**Upstart AGM, via Zoom**

**18th June 2022**

**Present**

Sue Palmer, Kate Johnston, David Ashford, Willie French, John Frank, Dawn Ewan, Megan Watson, Lynn McNair, Julia Hale, Diane Delaney, Sophie Askew, Loreen Pardoe, Ilene Neilson, Tania Czajka, Rhona Bain, Jo Sadler, Jeannette Murray, Julie Jones, Lou Woodland, Leanne Bowers, Frances Morrison, Fiona McNally

**Apologies** from Tam Baillie

**Minutes of Upstart Scotland AGM 2021**

Agreed. Proposed by Loreen Pardoe and seconded by Carol Craig.

**Chair’s Report**

The written report was sent out prior to AGM and is available on the Upstart Scotland [website](https://www.upstart.scot/agm-2020-documents/) in the News section. Sue Palmer emphasised the need for people to respond to the National Improvement Framework (NIF) Enhanced Data Collection on the attainment gap. A summary of Upstart’s position on the consultation is available upon request (info@upstart.scot).

**Vice-chair’s Report**

Kate thanked all those who have supported Upstart over the past year. Particular thanks were given to the Cosy Foundation who have made it possible for Upstart to establish an Instagram page – thanks also go to our first two Instagram contributors. We are now looking for a small team to take the Instagram account forward from next session. We are also looking to invigorate our local groups if anyone would be interested.

**Treasurer’s Report**

David Ashford shared that the annual accounts have been audited and are available via the OSCR and Upstart website. David was happy to answer any questions – none came in during the AGM.

**Election of Office-Bearers and Board of Trustees**

All current board members resigned and those who were prepared to stand again were proposed and seconded en masse.

Sue Palmer, Chair
Kate Johnston, Vice Chair/Secretary
David Ashford, Treasurer and Membership Secretary

Board Members
Willie French, Tam Baillie, Carol Craig, Dawn Ewan and Professor John Frank (proposed by Loreen Pardoe and seconded by Diane Delaney)

**Presentations from Dr Megan Watson and Dr Lynn McNair**

**Discussion**

**What is the way forward for Upstart**

* Sue shared that we are trying to find a change in strategic direction and some new input. If anyone has some ideas for funding it would be much appreciated or any suggestions for how we should proceed.
* Cattanach have funded Jackie Brock of Children in Scotland to do a report on what Upstart has done so far and how we should proceed. All of the people she contacted, including some of those in Scottish government, said that we have had a significant impact over the past seven years. We have also lived up to our name by constantly questioning the Scottish Government’s decision to introduce the P1 SNSA in literacy and numeracy. The SNSAs are here to stay for the foreseeable future it would seem - therefore Sue feels that it would be pointless for Upstart keep trying to have them removed. The Upstart perspective is that they should be assessing children’s development. We perhaps need to work with the policy makers because they are going very much in the right direction with Realising the Ambition and all the outdoor work. Thanks to the Give them Time team, no parent of a four-year-old needs to send them to school. There is a lot of movement in this area in Scotland.
* Kate made the point that Jackie’s report said that Upstart should continue making links with other organisations who are all involved in the same way. She emphasised the need for us to reactivate the local groups networks.
* Points were made in the Zoom group chat that we need parents and teachers to be involved more. Kate said we have had a lot of interest in our FB groups recently.
* Tanya spoke about how there are EYP posts being advertised in Edinburgh council whereby the EYP would spend a year within the nursery setting then move on to P1 with the children. Lots of chat about how beneficial this would be for children.
* Sue made the point that we rely so much on our supporters to share the word.

**Date of next AGM**

To be announced: June 2023