



Chairs Report 2018-19

This annual report is present to members as part of the BASE 2019 AGM, describing operations of the British Association for Supported Employment from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and beyond, where appropriate to this report.

NEC (National Executive Committee)

Julia Green (Chair)
Matt Britt (Vice Chair)
Robert Elston (Treasurer)
David Stenning (South East)
Petra Kennedy (Wales)
Holly Kelleher (North East)
Dean Atkinson (Midlands)
Rachel Jones (North West)
Melanie Walls (Co-opted)
Kathy Melling (Co-opted)
Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Co-opted)

This meeting and conference will sadly be the last for Holly Kelleher from our North East region, who will be stepping down from her NEC role. We wish Holly the very best for her next chapter and thank her for everything she has done for our association. Elections in the North East have now taken place and we are so pleased to welcome Ramsay Taylor who will take on the role as North East Representative in Holly's place.

This year has also seen the departure of Pat Juby from the South West following significant change within her own organisation. We thank Pat for her time and commitment and wish her the very best for her future.

Our NEC currently sits with vacancies for both a South West and Scotland Rep and we would really like to reach out to you as members to help fill these posts. Please talk to myself, Huw or any of our board for any more detail about our NEC and the part you might be able to play.

I would like to extend real thanks to our whole NEC board. Their expertise, commitment, dedication and determination is absolutely vital to ensure our board and association remain effective, current and reflective of our member's needs. I would also like to thank the employers of all NEC members for their ongoing commitment to the work of BASE.

In 2018/19 Melanie Walls, Kathy Melling and Nerise Oldfield-Thompson were co-opted to our NEC board, Mel representing the Supported Business agenda Kathy an expert in

education and transition and Nerise our accreditation lead, working alongside Kathy to also develop and deliver the accredited and non-accredited BASE training. They each go above and beyond for BASE and we are so appreciative of their support.

Huw Davies remains our Chief Executive, his passion, determination, knowledge of the sector and ability to challenge and question so vital in our ongoing commitment to achieve the organisations vision.

Huw remains supported by Gillian Parker, our social media guru. Gillian, thank you for your continued support, creative thinking and innovative ideas.

Key Themes

Membership continues to be strong and this period has seen a real increase in new providers, particularly local ones, which is fantastic. This contribution and variety of organisations ensures we stay up to date and relevant within our sector and we are excited to see new faces, teams and organisations at our regional meetings. As members your feedback is not only welcomed but necessary to drive us forward, ensuring as a collective we continue to challenge and progress, promoting best practice and creative thinking, smashing through barriers and striving towards real change.

Our finances remain stable, which Robert will detail more thoroughly in his own Treasurers report.

Demand remains strong for our training and consultancy services and to date, over 400 practitioners have enrolled on our certificate course. BASE's not-for-profit community interest company, Inclusive Trading CIC, continues to deliver a range of training and consultancy services on behalf of BASE and are constantly reviewing delivery and opportunities to expand.

Our work continues with the Department for Further Education to ensure study programmes deliver strong outcomes and that providers are clear on Ofsted expectations. Inconsistency across the sector in what is being offered to young people is frustrating and often classroom-based learning is favoured over workplace learning. We hope to align services, support quality and drive meaningful outcomes.

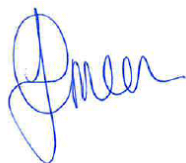
Work continues with DWP, following the Proof of Concept (POC), to further develop work on the funding of local specialist provision. As yet, the future development of this initiative remains uncertain but we are hopeful it will lead to wider trials. We remain optimistic that next steps will take account of lessons learnt from the POC and we will continue to work closely with the Department.

We have worked closely with the Supported Business Steering Group to ensure that the changes to DWP funding of Supported Businesses are appropriate and sustainable. This support included a substantial financial contribution to the work of the group and we are confident that the Steering Group will achieve its aims.

There is a growing recognition that our sector needs a framework for quality assurance to satisfy customer needs. The SEQF accreditation and awarded kite mark has been trialled and tested and we are keen to pursue this as a way to assess and demonstrate what 'good' looks like.

What's Next

Our sector definitely remains a challenge with frustrations and complexities that are, at times, difficult to navigate. I remain eternally optimistic that the changes we are seeing and the impact we are all making everyday moves us ever closer to a world where everybody really does deserve a job and that the right support is available to the right person at the right time. I am keen (and nervous, yes) to see what the year ahead will bring with Brexit and its outcome so uncertain and the political agenda so unpredictable in this present climate. We remain committed to our members and everybody that we represent. We will continue our focus to achieve a truly collaborative approach and inclusive society.



Julia Green
Chair