



Milton Keynes Youth Counselling and Information Service Foundation Limited

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10 August 2021 at 2.30 pm at Eaglestone Activity Centre, Eaglestone, Milton Keynes

Sue Naylor, Secretary of MK YiS, welcomed everyone to the 40th birthday party celebrations and AGM. She expressed delight to see so many friends and colleagues face to face and online via the video link and thanked everyone for coming to celebrate a very special birthday for YiS.

Sue explained that Michelle Smyth, the Chair, was regrettably unable to join the meeting because she was ill at home and she wished her a speedy recovery.

Toni Moch welcomed and introduced Mohammed Khan, the Mayor of Milton Keynes, to address the meeting. Mayor Khan said he was delighted to have been invited to attend YiS's 40th Birthday celebrations and praised the work of the charity and its longevity in serving young people in Milton Keynes. He believed that YiS had a vital role to play in championing and supporting young people to maintain good mental health and to develop the confidence and skills required to play an active part in society now and in the future.

Sue thanked Mayor Khan for his comments and thanked Milton Keynes Council for their continuing financial support to the charity.

Gareth Eglinton-Pacitti and Toni Moch opened the birthday celebrations by stating that everyone at YiS couldn't be more proud of what YiS had achieved throughout the decades from providing advice and information to young people and assisting them to find housing and jobs, as well as giving them emotional support, to a charity that focussed on providing a wide range of services to improve mental health and wellbeing for all young people in Milton Keynes.

Toni explained that she had invited people to share their memories and experiences of YiS over its many years of operation in Milton Keynes and she presented a showreel of contributions she had received from current and former staff, volunteers and clients. There were also generous contributions from former staff and trustees present at the meeting, who praised the dynamism and resilience of YiS as a charity that had provided a myriad of services and support over such a long period of time.

Sue thanked Gareth and Toni for putting the presentation together and thanked everyone who had shared such wonderful thoughts and memories on this very special day.

1 Present

A list of attendees is attached to the minutes.

2 Minutes of the AGM 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2020 were accepted as a correct record.

3 Annual Reports 2020/21

3.1 Chair's Report

Sue reiterated the opening remarks that Michelle, the Chair, had made in the Annual Review. She thanked the staff and volunteers for their tremendous determination, resilience and support that had enabled YiS to reach more young people in Milton Keynes in another very challenging year.

She believed that we could celebrate our 40th birthday by reflecting proudly on YiS's long standing contribution to the community, providing a high quality service to young people. However, the charity was very aware that there was so much more to do and looked forward to continuing to work with the broadest possible range of supporters to enable YiS to champion young people's mental health and give them the voice and support they needed.

3.2 Chief Executive's Report – Annual Review

Gareth Eglinton-Pacitti, CEO, highlighted the Annual Review that had been and was still available on the website for those who wished to read it.

Gareth stated that over the past year, YiS had transformed itself from a counselling service into a wider young people's mental health support charity. In doing so, staff and volunteers had worked with more young people than ever before and staff had dealt with huge and unexpected changes to the way YiS had to work. YiS engaged more directly with local young people to ascertain their needs and understand what they needed from YiS. As a result, he believed that YiS had responded by evolving its services and diversifying its interactions with young people, enabling it to grow to meet the challenges of supporting young people's mounting mental health crisis.

Jenny Harknett, Counselling Manager, reported on the increase in the number of referrals YiS had received and the increased intensity in levels of need that had been experienced. She explained that, in response to this, the service had implemented a more robust initial assessment and a new client management system that had greatly improved communication.

Jenny was proud to confirm that there had been no disruption to the service during the Covid pandemic, which had initially involved using phones and subsequently online video conferencing. Feedback from clients had continued to be excellent, with 100% of clients feeling that their counsellor had understood them and how they were feeling and 97% of them reporting that counselling had helped them deal with their emotional issue.

Toni Moch, Director of Wellbeing, reported, that despite the challenges of the year, she and her team had expanded YiS's wellbeing services which had enabled them to reach so many more young

people. Despite the restrictions imposed by Covid, YiS had delivered mental health and wellbeing education to local community groups and charities and had piloted a 1:1 wellbeing coaching service.

