

## NEWSLETTER Autumn 2019



Jo Stuart  
Former Chair of  
Trustees

Acting Vice Chair:  
Stuart Kite

Treasurer:  
Julie Tompkins

Trustees:  
Nicola Ward  
Stuart Kite  
Michelle Titmus  
Samantha Morgan  
Lindsey Meadows

Registered  
Charity No.  
1091474

### FUN AGM

Our Next Annual  
General Meeting will  
be held at FUN HQ ,  
Luton on Friday  
15th November 2019  
from 6.30pm,  
All FUN Members  
welcome.



# Families United Network

## Hello & Goodbye!

### *Trustee Update*

I wanted to update our members and supporters of our progress since our AGM in November last year.

We are all working hard to secure new premises for our services and are pursuing a number of options, and although we are making progress, we are not able to make any announcements yet. We have however, secured the first part of our funding from the Luton Airport Fund allowing us to continue with our services whilst looking for a new home. We have a surveyor and a project manager assisting us with the technical aspects and logistics of finding a new property and they are involved in the discussions that are ongoing with our current landlords, as part of the plans to secure our services. We will keep you updated when we have made progress and have something we can bring that is more concrete.

As I spoke about in the meeting last year, I have been Chair of FUN for nearly twelve years and I have always believed that it is important for organisations such as FUN do not become stale, continue to thrive, and change and leadership is part of that process. My team of Trustees and staff have achieved great success for FUN over the last decade, growing from a small charity running part time from a leisure centre to a charity with nearly 400 members, using our building for services for children and young people up to the age of 25.

It is my intention to stand down as Chair from July this year, as my life has significantly changed over the last couple of years and I need to move along with those changes. I have loved being part of FUN, with my children, and as a Trustee. It has been a huge part of my life and I have been honoured to have had the opportunity to develop and work with others to make it the success it is.

It is crucial that FUN has a representation of members and others on its Board of Trustees and FUN can only survive with strong governance. It will be a defining factor for FUN to continue that we have a strong and varied board of Trustees. I would urge members and any other supporters reading this newsletter to consider becoming a Trustee and helping FUN move forward.

So there is a vacancy for Chair of FUN and other members of the Board that must be filled. If you would like to be involved and can spare a few hours a month helping this great charity then please contact the office.

I want to thank my Vice-Chair, Julia Higgins who has moved to Lincolnshire for all her years of service. Julia was a huge part of the charity's growth and development over the last decade and supported FUN as an ambassador to secure funding and awareness of the services we offer our members.

Stuart Kite is now the new Vice Chair for FUN and has been busy building his knowledge of FUN and will be working with our team to find a new premises.

Staffing: I want to welcome Caroline Fonseca as our new charity manager. Caroline has been in post since January and has experience in the charity sector. Caroline is a significant part of our plans going forward and has been making a positive impact on FUN. Alongside Anne Collinson, our business manager, we continue to have a strong and experienced management team in place.

We say a fond farewell to Diane Rhodes who has also moved to Lincolnshire and has recently become a grandma and is taking up the new role of looking after her new granddaughter. I cannot stress how much Diane has helped FUN over the last twelve years. She has been a crucial part of our success and worked so hard to secure our building and get it ready for opening. Diane will be missed by many members, staff, trustees and our colleagues in the other organisations that we partner with. She has my gratitude, respect and it has been an honour to work alongside her. FUN would not be where it is today without her and she will be remembered as a lady who has strength, courage and an indomitable spirit. I cannot overstate her commitment and dedication to FUN and I wish her all the best for her new future.

That is all from me and I wish all of our volunteers, staff, and supporters, and members all the best for the future with FUN and please continue to support this vital charity. We all have to work together to achieve success and change and work hard and work worth doing. We must never forget how much our services mean to those who need them.



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[www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk](http://www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk)

Upcoming  
Events!

There are lots of FUN member events planned for the  
next few months.....



**The FUN Annual Halloween Fancy Dress Party**  
**Friday 25th October 2019 1pm to 3pm**  
~ Halloween Disco, Spooky Games & Food ~

Book your tickets by  
3pm on Tuesday 24th September 2019  
to pay a reduced ticket price of just £4 per person  
Tickets booked after this time will cost £6  
(under 2's free)

Tickets are for FUN members only and must be pre-booked in advance at  
[www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk](http://www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk) or call FUN HQ on: 01582 420800

Please note: FUN needs a minimum number of party guests for this event to go ahead, so book your tickets  
now to avoid disappointment!



**HO! HO! HO! GREAT NEWS!**  
**FUN Christmas Party**  
**Friday 20th December 2019**  
**Details Coming Soon!!!**

Full Christmas Party 2019 details  
will be advertised on  
Facebook & our FUN Website  
and sent to members very soon!

For more information, please see our website: [www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk](http://www.familiesunitednetwork.org.uk)  
or contact FUN HQ on 01582 420800

FUN would like to thank the following fundraisers,  
supporters and benefactors for their generous  
support for our clubs and activities  
this year:-



The Co-op Community Fund  
continues to support FUN and  
have awarded us £2159.09

The Christmas Charity Night  
held in December 2018 and  
organised by Lisa Oubridge &  
FUN members raised  
£1158.00 - Thank you for all  
your hard work!

The Brian Rowell Memorial Fund  
kindly donated £295

Thank you to  
Maya's Healing  
Hands for donating  
her time at  
Holiday Club,  
offering massages  
to members.

Our friends from the Mini  
Group donated £296.38  
- thank you for all your  
fundraising efforts.!

Libby Hunton's 100 Mile challenge raised £451.42  
Well Done Libby! And Many Thanks!

The 'Save FUN'  
Crowdfunding campaign raised  
£2779.61

Our clubs, and activities continue to be supported with grants and donation's  
from the following funders:

BBC Children In need  
The Leathersellers Company Charitable Fund  
29th May 1961 Charitable Trust  
Sobell Foundation  
London Luton Airport Operations Ltd Fund—Community Fund  
The Prince of Wales Charitable Fund