

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

3rd October 2019

At Worcestershire County Cricket Club, Worcester

Present: see list attached

Apologies: see list attached

1. **Welcome** Michael Hunter welcomed members and guests to the Annual General Meeting. The host for the evening was Connor Roberts from Your Ideas. There was a special welcome to the Keynote Speaker Dr Catherine Driscoll, Chief Executive of Worcestershire Children First and Worcestershire County Councillor Andy Roberts, Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.
2. The AGM was kindly hosted by Worcestershire County Cricket Club and the evening began with members and guests enjoying refreshments.
3. **AGM Business - Michael Hunter, Chairman of Young Solutions**
 - a) **Apologies** Michael had a list of apologies received. Michael confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
 - b) **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting** held on 19th September 2018 at Worcestershire County Cricket Club. John Duddington proposed that they were a true record of the meeting and this was seconded by Anne Duddington. All were in favour.
 - c) **Annual Report of the Trustees.**

Michael reported that Young Solutions had had another successful busy year and this work had been highlighted in a colourful flyer for those who attended the meeting. The document illustrated the impact Young Solutions had had on the Worcestershire volunteer youth and community sector, including numbers of contacts and money raised to fund the organisations work. It also highlighted the work with our Membership and in particular the success of the Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Project funding by WMPCC. It was noted that Young Solutions had made a healthy surplus and had continued raise external income to further reduce the organisations reliance on public funds.
 - d) **Financial Statements** for the year. The accounts were independently examined by Price, Pearson and Wheatley. John Wheatley from Price, Pearson, Wheatley had approved the accounts and signed off the due diligence of the organisation in complying with charity guidance re its finances.

The official report and accounts was also circulated to those in attendance in print and on the website.

Michael Hunter reported that there was a slight increase in funds and that it had been a busy and successful year.

e) **Election of Trustees**

Under the articles there should be no fewer than six or more than 15 trustees. Trustees serve for three years and so one third retire in rotation each year.

There are two nominations:

- The Trustees at their meeting on 19th September 2019 received two nominations for re-election of Michael Hunter and Phil Ashwell for another 3 years.

f) **Appointment of Independent Examiner** The trustees proposed that Price Pearson and Wheatley of Droitwich continues to be our independent examiner for 2019 – 2020. All were in favour.

g) **Resolutions from members** None have been received.

h) **Closure of the formal AGM**

4. **Keynote Speaker – Dr Catherine Driscoll**

Catherine was very pleased to be invited to speak out our AGM, Catherine has a long association with WCVYS/Young Solutions and had worked with Michael Hunter and Pete Sugg for a number of years across the Children's agenda and currently worked with Michael and Pete on strategic groups including the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Board.

Catherine talked about her journey from arriving in Worcestershire from another county. Over the years she made many links with voluntary and community sector organisations and brought up her children here. She loves this county and thinks it's a great place to live, work, study and bring up a family.

Catherine made a number of personal reflections and observations on the theme of the voluntary sector youth work in Worcestershire. There was no doubt that the reduction in national funding over the last few years has had a significant impact across the delivery of services for children and young people and in particular the voluntary sector. It is estimated that there is a potential £2M shortfall in meeting the needs of young people across the country. Added to this a complex education system ie. three tier, two tier, university, mixed ages and a significant increase in SEN all leads to increased demands of services. The county also has comparatively a high number of young people in the care system.

Thirty years ago when the new child protection services, following the Children's Act were instigated, the system was very different. In particular focusing on teenagers there was a need to address criminal exploitation, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and an increasing strain on the system re young people's mental health needs. The advent of cyber bullying and the pressure of social media are additional factors which the children and young people workforce now need to manage.

Focussing on young people up to the age of 25, the recent Chancellor's statement expressing the importance of youth provision can only be seen as a positive. However, we need to prove that the reduction in youth services over the last 10 years has had a negative impact on young people and that the potential increased funding will have a measureable impact in a comparatively short space of time.

