



Central Services
Unit C, Acorn Business Park
Ling Road, Poole
BH12 4NZ
Tel: 01202 718266
admin@diverseabilitiesplus.org.uk

28th July 2010

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd AGM 15th September 2010

Dear Member,

This has been a year of change. New name, new management structure, new fundraising initiative... and of course the Relaunch just after year end. I hope you have had an opportunity to see the videos which really demonstrate what we do and why we're here.

The Society is embarking on a new phase of expansion. When I took over as Chair 11 years ago we were struggling to fund projects and were in the throes of completing the new hall at Barnabas and the extension to No.19. As I write, No.19 is again temporarily vacant while a major refurbishment takes place...!

The Society has grown two and a half times in turnover over the 11 years, and with a new phase of development starting, I have decided to stand down as Chairman in October. The current Vice-Chairman Jesper Christensen will take the helm and I have agreed to carry on for a year in the Vice-Chair role to support him.

As usual the AGM papers are attached, with summary accounts; the full accounts are available as a download on our website, or on request to Cate in the office.

Refreshments will be available prior to the meeting and we will conduct the formal business followed by discussion on future developments without a further coffee break. You are welcome to attend from 7.30 onwards and we will try to start promptly at 8pm.

On behalf of the Trustees, we look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G Mallett".

Graham Mallett, Chairman of the Trustees

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd (formerly Dorset Scope Ltd)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the

THIRTIETH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of DIVERSE ABILITIES PLUS Ltd

will be held at 8.00 pm on Wednesday, 15th September 2010

at the Barnabas Project Centre, 13-15 Manor Avenue, Alderney, Poole, BH12 4LB.

Enclosed herewith are: a) The Agenda

b) The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2009

c) Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2010, including Summary Financial Statements

At the A.G.M. one third of the Trustees retire by rotation and will be eligible for re-election without further nomination. Should you wish to nominate anyone as a candidate for election to the Trustees, a form is available below for this purpose. It needs to be signed by three Members of the Society with the proposed member also signing. The completed form should then be lodged with the Company Secretary, Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd., Unit C, Acorn Business Park, Ling Road, Poole, BH12 4NZ, no later than Wednesday 18th August 2010.

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd.

TRUSTEE NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, being members of Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd., hereby nominate:

NAME:

Address:Tel:

As a person suitable for election to the TRUSTEES of the aforementioned Society:

Members nominating: 1)

2)

3)

DECLARATION TO BE SIGNED BY PROPOSED MEMBER:

I declare my willingness to be elected to the Trustees of the Society at the Annual General Meeting on 15th September 2010 or at any adjournment thereof.

(Delete as applicable): I am already a Member of the Society

I wish to become a Member of the Society

Signed:

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd (formerly Dorset Scope Ltd)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 15th September 2010

BARNABAS PROJECT CENTRE – 8.00 pm

A G E N D A

1. Apologies for absence
2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 23rd September 2009.
3. Receipt, approval and adoption of the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2010.
4. Receipt, approval and adoption of the Financial Statements for the year ending 31st March 2010.
5. Appointment of Auditors.
6. Re-Election of Members to the Trustees
Mr N Meldrum is retiring, and Mr J Christensen and Mr P Reardon retire by rotation; Mr J Christensen and Mr P Reardon offer themselves for re-election.
7. Election of new Members to the Trustees
Mr A Harrop offers himself for election.
8. Any other business

Note: Items 2, 3, and 4: As copies of the Minutes, the Annual Report and the Financial Statements of the Company have been made available in advance, they will, with prior permission of the meeting, be taken as read.

Mrs J. Murray, Company Secretary. 28 July 2010

Central Administration, Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd.
Unit C, Acorn Business Park, Ling Road, Poole, BH12 4NZ

**Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting
of Diverse Abilities Plus Limited
formerly Dorset Scope Limited
held at The Barnabas Centre
on Wednesday, 23rd September 2009**

Present:

Chairman: Mr G Mallett

Vice Chairmen: Mr J Christensen
Miss H Ross

Hon. Treasurer: Mr D Knight

Company Secretary: Mrs J Murray

Joint Presidents: Cllr the Reverend Charles Meachin - Mayor of Poole
Cllr Mrs Beryl Baxter – Mayor of Bournemouth
Cllr John & Mrs Ann Burden – Mayor and Mayoress
of Wimborne

Vice President: Mr E Nelson

13 Members

In attendance: Nikki Ackerley – Property House
Raina Summerson – Agincare
Joan Dampney)
Denise May) Coping with Chaos
Katrina Norman)

Mr J Ashby
Mr N Bold
Mr M Freer
Miss J Heslegrave
Mrs M Rustici

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the people on the top table to those present.

