



**Meeting of the Karten Network Board**

**11.00 – 15.00, Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

**Jewish Care, Maurice and Vivienne Wohl Campus, Amélie House, Golders Green Rd,  
London NW11 9DQ**

**Directors/Trustees present:**

Arwyn Jones (Chair)  
Rohan Slaughter  
David Finch  
Max Bianconi

**Others present:**

Dawn Green  
Liz Howarth  
Martin Pistorius

Sam Haddock  
Julie Moore  
Jo Rees-Proud  
Emma Stewart  
Paul Doyle

**Apologies:**

Robert Boyce

**Minutes:**

Inés Meza-Mitcher

**Prospective Trustees:**

Presentations were received from Sam Haddock, Julie Moores, Jo Rees-Proud and Emma Stewart. Trustees present had the opportunity to ask questions of individuals following the presentations to establish suitability and motivation for joining the board.

## **1. Charity development**

### **a. Charity plan**

- i. **ACTION: It was agreed that it would be helpful to set up a virtual task and finish group.**
- ii. **ACTION: It was also agreed that by the next meeting, or the one after that, there should a draft risk register.**
- iii. It was identified that anything that requires or has a legal compliance element to it must be a key priority. Data protection and GDPR were also flagged as important, but should not be as time consuming due to foundations already existing.

### **b. Trustee development**

- i. It was noted that the central trustee PDF issued by the charity commission was regarded as read.
- ii. DG advised that more regular updates could be made to trustees with training and development opportunities.
- iii. AJ advised that completing declaration of business interest is good practice for transparency.
- iv. The skills audit was discussed. Currently a working draft and aims to give an overview of skills that exist around the table to identify strengths and weaknesses. This will help to inform future trustee recruitment. **ACTION: Group to complete and return to DG by the end of July.**

### **c. Website development**

- i. MP's paper was taken as read. The group did not have any queries on the proposed plan.

- d. DG asked whether anything seems to be missing from the charity plan. A financial strategy was proposed alongside the 3-5 year strategic plan, considering potential surplus funds and how to invest those.

## **2. IKCT Grant 2023-2024 budget**

- a. It was noted that the Trust has requested a more detailed breakdown of costs. Currently suggesting in draft budget a 4.3% increase over budget approved of current year. **ACTION: group to send comments or feedback to AJ & DG by email.**

## **3. Nuvoic project**

- a. LH joined to provide the project update.
- b. Over 100 participants taking part in 2 separate streams: testing and feedback for a voice recognition app for those with atypical speech, and contributing voice samples to support developers work towards continuous recognition.

- c. Received a lot of useful feedback, including positives and ways the app could be improved, made more accessible or more functional.
- d. Over 33,000 recordings were donated from participants.
- e. The project finished in April, been completing reports over the last few months. Liz emphasised that this was a huge team effort with a brilliant project team with support from the board.
- f. Submitted final report through relevant processes and are awaiting sign off from the commission.
- g. LH was thanked by AJ.

#### **4. Future project opportunities**

- a. LH's paper was regarded as read and AJ opened discussion around it.
- b. There is a meeting with Tech Ability this Friday to ask for feedback and potentially link up with them and using training courses as part of the pilot. Looking to meet with other potential partners, ACE was mentioned as a training provider as well as Leonard Cheshire and See Ability to be involved in evaluation.
- c. AJ posed a question around KN involvement with Access Social Care chatbot. It was suggested that it is accessible for people with learning difficulties, designed in easy print and would be a positive piece of work to be involved in.
- d. LH gave a brief background to Access Social Care chatbot. They are keen to work with KN to look at accessibility through user testing and feedback. Meeting together with CareTech Foundation manager next week to present proposal.
- e. LH explained how the Loughborough project came to be in response to a question posed by DF. Advised that if submitted in November then should have a decision next summer and start next autumn.
- f. LH gave a brief overview and update on Enterprise Project Grants. Saul is working on a draft proposal and aiming to submit in August, should be a quick decision as managed internally.
- g. The mixed relationship that exists with Voiceitt in the wake of a potential follow on opportunity was acknowledged. It was agreed that KN should be prepared to consider it with caveat that KN would be closely involved in methodology in setting up a manageable and realistic project from the outset with robust financial assurance.
- h. Next steps are getting applications completed in order to secure funding, and need more ideas for funding sources.

**ACTION: group to explore potential funding sources.**

- i. DG and LH working on short document outlining the Network.  
**ACTION: DG and LH to provide a version of this by next week.**
- j. LH advised on timelines for the projects. Enterprise Project Grants could be up and running this year, CareTech timeline is unclear but likely in the middle and resubmission of new version of Repair would be approx. 1 year.
- k. RS, DG and Zoe Clark looking to adapt IPAX framework to be more applicable to assistive technology more generally. Spoken with Policy Connect about this as mapping exercise will help to identify gaps. Piece of work could improve discoverability for people in the field and potentially lead onto other things.
- l. DG and LH working on cost between them. Suggested it will be a modest amount of money. Estimated that KN could be looking at a couple of projects over 12 month period that could bring £20,000 - £30,000 per project, which would require bringing additional people in.

## **5. Items for information**

- a. **KN Ltd 2022-2023 and Nuvoic expenditure**
  - i. This item was taken as read.
- b. **Karten Network Development Co-ordinator update**
  - i. This item was taken as read.
- c. **Technology Adviser update**
  - i. This item was taken as read.
- d. **Israel Karten Centres update**
  - i. Debbie Ben-Tal's update was taken as read.
  - ii. Acknowledged that grant opportunities have been limited.
  - iii. It was agreed that a conversation should take place around having an Israeli trustee.
  - iv. **ACTION: DG to contact key people in Israeli centres to show support.**

## **6. AOB:**

- a. **Action: prospective trustees to let Dawn know through email if still invested in becoming a trustee.**
- b. **Any other relevant business**
  - i. **New Trustees discussion and decision making**
  - ii. **Chair's business**

## **Date and time of next meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> November 10.30 – 12.30 Microsoft Teams.

## **7. Appointment of new trustees (IMM left the meeting at this point)**

- a. Directors discussed the expressions of interest from 4 prospective new trustees/directors. **ACTION: It was agreed that DG would confirm their appointment and take this forward.**

## **8. AJ resignation**

- a. AJ advised the Network board of his intention to step down at the end of this year. All present thanked AJ for his substantive, generous and skilled contributions as Chair, and were grateful for his leadership. It was agreed that ideally the next Chair should work in a Karten Centre. **ACTION: a process to be started to elect a new Chair. AJ to invite expressions of interest in the position by the end of September 2023, with the election of the new Chair to take place at the next meeting in November 2023.**
- b. It was agreed that RS would provide continuity as Vice Chair and support the transition in of the new Chair.

## **9. AOB**

- a. DF requested that the next in-person meeting be held at a more central location. It was agreed this would be considered when discussing 2024 dates, but that it is likely most would be remote, with any in-person taking place at different Karten Centres.