Catherine gave a number of examples of some emerging issues across the county including increase in demand on social care and increased complexity of cases. There

is evidence of trauma and neglect of all ages and the question needed to be asked as to whether Worcestershire should have such high levels. The real challenges are in the heart of our communities to see how everyone can work together and this needs to be driven strategically by the Children and Young People's Partnership.

Two years ago Ofsted judged Worcestershire to be inadequate and it was agreed that a new company Worcestershire Children First would be set up to address the issues outlined in the report. The company was launched on the 1st October 2020. The company has a proposed annual budget of £115M for 2020/2021. It has a massive agenda and issues to resolve including home school issues, SEN and in a rural county school transport. Ofsted that WCC had lost sight of focus, but in their recent re-visit observed a new drive to improve and the judgement had been made that the county had gone from inadequate to improving. Before the company had been launched Ofsted has re-visited Worcestershire and reported on high levels of improvement which the new company will build on.

Catherine highlighted again the need for partnership working with everyone working together to make a difference to reach the parts that others can't meet, and therefore creating an environment to respond. Michael Hunter is a great advocate for many forums as to how we can work more effectively in partnership. It is not always about money, we need to use the resources that we already have more effectively, ie. 'prevention is better than cure'. A good example of partnership working in practice has been the recent creation of the Get Safe partnership which focuses on co-ordinated approach to working with and helping those young people either being or in danger of criminal exploitation. Young Solutions had played a significant part in bringing the voluntary sector voice to the emerging partnership.

Catherine focused on other emerging projects including social mobility and the re-commissioning of Positive Activities.

Young Solutions member Anne Duddington thanked Catherine for her presentation but asked what though was being given to the children who do not meet the eligibility criteria's for SEN and those young people who have significant in the transition to adulthood. Catherine asked the rhetorical question if we have moved from the cliff edge for 18 – 25 years preparing for independence. Sadly the answer was no. However, there is a lot of potential and work to do and through the new partnership methodologies there are signs of vulnerable young people now being more targeted in transition to adulthood. Young Solutions was praised for its focus on NEETs and WCF and WCC will continue to work with Young Solutions and other partners to help those young people furthest away from education and ultimately employment.

Young Solutions member Be You Training asked the question about the funding of preventative work. Catherine said that as earlier stated, prevention was everyone's target but we need to continue to work together to have enough evidence to have confidence that early interventions will have positive and tangible outcomes.

Catherine Driscoll was thanked for a thought provoking and inspirational presentation.

Presentation by Member Organisation – Your Ideas in Redditch

Jordan Cooke and Imogen Morris from Your Ideas gave a powerpoint presentation on the work of the organisation. Your Ideas has been working for 10 years, mainly with young people on the autistic spectrum. Waiting lists are growing and the need for the service appears to be greater than ever. The activities that Your Ideas run at their centre in Matchborough, Redditch, gives young people the opportunity to make friends and gives important respite for families. Examples were given of Your Ideas working with local schools to ensure that young people on the spectrum were supported to

enable them to continue in education. Your Ideas also run alternative provision to enable young people to learn in the style that suits their disability.

The AGM was shown a video illustrating the range of activities that Your Ideas offers on a weekly basis, both in their centre and reaching out to the community.

5. Pete Sugg – Chief Officer

Pete spoke about the highlight report and said that Young Solutions work was 60% projects and 40% infrastructure work. The Tryangle Awards has been running for 14 years and Young Solutions have been involved since the beginning.

The Seek and Reach project was continuing with funding being sought from different applications. Specific work is taking place in the Westlands area of Droitwich.

In 2019 Paul Finnemore the Commissioner for Positive Activities retired, and we would like to thank Paul for all his hard work and support over the years and wish him well in his retirement.

Young Solutions has been supporting the Positive Activities Providers around the WCC Intend Portal that is now used to apply for bids.

Lorraine Preece formerly from YSS has been working as a consultant for YS to specifically look at funding sources to continue and extend our training offer, elearning modules and safeguarding support for our members.