Mr Mallett explained that the Society was founded in 1955 by Phyllis Edwards, who was unable to attend tonight, and became a company limited by guarantee in 1980; hence this meeting was the 29th AGM. The company name is now Diverse Abilities Plus Limited, which is the name voted through by members at the EGM on 1st July this year. Until the official launch of the name, we are continuing to operate as 'Dorset Scope'.

Mr Mallett stressed that we were not part of national Scope, who do not operate in this area. He explained the evening's agenda and reiterated that only paid up members of the Society were entitled to vote.

(1) **Apologies** were received from:

Cllr David Flagg – Mayor of Christchurch
Cllr Mrs Queenie Comfort – Mayor of Ferndown
Cllr Mrs Pauline Reynolds – Chairman, East Dorset District Council

Cllr Colin Kay – Chairman, North Dorset District Council
Cllr Mervyn Jeffery – Champion for Disabilities, North Dorset District Council
Cllr John Wilson – Chairman, Dorset County Council
Cllr Ronald Coatsworth – Chairman, West Dorset District Council
Mrs P Edwards – Vice President
Dr D Parken – Vice President
Mrs S Hale – Hon Sec
Mr & Mrs E Jones

(2) Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 24th September 2008

It was proposed by Mr P Reardon, seconded by Mr N Meldrum and carried unanimously that these minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

(3) Approval of the minutes of the EGM held on 1st July 2009

Mr Nelson highlighted a point in the EGM minutes, for which Mr Christensen apologised for any unintentional offence his remark may have caused.

It was proposed by Mrs M Panton, seconded by Mr R Toms and carried unanimously that these minutes be approved and signed as a true record.

(4) Receipt, Approval and Adoption of the Annual Report to 31st March 2009

It was proposed by Mr N Meldrum, seconded by Mr R Godfrey and carried unanimously that the Annual Report be approved and adopted.

(5) Receipt, Approval and Adoption of Financial Statements, year ended 31st March 2009

Mr Mallett asked if any members had actually downloaded a full set of accounts, as an abridged version only had been distributed. It appeared that no-one present had.

Mr Mallett asked the out-going Hon. Treasurer to briefly summarise the accounts.

Mr Knight reported that a surplus of £161K had been made at year end, although it should be borne in mind that our aim is not to make a surplus, but to provide services. Any surplus made goes into reserves to develop the services further. Dorset Scope currently have over £1m in reserves.

Mr Knight continued that £83K interest was made on the surplus capital last year, but feels we will be lucky to make £30K this year in the current economic climate. £49K was also recouped during the last financial year from the fraud perpetrated some years ago. This was a one-off payment, and although there is an outside chance that further monies could be received, this is doubtful. Taking both these sums into account, a recurring figure of about £50K is achieved.

Most of our income, over 90%, comes from fees and this will continue to be the case, however, it is probable that the new plans will have to be paid for by fundraising. Mr Knight feels this will be difficult and fundraising could be a challenge for the society.

Very tight cash control is operated. Debt collection has been greatly improved. Mr Knight wished to record his thanks to Mark Freer, Colette and Lisa for all their hard work.

The accounts have been audited, and nothing was amiss. A copy of the signed accounts were available for anyone wishing to view them.

Mr Knight welcomed any comments on the abridged version of the accounts.

Mr Mallett asked members for their comments on the content of the abridged accounts.

General consensus of opinion was that it gave all the information required and was far preferable to receiving the full set.

He reiterated Mr Knight's comments that, although the surplus sounds quite good, our turnover last year was £4.4m and we do need to operate somewhere above break-even.

There being no further questions on the accounts, it was proposed by Mr Meldrum, seconded by Miss Ross and carried unanimously that the financial statements be approved and adopted.

(6) Appointment of Auditors

Mr Mallett stated that he was very pleased with the efficiency of the new auditors.

