

## **The FASD Trust**

We are all aware of the difficulties currently facing the charity sector. The FASD Trust is not alone. This statement is issued by the Trust to advise the charity's volunteers, service users and friends of unwelcome and challenging developments affecting the Trust and the services it provides.

In mid-January, Simon & Julia Brown, the Trust's joint CEOs, resigned from their posts of their own volition. Neither of the charity's two other employees is working. With our blessing they are seeking alternative employment. The Trust now finds itself in an exceptionally difficult financial position: there is no cash at the bank, the charity's income streams are virtually non-existent, and prospects of new funding streams, grants or donations are poor.

The two remaining Trustees are mindful of their duties to both the charitable objectives and their duties toward the Trust's creditors. We have been careful not to worsen the position of the creditors, and have spent much of the last two months looking for a way forward. On 31<sup>st</sup> January we met with representatives from NOFAS UK and FAS-UK who generously offered their perspectives upon the options open to the FASD Trust. Those options include transferring certain activities and roles from the FASD Trust to similar organizations with better resources.

We remain deeply grateful to those who have worked for the Trust, whether as employees or as volunteers, and who have done so much good for those for whom the FASD Trust exists and serves. We thank them warmly for all that they have done. The current state of 'limbo' does not advance the Trust's charitable objectives. Accordingly, we have resolved that the FASD Trust can no longer continue to operate or trade, and are today making the announcements that follow:

### **LINK GROUPS**

Since the Trust can no longer operate or trade, the Link Groups are placed in a difficult position. We have written to Link Group hosts separately in an accompaniment to this announcement with some informal notes about how they might set up their own local groups, and an invitation to associate with FAS-UK.

### **APPG**

Another large part of the FASD Trust's work was to liaise with the All-Party Parliamentary Group. We have written to Bill Esterson MP, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, advising him of the Trust's position and introducing him to NOFAS UK whose officers have indicated their willingness to fill the void left by the

Trust. We hope they will find a solution which will allow the parliamentary liaison work to continue.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

We are unable to close the Trust's social media accounts at present, and are aware that some posts are inaccurate. Any view, comment or post expressed on Facebook, social media or elsewhere does not necessarily express the view of the Trust or the Trustees.

Professional advice has been helpful to us in our role as trustees; we will continue to be guided by that advice.

Whilst this outcome is not of our making, it happened on our watch and we sincerely apologise. We have learnt valuable lessons from our good intentions to serve the FASD Trust and its communities.

In reiterating our thanks, we would offer our sincere apologies to those service users who relied upon the Trust and regret that it is no longer able to serve them. We also wish to express our immense gratitude to those, too numerous to mention, who have helped the Trust both in the past and through these last two difficult months.

for an on behalf of  
The FASD Trust

David See and Nigel Bowles

27<sup>th</sup> February 2018

The FASD Trust is registered in England and Wales 06501335 at 2 Meadow Court, High Street, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 6ER and is a Private Limited Company by guarantee.