

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 28 July 2020 6.30pm

Via Zoom

MINUTES

Present:

Tracey Sismey [Chair], Alison Furniss [Treasurer], Rachel Clarke, Lorraine DeVere, Natasha Oakley-White, Pamela Durham-Green, Kate Draycott, Lisa Lonergan, Anita Evans, Claire Jack, Kirsty Gannon, David Sismey, Mrunal Sisodia, Julie Singleton, Nicki Price, Angela Whatley, Heidi Reeve, Andy McGowan, Maxine Webb, Caroline Sykes, Hayley Huckle

In Attendance:

Bernadette Pallister [Minutes]

Apologies: Nicola Baxter, Emma Parncutt, Sam Booker

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed all those present and thanked them for attending the meeting via Zoom. The administration manager had received apologies from Nicola Baxter, Emma Parncutt and Sam Booker.

2. Introducing Mrunal Sisodia, co-chair of the National Network of Parent Carer Forums (NNPCF)

Mrunal started his speech by saying that Family Voice Norfolk was one of the pioneers in parent carer forums, having just celebrated its tenth annual conference and said that FVN should be proud of its achievements: attending 299 reps meetings and producing a newsletter that is good at feeding back to parent carers.

Mrunal talked about 2019-20 being a year of two halves. 2019 saw the SEND funding review that saw an extra £780m for SEND, the new Ofsted school inspection and the NHS Long Term Plan. All big asks from the NNPCF. Then there was the general election, which meant that work on these projects stopped and work had only just begun again when COVID-19 appeared.

Parent carer forums have been working with government department during lockdown and have helped make changes to National policy. Changes including:

- Working with NICE (the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence), early on in lockdown, on the clinical frailty scale. Within a week, parent carers had worked to ensure that CYP with SEND had the same rights as others;
- Allowing CYP with SEND to be able to leave the house during lockdown as and when required;

- Working on the school guidance document to ensure that allows for reasonable adjustments for CYP with SEND;
- Working to secure that the £100m catch-up includes SEN catch-up, SALT, OT and education psychologists.

Mrunal finished his speech by saying that parent carer forums were more important than ever, during these times of COVID-19, where they are needed to represent the views of families to service-providers to ensure services meet the needs of families.

TS thanked Mrunal for his time.

3. **Minutes of last AGM and matters arising**

TS read the minutes from the 2019 AGM. These were agreed to be a true record and accepted without amendment. It was confirmed that there were no matters arising.

Proposed: Rachel Clarke

Seconded: Kate Draycott

The Chair signed the minutes.

4. **Steering Group Chair's Report (Tracey Sismey)**

The Chair read her report from the Annual Report and reiterated her thanks to everyone around the table for their commitment to Family Voice. It was noted that the 11th annual conference will be on Saturday 13 March 2021, assuming that social distancing rules have been relaxed by then.

5. **Treasurer's Report (Alison Furniss)**

AF read her report from the Annual report and Julie Singleton, Contact's parent carer participation advisor for the East and South East of England, spoke about the grant money that Family Voice had received from Contact.

6. **Acceptance of Financial Accounts**

The financial accounts were accepted by all those present.

Proposed: Lorraine DeVere

Seconded: David Sismey

7. **Nomination and election of Steering Group members**

The Chair explained that, due to the unprecedented demands of COVID-19, it had been agreed to keep the members of the Family Voice steering group the same for the next six months.

It was proposed that Anita Evans, who had been a co-opted member, should be elected as a full voting member of the steering group.

Proposed: Pam Durham-Green

Seconded: Lorraine DeVere

All present voted in agreement.

The Chair explained that the election of Officers of Family Voice will take place at the next Steering Group meeting on 29 July 2020.

8. **Close**

Tracey thanked Mrunal for his opening speech and Julie for her contribution, and extended thanks to everyone for attending. The meeting was closed by the Chair at 7:13pm.

The annual report is available on the Family Voice website here:

https://www.familyvoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/FAMILY_VOICE_AGM_2020.pdf

Signed

Dated

Family Voice Chair