



Registered Charity 1155007

**Annual General Meeting 27 March 2018**

**Trustees Annual Report**

## **1. Chair's Report - Marion Spruce.**

In March 2017 there was a change in Chair, Secretary, and some new Committee members voted in. At this time membership had waned and it became essential to rebuild our membership. Since 2008, the DPC has always been an active organisation which worked hard to make the lives of disabled people in Calderdale easier and better.

It was important for us to keep this initial concept. We started by commissioning someone to design a new website, and giving information about us on Facebook. We worked closely with our website designer who has built a great new website, which includes BSL and Urdu information videos, information about our organisation and many useful links. It keeps everyone up to date and informed of our meetings.

Initially we had enough money to keep going up to May 2018, but it has been essential that we raise more money - this has meant applying for grants. Our Treasurer, Geraldine, and our Secretary Malcolm, have worked very hard in applying for new grants. Some have been unsuccessful and we are currently awaiting the outcome of three others.

We have always worked hard to try and ensure that everyone has a voice and can make their views understood. We are working with the King's Centre to obtain funds for equipment that will enable projection slides and speech to text reporting to be shown on screens at the same time.

We are a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a voting membership. We felt that it was important that our membership, within the constraints of our Constitution and aims and objectives, had proper input into the decisions made within the organisation. It was to this effect that we held a special meeting on 31 October 2017 with an independent facilitator Jayne Leach from North Bank Forum. We listened to our members' concerns and ideas for the future direction and improvement of DPC and are looking to implement some of these as soon as we can.

We feel that we need to prioritise these requests and it is our aim to propose that the membership take ownership within some sub groups to discuss how they would like us to proceed. There are many issues that the DPC would like to take up, some of these will be working closely with other groups, but always within the DPC principles especially regarding the Social Model of Disability, and accessibility which is always at the heart of everything we undertake. We invite speakers from many public services operating within Calderdale to discuss with us how they can make improvements to information and services that affect us all. This will continue.

## **2. Secretary and Treasurer update – Malcolm KIELTY and Geraldine Rushton**

Summary of main activities and achievements in 2017-18

- a) Seven open membership meetings in an accessible venue (The King's Centre Halifax) with full communication arrangements in place including BSL; palantype speech to text reporting; technician with IT and PA system with roving microphones; large screen projection. Including buffet refreshments.
- b) Nine meetings of the Board of Trustees.
- c) Christmas celebration event at the Shay Stadium in Halifax.
- d) Colourful new leaflets and posters including images of our membership taken at special photo shoots. New business information cards.
- e) Establishment of new website including creation of information videos with BSL and Urdu formats.
- f) Refreshed and updated membership list including information about preferred methods of communication and specific access needs.
- g) Increased member attendance at open meetings.
- h) Increased engagement on our website and Facebook page.
- i) Organisations whose representatives came to engage with us included:
  - a. Calderdale Council re budgets, libraries, 'all age disability strategy and action plan', taxi licensing, elections, Halifax town centre traffic improvement plan, Piece Hall and new Halifax central library
  - b. West Yorkshire trading standards re scams and frauds
  - c. West Yorkshire Police Community Engagement officer
  - d. West Yorkshire Combined Authority re Traffic and Transport
  - e. West Yorkshire Fire Service Safety Team
  - f. NHS (various consultations)
  - g. DWP employment service re jobs and benefits
  - h. Together Housing re fire safety

### 3. Financial Review 2017-18

The accounts for 2017-18 will be available in May/June 2018 when they have been prepared and certified by WYCAS.

On 1 April 2017, available funds were £16,363. This sum comprised £7,105 remaining from the Big Lottery Awards for All Grant of £10,000 received in October 2016 (for DPC meetings and activities to create a better future for disabled people in Calderdale); £2,500 from The Duke of York Community Initiative (for a publicity, promotion and membership initiative); £482 remaining from a grant from Freemasons (for assistive equipment); and £6,276 unrestricted funds.

Disability Partnership Calderdale has a reserves policy stating reserves to be no less than £1,000.

#### Expenditure in 2017-18

The Awards for All £7,105 funded our open membership meetings including all costs up to January 2018.

The Duke of York CI funded the website set up and maintenance including BSL and Urdu videos; social media links and more; photography sessions; leaflets and posters; October membership consultation meeting (facilitator, venue, food and full communication costs); Christmas celebration (part venue hire, food and BSL.) plus admin and postage.

Unrestricted funds covered accessible travel expenses, admin, insurance, Christmas event (part) and AGM meeting costs.

Estimated available funds at 31 March 2018 = £2,922

**In Conclusion** The DPC Trustees are very grateful for the grants received from Awards for All and from the Duke of York Community Initiative. These grants have enabled us to sustain our meetings and activities and make progress on our future membership development. We are hopeful that our current grant applications will be successful and we will be able to employ a part-time development worker and a part-time admin assistant to enable us to move forward and relieve the unsustainable workload of our volunteer management committee members.

**Declaration:** The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustee report above. Signed:

Chair.....Secretary.....

Date: Board of Trustees 19 March 2018