

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS HELD ON  
7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2009 AT LONDON PROBATION, 71-73 GREAT PETER STREET,  
LONDON SW1**

**Present:** Alan Wooderson – Chair, Christine Goldstraw, Stan Hardy, Alan Harrison, Joe Kuipers, Brenda Palmer.

**Attending from PA:** Norma Beechey, Chas Dowden, Ian Fox, Neil Lampert, Christine Lawrie, Nigel Spencer and Jo Whyte.

**1. Welcome, Apologies and Conflicts of Interest**

Apologies had been received from Lesley Bessant, Mike Caldwell, Julie Dent, Mike Fisher, Roy Male and Clifton Robinson.

**2. Equal Opportunities Policy and Data Protection Policy**

Norma Beechey confirmed that the policies had been seen by Lesley Bessant and Mike Fisher and by PA staff. They were the final policies required before the Staff Handbook could be issued.

The Board approved the two policies.

**3. Council Meeting**

Alan Wooderson confirmed that Christine Lawrie would update Council on PA staffing, Chas Dowden would speak about Chief Executive Terms and Conditions and pensions and Christine Lawrie would raise a point regarding estates.

The main business of the meeting would be on trusts, following the Board's meeting with Michael Spurr on 12<sup>th</sup> March. Christine Lawrie and Paul Wilson would speak and Alan Wooderson would chair a discussion with a view to deciding:

- whether PA should develop a new Position Statement on the trust programme;
- if so, what key messages should be included in that Position Statement; and
- what line Council wanted PA to take on the trust programme as a whole.

It was agreed that the discussion should be operated under Chatham House Rules.

If the Council decided that a Position Statement should be produced, it was agreed that a special Board meeting would be convened to finalise the paper. Such a meeting would either take place on 11<sup>th</sup> May or as an additional item at the meeting already scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May. All those present could attend either date and Jo Whyte would email those Board members not present to establish their availability. She would then communicate the agreed date.

#### **4. Any Other Business**

**4.1** Christine Lawrie circulated a position statement of the Criminal Justice Alliance and a PA draft response. She explained that PA was a member of CJA, although no fee had ever been paid and it was only recently that membership information had started to be received. There had been a debate within CJA as to what their public stance should be and the position statement set out the outcome of those discussions. She did not believe PA could be a member of an organisation whose policy was the public opposition to prison expansion or private sector involvement in building prisons.

The Board agreed but suggested that Christine Lawrie's response should also state what PA does support; i.e. the reduction of re-offending and the role of Probation in achieving this and the consequent resourcing requirements.

**4.2** Stan Hardy raised a concern over the process for the appointment of area board members, particularly in relation to the right of appeal, and the continuation of existing members. This followed distribution from NOMS last week of arrangements for appointments and re-appointments of Board Members. Joe Kuipers confirmed that an improvement to the rules would require a change in legislation. It was agreed that a discussion with NOMS was needed and that PA would progress this.

#### **5. Date of Next Meeting**

The next full Board meeting would take place on 21<sup>st</sup> May. Jo Whyte would inform the Board in due course if an additional meeting would be arranged for 11<sup>th</sup> May.