

Report by the Chair of Trustees 21.22

I can never believe that the annual report comes round so quickly year after year! Now we are over lockdowns, and restrictions in school (and life) seem just a distant memory, the work of CICS and its amazing workers is back into almost full swing!

Firstly my thanks to our incredible workers - Chris, Nancy, Sarah, Sophie and Joan. We only welcomed Joan at the beginning of this year, but she has settled in so quickly. The investment they make into the lives of young people in schools as well as the wider teaching staff week in and week out is why the work of CICS is so important. I am always moved and challenged when the workers share of lives changed when, working in partnership with schools, young people are helped and supported in so many ways to become the amazing people they were created to be.

Secondly thanks to the trustee team. This dedicated group of volunteers puts in hours of often unseen work to help make CICS the success it is. Our roles are as varied as safeguarding, fundraising, finance, praying, admin, supporting our workers, linking with the Calderdale church, representing CICS locally and nationally and much more. We welcomed Steve Daveney as a new trustee during the year and hope that he enjoys being part of the team.

We managed to support the local church to distribute It's Your Move books to those young people as part of the Transition year. Thanks to those at Halifax Elim (Sarah's church) who allowed us to use their premises again as a central collection point and local Churches and Christians who provided most of the funding for this.

We held a prayer gathering specifically for all the youth work in Brighouse at Cornerstone (Sophie's church) and welcome invitations from other groups.

At our vision day in July we were inspired to ask the question: what do schools want from CICS, other Christian organisations and the church? We don't want to go in with our agenda but very much want to stand alongside and support the needs within schools. To this end we have partnered with other organisations and are about to host a consultation with Secondary Schools to ask this and other questions. This is our post covid vision - working with those in schools. strengthening partnerships, working in unity and meeting new and real needs that our young people have. Please pray for us as we take these new steps.

Thank you to all those who invest, pray and support CICS which enables us to do what we do. Our story is your story!

Blessings

Paul Blakey MBE - chair of trustees