Young Solutions continues to look for new trustees and wishes to include young people into our executive committee.

6. Closing Remarks

Pete thanked Catherine Driscoll of Worcestershire County Council/Worcestershire Children First, Connor, Jordan and the team from Your Ideas, Michael Hunter and Young Solutions Trustees.

We already have the date for next year's AGM for your diaries – Thursday 8th October 2020 at Worcester Bosch.

Pete also thanks Jo Banfield, Margaret Jones and Helen Wood for their help and support in the Young Solutions office and for their work tonight to ensure the smooth running of this Annual General Meeting.

ATTEND	
Adam Robinson	YMCA
Amanda Roe	Work Pays Droitwich
Andrea Blake	WCC
Andy Roberts	Cllr
Anne Duddington	WPCC
Catherine Kevis	YSS
Connor Mitchell	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Debbie Herbert	Worcestershire County Council
Dr Catherine Driscoll	Worcestershire Children First
Frances Roberts	Andy Roberts Guest
Helen Wood	YS Admin
Huw Griffiths	H&W Sports Partnership
Imogen Morris	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Jane Stanley	Healthwatch Worcestershire
Jennie Leeson	WCC
Jo Banfield	YS Administration Officer
John Duddington	YS Trustee
John Wheatley	Price Pearson Wheatley
Jordan Cooke	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Kate Wilson	PCT Sexual Health
Liz Tucker	Cllr
Marg Jones	YS Admin
Mark Steadman	WCT
Michael Hunter	YS Chairman
Mike Brooke	KDYT
Paul Finnemore	
Pete Sugg	YS Chief Officer
Phil Ashwell	YS Trustee
Robert Moffat	RSPCA
Robin Mace	Wychavon DC
Saz Mulhall	YMCA
Steve Boycott	Be You Training
Steve Brewster	H&W Sports Partnership
Tony Miller	WCC
Max Parkin	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Luke Youson	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
James Nisbet	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Jane Karle	Your Ideas Youth & Community Project
Grace Reeves	KDYT
Rob Walkley	KDYT
Hunter Weavers	KDYT
Daniel Lawrence	West Mercia Police Cadets
Jayden Merry	West Mercia Police Cadets

Adai George	West Mercia Police Cadets
Nikita Thomas	West Mercia Police Cadets
Ellie Waller	West Mercia Police Cadets
Courtney Treble-Smith	West Mercia Police Cadets
Jordan Humphries	West Mercia Police Cadets
Lena Coulthurst	West Mercia Police Cadets
APOLOGIES	
Angela Jepson	WF Nightstop
Belinda Darby	Home-Start Wyre Forest
Carl Arntzen	Worcester Bosch
Cathy Clement	YS Consultant
Gareth Roberts	YS Trustee
Geoff Taylor-Smith	YMCA / YS Trustee
Jackie Hooper	North Worcestershire Basement Projects
Jo Keir	WFYFC
John Campion	West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner
Ken Pollock	Cllr
Lorraine Preece	YS Consultant
Louise White	WMPCC
Lucy Hodgson	Cllr
Marcus Burton	Mazak
Mark Garnier	Wyre Forest MP
Nick Parker	Vestia
Nigel Huddleston MP	Mid Worcestershire
Paul Kinsella	WCC Prevent
Peter Tomlinson	Cllr
Phil Weston	PYPLC
Rachel Maclean	Redditch MP
Ruth Heywood	WCT
Sarah James	Alvechurch Communities Together
Sarah Wilkins	Worcestershire Children First
Shirley Webb	Cllr
Simon Adams	Healthwatch
Simon Geraghty	Cllr
Simon Hill	YS Trustee / Worcester Diocese
Steve Tominski	YS Trustee
Tash Winters	Worcester Arts Workshop
Tim Gunner	Back to the Wild
Tina Russell	Worcestershire Children First
Yvonne Eaton	Worcs Girlguiding