



National Needle Exchange Forum

Registered Secretariat: HIT ♦ The Arts Village, 20-26 Henry Street ♦ Liverpool ♦ L1 5BS

2015 Annual General Meeting Birmingham, Friday 25th September 2015

Minutes

PRESENT: Jamie Bridge (Chair), Matt Johnstone (Deputy Chair), Nigel Brunsdon (Deputy Chair), Philippe Bonnet (Deputy Chair), Andrew Preston, Dave Estabrook, Gill Bradbury, Jasmin Mulrooney, Martin Chandler, Zoe Carre.

APOLOGIES: Helen Wilks (Treasurer)

1. Welcome and registration

Jamie welcomed the attendees and introduced the agenda.

2. Confirmation of minutes from the last AGM

These were agreed as a correct record of the previous AGM, held in High Wycombe in December 2014.

3. Review of the NNEF accounts and financial reports

The Treasurer prepared a financial report, which was distributed and presented by the Chair. The current balance of the NNEF account reflects an increase from the last AGM, as small profits from the High Wycombe and Birmingham meetings have exceeded the costs of administration and the revamped website. Jamie noted that some cheques, including one for the catering at the Birmingham event, had yet to clear from the account and will be reflected at the next AGM. The success of previous events is due to the continued generosity and support of our sponsors and exhibitors.

4. Report from the Chair, and plans for 2016

It was not possible to organise any additional training events in 2015, but this remains a commitment for 2016 following the success of the Liverpool event in 2014. A proposal was put to the AGM, and approved, for NNEF to develop a tender for training organisations to organise between one and three events in 2016 on our behalf. NNEF's role would be in promotion, fundraising and agenda-setting – with the successful organisation taking responsibility for financial management, logistics, securing trainers, etc. The events would remain free for NNEF members to attend.

Jamie will develop a tender document for the approval of the Planning Group.



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The Freedom of Information (FOI) project, and the Mystery Shopper project – both presented by Planning Group members at the NNEF meeting – are good examples of the kind of work we can do as a group. Both projects will be extended into 2016. For the latter, it is hoped to achieve around 100 ‘mystery shops’ – at which point data can be collated and presented to influence policy and practice. For the FOI data, Nigel and Martin will liaise on possible ways to use and present the information.

NNEF is a member of the PHE “National Intelligence Network on the Health Harms Associated with Drug Use”, and helped to draft the PHE guidance on naloxone issued in 2015. We now have good working relationships with both PHE and the Home Office, and are regularly consulted on relevant issues.

NNEF is also a member of the Naloxone Action Group (NAG) for England, which Nigel attends on our behalf. It was proposed to the AGM, and agreed, that this should be continued in 2016 – with NNEF covering the necessary travel expenses.

Finally, it was agreed to explore options to hold the 2016 NNEF meeting in the North of England – possibly in Manchester or Newcastle.

5. Election of new officers

The current elected officers (Jamie, Matt, Nigel, Philippe and Helen) all expressed their desire to continue in their roles for the coming year. In the absence of any other nominations, all five were re-elected by the AGM.

6. Appointment of Planning Group members

Jamie received confirmation that the majority of Planning Group members wanted to continue on the group, with the exception of Lidia Wood.

7. Any Other Business

There is currently no mechanism for removing elected officials between AGMs, nor for removing Planning Group members. This was raised as a concern, and it was agreed that Jamie would revisit the NNEF Terms of Reference to see how this could best be incorporated.

It was also confirmed that Jamie will liaise with Sara McGrail and Ken Stringer on the issue of trade union membership for needle exchange staff. Matt will also speak to some of his colleagues to assess the options.

Meeting closed.