

The strong performance of the British Association for Supported Employment (BASE) in 2019-20 has continued to consolidate our financial position. This has been achieved in several ways. The work done by Inclusive Trading CIC in delivering the Certificate for Supported Employment Practitioners, the unaccredited training, the SEQF quality mark audits, and the completion of the funded work in Berkshire's "Employment is Everyone's Business" project created a final surplus of £55,221 that was paid in as a donation to BASE. This year we slightly increased our membership, reaching over 200 full and associate members. This generated an income of £62,614 and we are extremely grateful as it allows us to successfully work on our members behalf. An important service to our members is to produce a good quality conference bringing together workshops and key speakers of good practice in the area of supported employment. This year's conference in Manchester was no exception and it was a huge success for all the people who attended. We were fortunate to get sponsorship from Brain in Hand and DFN Foundation, who we are extremely grateful to, though the event made a small loss financially. We were again able to offer free spaces for family representatives, which is so important.

We also received £31,087 in project income. This includes a £8,390 final Erasmus+ payment from the work on developing the highly rated SEQF quality mark with our European partners that we work with through EUSE. We also managed £22,697 towards the cost of resourcing the Supported Business Support Group. This gave us an overall income of £149,100 for the year. The Trustees of BASE took a decision to help the Supported Business Support Group in managing donations and expenditure and this is shown in the balance sheet as consultancy. This has been really important work for our supported business members.

BASE has kept with the very flat structure of having one paid member of staff and we continued to use the Fairway Lodge for NEC meetings in 2019-20. This venue keeps our NEC meeting costs to a minimum. Travelling remains a big expenditure as we are involved in a lot of meetings because of the amount of policy consultations and projects that we are involved with. We also have our continued active involvement in the European Union of Supported Employment. Our overall expenditure during the year was £131,244.

We achieved a surplus for the year of £17,856, largely due to the work of Inclusive Trading CIC. This means that BASE has unrestricted reserves of £188,655. This is much more than our reserves policy of six months trading and we will be exploring how we can use some of these reserves for the benefit of members and the sector generally. It is important to remember how the work of Inclusive Trading CIC supports the aims and objectives of BASE.

Going forward, we are entering a challenging phase with the challenges of covid-19 both to individuals and services. It is therefore good that BASE is secure and sustainable enough to have a strong and secure voice for our members and the reserves will allow our Chief Executive to be able to help them through this challenging period.



Robert Elston

Treasurer, BASE

12 October 2020