

Big Wide Talk

Annual Report and Accounts 2007/8

Charity Number: 1107018

Company number: 5086481

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Board of Trustees

Quentin Padgett
Dorothy Wedge (Chair)
Sharon Whiteley
Marjorie Birch
Andrew Thomas
Penny Thomas

Chief executive officer

Ann Jamieson

Auditors

Geoff Mann

Bankers

Barclays

Status Registered Charity: Number: 1107018

Company limited by guarantee: Number: 5086481

Registered address 2, Hills Road
Cambridge
CB2 1JP

Statement from the Chair

This has been a year of transition in the light of the Gatsby Charitable Foundation decision to cease to fund projects with disadvantaged children. We are grateful for the Foundation's support since 2000.

This year has therefore been one in which BWT has moved to withdraw from work which it had chosen to fund entirely with Gatsby monies and to seek to secure a new funding base. This has meant withdrawing from work in York, Bristol and Plymouth.

We are delighted by the range of mainstream work for which BWT can realistically bid and we are convinced that the project will emerge stronger and more sustainable in the future.

We are equally delighted by the volume and quality of work which the Charity has produced in partnership with local parents and practitioners. Yet again significant numbers of people in disadvantaged areas have taken part:

Growing up in Morecambe attracted several hundred people in schools and nurseries across the town and nearly two hundred turned out for the parade and Boat Launch which has become the subject of a BWT movie;

Nearly 2000 people took part in Tiverton Talks with thirteen schools having active involvement over several months.

We are especially proud of the Membership Seminar held in September with Ed Miliband, then the Minister for the Cabinet Office. This proved a highly productive conversation which won huge support for BWT from the Minister. We are no less proud of the Bristol parents who presented their work in helping to produce the Looking Out Looking In exhibition at a unique event 'Enabling Achievement: parents make it happen' set in a specially designed Jazz Café Bar in Freshways Family Resource Centre. The cocktails flowed and the presentation of a selection of research stories by the core group of parents was inspiring.

Another great year. Many happy returns BWT.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Objectives of the charity

The objects are:

“To advance the education of the public especially children particularly in communication and development through conversation by means including disseminated and action research; and To relieve poverty in particular through encouraging and facilitating social and economic participation and enterprise by disadvantaged persons”

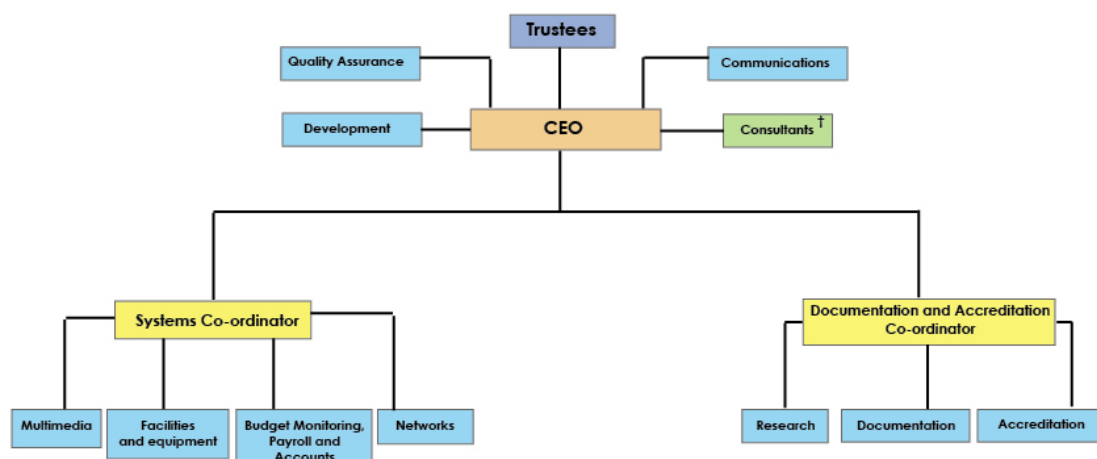
Memorandum of Association

Big Wide Talk is an independent uniquely skilled organisation that reaches out to and speaks with children, parents and practitioners where they live and work, strategically connecting them to government. We are committed to documenting debate about children’s lives, regardless of race, religion, politics or gender and to raising awareness about inequality and the ways in which it can be redressed.

