

We are Beams

**Minutes of the  
28th Annual General Meeting**

Held on  
Friday 1

11<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 12.30pm

Allsworth Court, 40 St David's Road, Hextable, Kent BR8 7RJ

**TRUSTEES PRESENT:** Jason Jarvis ( Chair ) Terri Cox (Vice Chair), Rosie Neale ,Neil Johnston Sue Crocker, Mark Walker, Max Clinch, Jenna Wells  
Katrina Adams (Company Secretary/Head of Charity) taking Minutes.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Beams Staff - Stephen Hirsch, Luke Cashin, , Tracey Riley, David Adams , Robin Adams , Paul Kennedy, Jennie Branch, Tracy Whitehead, Bal Dhillon ,Jo Fenner , Teresa Arnold, Lucia Zammit, Sara McAllen

Lauren Sullivan MP , Allie Wallace ,Barry Saunders ,Mayor of Dartford Cllr Andy Lloyd Cllr Rosanna Currans , Marc Mooney ,Marie Moorey ,Cllr Perry Cole ,Jim Dickson MP ,Michelle Williams ,Peter Scott-Wilds

1	<p><b>Welcome:</b> Jason welcomed everybody to the meeting.</p> <p>Jason then read a tribute to Tina Thompson a long-standing member of Beams staff who died on the 29<sup>th</sup> September. A round of applause in her honour followed this.</p> <p>Jason introduced the formal part of the meeting by congratulating the Team on being winners of the Kent Children's Charity of the year, and the two awards from the Dartford Business awards , Good for the community and Employee of the year for Luke Cashin</p>
2	<p><b>Apologies:</b>, Andy Garrett Cllr Penny Cole , Jean and James Akister</p>
3	<p><b>Minutes:</b></p> <p>The Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i) accepted as a true and accurate record and</li><li>ii) signed by Jason Jarvis</li><li>iii) Matters Arising: None</li></ul>
4	<p><b>Re-election of Trustees</b></p> <p>Katrina said that Jason Jarvis, Rosie Neale and Neil Johnston retired this year on rotation. All have confirmed that they are willing to be re-elected. Mark Walker proposed that they be elected, seconded by Sue Crocker. All AGREED.</p> <p>Confirmation of Co-opted Trustees; Jenna Wells, Mark Walker, Max Clinch. Proposed by Neil Johnston seconded by Terri Cox ALL AGREED</p>

5	<p><b>Directors Report and Accounts</b></p> <p>Katrina gave a summary of the Accounts for the year 2023/24</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Total Income</td><td>£2125,066 ( an increase of 4.8% 2022/23)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Expenditure</td><td>£2169.459 (an increase of 1.8% 2022/23)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Net Deficit</td><td>-£51734</td></tr> </table> <p>The amounts held are</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Restricted Funds</td><td>£ 240,255</td></tr> <tr> <td>Unrestricted Funds</td><td>£ 330,116</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reserves</td><td>£ 570731</td></tr> <tr> <td>Total Funds C/Fwd.</td><td>£ 570,731</td></tr> </table> <p>Katrina confirmed that during the year the Beams Payroll Service had become a limited Company, wholly owned by We are Beams. This was done in order that any surplus income can be gifted to the charity without incurring any corporation tax liability</p> <p><b><u>Adoption of Accounts</u></b></p> <p>Neil Johnston recommended the adopted Accounts to the Meeting, seconded by Jason Jarvis All AGREED.</p> <p><b><u>Adoption of Auditors:</u></b> Neil Johnston proposed that Kreston Reeves be adopted as our Auditors for the year 2024/23 seconded by Marl Walker. All AGREED.</p>	Total Income	£2125,066 ( an increase of 4.8% 2022/23)	Total Expenditure	£2169.459 (an increase of 1.8% 2022/23)	Net Deficit	-£51734	Restricted Funds	£ 240,255	Unrestricted Funds	£ 330,116	Reserves	£ 570731	Total Funds C/Fwd.	£ 570,731
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6.	<p><b><u>Annual Review</u></b></p> <p>Katrina spoke about the year.</p> <p>The Short Breaks activity programme remained, as varied and all available places that on offer were oversubscribed. As always, our Playschemes and family events remain very popular and the feedback we receive is always good. A range of new activities and locations were introduced with paddle boarding, dance and drama included.</p> <p>Dragons Retreat continues to grow. At the Ofsted Visit in September 2023, we were delighted that in his first year as the Registered Manager Robin retained the good grading. We are awaiting the annual inspection at any time. For those of you who are not aware we are inspected annually by Ofsted Social Care and unlike schools we do not know they are coming until they ring the doorbell, which is quite daunting.</p> <p>Both the Family Advice and Direct Payment teams are seeing an increasing numbers of referrals and enquiries. We continue to run 3 drop in clinics each week, facilitate 1to 1-support meetings, school meetings and a full programme of training for parents. The team are dealing with increasingly complex cases with families which is indicative of the issues within Kent County Council regarding SEND.</p> <p>Tracy Woods Direct Payment Service Manager and I negotiated a further additional year to the service which saw an increase in capacity for the service. There continues to be significant increases in both complex cases and Direct Payment referrals for providing Education. KCC issued a Tender for the Service for 5 years from April 2025. We have submitted our bid and now wait until December to hear the outcome.</p> <p>Support Brokerage managed by Karen Dorling has been busy with both Support planning, and managing Direct Payments for those identified as needing additional support. Karen has recently recruited a new Support Broker and we look forward to further success.</p> <p>The Beams Payroll service continues to grow with over 800 employers using them. This does generate a surplus, and after finding ourselves liable for Corporation tax, we have made the Payroll service a separate company, owned by We are Beams charity. This enables all surplus income to be gifted (free of tax) to the charity.</p>														

