



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

## **MINUTES OF AGM, 21st SEPT 2021, via ZOOM**

### **ATTENDEES:**

11 parent carers attended the AGM, which included Trustees and members/non-members, Autism Berkshire, Reading Mencap, Parent Champion Co-ordinator - BfFC. A further 7 had booked on but did not join the meeting.

### **APOLOGIES:**

2 received by Trustees and 2 parent members .

### **Parent Champion Scheme**

Sara Saudella, Parent Champion Co-ordinator, BfFC, spoke about the Parent Champion Scheme. Slides attached are self-explanatory of what the scheme does. Parent Champions are parent volunteers and Fathima, who is a parent volunteer, spoke about it from her perspective. Fathima thought "why not give it a go?" – and she is really glad she has joined the team. It is on the Local Offer.

### **Chair's Report**

Ramona talked through the Chair's section of the Annual Report – attached. Reading had its Ofsted/CQC Inspection recently. It was found that Services are improving, but also clearly identified a number of areas where services have to improve. It is hoped that more members will be at next year's AGM. Alice and Maryam thanked Ramona for her hard work.

### **Treasurer's Report 2020-21**

Accounts had been circulated prior to the AGM. Alice explained the expenditure and accounts. Expenditure is down this year mainly because

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

Registered Charity No. 1166585

# Reading Families' Forum

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

of events being held on line. We have not got the capacity to fund raise. The Forum has received £5000 to fund a video project - for young people to give advice to teachers and staff of what they would like from teachers. The filming is taking place on 9<sup>th</sup> October at The Avenue School, by Shuut - a well-regarded company.

## **Nominations and Elections**

New nominations were received and put forward at the AGM.

### **Current Trustees:**

Ramona Bridgman - Chair

Alice Carter - Treasurer

Pauline Hamilton - Trustee

Lynsey McDonald - Secretary

Alison Ries - Trustee

### **New Nominations:**

Ellie Hunt

Karen O'Leary

- All Trustees appointed for another year in the same roles.
- New Nominees elected as Trustees.

## **Planning for Next Year**

### **Coffee Mornings Speakers**

The following topics were discussed and who could be invited to the coffee mornings:

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

Registered Charity No. 1166585

# Reading Families' Forum

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

- A parent had emailed RB about the difficulty of getting mental health support, - invite Deb Hunter to explain system.
- Invite new Assistant Director.
- Short Breaks, who organises in Adults? - Commissioners will look at Gaps, Strand 4 – there is a work force crisis.
- Kevin from Autism Berkshire to give advice on benefits.
- Someone to talk about food refusal etc. There is a lot on social media about this currently.
- Transfer to university by Autism Berkshire.
- Maryam suggested what about ordinarily available statement. Could do a coffee morning with Lesley Chamberlain.

## **Issues to Raise with Managers in Health, Social Care and/or Education**

Adult Social Care. Ofsted highlighted lack of support for those with complex needs. Alice said that Lottie Fairman has said that 16 year olds will be assessed. A parent at the AGM said they haven't heard anything yet.

## **AOB**

A Transition Worker for the age group 18-25, is to be employed by Reading MenCap. They will work with Lottie Fairman with regard to Preparation for Adulthood.

FM 29/09/19

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

Registered Charity No. 1166585

Email: [info@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk](mailto:info@readingfamiliesforum.co.uk)

 Find us on  
Facebook

Tel: 07516 185380