It was proposed by Mr Reardon, seconded by Mrs Panton and carried unanimously that Princecroft Willis be re-elected as auditors of the society for the next financial year.

(7) Election of new Members to the Trustees

Mr Mallett explained that both Dr Cunningham and Mr Toms had been co-opted onto the committee and have therefore been involved for a while.

Dr Cunningham had been nominated by Mr Mallett, Mr Christensen and Mr Knight;

Mr Toms by Mr Mallett, Mrs Hale and Mr Meldrum.

It was carried unanimously that both appointments be approved.

(8) Re-election of Trustees.

According to our rules, one third of the trustees retire each year. This year, both Mrs Hale and Mr Meldrum have offered themselves for re-election. This was carried unanimously.

(9) Any Other Business

a) Volunteer Policy

Mr Reardon asked if we had a volunteer policy. Mr Mallett said this was currently being looked at, and would probably be ready for signing off at the next Trustee meeting.

b) Retirement of Mr Knight

Mr Mallett wished to record a vote of thanks to Mr Knight for his contribution during his three years as Hon. Treasurer. Mr Knight is retiring from this pos, and a presentation was made.

Mr Mallett also thanked the Trustees for all of their work and time, given entirely voluntarily.

He wished to thank the office staff.

The Christmas Fayre at Langside is being held on 21st November.

Thanks were also given to the 'ladies' for providing the refreshments.

This concluded the formal business of the meeting, following which, Mr Barnard would give a brief presentation.

Mr Nelson wished to propose a vote of thanks to Mr Mallett as Chairman and Mr Barnard as Chief Executive for all their hard work. Mr Mallett stated he had been a Trustee for some 15 years, and Chairman for 10. He would welcome interest from anyone who might wish to take on the role!

The meeting ended at 8.50pm.

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

JOINT PRESIDENTS:

The Worshipful Mayor of Bournemouth
The Worshipful Mayor of Christchurch
The Worshipful Mayor of Ferndown
The Worshipful Mayor of Poole
The Worshipful Mayor of Weymouth & Portland
The Worshipful Mayor of Wimborne

Chairman - Dorset County Council
Chairman - Bournemouth Borough Council
Chairman - Poole Borough Council
Chairman - East Dorset District Council
Chairman - North Dorset District Council
Chairman - West Dorset District Council
Chairman - Purbeck District Council

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Mrs. P. Edwards
Mr. E.H. Nelson
Dr. D.A. Parken
Mr. D.E. Loveless

THIRTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

2009 – 2010

BARNABAS PROJECT CENTRE

13-15 Manor Avenue
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Poole, Dorset
BH12 4LB
Telephone: 01202 739560
(Fax) 01202 738791
barnabas@diverseabilitiesplus.org.uk

SUPPORTED LIVING SERVICE

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St. Clements Road
Poole, Dorset
BH12 4PF
Telephone: 01202 718266
(Fax) 01202 717448
sls@diverseabilitiesplus.org.uk

LANGSIDE SCHOOL

Langside Avenue
Parkstone
Poole, Dorset
BH12 5BN
Telephone: 01202 518635
(Fax) 01202 531513
admin@langsideschool.org.uk

SMITHERS

17 Manor Avenue
Parkstone
Poole, Dorset
BH12 4LB
Telephone: 01202 718238
(Fax) 01202 718238
smithers@diverseabilitiesplus.org.uk

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

FOR THE YEAR ENDED:

31st March 2010

1. TRUSTEES at 31st March 2010

Mr J Christensen	Mr G Mallett
Dr J Cunningham	Mr N Meldrum
Mrs S Hale	Mr P Reardon
Mrs A Hughes	Miss H Ross
	Mr R Toms

Company Secretary	Mrs J Murray
In attendance:	Mr P Barnard - Chief Executive

At the Trustee Meeting held following the AGM, the Officers were elected as under:

Chairman:	Mr G Mallett	Vice-Chairman:	Mr J Christensen
Hon Treasurer	(vacant)	Hon Secretary	Mrs S Hale
Company Secretary:	Mrs J Murray		

(Mr R Toms was elected Hon Treasurer on 2.3.2010)

2. THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES at 31st March 2010

LANGSIDE SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY

Chairman: Mrs A Hughes - Trustee Governor

Vice Chairman: Mr D Rudd – Community

Members:

- Mr J Ashby - Head Teacher
- Mr P Barnard - Ex-officio member
- Mrs L Dagnall - Parent Governor
- Mrs P Dean - Community
- Mr M Dwyer - Community
- Mr P Humphreys
- Teacher Governor
- Mrs T Knight - Staff Governor
- Mr G Mallett - Trustee Governor
- Mrs M Mikolajewski
- Health Authority
- Miss H Thomas - Staff Governor

Clerk Miss C Walsh

CHILDREN'S SUPPORT SERVICES COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr G Mallett – Trustee Rep.

Vice Chairman: Mr G Baker – Parents Rep.

Secretary: Mrs L Dagnall – Parents Rep.

Members:

- Mr P Barnard – Ex-officio
- Miss D Clarke – Staff Rep.
- Mrs A Hughes – Trustee Rep.
- Mr M Jenkins – Poole Social Services
- Mrs E Mepham – Parents Rep.
- Mrs M Rustici – Manager, Smithers

SUPPORTED LIVING COMMITTEE

Chairman: Miss H Ross – Trustee Rep.

Vice Chairman: -

Members:

- Mr P Barnard – Ex-officio
- Mr N Bold – Manager
- Mrs S Hale – Trustee Rep.
- Mr P Reardon – Trustee Rep.

BARNABAS ACTION GROUP

Chairman: Miss N Crothers

Vice Chairman: -

Secretary: Mrs M Foxley

Members:

- Mr D Austin – Manager
- Mr P Barnard – Ex-officio
- Mrs D Dark – Staff Rep.
- Miss H Ross – Trustee Rep.

SUMMARY of the REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

31st March 2010

To achieve our objective we provide services for children and young people from the age of 2 to 19 in the areas of education, short-stay care and domiciliary support, and services for adults in supported living and day activities:

- Langside School

Langside School is an independent day special school for up to 32 pupils with physical and learning difficulties in the severe or profound range. School fees are currently paid by four local authorities.

- Smithers

Smithers is a residential home providing short stay facilities for up to 5 children with cerebral palsy and other disabilities. Fees are charged to the Social Services Departments of several authorities.

- Shapes

Shapes provides domiciliary support for children and young people. Shapes supports up to 20 clients. Fees are charged to the Social Services Departments of several authorities.

- Supported Living Services

There are 16 bungalows or flats in the community where Diverse Abilities Plus Limited is contracted to provide personal care and support to the tenants, including our own wholly owned setting, 19 Manor Avenue.

- Barnabas Centre

Barnabas Project Centre is a day centre for adults. The centre is able to accommodate up to 31 students daily. Fees are met by the Social Services Departments of several local authorities.

How our activities deliver public benefit

Our services are open to children and adults with cerebral palsy or other similar disabilities encompassing complex physical and learning needs. Our non-residential services are available to anyone within travelling distance of our sites in the Poole area, and further afield if they are able to make arrangements for accommodation (for example to stay in our Childrens Short Stay Home). The cost of providing services is largely covered by fees from Social Services, Primary Care Trusts, Education Authorities, and other statutory support for independent living. As such, anyone who qualifies for support is entitled to use any of our services, subject to the Society being able to provide the service in a safe manner. For example, while we can support children with high medical needs at Langside School, using our permanent medical staff, we may not be able to provide the same level of support in Childrens Short Stay due to the absence of medical staff on site.

Achievements and Performance

It has been a year of major change and organisational review which has culminated in the recruitment of a new senior management team; this has included bringing onboard specialist business skills such as marketing, project management and fundraising. The organisation is now in a stronger position to meet the changing demands of the future. Fundraising will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that we are able to both continue and further improve and develop our services. This was encapsulated in the successful rebranding and relaunch of the organisation from Dorset Scope to Diverse Abilities Plus in April 2010.

The Langside and Montacute Trust's 'Building Schools for the Future' joint campus plan secured funding and a site in Talbot Drive not far from the old Edward House site was identified; however on 5th July 2010 the Department for Education announced the BSF programme was cancelled.

The plan to move our Smithers Childrens Short-Stay provision to a new site is on hold pending a pan-Dorset reassessment of future need for this type of service by Social Services.

