

CAS Board Meeting 11th February 2016

Attendance

Verinder Mander, Karin Woodley, Khosi Manaka, Beccy Allen, Jim Wintour, Mark Parker, Michael Bukola, Matthew Guest, Jacky Bourke-White

Staff in attendance

Gordon McCullough, Truly Johnston and Graham Collins (joined for Item 6 & 7), Andrea Hafliger (minutes)

Apologies

none

1. Welcome and apologies

VM welcomed all, no apologies, all trustees in attendance.

2. Conflict of interests

KW stated there is a conflict in her position as landlord of Cambridge House.

3. Election of new Chair and confirmation of new Treasurer

JB-W and KW each gave a speech to the board as to reasons for applying to be Chair and why they should be elected as Chair.

It was agreed that both JBW and KW's experiences and strength would compliment each other. The Board unanimously elected JB-W as Chair and KW as Vice Chair.

Confirmation of MG as new Treasurer, JB-W proposed, seconded by MB.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the last board meeting were agreed.

It was agreed that the Q3 Management Accounts were adopted

It was agreed that the final CAS Flow for 2015/16 were adopted.

5. CEO Report

GM gave an overview of the CEO report and activities.

MP asked whether the governance of HWS is now functioning.

GM stated that an advisory group had now been formed. The group consists of lay members, with David Cooper as the Chair. It is functioning and working towards the 4 strategic priorities.

HWS is performing very well making it an influential and relevant body.

VM asked about discussions of future models of provision with Southwark Refugee Committee Forum (SRCF), and CAS's financial commitments on this.

GM confirmed have added maximum budget we can afford. There will be no merger. Ensuring proposal aligns with our contract. Has asked SRCF to come back to CAS with a proposal and he will be having a meeting with them on 22nd February to discuss the proposal.

GM mentioned that redundancy fees could be an issue.

Action: GM to feedback outcomes of the proposal.

6. Core Contract

- 2016/17 Budget approved
- Financial forecasts approved

GM met with Stephen Douglas at Southwark Council regarding the contract awarded and the implications of the further provision that had been made for a cut of £44k in 17/18 (clause 70 of the contract). This would be an additional 10.4% cut on the current contract value.

GM confirmed that the council is now setting three year budgets based on estimates on what the central government settlement will be each year (for instance the settlement for the next financial year is not fixed yet). Therefore Stephen needs to find an estimated 10% savings across his budget for 17/18 – the clause in the report relates to this notional saving. The 10% reduction would remain in 18/19 – so it could be a 20% over the lifetime of the contract.

GM had described plans to Stephen and the impact of any reduction in the value of the contract would have on these plans. GM asked him directly what he would do in our situation – do nothing, do half of what we are planning or do it all and SD reassured him to continue to do it all.

Three scenario options were presented in Board Paper 3. The board unanimously agreed to continue as planned (Scenario 1).

Thanks were given to GM for winning the contract and Verinder was thanked for her time as Chair during this time.

7. Draft Strategy 2016-19

There was discussion on the draft strategy.

GM was really pleased with the process of coming to the set of 4 strategic priorities - they are linked and mutually reinforce strategy.

GM is meeting with the council on 12th February to discuss the KPI's and monitoring.

KW said the strategy was laudable but appears old fashioned in terms of the language used.

JBW said that the strategy was not complex and catered to broad range of groups.

BA - Good balance of organisation, community and individual with volunteering at the heart/core. Questioned whether role Community Southwark has in shaping policy and helping the sector and funder, individual platforms is missing?

KM suggested we need to be careful of action we want to take.

MG suggested an in house document on communications/how to speak with groups/funders/etc

BA Clear on what our actions are and actions we need to take

MP Missing relationship with academic world –added into priorities

KM suggested addition in empowering community groups, mentoring, volunteer awards, not only within CAS itself but with CAS members.

GM to add this under Community Investment part of the strategy

Action: GM to incorporate any comments for the strategy. Any further amendments feedback to be sent to GM by the end of February 2016

8. Update on name change and rebrand

GM & Jo have been working with Effusion for branding options. The initial sketches were shared with the Board.

9. Implications and lessons from Kids Company

MB reflected on the organisation and their work. Noted the importance on how we as an organisation advise members and train members on governance.

VM reflected on lessons learned from the Kids Company situation. Key issues including issues of reserves, board not having detailed knowledge of services they were providing. This message needs to be put out to our members, training for trustees is needed, advocating to members to attend forums and learning in charity and best practice.

GM - fundamental failure in Governance within Kids Company. CAS is focusing on governance even more. Will be looking at our member organisations, assess reserve levels and if under get in touch with these organisations. Designing our training plan tomorrow, including finalising details of our governance training modules.

MG reiterated the importance to keep looking out our own governance processes, eg skills audit.

MP suggested that a forum/ blog set up where the Board could contest any issues (online or in written format), a forum where we can routinely write and share/show evidence.

10. AOB

None.

