



## Board of Directors

<b>subject</b>	Chair's Report
<b>Date of meeting</b>	13/02/2020
<b>author</b>	Jonathan Wells
<b>purpose</b>	For Discussion

### 1. Summary.

In the past three months I have continued to act as an ambassador for The SUN Network and promote what we do. For me this has most often been through meetings and one to one conversations with colleagues from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust (CPFT), the local Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the two local authorities.

I believe that the local arrangements for meaningful service user and seeker engagement in mental health and substance misuse services are robust and well established now, and that The SUN Network has a well understood place within this system.

However, in my view, bearing in mind ongoing financial pressures on both health and social care commissioners, there is no room for complacency. This is why I continue to promote a culture of continuous improvement within our organisation, alongside ongoing work to develop our relationships with partners and show them the impact of what we do.

### 2. Achievements.

The Executive Director's report provides information on our key activities in the past quarter.

The main achievements that I would like to highlight are as follows:

- Completion of the first stage of our Winding Road project, where we will follow a group of service users'/seekers (and a separate group of carers through Rethink Carer Support), over a period of a year to find out about the levels of support they receive and its effectiveness. The interim report produced in December has been well received and expectations are high as to the impact the project overall could have.
- We have had significant involvement in high level recruitment and tendering exercises recently and have had high praise about how we organised service user and carer input and the considerable influence that this part of the processes had. I think service user and carer engagement in these types of activity is very important, especially in the way it can focus on the values of candidates or of bidding agencies, which are so crucial to their success.



- Performance against our KPIs remains good. We have done very well in the numbers of members we have engaged so far this year. We have also had recognition from our commissioners that membership alone is often not very significant and that people being actively involved in speaking up, and invested in The SUN Network should now be our main aims.

### **3. Challenges.**

These tend to persist and include:

- The risk that our work is still at risk of being peripheral within the busy world of mental health and substance misuse services commissioning and provision. The quality of our work, and the persistence and energy with which we deliver it are key, if we are to ensure that people's voices are heard, and services are improved as a result.
- We operate within complex health and social care systems where the potential for wasted effort and inefficiencies is high. To avoid this, as well as making sure our own work is consistently of the highest standard, we need to nurture ever stronger relationships with partner agencies.

### **4. Conclusion.**

I am very grateful to Lois and our small team for their ongoing commitment to their roles. I think we all realise that it is a privilege to be in a position to reach out to people with mental health and substance misuses issues in our community and enable them to have their say.

This attitude will sustain us in our work and ensure our impact continues to grow in the coming year.