**Minutes of Upstart Scotland AGM, 23rd June 2019 at Perth Civil Service Club**

**Present:** Sue Palmer, Kate Johnston, David Ashford, Hilary Long, Willie French, Carol Craig, Karen Flynn, Gabi Heron, Simon Henderson, Julia Whitaker, Azarah Burn, Jane Stevenson, Patricia Duncan, Dorothy Williamson, Jan Hay, Jennifer Gall, Stacey Marko, Rhona Bain, Karen Stride, Loreen Pardoe, Maria Perez, Amelia Murray Lindsay, Chris Orr, Chris Saddler, Katrina Sher, Emma Sinclair, Liz Daly, Patricia Anderson, Fiona Lorimer, Heather McLean, Daria Jarrett

**Apologies**: Francesca McIntosh Walker, John Frank, Tam Baillie, Alison Hawkins, Sarah Latto, Sharon Smith.

**Minutes of last AGM**:

Copies of the minutes from 2018 had been made available prior to AGM and were accepted by Willie French and seconded by Loreen Pardoe. David Ashford noted a requirement for the term OSCAR to be corrected to OSCR.

**Chair’s Report**:

Sue Palmer expanded on her Chair’s Report which was circulated before AGM. She extended a heartfelt thanks all Upstart supporters who continue to drive the campaign forward. Sue encouraged the continuation of ‘chalking’ by supporters – although it was felt that ‘Play for P1/2’ was now more appropriate.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

David Ashford was pleased to report that Upstart Scotland currently has a healthy bank balance – Sue said this was mostly due to training days. David showed recent figures and stated that Upstart’s accounts are available for perusal. David explained the need for Upstart to be audited by OSCR – currently in progress. Approval from OSCR would be very important for potential future funders.

Proposal to accept Treasurer’s report – proposed by Julia Whittaker; seconded by Maria Perez.

**Election of Office Bearers**:

Sue shared that Pat Kane is no longer able to continue his role. Upstart Scotland propose to have Sarah Latto on board. Sarah manages The Secret Garden outdoor kindergarten. All current board members stepped down and were re-elected.

Proposed by Loreen Pardoe, seconded by Maria Perez.

Chair Sue Palmer

Vice Chair Kate Johnston

Treasurer David Ashford

Secretary Francesca McIntosh-Walker (currently on maternity leave)

Trustees Hilary Long Willie French

Tam Baillie Sarah Latto

Dr Carol Craig Prof John Frank

**Date of next meeting**:

A short discussion took place as to the suitability of Perth as a location for the next AGM and of June as a potential date. It was agreed to be in Perth again at the end of June 2020.

**WHERE NEXT FOR UPSTART? Discussion at 2019 AGM.**

Suggestions included:

* **Play workshops for parents and children.** Upstart has already worked with ‘Play on Wheels’ in Fife to create an ‘Outdoor Play’ workshop and would be happy to work with other organisations.

There is plenty of interest in developing play across Scotland (Play Scotland is currently supporting LAs to create their own local Play Strategies) and we’d like to help in any way we can.

* **Put on a Big Event.** We’re currently working on plans for a large-scale conference in Spring 2020. More info on this when we have it.

* **Collaborate with ACE-Aware Nation on a conference about ACEs and Play.**

Sue will look into this.

* **Debate in Parliament.**

Discuss with Patricia of Give Them Time, which successfully organised a debate this year.

* **Don’t lose sight of Upstart’s core purpose of achieving a kindergarten stage**

We’re now looking at two practical questions:

* What about premises? We’re now assuming the best way forward is for nurseries to offer to take children from three to seven (as is being trialled using flexi-schooling in some outdoor nurseries), alongside schools with nursery classes + appropriate practice in P1/2 combine these to create their own kindergarten stage.
* What about qualifications? For 5/6-year-olds, it’s clear that EIS would require at least one GTC-registered teacher. However, there should be a requirement that anyone working with the under-sevens should have professional qualifications covering child development, play-based pedagogy and outdoor education.

We shall look for ways of negotiating these points, apropos CfE Early Level, with the Scottish government.

* **Look at initial teacher education**

There are misunderstandings around skills and knowledge between Early Years Practitioners and Primary Teachers.

* **Work with other organisations changing outcomes for Pre-birth to 8!**

See whether there’s any response at Children in Scotland to Sue’s recent article.

* **Respond to GTCS survey on the dichotomy for teachers as to whether to follow their beliefs or to adhere to what LA's demand in obedience as employees.**

Survey ends soon – publicise via social media.  

* **Create a Parents’Toolkit**

Form a small working group to put together a support package for the website, aimed at parents who want to support Upstart in their local area. Amelia to advise.

Don’t forget Parenting Rights/ Child's rights to stay at home, to choose when to go back to work - what is right for their family- this is missing from debate. 