



BASE Chairs Report 2020-21

This annual report is presented to members as part of the BASE 2021 AGM, describing operations of the British Association for Supported Employment from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 and beyond, where appropriate, to this report.

The elected National Executive Committee for 2020-21 were as follows:

Julia Green (Chair)
Matt Britt (Vice-Chair)
Robert Elston (Treasurer)
Dean Atkinson (Midlands)
Rachel Jones (North West)
Petra Kennedy (Wales)
Alistair Kerr (Scotland)
Alexandra Seddon (South West)
David Stenning (South East)
Ramsay Taylor (North East)
Kathy Melling (Co-opted)
Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Co-opted)
Melanie Walls (Co-opted)

Our NEC remains a full board, with seats in all geographical areas occupied. It remains our focus as a members' organisation to have a board reflective of member's geography and ensure quality communication between board and members, as it is this that drives our continued priorities, planning and calls to action.

I would like to extend my thanks to the board for their listening ears and continued support, advice and guidance. Their creative working and problem solving over the past 12 months is hugely appreciated.

In 2020/21 Mel Walls, Kathy Melling and Nerise Oldfield-Thompson were co-opted to our NEC board. Mel continues to represent our supported business agenda, Kathy leading on education and transition and Nerise remains our accreditation lead, working alongside Kathy to also develop and deliver our training. They continue to go above and beyond for BASE and we remain so appreciative of their support and contribution.

Huw Davies, our Chief Executive, leads BASE in all of our aims and endeavours. Continuing to build on strategic partnerships to strengthen conversations and influence, battling with ongoing frustrations, adapting and reacting to old and new challenges, thank you Huw.

Gillian has reacted so positively to the NEC and our members' requests for social media training and support over the past year. Gillian helps us reach out to members and people who don't know about us, but need to. Your patience with us is appreciated Gillian and we really value your advice.

Our key themes include continued and close working partnerships with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Department for Education (DfE). We have joined several networks including the Youth Employment Group, National SEND Employment Forum, the National Disability Strategy Regional Stakeholder Network and the Careers and Enterprise Company SEND Advisory Group to gain consensus on influencing public policy as well as supporting the EmployAutism initiative.

Membership has increased by 10% and we have really enjoyed welcoming new members to our regional forums, our AGM and hopefully our 2021 conference. Regional meetings have continued over zoom and are still proving a really effective way to connect and network minus the travel commitment. We took on board your feedback following our last AGM and are keeping it online for 2021, but the conference is in person and we cannot wait to welcome you to Brighton for 2 full on days of all things supported employment. We were determined to reduce rates significantly for members following the challenges of the past 18 months and it is looking to be a sell-out, which is fantastic!

Inclusive Trading CIC made a donation of £113,440 during the year and delivered a huge range of training courses online, which included the Level 3 Certificate for Supported Employment Practitioners, which has now enrolled over 500 people.

It has been a challenging year again in terms of creative working, internal and external pressures and adapting to new 'norms' that continue to change. As always, I am so inspired by those reaching even higher and further to overcome adversity despite challenges and this motivates me to do better. I am genuinely so excited about the future of BASE and all that we are yet to accomplish as we continue to strive for better working rights, opportunities, access, timely intervention and the right support for those who need it.

Thank you!



Julia Green
Chair