

LAWYERS FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held on 10th February 2009 at 5th Floor, 86 Fetter Lane, London, EC4A 1AD at 2:15pm

Appointments

It was noted that the meeting was quorate and could proceed.

It was resolved that Philip Hamilton continue in the office of Chairman until the next Annual General Meeting.

It was resolved that Hugh Jones be appointed to the office of Treasurer until the Next Annual General Meeting.

It was resolved that Lynne Brooke continue in the office of Secretary until the next Annual General Meeting.

Incorporation of Community Interest Company

The question of whether to incorporate as a Community Interest Company (CiC) was raised.

It was noted that the CiC provided a limited liability structure and also a clear statement of social benefit, which LPLD clearly had. It was further noted that the costs of incorporating the CiC would be minimal.

It was resolved that the incorporation of Lawyers for People with Learning Disabilities Community Interest Company be incorporated and that Vizards Tweedie LLP be instructed to carry out the incorporation.

Broadening of Social Benefit

The meeting addressed the issues of whether to broaden the remit of the organisation by expanding the social benefit.

It was resolved to open this up to all members of LPLD via the Forum on the website.

Autumn Conference

It was noted that the last conference held had been 'Taking Stock of the Law' in 2006.

It was put to the meeting for suggestions of possible topics for future conferences. The suggestions made include:

1. Direct Payment and TUPE
2. Discretionary Trusts

3. Housing Benefits
4. Mental Capacity Act
5. Health & Social Care Act and the impact of the European Convention on Human Rights
6. Lasting Powers of Attorney and questions of capacity
7. Impact on capacity – Best Interests vs s47 NHSCA

It was resolved to invite members to contribute suggestions for future conference subjects on the LPLD website forum.

It was noted that it would be useful to arrange for the conferences to be held in conjunction with other organisations; Kith & Kids had been used previously. This provided the combination of databases.

Further Liaison with Royal Mencap

It was noted that Pannone LLP through both Hugh Jones and David Hardie has connections to Aarte Puri of Royal Mencap and that they may be able to facilitate further interaction with them.

It was resolved that Hugh Jones and/or David Hardie would seek to build the connection between LPLD and Aarte Puri/Royal Mencap.

Membership Drive

It was noted that at present there are 104 members of LPLD but that only 15 had renewed their membership for 2009.

It was noted that a drive for membership was required as the organisation would really only benefit those in need if there is a large core membership.

It was noted that LPLD has prospects beyond its current membership and that the website should be used to facilitate its promotion.

It was suggested that STEP could provide a useful route to gaining more membership and target clients. It was resolved that Philip Hamilton should contact STEP about this.

Website

It was noted that the website had been updated and that the forum was now fully functional.

It was further noted that when a lawyer search is carried out on the site, the results did not provide a list of all areas of specialism for that lawyer. It was resolved to arrange for this addition to be made to the website.

It was noted that the forum may be an appropriate area discuss the following points:

- The query set out on the queries page of the website regarding the blind individual seeking advice on dealing with a bank;

- Whether incorporation as a Community Interest Company should be progressed;
- Topics for an Autumn Conference;
- Suggestions for a membership drive.

It was resolved to make additions to the forum to enable members to access and comment on those points.

Any other business

It was resolved to:

- add Hugh Jones to the 'Contact Us' page of the website as treasurer.
- contact the Law Society Gazette about a free insert in the weekly magazine.
- add legal aid as a service type to the website;
- write to members with these notes of the AGM.