

Minutes of the 20th AGM held on 7th November 2018

Amnesty International UK, Amnesty International, 25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

6pm

Members present: 2 Make It, 3SC, Abandofbrothers, Addaction, Adfam, ADVANCE, Agenda, Bounce Back Project, Caring for Ex-Offenders, Circles South West, Circles UK, Clean Break, Coaching Inside Out, Code 4000, Community Chaplaincy Association, Create, Criminal Justice Alliance, Enterprise Inspiration, Give A Book, Hibiscus Initiatives, Homeless Link, Imagine If Theatre Company, Irish Chaplaincy, Key 4 Life, Khulisa, Koestler Trust, Langley House Trust, Lankelly Chase Foundation, Leap Confronting Conflict, Lincolnshire Action Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation, London School of Mosaics, Nacro, National Approved Premises Association (NAPA), NCVO, NEPACS, New Bridge Foundation, New Philanthropy Capital, Only Connect, Pact, Pecan, PLIAS Resettlement, POPS, Prison Fellowship England and Wales, Prison Reform Trust, Prisoners Abroad, Prodigal Arts, Project 507 Limited, Prosper 4, Respond, Revolving Doors Agency, RIFT Social Enterprise, RISE Mutual, Samaritans, Social Justice Solutions, St Giles Trust, StandOut, Switchback, The Bromley Trust, The Capability Company, The Clink Charity, The Footprints Project, The Reasons Why Foundation, The Traveller Movement, The Triangle Trust 1949 Fund, The Wates Foundation, Together Social Business Group CiC, Trailblazers Mentoring Ltd, Transform Justice, Ubele, Ubique Partnerships, UK Youth, Unlock, User Voice, Wandsworth Community Chaplaincy Trust, Why me? Victims for Restorative Justice, Women in Prison, Working Chance.

Clinks Trustees present: Helen Attewell, Liz Calderbank, Alison Frater, Anne Owers (Chair), and Chris Stacey.

Apologies: Norma Hoyte, Steve Rawlins, Jessica Southgate, Spark Inside, Shannon Trust, West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project, The Nehemiah Project, Choice for Change

1. Welcome and Chair's address

1.1 Dame Anne Owers, Chair of Clinks welcomed members and guests to the AGM. She thanked members for all of their input to Clinks. Clinks can only do what it does because of its members. Clinks exists to support the work that the members carry out and ensure that this work is valued and represented.

1.2. On behalf of the trustees, Anne also thanked the staff of Clinks and noted that their expertise was valued greatly by members.

2. Apologies from Members

2.1. Spark Inside, Shannon Trust, West Yorkshire Community Chaplaincy Project, The Nehemiah Project, Choice for Change

3. Minutes of the 19th AGM held on 2nd November 2017.

3.1. The previous minutes were accepted as a true record. Proposed by Alison Frater and second by Liz Calderbank.

3.2. Presentation of the Annual Report and plans for the future: Anne Fox, Chief Executive Officer

3.3. "2018 is the 20th year that Clinks has supported voluntary organisations working with people in the criminal justice system. We're proud to have grown from a small project working with organisations in London prisons, into a trusted infrastructure organisation working across England and Wales with over 500 inspirational members and more than 20 dedicated members of staff.

Throughout our history our members have been, and always will be, at the heart of what we do. They are our focus. Our experience and our achievements together mean our work has deep roots, that we have solid relationships with the voluntary sector we serve, and a strong influence with government decision makers. You can access our annual review through a dedicated area on our website and I'll take you through some highlights now.

A few key outputs this year: we reached over 11,000 followers on Twitter, and over half a million page views from 121,782 unique visits to our website; our blogs were read 21,256 times; we had 526 organisations in membership; and on their behalf we advertised 1,124 jobs, and had 72,409 views of our directories.

In our 20th year we've worked hard to shine a light on what you do and to bring the expertise and learning from your work to a variety of influencers. It's been another year of political change and that has presented challenges as well as opportunities. We've given evidence to select committees, continued to chair the reducing reoffending third sector advisory group, which in this year provided important work on themes including commissioning and accommodation and been a member of the health and wellbeing alliance bringing a focus on the health inequalities experienced by people in the criminal justice system.

We've conducted and will soon launch our sixth State of the Sector survey. We conducted the final of our TrackTR surveys in partnership with NCVO and others, and are using this information on the experience of the criminal justice voluntary sector in our work to influence the reforms to probation which are currently underway.

