

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15 November 2023 from 7.00-7.30pm, Online

Present: Becky Cook (Chair), Sue Allingham, Rachel Amos, Lucy Chadwick, Di Chilvers, Kierna Corr, Nicola Demetriadi, Elaina Eakers, Lesley Ferguson, Julie Fisher, Lucy Frain, Natalie Godfrey, Chris Gomez, Sue Hale, Elizabeth Henderson, Fiona Joines, Jacqui Lewis, Zoe Lewis, Heather Lomas, Jane Louth, Ros Marshall, Maureen Mathieson, Peter Michell, Cathy Nutbrown, Marjorie Ouvry, Christine Pascal, Dorothy Petrie, Andree Race, Judith Reay, Susan Shardlow, Lisa Sharkey, Margaret Sheward, Jennie Smillie, Ali Smith, Anna Stacey Naugle-Sherman, Helen Stallard, Nicola Theobald, Elaine Wareing, Jan White, Lucie Wheeler.

Apologies: Julia Henderson, Catherine Morris, Jas Shoker, Pamela Playle-Mitchell

1 **Welcome** – The Chair welcomed all attendees and invited trustees who were on the call to identify themselves.

2. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Saturday 5 November 2022**
The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

3. **Matters arising**
There were no matters arising.

4. **Vote of thanks to trustees who are retiring or resigning**
The Chair thanked the following trustees who had stepped down: Glenda Walsh, Monica Hingorani and Jan Holmes. She reported that Glenda Walsh had now been appointed as a Vice President so the organisation would still have the benefit of her expertise.

5. **Recommendation for appointment of trustees**
The Chair explained that there had been seven places up for election and eight candidates put themselves forward. Julia Henderson and Glenda Walsh were the only candidates for Northern Ireland and Wales respectively and were therefore automatically proposed to the meeting. The candidates with the most votes in the election were Nicola Theobald, Heather Lomas, Nicola Demetriadi, Elaina Eakers and Lisa Sharkey. The members **agreed** to appoint the aforementioned candidates to the Board of Trustees.

The Board also **agreed** to co-opt Orest Bakhovski, who had been co-opted by the Board since the last AGM, for a full three year term until 2026. She also noted that the Board would consider at its next meeting a further candidate for co-option as Treasurer elect.

6. Trustees Report and Accounts 2022-23

The Chair explained that the discussion of the accounts has been postponed as the Treasurer had identified a problem with the historic accounting treatment of Designated Funds. He had asked our accountants to correct this and the corrected Accounts would go to the next Board meeting for approval and be reported to a future EGM. He noted that the correct treatment resulted in a modest increase in our overall reserves.

The Chief Executive presented the report on the year and the update on 2023-24.

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for their work during the year. Chris Pascal asked about the importance of a balanced portfolio and how that had shifted in the last and over the next 12 months. The Chief Executive confirmed that the volatility of income streams meant that Early Education always needed to have a diverse range of income streams.

8 Update on activities in 2023-24

A brief update on these was included with the report on 2022-23.

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

The members agreed to reappoint the Independent Examiner.

10 Members' concerns and priorities

None were raised.