Shapes has increased the number of families supported, though recruitment has continued to prove difficult.

The Barnabas Centre continues with a maximum number of students; a major review of this service has been completed and changes are planned to the service.

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

A major review of Supported Living was also conducted and changes are planned. Major refurbishment of 19 Manor Avenue is planned over Summer 2010. Just after year end Supported Living moved to offices on the Chalwyn Estate, St Clements Road, Poole, freeing up space for expansion at HQ.

A number of services had pre-arranged and/or unannounced inspections and all passed successfully.

Financial Review

Our funding comes primarily from fees charged to local authorities for our services to cover day-to-day running costs, and from gifted income which is generally used to fund equipment and premises according to any restrictions placed on each gift.

We incurred a small loss at an operating level over the year, which was expected due to the first stage of restructuring the management of the Society to provide a base for expansion of our services. Overall, the Society is in a strong financial position and the Trustees are confident that the Society can continue to successfully provide the services that it offers.

Plans for Future Periods

Major projects this year will be:

- a) Develop new funding streams. As mentioned earlier a fundraising department has been set up and we have set a target of 20% of our income to be raised from non-fee based sources within 5 years.
- b) Move our Childrens' Short Stay provision. This is contingent on the pan-Dorset review mentioned above.
- c) Increase our provision in after hours and holiday playgroups for children and young people. The first phase of this was to set up Project Mytime which ran successfully last summer and will be developed further this year.
- d) In the longer term we intend to move Langside School onto a new campus; plans to develop this project will continue this year.
- e) We are actively looking at other possibilities where they are complementary to our own activities; this may include acquiring activities in whole or part from other local organisations; joint working with charities in related fields; or setting up a standalone organisation where appropriate, e.g. a trading activity. In particular we are working closely with one local charity in a complementary field which may result in us acquiring their operations during 2011.

Other Matters

In January 2010 Marion Lawford passed away. Marion was involved with the Society for over 30 years, first as a volunteer, Committee member, then she was the Executive Officer of the Society until retirement in 1996.

In February 2010 our oldest resident (88) passed away; he is greatly missed by everyone who knew him.

We would as always like to thank all our staff for keeping our services running smoothly.

The AGM is your opportunity to find out about the changes in the Society, ask questions, and give us your input to contribute to decisions about the way forward for our services.

On behalf of the Trustees:



G P Mallett
Chairman

Date: 20th July 2010

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

Summarised Financial Statements 2009-2010

As for last year, we have produced a summary of the accounts. All the following figures have been expressed in £'000s, shown here as £k.

Income

95% of our income comes from fees charged to local authorities for our services to cover day-to-day running costs, 4% from grants from national government, and the remaining 1% mainly from donations which are generally used to fund equipment and premises according to any restrictions placed on each gift.

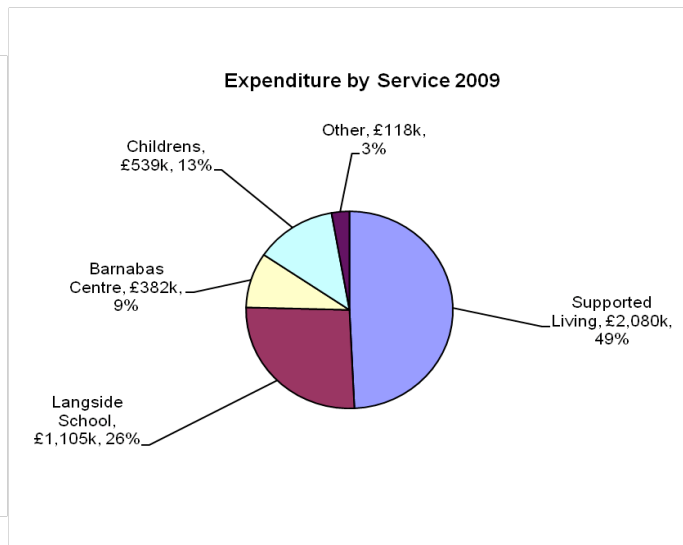
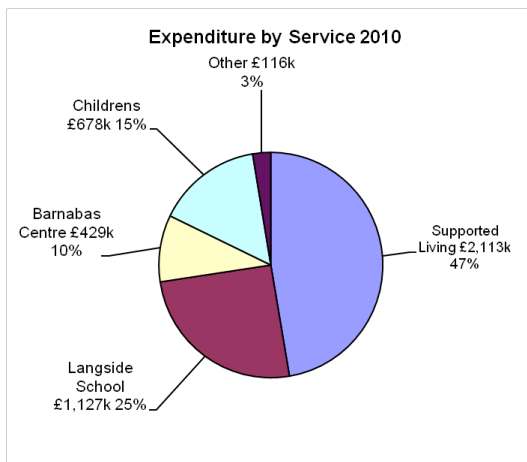
The total income this year was £4,406k, slightly up from last year's £4,386k. There was a small rise in fee income but investment income, donations and other income all fell away sharply.

