MINUTES OF THE THIRTY FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY
AND PREVENTION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
HELD AT NOVOTEL, MANCHESTER
AT 1.30pm ON FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2015

Present
David Spicer       Vice Chair
George Livingstone Honorary Treasurer
Jonathan Picken   Partnership Officer
Jean Price        Honorary Secretary
Claire Richards   BoT
Jane Appleton     Co-editor CAR
Peter Sidebotham  Co-editor CAR
Monica King       BoT
Catherine Powell  “
Gill Probert      “
Tony Ayers        “
Judy Bizley       “
Kate Hills        “
Sam Warner        
Sharon Beattie    
Enid Hendry       
Diane Heath       Editorial Manager
Judy Sanderson    National Office Manager

Plus members of the Association.

David Spicer welcomed all those present to this AGM. He advised he was chairing today’s meeting on behalf of John Devaney, who has unfortunately had to send late apologies for family reasons. He advised that all relevant papers had been sent by email to those planning to attend, and these would also be available from the website at www.baspcan.org.uk
David Spicer advised that Colin Luger, a long term committee member, hadSadly passed away in September 2015. He advised that Colin Luger’s contribution to BASPCAN had been much appreciated and was marked today.

David Spicer also advised all those attending that BASPCAN had faced many challenges in the past year and there would be more challenges to come.

1 **AGENDA ITEM 1 - APOLOGIES**
   Apologies were recorded from John Devaney, Monica King, Donald MacKenzie, Nigel King, Jenny Driscoll, Carrie Bradbury Jones, Julie Taylor, Gerry Marshall, Daphne Rose, Wendy Thorogood and David Marshall.

2 **AGENDA ITEM 2- MINUTES OF THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
   The Past Minutes were corrected as it was incorrectly recorded that Monica King attended. They were then agreed as an accurate record; proposed by David Spicer and seconded by Gill Probert.

3 **AGENDA ITEM 3- MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE THIRTY THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
   There were no matters arising.

4 **AGENDA ITEM 4 - OFFICERS’ REPORTS**
   **Chair**
   David Spicer presented John Devaney’s chair’s report, which will be available on the website and is reproduced below. He advised that today’s meeting ended his term as Chair and David Spicer gave credit to John Devaney, highlighting his measured approach and good humour, and extended sincere thanks, which were recorded on behalf of all the Board of Trustees. He advised that BASPCAN intended to mark his departure at the BoT to be held tomorrow, 7 November.
   David Spicer also thanked the many people who have supported John Devaney throughout his term, some of whom terminate their membership of BoT today. Thanks were recorded to George Livingstone, Judy Bizley, Nigel King, and Catherine Powell, who had all played a big part in the past. He advised that branches continue to wax and wane over the year, which is the usual dependent on the capacity of personnel involved in each branch.
   David Spicer also highlighted the success of Congress 2015 and advised that the BoT intend to examine the venue for the next Congress at tomorrow’s meeting. David Spicer also acknowledged the commitment of Julia Walsh the past Editorial Manager who had retired in April. He welcomed Diane Heath the post incumbent to this meeting and advised that she is now based in the National Office in York.

‘Over the past year, the Association has continued to work hard to promote its charitable objectives through a range of multi-professional activity. During 2014/15 the Board of Trustees met on three occasions. We have taken the opportunity to reflect on developments in the protection, safeguarding and welfare of children across the four countries of the UK and Ireland. We have responded to key consultations, and BASPCAN is committed to developing
and maintaining productive relationships with partners into the future in order to deliver our charitable objectives.

We are fortunate to be able to draw upon the expertise and time of our members in taking forward the work of the Association, for example through their participation in the local branches, our committees and as Trustees. Without this commitment, which for some dates back to the early days of the Association, we would not be where we are today. I would like to extend my thanks to them for their dedication and hard work.

I am also pleased to announce six newly elected Trustees to the Board – they are all very welcome, and we will benefit greatly from their expertise. In addition a number of Trustees are stepping down, and I would like to pay particular thanks to Judy Bizley, Nigel King, George Livingstone and Catherine Powell.

Much of the work of the Association takes place through our local branches. These are developed and sustained by members who work hard to provide opportunities for networking and the delivery of learning events at a local or regional level. This opportunity for peer support across professional disciplines is one of the unique defining features of BASPCAN. The annual meeting of representatives of local branches took place in York in November 2014, and alongside providing peer support has also led to the planning of new branches, with the North West being one. It has been positive to see our new branch in Ireland flourish this year, with a number of very well attended seminars.

I would like to acknowledge the success of our ninth Congress in Edinburgh in April 2015. We received a record number of abstracts for Congress, which was attended by 808 delegates. During 2014 the core organising team was very busy, and I would like to extend the thanks of the Board of Trustees to the Co-Convenors Professor Julie Taylor and George Livingstone, the Chair of the Scientific Committee Dr Bernard Gallagher assisted by Helen Richardson-Foster, the Chairs of the Local Organising Committee Donald MacKenzie and Jane Scott, and our wonderful office staff.

