

Note to Healthy Minds' staff, following board meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear colleagues,

The Healthy Minds board of trustees met on Tuesday morning, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020, with five trustees present, and Jonny, Di, Peter and Wendy also in attendance. I hope that you find this note of our meeting helpful, as a summary of key areas discussed.

We had hoped to begin our meeting with Deborah and colleagues sharing information about the Todmorden project with trustees. As you will know, there has been a lot of pressure on the Todmorden and Upper Valley teams, following the recent floods. We have postponed this information sharing, in order not to add to pressure for frontline staff and volunteers. We look forward to information sharing in the near future.

Our two main agenda items were: planning for 2020/21; and, developing Healthy Minds in 2020/21.

It is important that we have basic planning in place for an organisation as complex as Healthy Minds – with its range of projects, delivered in a variety of settings across Calderdale, both during the daytime and in the evening – so that we can all focus on what really matters: supporting the people of Calderdale in their mental health and wellbeing. Whilst we will formally approve our business plan and budget in the April board meeting, to have these as ready as they are before April, the beginning of our business year, is a fantastic achievement. The work of colleagues on project operational plans is an essential contribution towards our annual planning. Thank you for your work on this.

As well as our core delivery, in ordinary times, and in unusual times, such as recent floods (unfortunately this would seem to be a more frequent occurrence now), we are keen to work together with you on developing our work into the future. We have some major items for 2020/21:

- We want to develop, agree and implement a Strategy for Equality, equity, diversity & inclusion. This will help us to deliver services to a wider range of the population of Calderdale, in all its diversity. We are hoping to implement a strategy that covers diversity for trustees, staff, volunteers, members, as well as service provision.

- Our recent census shows a clear interest in Healthy Minds membership. We were set up as a membership organisation, and we want, in 2020/21 to consider membership model options, and to agree and implement the one that works best for us, respecting our journey over the last 10 plus years, as well as responding to changing needs and opportunities.
- The majority of our income is restricted to particular projects. It requires bidding for new grants. We will get support over the next few months for “diversifying our income”, of finding new and additional ways of funding our work, which relieves the pressures of relying on grant funding.

Our other main agenda items at this week’s meeting included: AGM review; update on Quality Standards for Health submission; planning for 2020/21 (reserves requirement, board forward plan); Chief Officer’s report (Safespace, recruitment, Forum); Sub Committee reports (Development, Finance); Chair’s business (board development and enhancement, key risks).

Thank you for your work towards achieving Healthy Minds’ objectives: “The preservation, protection and enhancement of good mental health of people in Calderdale”. We cannot do this without your hard, thoughtful and committed work, and without the support of our volunteers.

With thanks and best wishes,  
Paul

**Paul Hunt**

Chair of trustees, Healthy Minds

Office: 1 King St, Halifax HX1 1SR

M: 07716 211 928

E: [paul@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk](mailto:paul@healthymindscalderdale.co.uk)

