



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Wednesday 7 December 2022, 10.30am
MS Society, Carriage House, 8 City North Place, London, N4 3FU and via video conference

Present Trustees

Professor Sir Paul Curran	Chair of the MS Society
Sarah Schol	Vice Chair
Stuart Secker	Treasurer
Ady Dike	Trustee
Anthony Upshall	Trustee
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Ceri Smith	Trustee
Emily Reves	Trustee
Mohini Raichura-Brown	Trustee
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee

Council Chairs

Dr Kate Laverty	Northern Ireland Council Chair
Susannah Robinson	Acting Wales Council Chair

Staff Attending

Nick Moberly	Chief Executive
Vicky Annis	Executive Director - Corporate Services
Dr Sarah Rawlings	Executive Director - Research & External Affairs
Sam Walker	Executive Director - Services & Support
Ed Tait	Executive Director - Engagement & Income Generation
Morna Simpkins	Director of Scotland

1. Opening remarks

1.1. The Chair of the MS Society welcomed the Board and attendees to the meeting.

2. Chief Executive's Report

2.1. The Chief Executive gave a report on progress that had been made on delivering impact for the MS community since the last Board meeting. The report included a summary of our financial performance in quarter 3 2022, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities.

3. Project Sage Progress Report

3.1. The Board received a report on the progress of Project Sage, which would seek to develop joined up systems and data architecture to really understand and

maximise the potential of our data, and replace our existing CRM. The Board had approved the first investment phase in September 2022 and a report would come to each Board meeting, to provide the Board with assurance that the project was progressing to plan.

4. National Councils Report

- 4.1. The Board received updates from the National Councils. The Director of Scotland spoke on behalf of the Scotland Council and highlighted the success of the recent Council-supported event held in Stirling. The Acting Wales Council Chair spoke of the positive impacts of the Pontio project for the MS community in Wales and it was noted that the Services Transformation (7.2) would seek to establish whether similar support could be provided throughout the UK after the end of the project. The Northern Ireland Council Chair spoke of events that were planned, the council member recruitment that would recommence in the New Year, continuing diagnosis delays and the MS clinics that would be affected by strikes. The Executive Director of Services and Support spoke on behalf of the England Council and highlighted discussions held about supporting mental health, employment and PIP initiatives. The Board approved the National Councils' 2023 Annual Plans.
- 4.2. The Board approved the appointment of Abishek Behl, Brian Purchon, Hannah McGlynn, Hew Mathewson and Nick Ward to the Scotland Council; and Catriona Fearn, Thomas Leahy, Sian Dorward, Anne Jones and Dafydd Wyn to the Wales Council. The Board also approved the appointment of Susannah Robinson to Chair of the Wales Council.

5. Committee Reports

- 5.1. The Board received a report on the People Committee meeting of 18 October 2022. The committee had received the People Report, which provided updates on progress against the Employee Engagement, Volunteering and EDI functional strategies. The committee had undertaken a review of the MS Society pensions scheme, and had considered the EDI Annual Report, which would report on progress against each of the seven EDI Strategy threads. The committee had reviewed their performance in 2022 and the Board approved the People Committee's 2023 Work Plan.
- 5.2. The Board received a report on Nominations Committee meeting of 22 November 2022. The committee had considered the structure of the Board's committee, which was also on the Board meeting agenda. The committee had considered Trustee, Treasurer and Council recruitment and received an interim voting report on Trustee elections. The committee had considered the results of the Board Effectiveness Survey and Trustee Annual Reviews. The committee had reviewed their performance in 2022, and the Board approved the Nominations Committee's 2023 Work Plan. The Board also approved the Treasurer of the MS Society Role Description, and agreed the Board Effectiveness Action Plan.
- 5.3. The Board received a report on the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee (ARFC) meeting of 24 November 2022. The committee had considered the Business Plan and Budget 2023-2025, the Reserves Policy and Significant Investment Propositions, which were also on the Board meeting agenda. The committee had considered the Management Accounts to 30 September 2022, and had received reports from the Internal and External Auditors, and the Investment Managers.

The committee had received their usual quarterly report on the Risk Register, and a standing update on serious incident reports. The committee had reviewed their performance in 2022, and the Board approved the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee's 2023 Work Plan. The Board also approved the appointment of Stephen O'Keane (Scotland Council Member) to the ARFC.

6. Business Plan and Budget 2023-25

6.1. The Board approved the Business Plan and Budget 2023-25, which had been considered at their previous meeting, and scrutinised by the ARFC. The Business Plan and Budget set out our strategic priorities for the next three years, and the income and expenditure budgets required to meet them. The Board also approved the updated Reserves Policy.

7. Significant Investment Propositions

7.1. The Board received an update on the transformational projects proposed to be funded through significant investment propositions, and considered the benefits for the MS community, the areas that were outside the Board risk appetite, and the project management approach being taken.

7.2. The Board approved the next tranche of funding for Project Sage. The Board endorsed the Engagement and Income Generation Transformation Case for Support and approved funding to coproduce projects to test engagement propositions and reach out to underrepresented communities. The Board endorsed the Services and Support Transformation Case for Support and approved funding to recruit key roles to deliver the next phase of this project. The Board approved funding to establish a Retail project to generate income.

8. Governance matters

8.1. The Board reviewed the Scheme of Delegation Report, which was a standing item to ensure the Board had oversight of decisions delegated to sub-groups of the Board and taken between Board meetings.

8.2. The Board considered a proposal to review the structure of the Board's committees, to ensure the Board that it provides the necessary level of scrutiny at committee-level across the key areas of the Board's responsibilities.

8.3. The Board approved the updated Safeguarding Adults Policy for England and Wales; Safeguarding Adults Policy for Northern Ireland; Safeguarding Adults Policy for Scotland; Safeguarding Children Policy for England, Wales and Northern Ireland; and Safeguarding Children and Young Adults Policy for Scotland. The Board approved the unchanged Health and Safety Policy.