During the last year staff and trustees, and personnel from BASPCAN’s branches, have given many hours of their time to organise and attend BASPCAN’s Conference programme. Supported by the Conference sub-committee, ably led by Judy Bizley and Jean Price, BASPCAN held a number of successful conferences throughout the year, plus some as joint events with other highly regarded organisations. We remain committed to delivering high quality, affordable learning events to professionals across the UK and Ireland. This is especially important given the demands on front line practitioners from rising needs and reduced resources.

Child Abuse Review continues to be the Association’s flagship, providing members and subscribers with an important link between research, theory, policy and practice. All of us who read the journal continue to be impressed by the quality and diversity of issues covered. Child Abuse Review is rightly regarded as one of the leading international child maltreatment journals. This can be attributed to the hard work and tenacity of the publishers, the professionalism and leadership of the co-editors Professor Jane Appleton and Dr Peter Sidebotham, and Andrea Pass, the journal publishing manager for Wiley Blackwell. We must also acknowledge the work undertaken by the Editorial Team and Board members. I would like to extend my thanks to all the above for their continued work and support with Child Abuse Review, as well as Julia Walsh, the Editorial Manager, for her in work coordinating the submissions for Child Abuse Review publication and liaison with the Board members, before her retirement in April 2015. We are pleased to have appointed Diane Heath as the journal’s new Editorial Manager, and she is now based in the main BASPCAN office.

Finally, it is for me to report that the Association’s current financial details and relevant notes are contained within pages 9-16 of the Report and Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2014, which has been compiled by JWP Creers LLP Chartered Accountants. I would like to acknowledge the work of our Treasurer, George Livingstone, and National Office Manager, Judy Sanderson, in compiling the information necessary for the annual audit to be completed. We have appointed a new Treasurer for the Association, Sharon Beattie, and I wish her well in the new role.
We need to ensure that we continue to be prudent in our financial affairs; and that we remain solvent. Steps have been taken over recent years to reduce expenditure through ensuring that the work of the Association is taken forward in more efficient ways. However, the Trustees are aware that the current period of financial retrenchment has left many individuals and organisation looking to reduce expenditure. This has resulted in a drop in membership numbers and fewer delegates at conferences. However, the sound financial management of the Association over many years means that the Association is in a strong position to weather this difficult financial period.

I continue to be grateful to all those involved in the support of the Association's business and of course to the National Office staff Judy Sanderson, Maureen Gordon and Jackie Jackets. Without their dedication and hard work the many achievements of the past year would not have been possible.

I am to be succeeded in my role as Chair of the Board of Trustees by Claire Richards. Claire has a wealth of relevant experience that she will bring to the role, alongside fresh thinking and vitality – the Association is in good hands for the future’

**Treasurers Report**

George Livingstone, the outgoing treasurer, spoke to his report which is reproduced below. This will also be available on the website.

‘In common with many small charities or businesses BASPCAN experiences difficult trading conditions. Cuts to public expenditure have created a climate where there are fewer staff working in the sector with greater workloads. While it is well researched that CIPD is critical when staffing and resources are short, this situation makes it at best, very difficult, but in reality almost impossible for frontline staff to get time away from the workplace to attend conferences and training events which in turn makes individuals and organisations question whether membership of BASPCAN is useful expenditure.

For BASPCAN this creates a situation where two of our main sources of income are reduced. Membership income has reduced by £1,000 and conference income by £16,000. Accounting in an organisation such as BASPCAN is complex in that our process runs on a 3 yearly cycle and that we should not retain large reserves beyond our minuted requirement. Any surplus generated should be used to meet our charitable objectives. 2014 being the third year in our cycle was likely to be the loss making year in our cycle in any case but our losses were greater than predicted.

All is not gloomy however, expenditure has been managed so that there was no increase in the last year we spent almost £600 less than in 2013, while costs are rising this is significant. We have also changed the arrangement for the Editorial Manager, we now have our own member of staff based in the York office while in the past we bought the service from Southwark NHS Trust, an arrangement which cost us significant overheads as we paid a management charge and VAT as part of the arrangement, our new arrangement will create further savings in forth coming years.

Our financial position has improved significantly over the period since 2000 when we had £73,614 in reserve to a position where end 2014 with £341,665 in total funds which while £62,000 less than in 2013 is still a healthy position.

2015 accounts will demonstrate a surplus as Congress in Edinburgh was very successful, Our Education Committee is examining other ways of delivering training and conferences, perhaps selling events directly to an employer, running a smaller residential event every other year and running Congress bi annually instead of triennially.

Our Membership committee is working hard on developing other categories of membership, they have almost completed the re-development of our website and are developing our social media presence, all actions which will raise our profile and increase membership, our policy
committee continues to develop policies and position statements, and to respond to requests for information and to government papers, again raising our profile. Finally this is my last AGM as Treasurer and as a Trustee, in around 30 years as a Trustee I have had great support from fellow trustees but at this time I would like to pay particular tribute to the Staff in the office in York for their work and support of the association. I would also like to thank the Officers and those individuals who have been part of the Finance Committee, John Devaney, Donald Mackenzie and John Easton for all of their work and support. Should you have any queries about the accounts which are on the website or the Charity Commission website, please contact the office and they will forward it to either myself or our new Treasurer, Sharon Beattie whom I will be working on a hand over with.

