**Moray DofE Committee AGM on 11 June 2024 at Elgin Library 1830-2000hrs**

**Present:** Derek Thomson Chair; Janis Thomson Events/fundraising; Ben Davenport ASN Elgin High School; Steve Ross Elgin Academy; Douglas Bourke Treasurer; Fiona Herd DofE Manager; Harry Stagg Lossiemouth High School; Chris Gransden Moray Council Outdoor Learning Officer; Gareth Wignall Elgin High School; Peter Millar Elgin Academy; Karen Delaney.

**Apologies:** June Smith Secretary; Vincent Stuart Vice-chair; Mick Morley, Steven Tubbs (KGS), Emma Tunnard.

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and in particular the teachers. Reports were circulated prior to the meeting and approval was sought on the Chairs report. Approved. (This will now go to OSCR.)
2. The previous AGMs’ minutes were asked for approval: agreed. Proposed Janis Thomson, seconded Douglas Bourke.
3. The Treasurers report was talked through and approved. Proposed by Ben Davenport, seconded by Steve Ross. It was raised that there might be a better yield for interest on the deposit account. The treasurer was asked to investigate and report back. Of the 10 funded places through Awards for all, 7 have been used. Ben Davenport highlighted a need to update in October and was encouraged to book via Outfit. Volunteers were encouraged to speak to others to alert them to this opportunity.
4. Election of Office Bearers:

Vince Stuart, Vice-chair, has resigned from the committee after 10 years commitment. The intention had been to recognise his contribution through a presentation of a DofE Scotland service certificate, but this will now be done outwith the meeting.

* Chair: Derek Thomson, proposed Douglas Bourke, seconded Janis Thomson
* Vice Chair: Karen Delaney, proposed Janis Thomson, seconded Douglas Bourke
* Secretary: June Smith, proposed Karen Delaney, seconded Janis Thomson
* Treasurer: Douglas Bourke, proposed Janis Thomson, seconded Ben Davenport.
* Events/Fundraising: Janis Thomson, proposed Douglas Bourke, seconded Karen Delaney.

Gavin Morgan also has agreed to join the committee. Proposed Karen Delaney, seconded Janis Thomson. Gavin was the second DofE Officer after Janis Thomson retired.

1. Chris Gransden spoke to two activity reports which were circulated.
* 5 out of 8 of the secondary schools are doing well. There are 2 Lossie gold groups. Youth workers will be supporting provision in Buckie, Keith and Milnes with volunteering, physical and skills sections. It was suggested that promotion should be through assemblies and not school bulletins. Currently it is about supporting those who have already signed up to progress.
* The Gold Award Presentation date has had to be changed to the 5th July because of the election.
* A series of outdoor learning meetings will be held over the summer to define roles within the Moray Council. Teachers present suggested that they ask their Head teachers to request clarification of the Quality Improvement Managers. Outdoor Learning is in every school improvement plan. What that means needs to be endorsed and improved. There was discussion about the need for more outdoor learning. There is a sense that DofE is not valued, despite its roots in Moray. Scouts, Guides, ATC and Sea Cadets have varying provision. Consultation with young people and adults over the new CLD plan has reinforced the desire for more provision within and outwith school. Fiona Herd highlighted that the Hayward Review is about increasing project driven experiences and awards, however schools need to sign up for this. She has a minimal budget for DofE and training. Steve Ross said that schools needed to know that money was available, for simple things like photocopying and paper.
* UHI initiative: there will be a new unit linked to the Councils licence. They have an active campus group with ASN and are very keen to promote the Award. There will be 4 closed groups.

Questions: Gareth Wignall asked for clarification about having DI on their licence and eligibility to drive the bus if extra-curricular. Action: Chris Gransden to follow up and circulate answer.

1. Janis Thomson suggested that there should be a presentation event of award winners at any level or accomplishment to recognise achievement and promote DofE. She has tentatively approached potential sponsors and a presenter. It previously was in a hotel. Feedback was that this should be a Moray-wide event to include the uniformed groups to rebuild networks. Fiona Herd said that she was not convinced that there was an appetite for it. Young people do not want to travel through to an event but would prefer something localised. Discussion ensued ranging from a great idea; DofE is never used in school awards as extra-curricular; Don’t think schools give DofE much fanfare; a potential to raise the profile of businesses for apprentices. It was agreed to go with the idea to test the interest with a suggested date in youth work week. The Walled Garden was suggested as a potential contact. Please forward any suggestions to Janis Thomson.
2. Janis Thomson highlighted the need for a website so there could be more engagement with units to build momentum and promote opportunities.
3. Funding: The Chair highlighted that there was funding to support individuals and groups and asked what was needed from the local authority?
* Ben Davenport put forward an application for support for training and 2-day adaptive paddling total cost £2100. Approved.
* ML request for Yvonne Iser. Approved.
* Fiona Herd said that nowhere in the country is there a similar charity. Is there a need for it? There is lots of funding available to support young people. They can apply for free places and could help with kit. This has been available for a year. People need to come to her as DofE Manager. The Committee asked Fiona to find out what was available so decisions could be made.
1. Date of next meeting: potentially September but determined by information received. The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions.

**Addendum:**

Further to the comments made by the DofE Manager, DofE Scotland was contacted:

* Examples of Active Local Associations in Scotland: Perth & Kinross Association; Friends of the Award in Edinburgh; Friends of Nairn DofE; South Ayrshire Association; Dumfries & Galloway Association
* The resilience funding is still available at DofE Scotland, but the name has changed over the years: This covers free places or funding towards kit or 50% towards training. It is a Scotland-wide fund and cannot meet all needs. “It is not a bottomless pit.” Previously this has been sourced and matched by MDofE to enable and encourage volunteers to complete their training.