

**13th Annual General Meeting of the Equity Partnership
Saturday 2nd March 2019, at the Equity Centre**

1 Welcome

The Chair, Andrea Allez, welcomed those present.

2. Chair's Report

Her introduction noted that this was the 14th year that the Equity Centre has operated and that it is one of only 4 or 5 in the country which have their own premises.

It was pointed out that none of the three current trustees were in post for the period covered by the Annual Report 2017-18 presented to the AGM on today. The period covered in the Financial Statement was from 1 April 2017 to 31st. March 2018.

3. Apologies for absence: Nick Copeland, Richard Ward, Sue
In attendance:

22 people attended including 4 staff members:

Finn Thorbrian, Amelia Wilkinson, Daphne Luce, Ann Kendal,

And 3 trustees: Andrea Allez, Leon Fleming, Philip Kitson,

4. a) Minutes of the last AGM held 22 February 2018

Acceptance was **proposed by Andrea Allez & seconded by Sue Gibbons**

There were 2 votes against and no abstentions

b) Minutes of the last EGM held 15 November 2018

Acceptance was proposed by **Andrea Allez & seconded by Diana Grieve**

These were accepted by the meeting.

5. Annual Report

Acceptance was proposed by **Philip Kitson & seconded by Leon Fleming.**

The Report 2017-18 was accepted by majority vote.

Matters arising:

There was a range of issues discussed arising out of the Report. These included: Brexit, The Gender Recognition Consultation, hate crime and funding.

Concern was expressed about how safe the Centre was for individuals and how awareness of protected characteristics and inclusion need to be addressed in all aspects of the Centre's activities; groups, work, activities, constitution, procedures for dealing with complaints, eligibility to attend groups, strategic work, partnership working, external links and funding bids. Ann Kendal reported that this is built into every funding bid.

A vote was proposed that EP work towards being a safe and inclusive organisation and this was passed unanimously with all present agreeing to personally to support this.

The need for a group for older trans people was expressed again this year.

Other major points reported were:

- The staff team has been reduced considerably over the last year so there is a greater need for people to volunteer and take collective responsibility for the work and future of the Partnership and the Centre
- Reduced funding is a major issue
- Changes to the Trustee Board which included thanks to 3 people who were no longer trustees but who had attended meetings since the EGM in order to support the new trustees. Thanks were expressed to Sue Gibbons, Mary Guthrie and Kate Jones. (More info on p5 of Annual Report 17-18)

Activities reported included:

- 485 people were trained in lgbt awareness
- 127 peer group meetings took place
- 63 youth groups - trans & questioning
- 25 meetings for parents took place
- 10 young people were taken to Trans Pride and reported a massive change in their lives
- Over 850 activity sessions were run during the last 12 months.

The amount of work delivered by a reduced staff team was outstanding and appreciated by those present.

6. Financial Report and election of auditors

Acceptance of the Financial Report was **proposed Philip Kitson and seconded by Leon Fleming**. The Meeting accepted it unanimously.

This was presented by Daphne Luce.

It was **proposed by Daphne Luce and seconded by Halyna Dowham** that we continue to appoint **Kevin Maddings as our auditor**. This was also accepted by the meeting.

Daphne reported that:

- Funding remains a major concern and that a large proportion of our funding has been lost in the last 18 months.
- Fundraising is being energetically pursued by Ann Kendal.
- This year we are working to a deficit of what may be £20k but is looking more like £10k.
- The E.P. has reserves to get us through only the next 12 months.
- External funding bids will generally not provide for core running costs and these have to be found from income raised by the organisation and our community.

7. Election of Trustees

There are currently three trustees in post and this places a heavy burden on those trustees.

Discussion took place about the qualities and skills volunteers can bring to this job. The discussion included the issue of behaviour which might be unacceptable and the means open to members to bring this to the attention of the board and have action taken.

One application had been received for election to the board from William Roche and, after some discussion, this was accepted by 15 votes to 2 against and with 3 abstentions.

Other matters arising:

A member raised the issue of the eligibility of some people attending groups within the Centre and benefiting from its services and how this might be tackled.

Following the presentation by representatives of 3 youth groups, the need was expressed that we have meetings/ events/ opportunities for different groups to meet together. (eg. Groups for older members with young people and opportunities to meet and mix with other groups.) However, it was pointed out that when opportunities have been offered for this to happen in the past, people have not attended. This will depend on the enthusiasm of members to commit to this idea.

There is currently a bid in progress to get a worker to support volunteers to do more networking like this.

A new LGBTQ group is being launched in Skipton called '**OUT in't STICKS**'. It runs every first Saturday of the month from 11.30-1.30 at the Library in the High Street. Details have been put on the 'groups' shelf in the Centre.

Thanks were expressed by the meeting for:

- The three trustees who resigned last November but who continued to attend and support the new trustees: Mary Guthrie, Sue Gibbons and Kate Jones
- All those who give so much of their own time to run or support the many groups which run in the Centre.
- Those who have helped to redecorate the Centre and help with the move.

And of course, to our hardworking staff:
Finn Thorbrian, Amelia Wilkingson, Daphne Luce & Ann Kendal,

Presentations were given by members of the following Youth Groups:

Spectrum

Sounds

Phoenix

Trans Agenda

These were received most enthusiastically by all present. The young people who spoke talked about their experiences of each group and how this had greatly increased their self-confidence and sense of well-being. A suggestion was made that it might be possible for the 'oldies' and the 'youngies' to meet together to share their experiences.

The Chair closed the meeting.