Expenditure

In 2010 we spent £4,463k on the following expense items, compared to £4,224k last year. As new strategies and projects were considered professional fees and staff costs increased. Premises costs reduced as the previous year suffered costs related to flooding.

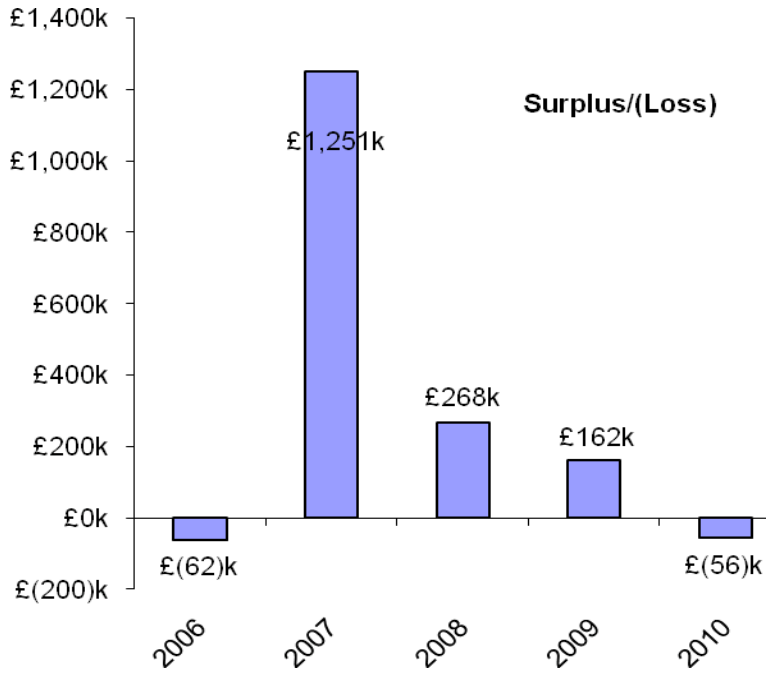
	2010		2009	
	£k	%	£k	%
Staff costs	3,652	82	3,406	81
Premises	120	3	161	4
Transport	23	-	27	-
Food	70	2	69	2
Professional	102	2	68	2
Depreciation	156	4	157	4
Teaching & medical supplies	18	-	13	-
Other	322	7	323	7
	<u>4,463</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>4,224</u>	<u>100</u>

This was spent over the following services:



Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

The net income of £(56)k between this year's income and expenditure has been transferred to the reserves. The transfers to reserves over the last five years are shown below. (The large surplus in 2007 resulted from the Edward House sale).



MANAGERS' REPORTS

2009 – 2010

Chief Executive's Report

To say that this has been a busy year would be an understatement; you can see from the reports below that all of our services have had both high spots and challenges. It's been the same too for Central Services.

In July 2009 Dorset Scope Ltd. became Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd. We have continued to trade as Dorset Scope (until 15 April 2010). So for the purposes of this report, I will mostly refer to Dorset Scope, probably for the last time!

Over the past year, the Trustees and senior managers have spent a great deal of time and effort working through a new organisational design - deciding exactly what the management structure of the organisation needs to be in order to ensure that it is fit for purpose now and to see us through the next few challenging years. This work is now complete and we have begun the process of introducing new staff and re-arranging existing staff in Central Services. The new structure, with key appointments at Director of Services and Director of Operations (business) and a new fundraising and marketing department should ensure that we continue to raise the bar with regard to quality of provision. Crucially, it will also give us the capacity to develop more and different services to meet the needs of more children and adults across Dorset.

