

Annual Report 2017-18



This annual report is presented to the BASE 2018 AGM. It describes the operations of the British Association for Supported Employment from 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018, 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 (Chair)
Matt Britt (Vice Chair)
Robert Elston (Treasurer)
David Stenning (South East)
Alistair Kerr (Scotland)
Pat Juby (South West)
Julie Green (Midlands)
Rachel Jones (North West)
Holly Kelleher (North East)
Petra Kennedy (Wales)
Kathy Melling (Co-opted)
Nerise Oldfield-Thompson (Co-opted)
Melanie Walls (Co-opted)

We have implemented changes to the NEC since the last AGM and each region now has a single representative on the board. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank everyone within each region that has provided support to the work of the Association.

We are sadly saying goodbye to our colleague Alistair Kerr, who is stepping down as the Scottish representative. Alistair has been massively influential, and we would like to thank him for the amazing work undertaken to ensure the Scottish region was well represented. BASE is actively looking to engage a new member to lead as the Scottish Representative and would welcome input from members.

Vikki Walters has stepped down as a South West representative due to workload pressures, however she continues to be a very active and positive leader within the sector. Rhys Toone has also stepped down as the North East representative. We would like to formally thank, Alistair, Vikki and Rhys for their longstanding contributions to the NEC and we are very pleased they are still involved in the sector.

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 our NEC members for their 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 2017-18: 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 go above and beyond to support BASE.

This will also be the last report I write as the Chair of BASE as I will be stepping down at the AGM. Having worked in the sector for over 20 years, I remain committed and will continue to support in any way I can. I would like to thank all the NEC and members for the support they have shown me over the past year. A successor has been nominated and I am thrilled to put Julia Green forward as your new chair.

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 organisation's 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 Gillian Parker who continues to ensure that BASE has a visible and up to date presence on social media. Thank you, Gillian.

Membership

BASE had 182 member organisations during 2017-18. We continue to see an increase in membership from education and smaller social enterprises. 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.

With continued financial pressures across the public sector, 2017-18 continued to provide challenges for many members but again Supported Employment services/providers have been resilient and innovative. Despite some of these challenges, membership levels have increased this year.

As an association, the regional leads continue to hold regular 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 2017 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 event.

We have implemented further changes to the website and the feedback from members has been positive but, again, we welcome any feedback.

Collaborations and partnership work

Proof of Concept sites - We are now 6 months into the DWP's proof of concept and BASE continues to monitor progress, supporting with model fidelity auditing of the providers involved. This is an exciting opportunity for the sector to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Place, Train and Maintain model. There are 9 pilot sites across the UK delivering against the 18-month program and BASE was pleased that all sites chosen were members. The sector is excited to see this initiative and the opportunities it may bring in the future. BASE will continue to work with DWP to influence its development and address the challenges associated with it.

SEQF - BASE has developed a Supported Employment Quality Framework in partnership with other European associations and a shortened version is being used with the Proof of Concept sites. This provides an exciting opportunity for both providers and commissioners to focus on and drive up quality within the sector.

Apprenticeships - BASE has been working with the pacesetter group, led by the National Apprenticeship Service. BASE continues to welcome any case studies of good work happening around accessible apprenticeships.

Supported Businesses - BASE has been working with the Supported Business Alliance and has contributed £17,000 towards the support needed around negotiations to secure ongoing funding for our members. DWP has announced transitional funding arrangements, which were well received by our members and 7 task groups are now progressing this work through a steering group.

Employment is Everyone's Business phase 2 - BASE completed this DfE-funded project, 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. The first phase resulted in three publications available to support providers and commissioners and these can be found on the project pages of the BASE website.

BASE has continued to be 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 many 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. We have delivered an extensive programme of both accredited and unaccredited training. Inclusive Trading CIC is exploring other training packages that could support the industry. BASE undertook a survey with members around additional training and will use this information to continue to develop packages that meet these needs.

Over 300 people have now enrolled on the Certificate course and demand for this training continues. We also delivered 14 unaccredited training courses during the year. In addition, we delivered consultancy support to several member and non-member organisations.

Finances

BASE relies on 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

2018-19 has continued to provide both challenges and opportunities for BASE and its members but we remain committed to supporting our members through these times. We are committed to continuing to focus on securing sustainable funding for the sector and

driving up quality. BASE will continue to work with the Proof of Concept sites and champion the Supported Employment model as an important part of the government's strategy to reduce the employment gap for people with a disability. BASE will also focus on ensuring that we provide a responsive and collaborative approach with, and for, our members.

BASE will continue to promote the many benefits of commissioning specialist Supported Employment support to ensure that a Fairer Society works for everyone and that the inclusion agenda is truly inclusive.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Laura Davis', written in a cursive style.

Laura Davis (Chair)