

## PCPLD NETWORK–THE FUTURE

The PCPLD Network started in 1998 with a group of like-minded health and social care professionals coming together to promote best practice in end of life care for people with learning disabilities. In the intervening 18 years the network has grown significantly in size and status. We have members from all over the UK and abroad and our annual turnover is currently £5,000-£10,000 per annum. The steering group has recognised the need for greater transparency and accountability in the workings of the PCPLD Network, by having a clear organisational structure. We would also like to be in a better position to attract donations and grants.

The steering group has investigated and discussed this extensively over the last couple of years, and has also engaged a charity law expert. We have concluded that the best way forward is to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and this will require a new constitution.

In order to proceed, we need the approval of yourselves. We will therefore ask members **to vote on the new constitution** at the next Annual General Meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (at the national conference in Huddersfield). It is possible to vote via email or by proxy. The new constitution will allow us to become a CIO.

### **What will change?**

- There are **no changes in the aims, objectives or activities** of the PCPLD Network.
- All **income** must be used solely towards the promotion of the objectives of the PCPLD Network.
- We will remain a membership organisation. **Membership** remains open to anyone who is interested in furthering the purposes of the PCPLD Network. However, as a charity, we will be obliged to keep a register of all our members.
- **Trustees:** The affairs of the PCPLD Network will be managed by between 3 (minimum) and 10 (maximum) charity trustees. Trustees are appointed by all members (by voting) for a period of 3 years. There is no limit to the number of times they can be re-appointed.

- **The first 3 people** standing for the position of trustee on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 (if members vote for the change in constitution) are:
  - Jason Davidson
  - Irene Tuffrey-Wijne
  - Dr Annie Stewart

All 3 have served on the steering group for many years; Irene and Jason have both held the position of Chair.

- The PCPLD Network will be **registered with the Charity Commission** and regulated by the appropriate charity law.
- The PCPLD Network will have **limited liability**; the members of the CIO will have no liability to contribute to its assets and no personal responsibility for settling its debts and liabilities.

### **What happens next?**

If the change to the constitution is voted in on 4th November we will apply to the Charity Commission to become a CIO, in the meantime the PCPLD Network will continue to operate under the current constitution.

Once the CIO is registered we will actively look to build a strong group of trustees with the necessary skills and expertise, and present these to the members for approval at the next AGM.

- The trustees can (and will) delegate the day-to-day running of the PCPLD Network to a **Management Group**. This group will be similar to the current steering group. It will include at least 1 family carer and 1 person with learning disabilities.

We will soon be adding the proposed constitution to our website for you all to see. We will let you know as soon as this is available. In the mean time thank you all for your continued support and we hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.