**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 and Tina Powell-Wiffen (Trustees)

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

**1. Welcome and thanks**

StopGap chair Jo Abbott welcomed everyone to the meeting.She observed that although the meeting was being held jointly with HARC, the business part of the AGM was being conducted separately for each organisation.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies had been received from Ruth Grayson and Wendy Robson.

**3. Minutes of AGM (13th February 2020)**

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. Annual report 2019/20**

Jo presented the Annual report to the AGM.

Key points-

* During the 12-month period from 1st July 2019 to 30th June 2020 StopGap provided a total of 737 bed nights for a total of 305 individuals – which was an average stay of slightly over two nights per individual.
* The majority of people placed were British (62%) Male (80%) in the 25-49 years age group, with relationship breakdown and eviction accounting for the primary reasons for homelessness.
* In September 2019 on the annual ‘headcount’ of rough sleepers, Sheffield had 27 rough sleepers, compared with September 2020, when this had risen to 60.
* Bed nights during the winter months increased in 2019/20 especially in November to January.
* StopGap experienced funding pressures due to this increase, and an emergency plan was agreed to use StopGap purely for priority groups. Grant funding was secured from J G Graves, Sheffield Town Trust, Freshgate Trust, Brelms, Awards for All,

Queen Victoria and Johnson Memorial Trust and the Sir John Osborn Charitable Trust ensuring that StopGap were in funds to continue their work.

* Up to March 2020, StopGap continued to see more clients being placed. The drop off in numbers in April reflects the ‘Everyone In’ scheme operated by the Sheffield City Council during the Covid lockdown.
* Jo thanked all the Trustees and Liz Grasso for their help, and also the Agencies who provide services within the City.

**6. Treasurer's report**

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

Key points-

* Total receipts amounted to just over £31,084 which is much healthier last year due to grant funding.
* Income was largely made up of grant income, with £3,741 from donations.
* Outgoings were £28,535, which was up on last year. 84% of these were accommodation costs, which is an increase from 80% last year.
* Up to the end of January 2020 we had paid for 220 bed nights – this was a big increase on the same point the previous year when we had paid for 140 bed nights.
* We have a healthy balance as payments have tailed off due to us not placing anyone through StopGap at present whilst the Winter Plan is in operation.

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

**7. Election of officers and trustees**

The following were proposed by Jo Lidster of HARC, and were elected unopposed to serve for the coming year 2021/22

**Officers:**

Jo Abbott – Chair

Louise Finnigan – Secretary

Barney Williams – Treasurer

**Trustees:**

Souleymane Bah

Aimee Lowe

Timothy Renshaw

Tina Powell Wiffen

David Peers is stepping down as Vice Chair of StopGap, and thanks were given to him by the Board.

**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

**Speaker** – Aimee Lowe, Team Leader, Sheffield Framework Street Outreach Team.

Key points-

* Framework have operated their service throughout the pandemic and lockdowns in the usual way
* Quarter 1 – April-June – they placed 297 individuals with 132 positive outcomes

Quarter 2- June-October- 357 individuals with 163 positive outcomes

Quarter 3 – October-December – 353 individuals with 122 positive outcomes

* The Winter Plan has this year replaced Weather Watch (which used to be dependent upon the temperature dropping below -2c for a maximum of two nights, and people were placed in shared accommodation. The Winter Plan will last until the 31st March, and places people in single rooms, usually in hotels, and they will also place people with no recourse to public funds.
* The Winter Plan has impacted on the number of beds available to Framework and StopGap, and their team has only placed 28 individuals. More people are being accommodated by the Council, and their longer-term housing needs are being looked at.
* If a person displays any negative behaviour in the hotel, they will be asked to leave. This behaviour has to be quite serious in nature, and a person will receive warnings prior to this.
* There are weekly multi agency meetings held to address such issues, and to look at how people can be helped into longer term accommodation. Hostel leavers will get priority when bidding for tenancies, and wrap-around support.
* There hasn’t been an increase in hotel/hostel places – there are some out to tender and the Salvation Army have increased their bed spaces, and more people being placed in dispersed temporary accommodation. There are currently approximately 80-100 people in hotel bed spaces.
* At the end of the Winter Plan at the end of March, this will be extended for people with no recourse to public funds.