

I attended the AGM of the CResCent Resource Centre on 7/11/23.

The board & sub committees meet regularly to fulfil the obligations of the organisation.

It has been a challenging year -bookings have not returned to pre covid levels & a major booker - Optalis - has reduced from 5 days a week to 1.

A few new bookings have helped finances but there will be an ongoing deficit - at present this is looking like a loss of £4000 a month.

The Earley Charity may move into some office space.

There have been several changes in key staff members.

Accounts were presented, an independent examiner appointed & trustees re-elected.

There have been necessary updates to alarms, electrics & the garden.

The centre is represented & promoted on Facebook, Instagram & its website.

Hirers cover leisure, education, medical, social care & support, 3 churches & various charities.

Outreach & training programmes have continued with a dedicated team of tutors & volunteers - particularly popular are the 5 English courses run per week & pre-employment programmes.

Learners come from a wide demographic- 20% below level 2, 13% have a learning disability, 70 are unemployed & seeking work - 92% of learners make good progress & either find employment, volunteer or continue with their learning.

Partnership working is key -thanks went to Wokingham Volunteer Centre, New Directions Reading, Reading Job Centre, Compass Recovery College, Reading Voluntary Action, Reading libraries & Reading walk-in health centre.

Cllr Nicola Brock