

Chair's Report for SHINE AGM 2009

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About a year ago I was sitting out in that audience.....knowing that I was to become the next Chair of SHINE. Little did I know at that time what a journey that first 10 months would be? As the time has been drawing closer to the AGM and study day, I have been questioning and thinking about what has actually happened over this time frame? I was nearing panic point, very recently, when I had a meeting with another committee member who reminded what we in SHINE actually do.

She reminded me that in SHINE what we provide and indeed our very function, and in fact our very notion of existence and continued growth is quite remarkable. I think there are very few of us that remember SHINE in its old format of ASHESL, but we have not been in existence for a huge amount of time, some 28 years or so. We take it for granted that SHINE has always been there to provide a platform for pooling our resources together, books, journals and also importantly people. But we constantly underestimate the importance that we underpin a whole industry to operate and we are unique in that we cross many sectoral boundaries. Access to health information is a constant demand in the NHS, voluntary, HE, corporate, FE.....SHINE really is the melting pot for this topic and its here that people come for reassurance and advice and help in doing their job.

More specifically the Union List provides a low cost ILL system and there are a lot of libraries who could not provide anywhere near the service they do if they had to pay for that via another route. We provide low cost training events, as often as we can, as we know that many of our members just cannot fund this from their core budget functions. One of our greatest assets is the members, the people, who give time and energy to working together (and I am not talking committees and groups here, buut all members), helping each other find answers, working collaboratively and making health information provision top notch and high quality.

And how do we do this? Mainly we do it quietly and without fuss. We also do it with very little money. Our income is around £4,000 (and we don't spend all that) and for that we underpin a national document delivery service; we provide low cost training and functionality to exchange ideas. It is quite amazing when you think about it. So with these thoughts in mind from my chat the other day, I thought "get over yourself" and let everyone hear more about what we have been doing the last 10 months.

So, when I took over last summer as Chair and with so many people leaving the committee for various reasons.....by chance I hope?? It was decided quite early on that SHINE needed time to re-group and gather our thoughts. We needed to decide how to move forward and re-populate some of the groups and the committee. We also needed to carry on with "business as usual". We decided a business planning day would be beneficial for the committee and the groups. Infact it was a requirement that the groups and committee come together, I had been on groups before and there seemed to be a detachment between them. I wanted to make sure we were all on the same wavelength, when we had decided what that wavelength would be. We also asked that some members join us for the day, and thank you to members that did infact come along. We all turned up in Stirling last October, with a general (perhaps slightly vague) idea of what to do and how to do it. But we were specific on the outcomes of the day:

- What should we concentrate our energies on?
- What are some of main drivers for change in SHINE just now?
- How can we work more efficiently and effectively?
- Can we work in partnership with others to reduce our costs and be efficient with our time?

- Who else would benefit from being members of members of SHINe and gave access to shared cooperative resources, platform for sharing information, low cost training and networking? Also increase our income.

It was with some relief that people thought that this was a worthwhile endeavour and we came away with evidence of what we needed to concentrate on and how we could do that. It was also a chance for us all to feel connected to why we were in SHINe at all and the difference we could make. The main outcomes to focus our attentions on

- 1 The development of e-SHINe, the development of the website with greater functionality for users and also easier management by volunteers. Alison Bogle will report more on this.
- 2 To explore areas for new membership, that unexpectedly turned out to be in the FE sector.
- 3 Exploring partnerships to increase volume of training events but also the variety.
- 4 Exploring SHINe's legal status, since at the last AGM it was decided not to move forward with Charitable Status.
- 5 To "shout out" a wee bit more about what we do and how we impact information services and the librarian profession.

So what are some of the things we have done at committee level?

- 1 We ran a health track for CILIPs last year at Peebles Conference to support their keynote speakers from the health sector. That was hard work but good fun, and we had good feedback from that event. We will be speaking again this year at Peebles, so this is our member's chance for a national platform.
- 2 We connected with the FE sector last year, via Elmwood College who invited me to come and speak to forum of librarians and teaching staff on SHINe and how it could support their services. We have also been invited to speak at the annual National FE sector conference, to be held in November. This is an excellent opportunity.
- 3 We have been exploring partnerships for low cost training events with CILIPs and also NHS organisations. These may be health specific, but we are also keen to provide some generic courses that may only be found in London. Thanks to all who fed back earlier on this year on what they would like.
- 4 It is considered that we need some legal advice for the easiest way to get a more legal status; this will be carried forward into the next session.
- 5 "Shouting out" about SHINe. With the launch of the new SHINe website later on this year, we will be promoting the organisation nationally to encourage more membership.
- 6 We are applying for SLIC innovation funding this year, and thanks to those who sent evidence of impact, please take the time to drop me a line if you can.

So where are we now? The last year we have been building some solid foundations and evidence for moving forward and expanding services to current members and also encouraging new members. We expect that 2009-2010 will be a very good year for SHINe also.

I want to thank all committee members for their work and support over the last 10 months. I don't have all the answers or ideas and I need a balance of people to provide other insight and guidance. I think the SHINe committee is always an "odd team" as we come from different sectors and backgrounds and jobs we do, but it always seems to work and I think it is because we all believe it what we are doing and that SHINe provides a great service. I think that is enough said.

Any Questions