education.

#### **6. Appointment of trustees**

Beatrice reported the outcome of the trustee elections. Maureen Mathieson, Becky Cook and Jan Holmes were elected unopposed for vacancies in Scotland, North East and North West of England. There had been three candidates for the Midlands and East of England vacancy. Monica Hingorani received the most votes and was therefore elected. There were no

nominations for the two vacancies for South East England or the one vacancy for Wales.

Members voted to approve as trustees Maureen Mathieson, Jan Holmes, Becky Cook and Monica Hingorani

The Board would be able to consider filling vacancies by co-option. Members were asked to consider standing or recommending suitable people for the remaining vacancies.

## **7. Trustees Report and Accounts**

John Tuck, Treasurer, provided an overview of the organisation's financial performance in 2020-21 and highlighted the most significant changes from the previous financial year. The key points identified were:

- a) As for many not-for-profit organisations, 2020-21 had proved extremely challenging. Early Education had seen a significant decrease in income, albeit with a significant decrease in expenditure.
- b) 2019-20 had produced a healthy surplus of approximately £48,000, but this had become a deficit of approximately £9,500 in 2020-21.
- c) The most significant reduction in income had related to Projects which, in turn, meant that the organisation was unable to allocate as much of its core expenditure to these activities as in 2019-20.
- d) Core expenditure itself – predominately staffing costs – had not risen significantly.
- e) Despite the significant challenges posed by the pandemic, core activities showed great resilience. Membership income was stable, as was training and event income, notwithstanding the need to move from face-to-face training to online delivery. Consultancy income was adversely affected by reduced demand, as was income generated by Branch activities.
- f) The organisation's reserves, which had been boosted significantly in the previous two financial years, meant that Early Education could fund the 2020-21 deficit without having to make significant changes to its operational capacity.

John was thanked for his clarity and helpfulness. Such a small loss was an excellent achievement, and thanks were due to the staff team for their hard work.

### Finances in 2021-22

Income from *Birth to 5 Matters* was significant. There was uncertainty about the resumption of face-to face activity, but Associate work was gradually increasing. Cashflow was healthy, due to reserves and this year's publications income.

Beatrice presented a report of activities in 2020-21. Major achievements included the publication of *Birth to 5 Matters*, the move to online training for both national and branch events and the development of a programme of

updates and professional learning to support the sector throughout the pandemic.

Becky thanked Beatrice and the team, on behalf of the trustees, for their commitment and work in the unusual circumstances of the year. The value of Early Education is shown by the strong membership numbers, the excellent feedback on training, which has reached more widely through the sector, and the way Associates had adapted to online work. Early Education had not just survived, but thrived.

**9. Resolution to re-appoint Stephen Jones of Myrus Smith Chartered Accounts as our Independent Examiner**

Proposed by John Tuck, seconded by Cathy Nutbrown.

This was agreed by members

**10. Members concerns and priorities**

These had been covered in the earlier question and answer session, which would be available as a podcast.