YiS had participated in Children's Mental Health Week by organising a variety of activities during which young people were invited to share ways in which they expressed themselves. YiS has also dramatically increased its social media engagement and had set up a Messenger service for young people and their parents and carers to find out more about the services YiS was able to offer and share helpful information and resources that could support a young person's mental health and wellbeing.

Amy Sharp then gave a brief report on the new initiatives she had been involved with, both the youth engagement project finding out directly from young people what their views and needs were in relation to their mental health and also the Wellbeing Advisor role that she was developing.

Gareth complimented the staff and volunteers who had worked through very difficult months, working from home and adapting to significant changes brought about by Covid -19. He expressed great pride and gratitude for the tremendous way in which people had adapted and risen to the challenges it had brought. Finally, he highlighted the comprehensive statistical information contained within the Annual Review and urged those present to read the review.

Islamic Arts 7 Heritage Speech

Toni Moch invited Anour Kassim, MBE to tell the audience about the work that MK Islamic Arts and Culture was undertaking within Milton Keynes.

He explained that the charity delivered a diverse range of arts projects to promote shared learning, community cohesion and cultural understanding, A key focus of their work was with young people and they had been working with a wide range of inspiring teachers, students and young people. Together, they have created ground-breaking arts projects, celebrating Islamic arts and culture through a range of media, including photography, textiles digital arts and painting.

Mr Kassim was thanked for his contribution.

3.3 Statutory Report and Accounts 2020/21

Leo Montague, Treasurer, drew attention to the Financial Statements and Report that had been posted on the website and were available to those present at the meeting.

Despite the unprecedented challenges YiS had faced over the past year, its work had continued, funded through a variety of sources. Milton Keynes Council had given YiS a grant to maintain its core services and a Covid 19 Response grant had also been made to YiS. A number of specific projects had received funding from MK Community Foundation, Thames Valley Police and Milton Keynes Development Partnership, together with income from fees for services provided and donations.

Income for the year had totalled £177,040 and the expenditure had been 126,950, with a number of projects being carried forward into the next financial year. YiS was intending to use some of the surplus to fund its work during the 2021/22 financial year.

There were no questions from attendees and the Financial Statements and Report for 2020/21 were accepted.

4 Special Resolution in relation to YiS changing its formal name on its Constitution

Sue explained briefly the background to the special resolution on the agenda, which had been highlighted in a briefing paper posted on YiS's website. Whilst the Charity Commission had agreed that YiS could change its constitution, it required separate notifications to a change of name and charity objects and these had to be notified to the Charity Commission within a specific time period. The trustees had agreed, therefore, to bring the resolutions to the 2021 AGM, so that members could approve them and they could be submitted within the required timeframe to the Charity Commission.

Members voted unanimously to pass the following resolution:

That Milton Keynes Youth Counselling and Information Service Foundation Ltd, Charity Number 1120074, should change its name from the above to **"MK YiS"**.

5 Special Resolution in relation to YiS changing its charity objects (purpose)

Members voted unanimously to pass the following resolution:

That the charity's objects as stated in its constitution should be amended to:

"To help children and young people and those who support and care for them to improved their mental health and well-being.

"The charity provides counselling, education, training and other related services for young people and their supporters who live, learn or work in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area."

6 Appointment of Trustees and Officers (12)

Sue thanked all the trustees for their hard work over the previous year. She also thanked Rupert Fairclough who had retired as Treasurer. The following trustees and officers were appointed:

Michelle Smyth (Chair)

Lindsey Styles

Kayleigh Warwick

Claire Coltman

Sue Naylor (Secretary)

Gilli Hosier

Leo Montague (Treasurer)

6 Date of AGM 2022

It was agreed that the next AGM would be held in June 2022.

Sue closed the meeting by thanking everyone for joining YiS on its very special 40th Birthday.

She thanked all the staff and volunteers who had organised the afternoon and said that she was extremely proud of YiS and all that it had achieved over the past 40 years. She believed that the energy, determination and creativity continued to this day and expressed the view that it was wonderful that YiS was still working away, always putting young people at the heart of what it did and improving their lives in so many ways. She thanked everyone who had contributed over that time and wished everyone good luck for the next 40 years!