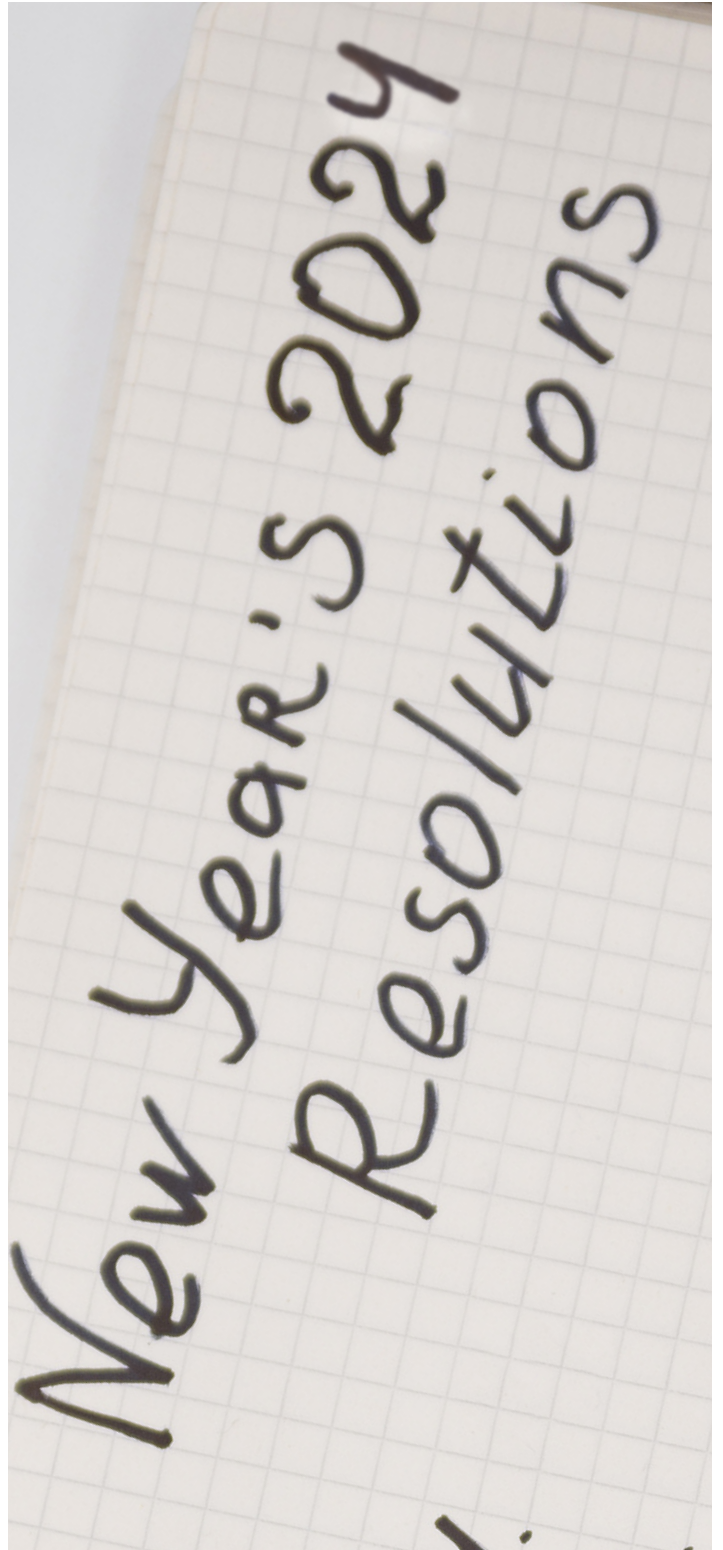


SATURDAY 13TH JAN 2024

With Lavinia Donling

NEW TERM OF ASPIRATIONS

It has been a really lovely week with seeing good progress and turning our thoughts to a new term of aspirations (goals and objectives). This included the monthly NEDs meeting on Tuesday. Did you know that the average time for a Volunteer to work with an agency is nine months? Ron and Ginny have been with us since, I asked them from my kitchen in Cornwall on a Sunday morning in, March 2020. Then Katie joined us in Autumn 2021, and Wendy in September 2022. What is becoming very apparent with this amazing group of individuals is their passion and willingness to take on more work to help behind the scenes in protecting TMW cic, and supporting me in as many ways as possible. Interesting things such as vetting all the requests for financial support for some of our families who just simply would not be able to afford our services without it - it needs 3 votes to get the agreed funding in place. I relinquished this responsibility as quickly as I could feeling I could be very biased as I get to know the clients pretty well. Another task they have taken on is considering how we could potentially raise more money through Investors and Sponsors, and this appears to now be taking a very firm focus for 2024, now that we have been going for 3yrs. Another task they took over is interviewing staff. Again, because I can be biased and not consider it wholly from TMW cic perspective.





In December I asked them to interview a lovely lady called Ellie. Ellie is a qualified Teacher, and has worked in supporting children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) following their Educational Health Care Plans (EHCP). She has run Parent Teacher Association (PTA) meetings too. Ellie is also parent to a child with SEN needs. As you can see, she is a very busy lady. Like most individuals attending an interview, she was a little nervous, understandably, when I asked if she would be happy to meet with all four NEDs. They were very keen to meet and interview, and, despite it being the week leading up to Christmas, successfully found a time for all to attend. Afterwards, I was advised by the NEDs to ensure I did take her on as they felt very strongly she would be a wonderful asset to both TMW cic and EPS Ltd. I was so pleased, as I totally agreed.

We had a road trip planned specifically around meeting Ellie face to face to hand over some tools she will likely need - you know, the laptop, a mobile phone, policies & procedures, contract - but also wanted to meet in a relaxed environment over a late breakfast. Yasmin had also arranged for some flowers for us to give too. It was a really lovely time meeting her yesterday morning - chatting and getting to know her more, as well as thinking how TMW cic is now ready to start a new adventure with Ellie on board with her skills and knowledge in and around Education. Her first week will, undoubtedly, have her liaising with the NEDs as they have their respective career backgrounds (all very useful to TMW cic), but also have been with TMW cic for a long time. This means they have a huge amount of knowledge and understanding, and can offer Ellie a huge resource of information to aid in her new role. We are so lucky to have them all on board to be able to help, whilst I carry on with my clinic.

THE CHALLENGE OF SUCCESS

This has come at a perfect time because I have a client that has been making very slow, but steady, progress, and might actually be ready by Easter to think about having some learning activities. I saw the young person this afternoon, and whilst they are making progress, their underlying fear is that they are making progress so that they can be sent back to school (this is never going to happen for a variety of reasons). No doubt Ellie will have some views on this, and can help guide me with thinking how I liaise with the young person, but also the Local Authority with their EHCP.

We have not quite finished our road trip, even though it is the weekend. We are due to meet up face to face with Ginny as she is in the area. She is very excited about meeting us - it is an annual thing because she lives in the south west of the UK - as we are about meeting her.

So have a lovely weekend everyone!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lavinia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.