A great example of a different service sought by a new generation of parents/carers in 2009 was Feedback Fun. This provided holiday activities last summer for children with profound and complex needs, giving them the kind of experiences that most other children would have been thrilled to experience, including camping and RIB rides. Crucially, the project sought documented feedback about the activities from the youngsters themselves so that we could be sure that we were providing what was really wanted. It's being rolled out more extensively this year.

I mention this new service particularly, as it typifies the kind of demands and challenges that we are going to have to get really good at meeting. It was set up quickly, taking advantage of funding that will be certain for only a short time; it gave parents and young people exactly what they wanted; we had to evidence that the service met the needs. And although this wasn't the case for Feedback Fun, which was funded as a project, we can expect that funding will come from individuals spending their own money (provided by Direct Payments or equivalent). This will mean that we really will have to be sure to provide what people want; it won't be Social Services that we have to satisfy.

The passing on of children and adults we support never gets any easier to cope with, and whilst Central Services staff may not have been directly involved in the stunning care and support that this organisation provides, we nevertheless share in the loss of children and adults from our community. Sadly, we have recently been affected more directly by loss here in the offices also. Irita Lewis, who worked on accounts and then payroll for a number of years, has passed away after a long illness. Many of you will have known Marion Lawford also. Marion worked for Dorset Scope for many years, starting as a volunteer when the offices were based at Langside School/ Edward House. Eventually she was the top officer of the organisation as Executive Officer until

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

the mid nineties. Marion sadly passed away last year after a difficult illness. Sue Lawford and Cate (McGrath) maintain the family involvement, with Cate continuing in the office as one of our longest serving members of staff.

Finally, I believe that we have reached a pivotal point in the long and distinguished history of Dorset Scope. Not only do we have to face a globally difficult financial and economic future, but we have to consider new ways of meeting people's needs and finding innovative and imaginative solutions to ensure that people who happen to have disabilities are enabled to live their lives in the way that they want to. We've done a great job over the past half century; now, with the developing of a new management structure, the Trustees have ensured that Diverse Abilities Plus has the best possible shot at continuing successfully (and I measure success by good outcomes for people being supported by the organisation) for many years to come. I thank the Trustees for their vision and commitment.

Paul Barnard – Chief Executive

Supported Living

It's been great year yet not without it's difficult times. On 18th February, after a long illness and at the age of 88 the great and very dear Hugh Jones died, peacefully, in his sleep and in his own home.

It fills me with immense pride and gratitude to know that Diverse Abilities Plus was able to support and care for Hugh right to the end of his life. His staff team were unswerving in their commitment and uncompromising in their generosity to Hugh and of course Caroline, especially in his final few months. Thank you to them.

Special thanks must also be given to Hugh's GP and the district nursing staff who gave of themselves, well beyond the obligations of their work; such was the nature of Hugh that many developed a lasting affection for him.

When he and Caroline moved into their home they called it 'At long last' and it is a superb example of supported living at its best - two people receiving a little bit of support to enable them to live their lives in the way they chose.

It has been an interesting year in terms of recruitment with a significant rise in the number of skilled men working for us, largely due to the downturn in the economy. The process we use to recruit has also evolved as we continue to learn how to involve those we support in the recruitment and selection of our staff through creative interviewing. Feedback sought from new starters about this process is hugely positive.

As we look to the year ahead and all it holds we have every confidence that supported living will continue to enable the people it supports to thrive and explore fresh opportunities and live their lives to the full.

Nick Bold – Manager

Barnabas Day Opportunities

Another busy year has flown by and it only seems like yesterday that we opened our doors in 1994. During the 16 years that we have been open there have been some fantastic times had by all. When we opened we supported 4 people we now support 50. We are still a popular day opportunity and rarely have vacancies and cannot meet the needs of everyone who requires a service. To solve this problem and look to the future we are looking at the possibility of

Diverse Abilities Plus Ltd

increasing our service to a 7 day service next year. We are also looking at a complete refurbishment of the centre as it is getting old and tired. Some say I could do with a refurb! I am sure they are right.

