

## Annual Report 2016-17

This annual report is presented to the BASE 2017 AGM. It describes the operations of the British Association for Supported Employment from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, and beyond where this is appropriate to the report.

### National Executive Committee

The NEC consists of nominated voluntary representatives from each of the regions, with a facility to co-opt additional people as required to support the NEC with specific activities or issues.

The Current NEC membership is as follows:

Laura Davis {Co- Chair} {South East}  
Matt Britt {Co Chair} {South West}  
Rhys Toon {Vice Chair} {North East}  
Robert Elston {Treasurer} {South East}  
Dean Atkinson {Midlands}  
Julie Green {Midlands}  
Rachel Jones {North West}  
Holly Kelleher {North East}  
Petra Kennedy {Wales}  
Alistair Kerr {Scotland}  
Alison Thwaite {North West}  
Vikki Walters {South West}  
Kathy Melling {Co-opted}  
Nerise Oldfield-Thompson {Co-opted}  
Melanie Walls {Co-opted}

During this year, some NEC members have stepped down and we have also gained some new members within regions. Paul Wilson stepped down as Chair of BASE and North West Regional lead in November 2016. He has been a very difficult act to follow and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for his work during his time at BASE. Harry Corrigan stepped down from the Midlands in November 2016 to enjoy his retirement. Harry's contribution to Supported Employment has left an amazing legacy of work which will be continued in the region.

Julie Green has joined the NEC as a representative from the Midlands region. Julie has been working in Supported Employment for over 12 years and is the Manager of EADS, a nationally award-winning service. Alison Thwaite has also joined, representing the North

West region. Alison is an Employment Development Officer with the Down's Syndrome Association's WorkFit service.

I want to thank all the NEC members who volunteer their time and expertise both within the regions but also at Board level. Their commitment and connection to the regions is vital to the work of BASE and without them the organisation wouldn't function. I would also like to thank the organisations that employ the NEC members and the ongoing commitment to enable them to support the work of BASE.

I want to thank the three members of the NEC who were co-opted onto the committee for 2016-17: Mel Walls has continued to represent the Supported Business agenda, Kathy Melling who is supporting the organisation around education/transition and Nerise Oldfield-Thompson, who is leading on accreditation and, along with Kathy, continues to support the development and delivery of both the non-accredited and accredited qualifications. All three members do above and beyond to support BASE.

This is our first year as Co-chairs of BASE and it continues to be a pleasure to connect with so many passionate people within our Membership and wider networks, who are passionate about Supported Employment.

## **Staff**

BASE continues to be led by Huw Davies the Chief Executive whose passion and knowledge is recognised across the sector and continues to strive to meet the organisations vision. Huw remains the cornerstone of the organisation and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for the work he does.

Huw is supported by an Associate who is commissioned to undertake a specific role, Gillian Parker continues to ensure that BASE has a visible and up to date presence on social media.

## **Membership**

During 2016-2017 BASE had 157 full member organisations and 9 Associate members. BASE is lucky to have such dynamic and passionate members who champion the employment rights of people with a disability across the UK and internationally.

It continues to be challenging times for many of our members, with services under continued threat. However, despite these challenges, membership levels have increased this year.

As an association, the regional leads continue to hold regular regional network meetings across the regions as a way of providing consultation, debate, updates and presentations

to our members. BASE is continuously looking to improve the opportunities to connect with its members and welcomes any feedback on how this can be achieved.

Our 2016 conference was attended by around 180 delegates and was a great success. The feedback from members was overall very positive and, as always, the awards remain a highlight of the conference.

BASE has refreshed its website and it is now easier to find the information needed to support members. Together with our e-bulletins and social media, it continues to provide up to date information on best practice, resources, research and links to work happening around the country.

### **Collaborations and partnership work**

BASE has been integral to establishing the Department for Work and Pensions proof of concept in Supported Employment. This is an exciting opportunity for the sector to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Place, Train and Maintain model. The DWP have chosen 9 pilot sites across the UK to deliver against the 18-month program and BASE was thrilled that all sites chosen were members. The sector is excited to see how this develops and the opportunities it may bring in the future.

BASE completed the DfE-funded project, *Employment is Everyone's Business*, which was jointly delivered with NDTi and has since been commissioned to support the second phase which focuses on embedding Supported Employment models into mainstream education provision across Berkshire.

As well as preparation for the Work and Health program starting later this year, BASE has been involved in a range of policy task groups, including areas such as Access to Work, the follow-on to Specialist Employability Support, the expansion of IPS, assisted apprenticeships, supported internships and we led on the refresh of the National Occupational Standards.

BASE has had a constructive year for collaboration and has achieved some positive outcomes for the sector by doing so. The organisation will continue to look at opportunities to collaborate over the coming year.

### **Training and Consultancy**

BASE's not-for-profit community interest company, Inclusive Trading CIC, continues to deliver a range of bespoke and off the shelf training and consultancy services on behalf of BASE. There continues to be an extensive programme of training both in the non-accredited and accredited training which has been developed by BASE. Inclusive Trading

CIC are continuing to identify other training packages that will support the industry and will consult members around the need for these.

46 people started the Certificate course across 4 different cohorts and we delivered unaccredited training to 174 people across 12 venues. In addition, we delivered consultancy support to a number of members and non-member organisations.

BASE has been a key member of an Erasmus project with partners in Norway, Belgium, Ireland and Spain. The project is delivered a supported employment quality framework that has been tested with a number of BASE members.

## **Finances**

BASE relies on the income from three main sources: membership subscriptions, training and consultancy activity, and conference revenue. The separate Treasurer's report provides details around the financial viability of the organisation; however, we are confident that the strategy sees BASE in a good position.

## **The Year Ahead**

2016/17 has been both a positive and challenging time for BASE and its members but we remain committed to supporting our members through these times. We recognise that we need to keep pace with changing conditions and the growth of social media and will be focussing this year on ensuring that communication with members is a priority. Vikki Walters and Rhys Toone will be stepping down from the NEC this year and it gives us an opportunity to revisit the structure of the NEC to ensure that it is fit for purpose. We'd like to thank Rhys and Vikki for their unstinting support and wish them well for the future.

Positive steps have been taken with the commissioning of Supported Employment through the proof of concept and BASE will continue to work with DWP to build upon this to create more stable funding for the sector.

BASE will continue to promote the many benefits of commissioning specialist Supported Employment support to ensure that a Fairer Society works for everyone.

Laura Davis (Co-Chair)

Matt Britt (Co-Chair)