



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2016

**Held at:** 1.05pm 26 September 2015 at The County Hotel,  
Neville Street, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE1 5DF

**Present:** Members including trustees: Katie Atkinson, James Buller, Sarah Hargraves, Jenny Langley, Mary Cox, Liz Atkinson.

### Welcome and review of the 2014/15 year

Sarah Hargraves opened the meeting, outlined the agenda for the meeting and welcomed those attending.

### ANUK AGM minutes 2014

The minutes of the 2014 AGM were agreed as an accurate record by the members present.

### Annual report

Sarah Hargraves presented the annual report on behalf of the Trustees:

### Activities

Including the issue of a members' newsletter, the publication of 37 blog posts, the Befriending service being contacted by 16 people, providing advice and support, the launch and development of the pupil passports, the growth in the social media following by an average of 19%, the #noirisselves campaign, work on the constitution and participation in research and focus groups;

## **Aniridia Europe**

Over the last year has expanded to 10 associations, held a 2nd European conference on Aniridia 19th & 20th September, and Aniridia Europe General Assembly, Venice 21st September 2014,, grown and developed the work of the scientific committee, developed a brochure and cooperation with and support of research projects.

## **Events**

During the year under review a conference had been held and meet ups had taken place.

## **Social Media**

ANUK continues to have a leading presence on Facebook - 607 followers (+ 76 since last year), engaging in Aniridic Family group and twitter - 517 followers (+ 101 since last year). Posts have retweeted by VICTA, Nystagmus Network, and RNIB. ANUK has also used YouTube, Audioboo, Flickr and Google+. We continue to monitor and promote mentions of "aniridia" online

## **Membership**

ANUK currently has 635 members

## **Fundraising**

The target 2014/15: was £4,500. £5,898 was raised by May 2015. The Trustees expressed their thanks.

## **Finance**

The charity's annual accounts for 2014/15 were presented. The main cost of the year was the conference, where ANUK subsidised the cost of the tickets. Full accounts are available from the information desk at the conference or can be requested after the conference.

Thanks for all the contributions over the year or events, website, financial and communications.

## **Volunteers**

The Trustees expressed their thanks to all those who had volunteered and helped ANUK during the year.

## **Trustees**

Details and responsibilities of the Trustees during the year were given. Thanks were given to the trustees stepping down for their contributions – Sarah, Mary, Jenny and Liz.

## **Questions**

Members were given the opportunity to ask the Trustees questions about the year under review.

No questions were raised.

## **Resolution**

To register Aniridia Network UK as a charity - creating a new charitable incorporated organisation and dissolve the existing unincorporated association.

## **Aniridia Network UK notes**

1. Aniridia Network UK (ANUK) is an 'unincorporated association' (UA) herein referred to as ANUK-UA.
2. ANUK-UA is registered with HMRC as a charity enabling it to collect Gift Aid on donations.
3. ANUK-UA is not registered with the Charity Commission because until recently this was not feasible due to its size and status.
4. Charities must register with the Charity Commission if their income is more than £5,000 per year.
5. ANUK-UA's income in the financial years 2013/14 and 2014/15 was over £5,000.
6. The Charity Commission's guidance for registering a UA with members (like ANUK-UA), is to set up a new legal entity of the

type 'charitable incorporated organisation' (CIO) and dissolve the UA.

7. There are grants and discounts that are only available to registered charities.
8. The Board has circulated a proposed constitution for a ANUK-CIO, based on the Charity Commission's model document and guidance.

## **Aniridia Network UK believes**

1. The proposed ANUK-CIO constitution is similar in spirit to that of the ANUK-UA.
2. Registering with the Charity Commission would:
  - a. give us access to new sources of funding and discounts - enabling better services for beneficiaries.
  - b. raise the profile and stature of ANUK - and so increase the income from fundraising, enabling better services for beneficiaries.
  - c. bring ANUK's status and constitution into line with today's legal standards.
  - d. entail prudent and not onerous annual reporting requirements.

## **Aniridia Network UK resolves**

1. To mandate the Trustee Board to set up and register a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the name "Aniridia Network UK" with the Charity Commission.
  - a. It's constitution must be substantially the same as that circulated before this meeting, subject to:
    - i. amendments made at this meeting,
    - ii. amendments as may be agreed between the Board and Charity Commission to permit registration,
  - b. Its founding trustees must all be from among those elected to be trustees at this General Meeting
2. To mandate the Trustee Board, that if the above instructions have been completed, to, with as little impact on beneficiaries and as soon as possible:
  - a. transfer all assets, liabilities, agreements, responsibilities
  - b. dissolve ANUK-UA in accordance with clause 5 of its and

memberships of ANUK-UA to the ANUK-CIO, constitution.

Proposed and seconded by James Buller and Sarah Hargraves, on behalf of the Trustee Board.

A member stated they had not been notified of the resolution.

James Buller apologised for that while it had been publicised on the ANUK website for some time and advertised by email, there had not volunteer time to send a second postal mailing after the AGM notice.

The meeting voted unanimously in favour of the resolution.

## **Elections for trustees**

The following current trustees were re-standing and had been nominated:

- Katie Atkinson
- James Buller;
- Ben Rendle.

A nomination and apology for absence was also received from member Martin Flemming.

These nominations were seconded from the floor.

Katie and James spoke briefly in support of their nomination. Lyn Buller read out a statement on Martin's behalf

Sarah proposed appointing the nominated people with as block with one vote. This resolution was seconded from the floor and put to the meeting.

The meeting voted unanimously to appoint Katie Atkinson, James Buller, Ben Rendle and Marin Flemming as Trustees.

## **Any other business**

No other items of business were raised.

The meeting closed at 2.05 pm