

**RUTLAND FIRST CIC  
ANNUAL REPORT  
1 APRIL 2021 TO 31 MARCH 2022**



## **CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION**



The Resilient Rutland project, aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing amongst young people going to school in Rutland, has been the principal activity this year. Using funds generously given by the National Lottery we have been providing services and resources to the state and private, primary and secondary schools in the county. The work has been carried out by the Project Manager, Morag Tyler, and the Schools Liaison Officer, Lyn Harte, under the direction of the Resilient Rutland Steering Group.

With the partial relaxation of the Covid lockdown rules, it has been possible during the latter part of the year to re-establish face-to-face contact with the school staff and pupils. This has meant that help such as counselling, creative art and sporting activities could be resumed. This has been particularly welcome in view of the additional mental pressures that students have experienced during Covid. We have also started to make plans for resilience, aiming to ensure that the progress of the last 3 years is not lost when the funding ceases in January 2023.

As I did last year, I should like to thank the team for the exceptional effort that they put into adapting the programme to meet the ever-changing need, and to congratulate them on successfully continuing to work with the schools despite the difficulties caused by Covid-19.

During the year, the Board agreed to provide oversight and support to a group setting up and bidding for funds for an Uppingham Youth Project. This is now underway and will be reported on in next year's Annual Report.

**Myles Williamson-Noble**

**Chair Rutland First**

## **RESILIENT RUTLAND**

The Resilient Rutland Annual Review for 2021 is attached as an annex to this report. It provides details of the project streams undertaken, of the successes achieved and of the problems that had to be overcome. Covid remained an influencing factor, although as the lockdown requirements eased, it was possible to get the project back up to full steam. Highlights of the year were the resumption of in-school counselling for secondary pupils, the provision of creative arts and sporting activities for primary schools, the introduction of well-being ambassadors, young people led initiatives in secondary schools, multi-school young people's conferences, and a programme of webinars and discussion groups for parents and carers.

The National Lottery kindly agreed to our request to extend the project end-date by a year, albeit with no additional funding, to January 2023, giving a chance to make up for time lost during lockdown. By the end of the 2022 summer term most of the planning and contracting would be finished, and it was agreed that the two staff members would finish their contracts of employment then. Any ongoing activity would be handled by volunteer Board Members.

Considerable planning effort was devoted to looking into options for resilience so that support did not end suddenly once the funding was finished. Work is ongoing with Rutland County Council and the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care System to examine the availability of funding and resources. With this support, we hope to keep counselling in the secondary schools by Relate going until the end of the summer term 2023.

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

For some time a group of Uppingham residents has been working on putting together a case for a Youth Hub in the town and for obtaining financial support to get it off the ground. Rutland First has offered its support to the team in bid writing, and in its role as a Community Interest Company in oversight and financial management once the project is up and running. An initial bid to the National Lottery Community Fund for £200,000 over three years was unsuccessful, but bids to local industry and Uppingham Town Council for lesser amounts have been successful and have enabled the project to get off the ground with help from volunteers. A bid to the National Lottery's Awards for All fund for £10,000 over a year has been submitted, and we hope will be successful.

## **GOVERNANCE**

### **Rules and Procedures**

During 2021, Cullen Consulting carried out a "Review of the Financial Systems and Procedures", providing a report in August 2021. The report concluded that "the Company has a well-documented and a well-controlled financial system". The consultant made a few recommendations, mainly relating to greater clarity, none of which he considered to be major weaknesses. All comments made were reviewed, and where appropriate actioned.

## **Board Membership**

At the Annual General Meeting on 21 September 2021, the following changes were made to Board membership:

- Geoff Thompson resigned in preparation for assuming the role of High Sheriff of Rutland
- Helen Cullen and Valerie Clark were elected to be full members
- Liz Clarke was elected to full membership with particular responsibility for the Uppingham Youth Project

It was agreed that all Board Members should be declared as Directors registered at Companies' House



Liz Clarke

## **Articles of Association**

Since changing role from Healthwatch Rutland to Rutland First, the Articles of Association had been based on the template for companies with large membership. This had made sense when acting as Healthwatch with a large volunteer base. However, the use of volunteers had not been appropriate when concentrating on mental health and wellbeing of young people, and it was decided to amend the Articles of Association to the template for companies with small membership. This was approved by the Registrar of Companies.

## **FINANCE**

The Company started the financial year with £106,976, with £100,197 earmarked for the Resilient Rutland Project. During the year, the Company received further funding from the Big Lottery Fund of £138,976. The Company finished the year with £80,764 set aside for the Resilient Rutland project and £6,792 in general funds. For the project, £103,181 was spent on direct services and materials and £41,463 on project management and administration. A more detailed income and expenditure account is attached to this report. There was no material change in general funds.

This financial year is the last complete year of activity of the Resilient Rutland project. At year end, there is one remaining funding payment due from Big Lottery of £48,541 which was duly received in June 2022. Most outstanding expenditure takes place in the summer term of 2022 with remaining activity and expenditure winding down in the autumn term of 2022. Any funds left at the end of the project are to be returned to the big Lottery Fund.

The Company did not participate in any pandemic related funding available from local/central government.

Subsequent to the financial year end, the Company has received funding of £13,000 to support a Youth Project in Uppingham.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We would like to acknowledge the help we have received from our accountants Bulley Davey in overseeing our financial dealings, and from Hegarty LLP Solicitors in preparing contracts.

We would also like to acknowledge the National Lottery Community Fund for their financial support, without which there would be no Resilient Rutland project.

## **ANNEXES**

- A.** Resilient Rutland Annual Review Jan 2022
- B.** Annual Accounts 1 Apr 2021 to 31 Mar 2022