



## Board of Directors

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| <b>subject</b>         | Chair's Report                |
| <b>Date of meeting</b> | 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 |
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| <b>purpose</b>         | For Discussion                |

### 1. Summary.

This brief report outlines achievements and challenges (both internal and external) for us at present, from my point of view.

### 2. Achievements.

It seems as though the nation has now entered its second wave of covid – 19, with all the threats to our health, safety and way of life that that inevitably brings. In The SUN Network our aim since March has been to look after each other's health, whilst at the same time finding ways to continue the really important work programme that we are commissioned to undertake.

In Quarter 2 of 2020/21 I think it is remarkable how much we have achieved given the extraordinary context in which we have been obliged to operate.

The events of the last three months that I would like to highlight include:

- Lois has maintained a way of working for the team which whilst inevitably organised around working from home has also involved in person meetings and mutual support, enabling staff to stay well and positive at a potentially very difficult time
- Our good performance on our KPIs indicates that we have still been highly effective in engaging with significant numbers of people with lived experience to gather their views and their stories, mostly by phone
- We have successfully recruited two new Non-Executive Directors to our Board – Kim Laidler and David Lee. Previous Board reports show that this has been a wish of ours for a considerable period of time. Both bring most valuable lived experience of mental health issues together with a range of work and life skills which will add greatly to the effectiveness of the Board
- We have significantly developed our profile locally and regionally; examples of this include Lois' role as Deputy Chair of the mental health system-wide Co-production Collaborative, which has a formal place within the Clinical Commissioning Group's planning process – and also our close involvement in the NHS Regional Office's "Join The Conversation" events for all mental health stakeholders



- On the basis of our good local reputation, we have generated new income and added to the team a new post funded by the Police Commissioner to engage with people who are chronically excluded to help them speak up about what they need. This is our area of expertise and it's great that this is increasingly recognised
- We are now very pro-active in deciding where to focus our efforts; a good example of this is the new ambitious piece of work to develop a Co-production Strategy with others, which may also lead to opportunities for us to expand our role into providing co-production training to partner agencies

### **3. Challenges.**

The immense covid- generated pressures on the NHS and social care mean that the local commissioning arena can be expected to remain volatile. Planning with confidence is difficult. In this context, our approach will be to take every chance we can to demonstrate our value at the same time as standing ready to adapt what we do or how we do it according to possible new demands.

All the indicators are that the numbers of people with mental health and drug and alcohol issues will continue to increase for the foreseeable future as the covid crisis takes its unpredictable course. What is clear is that this means our role of giving a voice to people with this sort of lived experience is more important than ever.

### **4. Conclusion.**

This has been a quarter in which we have moved confidently forward – continuing what we do well but also sharing what we do more widely so that mutual learning between like-minded organisations takes place.

My thanks as usual go to our dedicated and significantly expanding team.