

**Board of Directors**

**9th July 2018**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| report | Chair’s Report |
| author | Jonathan Wells |
| date | 03/07/2018 |
| purpose | For information |

1. Background.

In the SUN Network we have the key role of giving a voice to those who have lived experience of mental health and/or drug and alcohol issues so that this perspective is fully appreciated by local decision-makers and services become the best they can be.

At present we are fully funded by local commissioners for which we are very grateful, but without broader income streams we are also financially vulnerable. I would suggest that our response to this challenge needs to be double-edged, with our performance becoming so strong that de-commissioning is not an option, whilst at the same time other sources of income are sought.

1. Achievements.

In the past three months we have continued to raise our profile and made progress in delivering our business plan.

Specifically:

* We have progressed our branding exercise, using the views of staff and the public to revisit what we stand for and how we want to be perceived. I expect this project to be completed shortly and that it will include some changes also to our website and our styles of communication
* We have adapted how our offer of membership is worded in an attempt to attract more members which is very important to our development as a CIC
* We have agreed our first formal memorandum of understanding with Healthwatch , and are in negotiation with CPFT, Lifecraft, CPSL Mind and Carers Trust to agree others

We have said goodbye to Elise Coote and welcomed Anne Wigglesworth back part time from maternity leave as our service user engagement facilitator (mental health).

1. Next Steps.

In the next three months my aims are that we should:

* Relaunch the organisation with its revised brand, together with ways of communicating which better convey what we do and more strongly advertise the benefits of becoming part of the organisation as members and supporters
* Sign off five memoranda of understanding with partner organisations
* Extend the range of our public engagement activity, making sure it is evidenced
* Complete our first Five Values evaluation of the year (out of 4 for the year)