

Chair and Treasurer's (combined) Report September 7th 2021

Welcome and thank you for attending our first AGM in two and a half year. So much has happened in our lives and with HWR

My report today is a combined Chair and Treasurer's report. I will cover the services HWR provides, the many well deserved thankyou's and a brief financial report. This will be followed by the formalities of voting for trustees

In April 2020 HWR suspended its services and furloughed the staff. In September and October Fran and Sadie liaised with members to see what was needed and could be provided while keeping everybody safe. From November a wide variety of Zoom meetings allowed some social re-connection. Up to 40 people were "zooming in" each month. Meanwhile Fran was giving advice and support to up to 30 members and professionals each week.

In late 2019 we lost Jilly Wilson, a loyal supporter and hardworking committee member who worked very hard to raise funds, a total of nearly £30k. Thanks Jilly! Grant Harris who worked with Jilly continues to raise funds for us all

In late 2020 2 trustees, Rob Stanton and Tim Hawlksworth stepped down after nearly 10 years. I would like to thank both for their hard work, especially Rob who provided a much needed counselling service. This service has not been reintroduced (as yet) but we are referring to outside counselling services. Thanks also to Rachel Hedley a Committee Member and HWR Company Secretary who resigned in July 2020 after having her first baby. Thanks also to other committee members John Dougan, Elaine Mentlak, Carole Clarke and Audra Stanton. Thanks to Jean, Rob and now Gary and everyone else who has volunteered for HWR

I would like to thank Jenny and Linda for their enthusiasm, hard work and dedication. Between us we have given nearly 60 years supporting HWR .I think we make a good team, We continued to work hard during the pandemic. One of our main goals was to recruit new trustees to strengthen this team and take HWR forward

HWR does not receive any financial support from either Health or Social Services. In the past 4 years we have received grants of £30k from 3 lottery

bids and £20k from 2 Coalfields Regeneration Trust bids to support our health and well-being programme.

In 2018 we received a legacy of £38k from Kenneth Sides.

At the start of the pandemic HWR was very fortunate to have reserves of £90k, approximately 3 years of running costs. Today we have reserves of £70k equivalent to 2 years running costs. It is worth noting most charities would be more than happy with this level of reserves.

As we cautiously open up our services we have started applying for grants Previous grants were targeted to develop our Health and Wellbeing programme. A programme which brings our members together to **connect** to each other through

social activities such as coffee mornings, and meals out

to **be active** through **sports** activities such as bowling, crown green bowling, archery or just a simple walk in the park

to learn something new, training and life skills, such as brain injury training, cookery classes, African drumming

and to **be creative** through arts and craft classes such as paint a pot.

This coming together to **give and receive support** from each other is our **greatest asset**

And would not be possible without the hard work and dedication, the warm and friendly smiles of our Community Development and Engagement worker Sadie Bratt.

Thank you so much Sadie

Working very hard alongside our health and well being programme, Fran provides our Advocacy and Support service.

Over the past 3 years since she joined HWR, Fran has given much needed help on a wide range of complex issues sometimes in emotional situations.

From help with benefits, and housing to supporting families when they are breaking up or when families lose a loved one due to a brain injury.

Throughout Fran shows a high degree of professionalism and empathy and indeed is a true friend when we need one.

A note sent from a member read “I just wanted to say a massive ‘Thankyou’ for being there - I honestly don’t know how we would have survived without you”

Thank you so much Fran

A few more thank yous’

Thanks To Irwin Mitchell for the printing and distribution of our monthly newsletter. A valuable service they have provided for 20 years

Thankyou RMBC who provide our office at Victoria Park Hall rent and rates free, and again something they have done for 20 years

Thankyou to both the Rotherham Lions, and to June at the Station Hotel for years of support

Thank you to all those who provide financial support through standing orders, virgin giving, through donations for the raffles and through buying the raffle tickets, sponsorship or running marathons. We would not able to provide the much needed services without your support. Thank you

Election and resignation of trustees

Since the start of this year the remaining trustees, Jenny, Linda and myself have searched for possible new trustees to strengthen the team but more importantly take HWR forward

We have nominations from Ewan Bain, Karen Cawood, Linzi Walker and Sue Seddon and each has agreed to say a few words

All the nominees are very enthusiastic and eager to support HWR. All have undergone trustee training and/or have an in depth knowledge of both Headway and HWR. Ewan has been acting Chair for a few months now, and fitted in seamlessly, boasting the ability to pull a perfect pint of Guinness he has already had to address a few problems and he successfully completed a £5k grant from B&Q, Many of you will remember Sue as our Advocacy and Support worker

According to our governing documents one third of the trustees should resign at the AGM. Jenny as the longest standing trustee is therefore stepping down but at the same time seeks re-election as a trustee by the membership Jenny Woodward was proposed as a Trustee by Linda Munford and Kris Mentlak and confirmed by a show of hands by the membership, as were the new Trustees Ewan Bain, Linzi Walker, Karen Cawood and Susan Seddon