**Minutes of Upstart Scotland’s AGM**

**Sunday 25th June 2017**

**Perth Civil Service Club 13.00 - 16.00**

**Present:** Sue Palmer, Kate Johnston, Loreen Pardoe, Hilary Long, Suzanne Zeedyk, David Cameron, Brett Housego, Sandra Aird, David Ashford, Gail Bailie, Rhonda Bain, Clarissa Bee, Rachael Black,Ann Burton, Susan Craig, Laura Creaney, Helen Crouch, Louise Day, Adele Drummond, Tracey Goddard, Andrea Habeshaw, Fiona Hamilton, Jillian Harkins (1), Alison Hawkins, Caitlin Imray, Sharon Imray, Susan Johnstone, Martine Leitch, Alison Lindsay, Leanne Love, Angela Lucey, Anne-Marie Mackin, Cathy McCulloch, Lisa McFadden, Lindsey McLeod, Myra Mcrobbie, Joelle Miller, Jenni Miller, Jo Orr, Lindsay Patterson, Carol Pentony, Agnes Semple, Jasbinder Shoker, Carol Smith, Cameron Sprague, Jemma Ward, Julia Whittaker, Kirsty Woodhouse, Kerstin Zinner, Janette McLaughlin, Elaine Hastings, Naheed Cruikshank, Pauline Gerrard, Katrina Sher, Jonathan Sher,

**Apologies**: Willie French, Chris Saddler, Maria Perez Marin, Francesca McIntosh Walker, Hana Malysak, Heather Pells, Caren Gilbert, Ann- Marie Brown, Charlie Cornelius, Alan Wolfe, Janice Ireland, Ninian Stuart, Maria Kay, Carol Lilley.

[The business of the AGM was preceded by two extremely inspiring presentations by David Cameron (Upstart AGM: the Glastonbury Edit) and Suzanne Zeedyke (Upstart: A Journey of Courage).]

**Minutes of last AGM**:

Copies had been made available prior to AGM and were accepted by Tracey Goddard and seconded by Ann Burton.

**Chair’s Report**:

Sue Palmer expanded on her [Chair’s Report](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B87fmSFkEaObanlZZlRsUzhmOG8/view) which was circulated before AGM, by stating that it had been a very busy year and, thanks to everyone’s efforts, the campaign was becoming widely recognized and was attracting considerable support. Although at last year’s AGM, we established a forward plan some of those tasks had been put aside, partly because other priorities took precedence and partly due to unforeseen circumstances. Sadly, our treasurer, Michelle Goldie, was forced to stand aside due to family circumstances and we wish her and her family all the best and thank her for her enthusiasm and the work she completed before resigning. Kate Johnston has therefore continued as Treasurer and Vice-Chair but would like to handover the Treasurer’s role. We, therefore, did not continue applying to become a SCIO as it would have been too time consuming under the circumstances.

Maria Perez Marin, our Communications Manager, has also decided to resign to pursue other interests. Maria has been instrumental in establishing the profile of Upstart through the website, social media and the newsletter and will be sorely missed. We wish her well and are saddened that she is in Spain, visiting family, rather than receiving our grateful thanks for all her endeavours on behalf of Upstart.

Sue stated that Upstart is a grassroots organisation and works best when supporters are active and proactive. Hilary Long, in Glasgow and area, has worked tirelessly at getting the message out. The recent events in Aberdeen and Edinburgh discussing Play in P1 were very inspiring although took time to organise. Sue recognised that ‘connections and showing solidarity’ were enabling for all professionals who are inspired by the Upstart message.

Politicians across the political spectrum have been receptive to our message but Brexit and elections have consumed their attention although Upstart supporters have been vocal at many meetings. Sue urged us to engage with our elected members whenever we can. Sue finished her report by formally thanking Maria for her work for Upstart. This was endorsed by the attendees.

**Treasurer’s Report:** [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B87fmSFkEaObazBOOHFBYXBtSzA/view)

Kate restated her sadness at Michelle’s resignation. Upstart has been very careful with their limited funds this year and are very grateful to our anonymous donor (of £100 a month) who has kept us afloat this year. This, other donations and a raffle, organised by Louise Day, have allowed us to fund some admin time, a stall at Common Weal’s Inside Space event at the time of the SNP’s autumn conference where we made many useful contacts. Kate said that if we need to produce leaflets and pay for other activities, we have to look at other funding sources - Crowdfunding.

There were no questions about the accounts, which were ratified.

In her role as Vice-Chair, Kate reported that at the EIS AGM a motion was passed ‘to investigate and report on the effect of an increase in the statutory age for starting Primary School to age 7 and the development of a compulsory kindergarten stage, where there is a focus on social skills and learning through play’. This will result in a report being published before next June, to which Upstart will give evidence. Another motion addressed allowing EY Practitioners and Classroom Assistants to join the EIS. Sadly this motion fell but Kate felt it would be mooted again. Support from the floor felt it would support integrated working.

**Upstart Support for Developing Play-based Practice in P1/2**:

After the Upstart event in Aberdeen, which was oversubscribed, many areas asked for similar meetings in their areas. Upstart is at present in discussion as to how and where we can hold these in partnership with other organisations. Was also mooted that a closed Facebook page would be a good place to share what practitioners were doing that was successful and a place to support each other. Attendees agreed. Kate also asked if it would be useful if a section of website site had useful resources to support Play. This was also agreed, on condition that we can find a webmaster to replace Maria.

Sue pointed out that we must get out the message that mental and physical health is affected by a too early start to formal learning and now we need to make connections with health and social work groups. Suzanne Zeedyk applauded this as the Attainment Challenge focuses on Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well Being but that we need to change that order to make a difference.

Cathy McCulloch said that if Upstart supporters responded to the consultation on [John Finnie’s](http://www.parliament.scot/gettinginvolved/104602.aspx) bill which closes on the 4th of August, it will reinforce our aim to support our children’s well-being.

**Election of Office Bearers**:

Chair Sue Palmer Proposed Loreen Pardoe

Seconded Kate Johnston

Vice Chair. Kate Johnston Proposed Loreen Pardoe.

Seconded Sue Palmer

Secretary. Francesca McIntosh- Walker Proposed. Loreen Pardoe

Seconded Julia Whittaker

Treasurer. David Ashford. Proposed. Cathy McCulloch

Seconded. Alison Lindsay

Co-opted members Hilary Long, Loreen Pardoe and Willie French

**Any Other Business:**

Sue restated need for support in some areas of communication. Volunteers stepped forward to support the committee and Sue collected their contact details.

Kate thanked Sue without whom Upstart would not exist and the attendees concurred.

Presentations to our two inspirational speakers, David Cameron and Dr Suzanne Zeedyk, and thanks to everyone who attended and all who support this movement and keep the committee motivated.

**Date of next meeting**: Sunday 24th June 2018