



**Action Minutes of the meeting of the Karten Network Board
held on 14th November 2019 at The Thomas Pocklington Hub**

Directors Present

Arwyn Jones (Chair)
Rohan Slaughter (Vice Chair)
Robert Boyce
Vic Myko
Max Bianconi
Paul Doyle
Sal Cook (remotely)

In Attendance

Dawn Green
Martin Pistorius

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from David Finch, Joe Cash and Matthew Kayne.

2. Declaration of business interests

A DoBI form was prepared for Directors to consider, this was adopted at the meeting. All Directors to complete and return to DG by 30.11.19. There were no declarations of business interests with respect to this agenda.

3. Minutes of the last meeting (20.02.19)

The minutes were approved as a true record by those present at the last meeting.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

All actions from the previous meeting had been completed, some items will covered in this meeting's agenda.

5. Application and funding strategy

The paper was introduced by AJ and a discussion followed about how the KNB can influence Trustees in terms of strategy and priorities. PD and SC suggested briefing papers for Trustees would be useful. RS stressed the need to evidence value for money, fitness for purpose and impact through any application.

Directors acknowledged the merit of collaborative applications associated with the Special Interest Groups. DG will encourage a SIG application for the next meeting, this will be a different model for of funding for Trustees to consider.

DG

Directors were positive about introducing an application form and agreed this would help with consistency and rigour. DG to distribute application forms to centres via the newsletter and the Jiscmail group.

DG

6. TechAbility Progress Update

Directors received a progress report that was provided for Trustees at their September 2019 meeting. Directors agreed that the impact of TechAbility over the first 18 months of funding had been substantive and RS said this represented excellent value for money. DG reminded Directors that the IKCT grant was provided for 3 years. The 3rd year of funding has been approved and ends in February 2021. Natspec would be eligible to apply for additional financial support for TechAbility, an application would be required for the Trustees' meeting in September 2020. Directors encouraged DG to have a conversation with Natspec CEO regarding the intentions beyond year 3.

DG

SC said that whilst Trustees are very supportive of TechAbility, their understanding could be enhanced by a presentation from the TechAbility team. Further discussion followed and Directors suggested that an early Spring Symposium could be scheduled to include Directors, Trustees, TechAbility and relevant others. DG to co-ordinate.

DG

7. DfE EdTech update (incorporating training and standards)

RS led this update and discussion. He gave an overview of the DfE EdTech strategy, the AT Experts group, the Demonstrator Programme (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/edtech-demonstrator-schools-and-colleges-programme>). We have good representation in the AT Experts Group (RS and TechAbility's NB) and RS/NB have also helped to shape the Demonstrator Project which is a practitioner led programme, similar in many ways to DART. RS told Directors that Jisc will be making a bid for the Delivery Partner, RS hoped that both Natspec and TechAbility would also be involved.

RS also updated the group with significant progress made with the development of the AT professional development framework with Dundee University. New modules have been developed to include:

Module 1: Skills gap analysis (inc module selection and theoretical introduction)

Module 2: What is AT? Wider theoretical introduction, practical elements / examples of AT hardware and software

Module 3: Assessment for assistive technology

Module 4: AT in Educational programmes

Module 5: Specialist vs. mainstream AT solutions

Module 6: Partner relationships

RS stated these are all subject to change and that it is also worth noting that there are some existing AT and AAC modules that can be included alongside health, education and computing modules.

Directors thanked RS for his comprehensive update and wished him well for the next phase. RS will keep the Board updated.

RS

8. Centenary Event Planning

DG introduced the idea of an early evening event to follow the annual TechAbility conference. This would include networking before and after, exhibitions, a formal ceremony incorporating the Karten Awards. An evening reception to follow, canapes and fizz. Directors were enthusiastic about this proposal, all agreed the venue is a priority. DG to work with the Natspec/TechAbility team on options. Likely to be Birmingham.

DG

DG also updated Directors regarding progress made with the Centenary year film and the development of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust website.

DG to develop an event proposal with indicative budget for approval by Trustees.

DG

Director sub-groups will be required in due course to support some of the planning.

Items for information

9. 2019-20 Strategic and Operational Plan update

The progress against the annual plan was presented. A discussion occurred around the amber issues and it was agreed that a commentary would help, e.g. to include notes about timings etc.

SC commended the partnership with Amazon and was keen to ensure that Trustees were aware of this work. AJ agreed to provide a briefing note for Trustees.

AJ

10. Karten Network Development Co-ordinator update

DG's paper was received. Directors were interested to hear about the Voicelitt FTI resubmission. DG said the decision was expected in the New Year. DG to update Directors accordingly.

DG

11. MTA Update

MP's paper was received. DG agreed to pass on contact details for Pengwern College regarding support for mobile devices. Directors were happy that the Mobile Technology Resource will be re-launched.

DG

12. Israel Karten Centres update

DBT's paper was received. Directors would like DBT to be involved in future meetings

13. Any other relevant business

DG reminded Directors that Angela Reeve retires as Trustee and Trust Administrator at the end of the year, having provided 18 years' excellent service. AJ will write to Angela to thank her for all she has done for the Network. **AJ**

PD informed Directors that he has a meeting with Slough & other LAs regarding assisted living. PD is hoping to influence town planning and ensure appropriate tech is integrated into plans. PD will update the Board following the meeting. **PD**

The meeting closed at 14.30.

Date and time of next meeting

11.15 on 20 February 2020
Sue Townsend Room, Pocklington Hub, Entrance D, Tavistock House South Tavistock Square London WC1H 9LG