

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom Annual General Meeting Minutes

Thursday 16th November 2017

Ingestre Hall Residential Arts Centre

1. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Graham Lodge.

2. OPENING REMARKS

Anthony Thomas, Chair of CLOtC Board of Trustees, welcomed attendees and gave a summary of the highlights of 2016/2017:

- 2016/2017 saw CLOtC gearing up for the future, by working more closely with partners in order to advocate for more learning outside the classroom opportunities for more young people.
- The financial challenges of the past 5 years have been overcome, with the charity achieving a sustainable funding model - earned income from membership, events and accreditations – that covers the charity's core costs. Whilst the charity remains acutely aware of the importance of income generation, particularly with threats to school funding looming, CLOtC has been looking to its future strategy in order to increase its impact.
- CLOtC has worked with the LOtC Sectors Working Group to influence national policy, including advising DEFRA on how to engage more children in outdoor learning as part of the development of the 25-year environment plan.
- 2016-17 also saw CLOtC working with the Institute for Outdoor Learning, Natural England and Historic England to facilitate stronger links between research, policy and practice; linking IOL's newly formed local research practice hubs with the Strategic Research Group for Learning in Natural Environments and LOtC Sectors Working Group infrastructure.
- The highlight of the year was CLOtC leadership of the Learning Away Consortium, with the launch of the high profile Brilliant Residentials campaign in September 2016, followed by the launch of the campaign in Scotland in March 2017. The campaign is going from strength to strength in supporting schools & LOtC providers to offer more and better quality residentials for all pupils.
- CLOtC continued its work supporting schools and providers at grass roots level. With 134 schools having achieved the LOtC Mark accreditation CLOtC has established a network of schools that are committed to integrating regular LOtC opportunities into the curriculum. In addition 85 new providers were awarded the LOtC Quality Badge over the course of the year.
- 396 schools and providers were supported through our CPD and events programme, with new courses added to the programme including "Developing and Reviewing Active Learning" to assist experienced schools and providers move from 'good' to 'high' quality provision, plus courses in partnership with the Historical Association, Learning through Landscapes and the FSI (Federation for Social Improvement) .
- None of the above would have been possible without the contribution of CLOtC's members, who support our work financially and by ensuring we have a louder voice when campaigning for learning outside the classroom.

Looking ahead to the coming year, Anthony outlined CLOtC's planned priorities:

- Continuing to focus on products and services which meet identified need and fulfil its charitable objectives. These are campaigning for LOtC, promoting the benefits of LOtC and supporting the provision of high quality educational experiences that meet the needs of young people.
- Investing in fundraising activity over the coming months with a particular emphasis on seeking funding from Charitable Trusts and Corporate partners. Securing funding from external sources will help us to grow, increase our impact and build capacity across the LOtC sectors.
- Strengthening partnerships and lines of communication with a number of sectors and influential organisations, continuing to work with the LOtC Sectors Working Group to bring together the broad range of LOtC sectors in order to achieve one clear and collective voice for LOtC
- Growing the LOtC Mark accreditation to recognise and celebrate good practice and support schools. We will create a new LOtC Mark Committee to develop the accreditation to better meet the needs of schools and thereby increase uptake of the accreditation.
- Work with the Learning Away Consortium to ensure more & better quality residential experiences for young people. Having identified inequalities in access to residential in the new report "The State of Residential in England" we will seek to address this issue. A core priority for 2017-18 is to secure ongoing funding for Learning Away to ensure its success is built upon.

3. ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1 APRIL 2016 UNTIL 31 MARCH 2017

The report was unanimously accepted.

Proposed by – Lorna Fox

Seconded by – Rob Lucas

4. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

The Board recommends the appointment of Ling Phipp, Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor, as the Council's auditor for the period ending on 31 March 2018.

The proposal was unanimously accepted.

Proposed by – Peter Carne

Seconded by – Julie Lloyd - Evans

5. RESOLUTION 1. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

Two provider seats were available on the CLOtC Board this year and two nominations were received.

Gill Harvey was co-opted onto the Board in July 2017 and stood for election at this AGM. She was elected. Ian McInnes volunteered to stand again and was re-elected.

6. CLOSING REMARKS

Anthony thanked everyone for attending the AGM and for their continued support of CLOtC. He in particular thanked the officers of CLOtC, whom he described as very dedicated and special group of people. He singled out the Chief Executive for particular praise.