We are continuing to try and bring as much support as we can to where our members are and work. Our Area Development Team has continued to provide localised support in the North East, North West and South West and developed essential relationships with local agencies and commissioners on the sector's behalf. Not everyone's experience of the criminal justice system is the same and we've been acutely aware throughout our history of the need for distinct approaches to meet the distinct needs of some people.

We've continued this year to run our service user involvement network and are pleased to see that grow to 90 people from 65 members and see the results reflected in the increased numbers of organisations reporting service user involvement as part of their work in our surveys.

This year we worked with Unlock and the Prison Reform Trust to ensure that the introduction of restrictions for some people with convictions from serving in paid or unpaid positions in charities have a limited impact. We still regret that these changes have been introduced at all and will continue to keep them under review. We strongly believe in the potential of every person with a lived experience of the criminal justice system.

The experience of women in the criminal justice system has long been of interest to Clinks and in this year we brought the sector together through our women's networking forum and advocated with and on the sectors behalf to inform the Ministry of Justice's Female Offender Strategy. We merged Women's Breakout into Clinks so that its legacy of work for the women's sector won't be lost and so we can continue to provide support which meets the needs of those organisations.

We also continued our work which we had started following the cessation of the infrastructural activity of Action for Prisoners and Offenders Families bringing together and supporting those organisations in our sector who support families.

We supported the sector through the commissioning process for prison family support services and we sat on the HMPPS family service working group to implement the recommendations of the Farmer Review of family ties in adult male prisons which we were secretariat of.

We remain highly concerned at the levels of race inequality in our justice system and this is a high priority in our work. In 2017-18, David Lammy MP credited the Young Review which we worked to cofound with Black Training and Enterprise Group (BTEG) at the launch of his review into improving outcomes for BAME people in the justice system. In partnership with BTEG, Clinks supported our members to provide the Lammy Review with evidence of what works for the unique needs of BAME communities. This year we've made sure voluntary organisations are engaged in the government's work towards putting David Lammy's recommendations into practice. We've done this through our involvement on the Equality Advice and Scrutiny Panel established by Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, and by facilitating a series of meetings between our BAME members and ministers. Alongside this, we explored solutions to addressing racial disproportionality in the youth estate with officials in the youth justice policy unit.

As an organisation with its roots in a project connecting voluntary organisations working in prisons, it was a pleasure to be able to conclude our work on the good prison project with funding from the Monument Trust. Working in HMPs Dartmoor, Exeter and Guys Marsh we have developed models of enabling the sector and prisons to work more effectively together to achieve better outcomes, for a modest investment in employing a voluntary sector coordinator.

We've been concerned for many years as to the cracks in the imperfect overlap of systems through which people can fall if they face multiple and complex needs. We're proud to be a founding member of the Making Every Adult Matter Coalition with Homeless Link and Mind, and in 2017-18 Clinks' area development team has supported five new local areas to design and deliver better co-ordinated services for people with multiple needs. We also supported three Big Lottery-funded Fulfilling Lives areas, a programme funding partnerships of local organisations to work together to improve services for multiple and complex

needs. This year we've started a programme of research into how these areas are able to respond to the needs of women.

Clinks manages the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance (NCJAA) which has grown to have over 900 members which use arts to empower people in the criminal justice system to turn their lives around. In 2017-18, the NCJAA's professional mentoring scheme provided 16 members with opportunities to develop professional skills and knowledge in the field of arts and criminal justice through eight one-to-one mentoring relationships. The monthly NCJAA newsletter reaches 3,500 subscribers. It has a growing social media following on Twitter and Facebook.

The NCJAA was commissioned by Arts Council England to deliver a series of round-table events on what success would look like in arts and criminal justice. Specialist organisations working in the field, cross-government policy leads, prison governors and heads of probation, and people with lived experience of the criminal justice system came together to discuss strategic commissioning, partnership working, improving quality and arts for young people. In 2018 the NCJAA became an Arts Council England national portfolio organisation and is now a sector support organisation for arts in criminal justice.

Through our membership with Nacro of the Health and Wellbeing Alliance in 2017-18, we've supported our members to understand key developments through monthly health and justice ebulletins, briefings and blogs, providing clear and concise information to help people keep up-to-date. Our members' views on the health and care needs of the people they work with, and their priorities for improving services, have informed our policy and influencing work. We updated our guides for the voluntary sector on the health commissioning landscape, and the rights and complaints procedures for people using health services.

In 2017-18, we carried out a survey to explore understanding and take up of social investment among voluntary organisations working in the criminal justice system.