David Spicer thanked George Livingstone for his report, and these thanks were recorded. He highlighted that we were grateful for his advice which had kept BASPCAN on the straight and narrow. David Spicer reiterated that as the Report advised, these were difficult times for all associations and agencies, with cuts to public expenditure so fewer delegates can attend conferences including our own ones.

**AGENDA ITEMS 5 – CHILD ABUSE REVIEW EDITORS REPORT**

involving PUBLISHER’S REPORT

Jane Appleton gave a brief overview of the Editor’s Report, which she advised would be on the BASPCAN website in due course. She highlighted that the journal had a good year - the journal’s Impact Factor has risen from 0.787 to 0.841. She advised that this had been a year of change, with Julia Walsh finishing her post and Diane Heath taking this. She thanked the eight associate editors - William Baginsky, Louise Theodosiou, Jon Heron, Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Catherine Hamilton-Giachritsis, David Hayes, Enid Hendry and Michael Salter – for all their hard work. Jane Appleton also recorded thanks to the reviewers who had given up their own time to assist in this area. There had been a 14% increase in submissions, last year numbering 100 against 88 in 2015. Papers had been accepted from all over the world, with 59% being from the UK. The timing for editorial decisions had also been shortened and is now down to 90 days. The time for rejected papers had been shortened to 43 days. The rejection rate has gone up now which ensures the quality of papers remains high.

Jane Appleton advised the Special Issue 2015 was on Domestic Abuse, with guest editors Cathy Humphreys and Caroline Bradbury Jones. This had coincided with the European Domestic Violence at Queens University, Belfast. 2016 Special Issue would be on Digital Technology with Bernard Gallagher as guest editor.

Those attending heard that the continuing work with John Wiley continued to go well. Andrea Pass, the Journal’s Commissioning Editor for Child Abuse Review, has left her post and the new person in post has not yet been confirmed. Thanks were also recorded to the production team in Manila who always go the extra mile to assist.
David Spicer responded by thanking Jane Appleton for presenting this report on behalf of the Editors, and thanks were recorded also to Peter Sidebotham and Diane Heath. He highlighted that the roles of Co-editors were very time consuming and extended BASPCAN’s appreciation for both editors involvement.

At this point David Spicer advised he would relinquish Chair of BASPCAN on John Devaney’s behalf, and hand over to Claire Richards, the incoming Chair. It was advised that John Devaney would continue for a year in the role of Past Chair, to keep continuity.

Claire Richards took the Chair. She advised how very pleased she was to be coming into this role and how privileged, and planned to work with all members and trustees over the forthcoming three years collaboratively to promote the care and safety of children and young people. She advised her ‘day job’ is working as a lecturer and highlighted how highly regarded BASPCAN and the journal Child Abuse Review are with students and colleagues.

Claire Richards gave a bit of her background – she is a lecturer at the University of Worcester but also a qualified barrister, although she has never practised. She is Irish herself and advised of course she is very proud to welcome Irish colleagues officially to the association through the Irish Branch.

Claire Richards finished her introduction by saying she hopes she can follow in John Devaney’s footsteps and will endeavour to ensure the association remains in good hands.

6 AGENDA ITEM 7– APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It was confirmed that one nomination had been received as treasurer and Claire Richards therefore advised she was delighted to introduce Sharon Beattie as the incoming treasurer. Sharon is a Chartered Psychologist and Independent Consultant, from Belfast. It has been agreed that George Livingstone would remain as a co-opted member of the BoT in order to ensure a smooth handover.

Claire Richards reiterated John Devaney’s thanks to outgoing trustees Catherine Powell, Nigel King and Judy Bizley. She advised that an election had been held for the trustee vacancies and was pleased to advise the new members of the Board of Trustees – Caroline Bradbury-Jones, Reader in Nursing, Birmingham; Enid Hendry, Independent Social Worker, Nottingham; David Marshall, Director of DJM Consultancy; Julie Taylor, Professor of Child Protection, Birmingham; Sam Warner, Chartered and Clinical Psychologist, Manchester; Jenny Driscoll, Lecturer in Child Studies, London. All will begin a three year term from this AGM.
7 AGENDA ITEM 7 – APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS
At the last AGM, it had been agreed that the BoT could recommend a change of auditor should they see fit to do so. After some discussion by that committee it had been agreed that BASPCAN should continue to use the same auditors as previously, JWP Creers of York. The audit partner, Andrew Johnson, had attended the last Board meeting in York and spoke to the accounts at that meeting. JWP Creers also undertake the BASPCAN staff salaries and are registering under the new pension regulations on our behalf. It was agreed to re-appoint JWP Creers as the associations auditors.

8 AGENDA ITEM 8 - ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS
There being no questions under this heading, and the business of the meeting being concluded, the AGM was duly closed at 2.15pm.