	<p>Fundraising to deliver our services is vital. Whilst some of our services are commissioned or purchased, we are still very reliant on the fundraising team to bring funds in. Caroline and the team generated over £634,000, which is a great achievement. The team have developed great links with individuals and businesses many of whom are here today thank you to you all who support us so generously.</p> <p>Although not happening in the financial year we are reporting on, I was delighted when in September we were named Best Children's Charity in Kent at the Annual Kent Charity Awards for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time. I could not have been prouder of the amazing and special team that make awards like that achievable. As ever I am very grateful for the work ,commitment and dedication that they give that now entitles us to be called multi award winning !</p> <p>I would also like to thank our trustees who give their time voluntarily to oversee the charity and provide the scrutiny and challenge that ensures I am doing my job! Their support is so valuable and if I forget to do it often, enough I am very grateful.</p> <p>As always I am indebted to the wonderful staff team ,who are the real stars of the charity without them we would not be the Multi award winning Charity that we are .Thank you .</p>
7	<p><b>Speakers – Parental experience</b></p> <p>Katrina read an email received from a parent who had recently attended a Cygnet Parenting Course.</p> <p>Marc Mooney, Michelle Williams, Peter Scott Wilds and Barry Saunders who are Corporate donors spoke about their contributions to Beams and the reasons why they have chosen to support Beams.</p> <p>A film was shown of the Truck pull organised by Barry earlier this year.</p> <p>Jason thanked them all for the amazing contribution they make</p>
8	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>None</p>
9	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p>The Mayor of Dartford Cllr Andy Lloyd spoke about the work of Beams and how the community values the Charity . He said that he found the meeting very informative and praised the work of the staff team.</p> <p>Jason thanked all those who had attended for their support of the Charity. He thanked those that had spoken shared their experience with the meeting .He thanked the trustees for their continued work and support.</p> <p>He spoke about a recent news article referring the increase in ESEND spending having risen by 70% since 2018, with 1 in 100 primary age children entitled to statutory support compared to 1 in 200 pre the pandemic. Jason confirmed that recently, Katrina had discussed with him that approx. 20000 children in Kent are defined as disabled, yet less than 10% of these receive statutory funding and support. The remaining 90% rely on Charities to provide support to them. Jason stated that more than ever our community needs that Fundraising and us is a challenge, even though we have an amazing fundraising team. Jason thanked all those who donate and fundraise for Beams to ensure our valuable work continues.</p> <p><b>Meeting closed at 1.45pm</b></p>