Policies and organisation of the charity

The organisation’s base in Cambridge continues to be the hub for the application and development of Big Wide Talk’s approach to services for children and families. We have refocused the organisation to best for the job of seeking new funding and supporting the BWT method as it is being delivered in local projects. This has been a year in which we have contracted in order to expand.

Big Wide Talk organisational and management structure



† Including Human Resources

Summary of year's activities and achievements

Big Wide Talk Theatres of Learning and related exhibitions

- Enabling Achievement: parents make it happen. January '08 Bristol
- Growing BWT and the Avonmouth, Asset Group.
- Growing up in Morecambe September '07-July'08
- The Morecambe Boat and Shell Show March '08
- Going Up Going Down Presentation to York Children and Families Board February '08 the Hob Moor Asset Group
- Tiverton Talks March-July 2008

New initiatives

The Big Wide Talk Archive School Foundation was established in February '08 and three proposals were made for Primary School Competitions in Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, Sherford and Okehampton in Devon. Whilst none of these bids were successful in themselves they have resulted in Devon County Council seeking a partnership with us for Okehampton School, in Sawston Village College here in Cambridge inviting us to become members of their Trust and in us becoming partners in the Fawcett Federation Group which won the competition for the new primary school at Trumpington Meadows. This work has also led to the possible creation of a new partnership with the Co-operative College who are leading a DCSF initiative to set up 100 Co-op model schools.

Cambridge University Community Affairs have invited us to take part in the 2009 Cambridge Science Festival. Our contribution will be to reach out to poorer households.

Moving On Up. We have put together a proposal to offer the experience of using our climbing wall and documenting the experience to children and young people in London as part of the 2012 Olympics. We have presented to The Deputy Mayor's office, Greenwich, Hammersmith and Fulham, Newham and Lewisham. Lewisham and Greenwich have said they will try to fund this and we are awaiting further discussion.

Following the Membership Seminar in September 2008 we are arranging a series of further discussions, entitled 'Whose economy?', to outline proposals from BWT that address the current economic crisis. The first of these will be held in London in February '09, with Polly Toynbee. Others will follow, culminating in fringe meetings at each of the party conferences in autumn '09.

Our website (www.bigwidetalk.org) has been completely redone using open source packages. This has meant that we are preparing large amounts of evidence from our work over the years to support new proposals for children's services.

We have redeveloped our large policy database to align it with government developments in performance management, namely Comprehensive Area Assessment. The new database system is called Comprehensive Area Profiling.

Conferences, seminars, meetings, presentations by local, exhibition and national groups

London Summit July '08

Labour Party Conference September '08

Conservative Party Conference October '08

Association of Directors of Children's Services, November '08

Bids

Large innovative proposals have been made for:

Lambeth Services For Children Under Five and Their Families

London Councils Child Poverty

Big Lottery Fund Family Learning

Northamptonshire Phase 3 Children's Centres

Publications and Responses to Government

We were accepted a signatories to the London Child Poverty Pledge. Staying Safe – response to cross-government strategy on improving children and young people's safety.

Director's Report

2008 has been a time when we have concentrated on the ways in which we can raise the profile of our work and mainstream it. This takes time but we are moving forwards, albeit sometimes not as fast as we would wish. Moving into 2009 we have a number of irons in the fire which we hope will secure the future of BWT as a key player in the development of services for children and families in the UK. Exciting times.

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Commentary on the Financial Statements

Gatsby has continued to be a generous core funder and increasingly local authorities are contributing by means of funding in cash and in kind for exhibitions and follow up work. Big Wide Talk will work to extend this funding in the future.

Reserves Policy

Big Wide Talk has an undertaking from Gatsby that in the event of Gatsby withdrawing its commitment there will a period of six months notice during which time there will be sufficient funding to wind up operations if alternative funding is not available.

Further accounts information is available at

<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>

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