



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Friday 12 April 2024

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
Nick Keveth	Treasurer
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Chris Murray	Trustee
Emily Reves	Trustee
David Silver	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee

National Councils

Susannah Robinson	Wales Council Chair
Matthew Ward	England Council Chair
Hew Mathewson	Scotland Council Vice Chair
Tom Hunter	Northern Ireland Council Member

Staff Attending

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

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 1 2024, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities.

3. Annual Report and Accounts

- 3.1. The Board was asked to approve the MS Society 2023 Annual Report and Accounts, which had been scrutinised by the Audit & Risk Committee and our auditors, Haysmacintyre. The Board received assurance that the MS Society remains a going concern and gave approval.
- 3.2. The Board noted that the MSS (Trading) Ltd 2023 Annual Report and Accounts had been approved by the Directors at a meeting earlier that day.

4. Strategy Development

- 4.1. The Board considered plans for the development of the new MS Society strategy, which was due to come into effect in 2025.

5. Cyber Security

- 5.1. The Board reviewed the organisation's approach to cyber security, and the types of cyber threats faced by charities.

6. National Councils Report

- 6.1. The Board received reports from the National Councils. Discussion took place about inequality in access to services and support, and lengthy waiting lists for people newly diagnosed with MS. Councils had welcomed new members and listening events were being organised across the UK to hear from MS communities.

7. Committee Reports

- 7.1. The Board received a report on the Nominations and Remuneration Committee meeting of 8 March 2024. The Committee had received a progress report on the Pay and Rewards Review, and had discussed plans for Board and Council recruitment, and Trustee performance reviews in 2024.
- 7.2. The Board received a report on the Strategic Implementation and Finance Committee meeting of 12 March 2024. The Committee had considered the Quarter 4 2023 Performance Report and the December 2023 Management Accounts. The Committee had reviewed the Corporate Risk Register and recommended the Investment Policy and Reserves Policy to the Board.
- 7.3. The Board received a report on the Audit and Risk Committee meeting of 14 March 2024. The Committee had considered the organisation's compliance with the Charity Commission's Internal Controls Checklist and scrutinised the MS Society Annual Report and Accounts. The Committee had completed their annual reviews of the Corporate Risk Register and the Compliance Register and received the Serious Incident Report. The Committee had received a report on internal audit progress and plans.

8. Governance Matters

- 8.1. The Board reviewed the Corporate Risk Register which had been updated to reflect the 2024 Business Plan and Budget, and to reflect the Executive Group's agreed view on the most significant strategic risks facing the organisation. These were also reflected in the Annual Report and Accounts

- 8.2. The Board reviewed the Annual Consolidated Compliance Report, which provided an overview of performance in 2023 within key compliance areas including: health and safety, safeguarding, data governance and complaints handled during the year.
- 8.3. 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.
- 8.4. The Board approved the Investment Policy and Reserves Policy. The Board also approved the revised Rules and Standard Operating Procedures, which had been updated to reflect the new Board Committee structure.

9. Strategic Deep Dive - Research

- 9.1. The Board undertook an in-depth review of our Research Strategy to consider whether the agreed objectives and plans continue to be the best way to address current trends, challenges, and opportunities. The Assistant Director of Research and the Heads of Research joined the meeting, and the discussion covered the current situation and needs of MS communities, and progress against the outcomes we are trying to achieve:
 - Deepening our understanding of progression
 - Accelerating clinical trials
 - Improving our understanding of risk factors