

## **MINUTES**

Inclusion Barnet Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

3-5pm

St Paul's Church, Finchley, London, N3 2PU

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### **Welcome**

Paul Baldwin (Chair) welcomed attendees to Inclusion Barnet's third AGM and outlined the year's achievements of increasing user voice, the success of the Wellbeing Hub and the development of Inclusion Barnet's research aims including the DRILL (Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning) project which is exploring the best ways to develop and run peer support programmes. Paul spoke further about how important it was for people with impairments to feel able to express their own ideas about how they wanted to lead their lives, and how important user voice was in designing independent living services.

### **Introduction**

Caroline Collier (CEO) gave an update on the year's events in relation to Barnet Voice, the Well Being Hub, Into Sport, Barnet Giving and the East Barnet and South Friern Partnership Libraries. Thanking the staff team and directors for their work throughout the year she spoke about the way in which Inclusion Barnet's work benefits from the lived experience of its staff and volunteers, concluding that the value of lived experience was what made Inclusion Barnet's services life-changing. Caroline also spoke briefly about the new enablement contract and the importance of bringing together user voice.

### **Rebecca Cumming-Sare (Barnet Voice)**

Rebecca summarised the history of Barnet Voice saying it had been an inspiration in the Borough for the last 20 years as a service which promoted the value of mental health difficulties and saw them as a strength. Speaking of the Space 2 Be support group, she outlined the wealth of its members' expertise along with their resilience and compassion.

Rebecca then advised attendees of a new enablement contract, due to start on March 1, that will involve working with the NHS to ensure that recipients of services could be active participants in their own recovery. Rebecca also advised that as a result of this new contract there would be opportunities for paid work in the form of a communications post and also peer roles within the Trust.

### **Aman Ahluwalia (Peer Support Research)**

Aman spoke about the long history Deaf and Disabled People's Organisations (DDPOs) have of participating in research that directly improves the lives of deaf and disabled people. Explaining how lived experience enables services to be better designed she reported on the findings of her DRILL research, which revealed that peer support is a skilled and valuable job, which offers something practitioners without lived experience cannot. In order to work at its best, Aman also revealed that peer support in the workplace would benefit from greater training and that lived experience, to be most effective, needed to be valued by all. Aman concluded by advising that the report, which has had good feedback from Birkbeck University, will be launched next week and will also be available on Inclusion Barnet's website.

### **Kamran Mallick (Disability Rights UK)**

Outlining his personal experience of living with an impairment, Kamran spoke of a time when he was without connections to other people with impairments, concluding that peer networks, and the knowledge and support they bring were vital to people being able to control their own destiny. Kamran also stressed the importance of independent living and said that connecting with other DDPOs to harness the power of user voice was of so great a value that it could directly influence policy makers. Kamran congratulated Inclusion Barnet on its DRILL research, the results of which could inform the current and future priorities of Disability Rights UK. To conclude he cited Independent Living as a key pillar to ensure people with impairments remain in control of their own lives. Central to this were better career opportunities, education, skills and peer support as well as influencing public attitudes and reversing the negative rhetoric around disability.

## **VOTING**

- **Motion** - A proposal was put forward to approve the minutes from last year's AGM.

**Result**- Members voted as follows to approve the minutes – 25 in favour, no votes against and no-one abstained.

- **Motion** - Caroline gave a brief report on last year's financial situation that resulted in a turnover of £403,297.00. Free reserves amounted to £85,390 and there was £1386 in restricted funds.

**Result** - Members voted to approve the accounts – 26 voted in favour, no votes against and no-one abstained.

- **Motion** -A proposal was put forward to re-elect trustees, Maria Nash, Michael Nolan and Paul Baldwin.

**Result** -23 members voted in favour, no-one voted against and 2 members abstained.

- **Motion** -A proposal was put forward to appoint auditors Grant Harrod Lerman Davis LLP as our independent examiner for next year.

**Result** - 24 voted in favour, no-one voted against and 2 members abstained.

## **People's Choice**

People's Choice delivered a summary of their award-winning Hate Crime project and were presented with the first ever #End Hate Crime Together award from HEAR for their innovative work in training more than 300 police officers from Emergency Response, Neighbourhood Policing and CID, as well as communicating their vital message to community groups across the Borough. Police Sergeant Michael Richards joined People's Choice in accepting the award.

## **The Mayor**

Barnet Mayor, Brian Salinger congratulated People's Choice on their award while thanking Inclusion Barnet's staff and volunteers for their work over the last twelve months. Speaking of the Borough's voluntary groups the Mayor re-iterated the importance of volunteers and applauded People's Choice on their Safe Places scheme.

## **Closing Speech**

Michael Nolan (Trustee) closed this year's AGM by thanking everyone who had contributed to the meeting. He gave particular recognition to Kamran Mallick for the compelling account of his lived experience, and said that he only had to look around the room to realise the vast capability of people with impairments who could more than hold their own in the workplace. Michael also expressed thanks to Caroline Collier for her continued hard work and to all the members and friends who had helped Inclusion Barnet throughout the year.