This snapshot indicated that the use of social investment is low, that just over 50% are interested in exploring it, and that respondents wanted more information in order to find out more. Clinks ran three social investment events in London, Bristol and Manchester. These included an overview of social investment, and case studies from organisations providing an account of their experience using it, and what they had learned from it. We also used digital communications, including blogs and case studies on members' experiences, to help organisations find out more about whether and how they might use social investment.

As you can see we've been busy and that's really just a snapshot.

A word of thanks now to those who generously funded our work in 2017-2018 to enable all of that work to happen. I'd also like to thank those organisations we partnered with during the year and the three prisons and prison service staff involved in the Good Prison project. I'd also like to thank the former staff and trustees of Women's Breakout for the way in which we worked together to merge its functions into Clinks.

We are still committed to making that work to better meet the needs of organisations working to support women in the justice system.

Thanks also to our dedicated trustee team who give so much support as well as the leadership we need to be bold and brave in what we do.

Finally a word of thanks which doesn't do justice to the work of the Clinks team. They've worked phenomenally hard and well this past year, punching well above their weight and despite an almost constantly changing external landscape with all the fun and games that brings. It's an absolute honour to work with them.

And now to 2018-19. This afternoon we're bringing you two of the major developments in 2018-19 that we committed to in 2017-18. We've launched our strategy for the next three years which we developed with voluntary organisations and other partners.

Today we're also launching our new website which we very much hope you'll like because it was built based on feedback from the sector.

I'll take you through a few highlight features now but high recommend a look through, it's now also very accessible to those of you who primarily use phones and tablets. In our last impact assessment we received important feedback that our website was a great resource, a mine of information for the sector, but it could be difficult to plough through the amount of information on there to find what you needed.

With that feedback, and with the support of the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, allowing us to get support from DHA Communications, we undertook a website review with members, stakeholders and staff.

So today we're launching a rebuilt, redesigned website with the user in mind. You told us our information was useful but you had concerns about accessing it and doing that quickly. We took that on board and have come up with a new site structure entirely rewritten, with content focussed on what you need to know to stay up to date, which is what you told us you come to us for.

We've included many images of our members and their work, enabling the website be a showcase of this vibrant sector and what it does and show how central they are to our work and why we do what we do.

The new design follows our work areas allowing people a deep dive into functions that are relevant to them but also allows people to stay up to date by adding a new what's new function on every page.

And the final feature to share is new – a publications library - making it easier to find our publications in one place because of the value you say they bring to what you do.

All of the improvements we're delivering through this new website are focussed on you and your experience of using it so that you can easily find what you need and use it in your work on behalf of the men, women and children you support in your organisations.

I hope you'll find it useful and I'm very grateful to our fabulous communications team for working flat out over many months on this and the number of publications we've launched today as well as our events team and the wider Clinks staff family for putting on this event and pulling together always to help this sector we're honoured to work in behalf of be well positioned to do its essential work".

3.4. Anne concluded her presentation by thanking our funders, trustees and staff, both past and present.

4. Presentation of the Annual Accounts

4.1. Jon Connell from Sayer Vincent gave a brief overview of the highlights of the annual accounts. He said that it was a strong year for Clinks. The income has gone up this year as Clinks have been awarded more grants than in previous years. The Ministry of Justice (MoJ) funding has been secured for a further 3 years, and as there had been a planned surplus to cover the uncertainty over the renewal of the MoJ Grant, some of this surplus was then spent on the new website. Clinks has high levels of reserves and a challenge for the charity will be to develop a reserves strategy that reflects the current level of income and expenditure. No questions were tabled.

4.2. A formal resolution to accept the accounts was proposed by Alison Frater and seconded by Lucy Jaffee. The accounts were unanimously accepted by the membership

5. Resignation, re-election and election of Trustees

5.1. In accordance with Clinks' constitution, Clinks' Chair Anne Owers stood down alongside long-standing trustees: Norma Hoyte and Steve Rawlins. Clinks' Treasurer, Nicola Silverleaf, had tendered her resignation from the post in September.

5.2. Helen Attewell presented Anne Owers with a gift to thank her for her time as Clinks' Chair and paid tribute to her contribution to the charity, as well as that of Norma and Steve.

7. Special Resolution to adopt the amended Articles of Association

7.1. Helen Attewell put forward the Special Resolution to elect Roma Hooper as Chair of Clinks on the recommendation of the board to the membership. The resolution was proposed by Clare McGregor and seconded by Hazel Alcraft. A vote of members was taken. The membership unanimously voted in favour. None voted against. Roma Hooper was therefore elected as Clinks' Chair

The AGM was closed.

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Delegates then heard a video message from the new chair and the AGM was preceded by Clinks 20th birthday celebration event.