

# Today's agenda



Real AGM



Real opportunities  
for all conference



Local Voices  
networking event

# Welcome to the Real AGM



# Real AGM

1. Introduction
2. Apologies
3. Approval of minutes of last AGM
4. Review of the year
5. Chair's report
6. Financial report (including annual accounts)
7. Proposal to reappoint our auditors
8. Electing our new Board of Trustees
9. Ratification of the Board's nomination for Chair
10. Any other business

# Getting you up to speed on what Real is doing

**REVIEW OF THE YEAR (TO 31 MARCH 2018) AND  
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS**

# Independent Living Service (ILS)



**Real**

Disabled people  
working together  
for real choices

# Independent Living Service (ILS)

- Support with direct payments (instead of directly-provided social care)
- 760 disabled adults and children supported
- 134 clients set up for the first time (including 38 in Bengali and 19 in Somali)
- Our ILS advice line delivered 5562 separate support activities to clients and practitioners

# What our ILS clients told us

- I just want to say thank you to my direct payments worker for the excellent service she has provided... This is the best service I have received in a long time
- My adviser treated me with respect, and dealt with my enquiry efficiently, the service was very accessible and the fact sheets I was given were very informative

# What are ILS clients told us

- She came 100% prepared, filled out the forms before she got to my house.... What a pleasure to work with this lady
- The support I received from Real helps me manage independently. I would recommend this service to others.
- But, won't be doing going forward, more later





# Local Link

One stop for information, advice and advocacy support

**Real**

Disabled people  
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# Information, Advice and Advocacy (Local Link)

- Delivered in conjunction with 6 others:
  - Age UK, APASEN, Bromley by Bow Centre, deafPlus, Positive East, Tower Hamlets Law Centre
- Covers a wide range of subjects  
Information service: 370 issues a month, a third of which dealt with by Real
- Advocacy supported clients with 249 issues, 173 Independent advocacy, 79 care act advocacy
- Biggest areas: housing, social care and leisure

# Local Voices

- Giving local disabled people a collective voice to make change happen. Now in fifth year.
- Led by a steering group of local disabled people
- Network of 232
- More on this later this afternoon



# Other things we do

- PADE UP
- Realising Change
- Disability hate project
- Communities Driving Change
- Edith (employment support with deafPlus)
- Volunteering
- Campaigning and influencing (e.g. on charging for social care)
- Connecting across Tower Hamlets and London
- Real Quality Matters

# Chair's report

**HENRY STONE**



# Financial report

- Unfortunately I treasurer, Anthony, can't be here today
- We now have audited accounts up to 31 March 2018.
- These can be found on our website, and happy to get you a physical copy.
- Here are some headlines

# Income 17/18

- Total income just over 1 million for the first time (1,024,756)
- But a lot goes to Local Link partners
- Real's biggest income streams were:
  - Local link – 485,000
  - DPSS – 336,000
  - Other ILS – 93,289
  - Engagement – 30,558

# Expenditure 17/18

- Total expenditure – 1,006, 923
- Biggest items (86% of costs)
  - Staff and pension – 616,977
    - 484,593 (direct) + 115,384 (support) + freelance and temporary staff (17,000)
  - Project partner costs - 252,611
- Overall surplus of 17,833 (last year loss of 36,780)



# Balance sheet 17/18, and looking forward

- Total reserves - 263,135
  - Unrestricted reserves - 189,220
  - Restricted reserves - 73,915
- 18/19 – likely to make another small surplus
- Good position overall, but we need to spend wisely

# Financial risks

- Good controls over money, no audit adjustments
- Vulnerable to an increase in rent (at the moment very discounted)
- Overly reliant on two income sources from local authority
- The money we currently get for engagement activities doesn't cover the costs

# Important events since last March

- Our landlord wants to increase the rent a lot from 8,000 to something like 60,000
- We'll probably need to move to reduce our rent
- Losing the Direct Payments Support Service
- Tower Hamlets Council says we are valuable and want us to succeed
- Creating our new five year plan
- Developing a new fundraising strategy and fundraising activities

# Reappointment of auditors

- Two years ago we agreed to review our auditors
- Several responses, chose a new firm called Myrus Smith
- They have done a much better job, the board is very happy
- Proposal to reappoint – vote by members

# Board elections

# Electing our new Board of Trustees

- Real's board comprises
  - 6 elected members
  - 3 appointed members
- At least 75% of the board must be disabled people (currently 100%)
- The elected members are from amongst the membership and voted on by them
- Each year 2 step down and may be re-elected or new people join

# Current board members

- Have served 3 years
  - John and Faiz
- Have 1 or 2 years remaining
  - Henry, Anthony, Martha and Mahendra
- Held 2 workshops for people to find out more information

# Who is standing to be elected

- John Per, standing for re-election (for the last time)
- John Sharp, new board member
- 2 candidates for 2 positions
- Show of hands to endorse their election



# Getting 3 more appointed board members

- Set out in our constitution but no one applied when we advertised last year
- We will shortly be assessing the skills and experience of elected members and identify gaps that need filling
- An open recruitment process, with both members and non-members eligible
- We will do another workshop for people to find out more

# Ratification of the Board's nomination for Chair

- The board make their nomination for chair
- That person will usually have been on the board for a year
- It's up to the AGM to agree or disagree
- If you disagree the board choose someone else from amongst their number
- The board unanimously agreed the chair should be Henry for the forthcoming year (members vote)

# Any other business?

Then 5 minutes break