

The formal report of the trustees to the members for the period 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2019 forms part of the financial statements which will be available at the meeting. This will be filed with the Charity Commission and Companies House, as well as being sent to members. This report deals with matters which are required to be dealt with at the AGM, and also sets out thanks to the many people who have assisted SAPERE.

Retirement and election of trustees

The current trustees are:

Daniel Baltzer	(elected at the AGM in 2016)
Jerrina Eteen	(elected at the AGM in 2016)
Alison Barne	(appointed by the board in November 2017 with effect from the end of the November 2017 AGM)
Jeannie Cohen	(appointed by the board in November 2017 with effect from the end of the November 2017 AGM)
Rod Cunningham	(appointed by the board in November 2017 with effect from the end of the November 2017 AGM)
Jack Langley	(elected at the AGM in 2019 (Treasurer)
Elizabeth Jones QC (Chair)	(elected at the AGM in 2019)
Catrin Rees	(elected at the AGM in 2019)
Ivana Mahendra	(elected at the AGM in 2019)
Paul Stockley	(appointed by the trustees in May 2019).

Under the articles, one third of the board must retire at each AGM, and those who must retire are those who have served the longest since they were last appointed. Accordingly, Daniel Baltzer, Jerrina Eteen and Alison Barne are retiring. Alison Barne is standing for re-election. Finally, Elizabeth Jones has resigned with effect from the end of the AGM, having now served more than 9 years as Chair.

The board recommends the re-election of Alison Barne. In addition, the board has conducted a recruitment exercise to find 3 new trustees who offer relevant expertise. The board is delighted to recommend the election of Finia Kuhlmann, Gina Pattisson Brusik and Kay Chapman.

Kay is a qualified solicitor who has worked at a number of large law firms and major multinational companies, and is currently Legal and Compliance Director at Holland and Barrett, as well as being a board member of a small family company.

Gina has 20 years' experience as a fundraiser, and has worked for a number of well-known charities such as Oxfam, Save the Children and St Anne's College Oxford. She is currently Partnerships Director at Soil Heroes in the Netherlands.

Finia is a doctoral student at the London School of Economics where she is conducting research on internal controls and governance in the charity sector. She also teaches undergraduate students management accounting, specifically costing and budgeting processes. Finia also brings several years of experience as a trainer and coach for debating in various formats.

We are extremely fortunate to be able to recruit trustees of such calibre.

The result will be that the board is as follows:

Jeannie Cohen	(appointed by the board in November 2017 with effect from the end of the November 2017 AGM)
Rod Cunningham	(appointed by the board in November 2017 with effect from the end of the November 2017 AGM)
Jack Langley	(elected by the AGM in March 2019 (Treasurer))
Catrin Rees	(elected at the AGM in March 2019)
Ivana Mahendra	(elected at the AGM in March 2019)
Paul Stockley	(appointed by the board in May 2019 as a trainer trustee)
Alison Barne	(elected at the AGM in March 2020)
Finia Kuhlmann	(elected at the AGM in March 2020)
Gina Pattisson Brusik	(elected at the AGM in March 2020)
Kay Chapman	(elected at the AGM in March 2020)

Daniel and Jerrina therefore cease to be trustees at the AGM. We are immensely grateful to both of them for all their many contributions to SAPERE over many years. I will also cease to be a trustee at the AGM, and I am delighted that the Board has resolved that Ivana Mahendra will take over as chair. Ivana became a trustee a year ago, but has been involved for a little longer; she has a wealth of experience in growing businesses, while maintaining a happy and harmonious team, which will stand us in good stead for the future.

Staffing and trainers

Our dedicated staff team have had another busy year with the introduction of Administrate, the recruitment of two new members of staff, and efforts to obtain more project funding and drive forward the Going for Gold programme. We welcome Susan Holding, Steve Bramall and Marina Modric to the staff team, and thank all of our staff for their ongoing dedication and hard work.

The core of SAPERE's work is of course our trainers, and the trustees thank you all, again, for everything you have done to train schools and individuals, and move schools through the awards programme, during the year. Thank you also to all those who carried out project management roles, carried out mentoring, reviewed award applications, served on the PSB and represented SAPERE at conferences and other events. We are really pleased to see the way in which schools are moving through the awards, and the fact that Gold schools are re-accrediting. Together we are making a difference, and the importance of doing so becomes more and more obvious with every day of fake news and the encouragement of division and hatred.

Funders

The Golden Bottle Trust has supported SAPERE for six years now, and 2019-20 will be their final year of funding. We are extremely grateful to the Golden Bottle Trust, who stepped in when SAPERE's financial situation was not good at all. Harvey McGrath has funded SAPERE's core costs for three years. The trustees are deeply grateful for this support which has been invaluable in allowing SAPERE to strengthen its management and staff capabilities and establish a sound platform for future growth. However, in the current financial year we are receiving £75,000 less in core funding than last year, and next year will see us receiving £125,000 less in core funding than last year. Coinciding with the squeeze on school budgets, this obviously makes the next couple of years particularly crucial for SAPERE.

Going forward

Plans for the future are set out in some detail in the financial statements and are therefore not repeated here. We look forward to all working together to achieve significant growth in training now that the administrative systems and procedures which we have had to spend so much time and energy on are in place, and to the continued development of excellent P4C for as many children in as many different educational settings as we can reach.

It was disappointing that as a result of the design of the EEF study as regards control schools, combined with the parlous state of school budgets, most of the EEF control schools opted to take money rather than take up P4C training. However, we have managed to replace some of the anticipated training with a substantial anti-hate crime project in Wales which will see 110 schools participating in 30 level 1 courses, and a secondary project funded by the World Templeton Foundation. We are also working with the EEF in Kent and hope to expand this to other areas. We are also working hard on making sure that schools which have signed up for Going for Gold actually use all the training and support which comprises the package.

We remain very keen to work with all our trainers, members and schools to promote P4C throughout the UK. If you have any ideas for increasing the spread of P4C, or for projects – perhaps a group of schools local to you who would love to do P4C but who can't afford it, or a particularly dynamic secondary which we could use to create a hub with its feeder primaries, or a group of alternative provision centres – which the central team and the trustees can help to fundraise for, **please** do talk to Amelia, Jen, Susan or one of the trustees.

Finally, my personal thanks to the whole SAPERE community for letting me be part of this wonderful project over the last nearly 10 years.

Elizabeth Jones
Chair
March 2020