**StopGap Sheffield**

**reg. charity no. 1146601**

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 9th February 2021 – Via Zoom**

**Present** –Jo Abbot (Chair), Barney Williams (Treasurer) Louise Finnigan (Secretary), Tim Renshaw, Aimee Lowe, Souleymane Bah, Tina Powell-Wiffen, Wendy Robson (Trustees), Ruth Grayson, Bobbie Walker, Tracey Ford (SCC), Agnes Boratyn, Phil Johnson (St Wilfrid’s Centre) and Robert Barker (SHS)

**Minutes** – Liz Grasso (StopGap Administrator)

**1. Welcome and thanks**

StopGap chair Jo Abbott welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Apologies**

No apologies have been received.

**3. Minutes of AGM (9th February 2021)**

Jo asked that those present today agree to their adoption by this AGM. This was supported unopposed.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from last year's minutes that were not covered by today's agenda.

**5. Presentation from Tracey Ford – City Centre ASB Manager Sheffield City Council and Help Us Help**

Key points-

* Tracey gave an overview of the work of the Help Us Help group. The groups key message is to help rough sleepers and those who beg to move to a better life.
* Help Us Help is a steering group consisting of, amongst others, the Sunday Centre, Archer Project, St Wilfrid’s Centre and Ben’s Centre, who meet monthly. They have received funding from BID, SCC Housing, Central ward, and the Safer Communities Partnership.
* One of the key roles of the group is to manage perceptions and to demonstrate how and what is being done to members of the public and businesses, and how best to improve communication.
* The website gives an overview of the work of the group and their partnerships, advice of how to help and a regularly updated blog with success stories etc.,
* The group has worked with retailers, and in November 2017, 2018 and 2019, they opened a cabin within the Sheffield Christmas market which was manned by volunteers, launched a Help Us Help map containing information of all provision around the City Centre to encourage people to signpost people to these services.
* They have a large engagement with social media.

Q&A

Q- Tim asked what is planned for the next year with street begging and ASB.

A-Tracey advised that

* the key action plan is enforcement, education, and engagement. Enforcement is the most challenging areas of work. It centres around changing people’s attitudes, and rather than using ASBOs, they are now looking at this from a harm prevention angle, and trauma informed care.
* Help Us Help worked on a set of guidance for the Street Outreach network, and any other groups considering offering Street Outreach. Liz to circulate this guidance amongst the group.
* They have looked at a Diverted Giving scheme, but one challenge is who is eligible and who manages the scheme?

Bobbie thanked Help Us Help and Tracey for all their hard work.

**6. Annual report 2020/21**

Jo presented the Annual report to the AGM.

Key points-

* During the 12-month period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021 StopGap provided a total of 120 bed nights for a total of 37 individuals. These figures are substantially down from the previous year as the Everyone In scheme ended in October 2020, and the SCC Winter Plan was then put in place from December 2020 and was extended to June 2021.
* However, during lockdown StopGap beds were still being used despite Sheffield Council having a Duty of Care to house homeless and rough sleepers. This led to us implementing a cap of 5 StopGap bed nights per month from January to June 2021.
* Most placements continued to be related to relationship breakdown and evictions, with the majority of referrals coming from Framework.
* Grant funding was secured from the Church Burgesses, Queen Victoria and Johnson Memorial Trust, Sir John Osborn Charitable Trust, the National Lottery Awards for All and the Brelms Trust ensuring that StopGap were in funds to continue their work.

**6. Treasurer's report**

Barney Williams presented the financial report for the year 2019/20.

Key points-

* We started the year with just over £28k
* During the year we had receipts of just over £16k from donors and grants
* Payments amounted to £4,300
* We ended the year with £38,900 in the bank.

Thanks were made to Dr Peter Cromar, independent examiner of our accounts.

**7. Election of officers and trustees**

The following were elected unopposed to serve for the coming year 2022/23

**Officers:**

Jo Abbott – Chair

Louise Finnigan – Secretary

Barney Williams – Treasurer

**Trustees:**

Souleymane Bah

Aimee Lowe

Timothy Renshaw

Tina Powell Wiffen

Jo welcomed Wendy Robson who is joining the Board as a Trustee.

**7. Membership**

Jo reminded all those present that membership of StopGap was open to anyone, or any organisation, that would like to support us by joining. Membership forms are available via the website or emailing StopGap.

**8. AOB**

None