In February 2010 a group of the people we support took part in a Creative Communication Project with other services in the area. The idea was to produce an exhibition of art themed around **Diversity, and Effective communication**. The Exhibition, in the Bournemouth Library, was opened by the Mayor of Bournemouth and our budding artists featured in the Evening Echo in front of their master piece. The work is on display at the centre and we are all very proud of what was achieved.

With the art exhibition being so successful the people at the centre wanted to do a fashion show. The theme of this was being **Eco Friendly**. So anything that would normally go to landfill found its way on to the backs of the people we support. There were some very "way out" designs that were fun and very unusual. All the outfits were modelled by the people who made and designed them.

During the last year we have started using an organisation called **Sailability**. This is a charity that allows people we support to go sailing in dinghies. We do this on a Friday and it's very popular. Perhaps one day we will get our own yacht, who knows?

Our Gardening Group has taken off and we had a bumper Harvest Festival. One of the strangest vegetables we grew was called Kohlrabi. The jury is still out as to whether I like it, I found it very stringy. This year the poly tunnel is already prepared for action and I am sure we will do better than last year (no kohlrabi).

This is always a good time to thank all the people who support us throughout the year and without them we would not be able to function. So from all of us a big **THANK YOU!**

David Austin - Manager

Langside School

We are told that the coming years are going to be challenging. If that is to be the case at least we are well prepared. As anyone who supports an individual or group of individuals with special needs knows, challenge is something we are all used to.

This year the challenge for Langside has been to maintain, and build upon, the successes of the previous year in the face of some significant events and changes.

The start of the school year, September 09, was particularly difficult. Sadly one of our pupils, Calvin, passed away during the second week of term. I know I do not need to explain how such an event affects everyone connected to the school and we all miss Calvin. We have still had contact with his family and I would like to think that we have helped each other. At the same time three new pupils have joined the school this year and it has been wonderful to welcome Isaac, Kimberly and Ken into our school family.

As always we have faced the challenge of staff change. Six staff have left to be replaced by seven new team members. There has been a significant change at senior management level with both James, the Deputy Head, and Dede, Senior Teacher, leaving for different reasons. Apparently James is enjoying his new job as Headteacher at Mountjoy in Bridport and Dede is enjoying her (eventual) retirement. Paul and Lynda have, very successfully, stepped into the breach and taken on the responsibilities. I would like to congratulate them both on the job they are doing. I would also like to thank the other staff who have left for all their hard work and support, and report that the new staff that have joined us have settled in extremely well and made themselves greatly valued members of our team. Thank you to all of them.

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On a more general note, one of the more pleasing aspects of our work this year has been the development of our links with other schools and the wider community. It has been wonderful to witness the improving interactions between Langside pupils and their partners. Watching pupils from other schools communicating with our pupils using Makaton sign language, seeing the responses in our pupils and witnessing the growing understanding and confidence of both groups has been truly inspiring. I congratulate the staff at Langside and our partner schools for the way they have worked together to make this happen. It has also been pleasing to welcome an increasing number of community groups into school to use our facilities. All of this helps to raise profile and break down barriers, which is at the core of our work.

Finally I must, once again, thank the Governors of the school for their continued support, challenge and commitment. This is a group of people who are largely unseen by our families but who have become increasingly involved in the work of the school and whose skills help to drive the school forward.

We look forward to another challenging but successful year.

John Ashby - Head Teacher

Children's Support Services

During the last year, the children's support services continue to develop and expand to give short breaks to over 40 families via the overnight, day care, domiciliary and holiday activities.

Smithers gives regular overnight and day care each month, the children enjoy various activities including using a go-cart given by a parent. This year the office has been refitted allowing further integration of the services from one base.

Shapes is growing slowly and staff work on both services allowing the families to use the service that suits them best.

Both services again were inspected; Ofsted inspected Smithers, and CQC inspected Shapes; the services were recognised as 'Good'.

During the Summer Holiday we trialled Feedback Fun, which was a consultation project with children and young people, who have none or little verbal communications, on activities like Circus Skills or Ringo-ing. This was a great success and we have been asked by Dorset and Bournemouth to run Holiday activities this year again. There is a DVD, if anyone would like to see the kind of activities done.

In 2010/11 we will be reviewing staffing to make sure that all services can develop and expand as required over the coming year. We also want to develop new services.

Margaret Rustici - Manager