

Treasurer's Report 2016-17

The financial results for 2016-2017 have enabled BASE to consolidate its financial position. The continued success of the Certificate for Supported Employment Practitioners and demand for unaccredited training has meant that Inclusive Trading CIC, our trading company, has again produced a surplus. We also had a good conference, both in quality and for finance in Manchester last year. Again we have to thank our main sponsors of the conference APM and Working Links, without whom we wouldn't be able to make a profit without raising the price. All this allowed Inclusive Trading to donate £76,478 surplus to BASE.

During 2016-2017 our membership income remained steady at £57,146, which represented an increase of £1,566 of income on our membership. It is worth noting that our membership alone is insufficient to sustain BASE without the extra income from Inclusive Trading.

As we have a very flat structure to keep staffing costs low, BASE will use consultants and associates when we need particular expertise. This year, the preparatory work on the DWP supported employment proof of concept, the work that we have done with other European partners on the SEQF Quality Standards and the review of the National Occupational Standards have required an increased expenditure on associate support. This money represents good value as it furthers the aims and objectives of BASE.

On the expenditure side, travel and accommodation remains one of our biggest expenses at £18,925. This is because of the amount of meetings and projects both the NEC and the Chief Executive are involved in attending on behalf of BASE. This has meant that overall costs are up for 2016-17. Despite the higher expenditure BASE was able to make a surplus of £38,806. This gives us a healthy reserve of £152,426. BASE has a reserve policy of keeping at least 6 months trading surplus, we currently have 18 months operating surplus.

It is important to remember that our trading arm also fits in with the aims and values of BASE. In supporting members to improve their quality, have better employer engagement and help build new leaders of supported employment in the future. Whilst we will always strive to keep our costs down and be as prudent as possible, our reserves will allow the executive, through their business plan, to be able to support the Chief Executive in furthering the development of supported employment.

Robert Elston (Treasurer)