



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Wednesday 10 July 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
David Silver	Trustee
Emily Revess	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee
Dr Stephanie Wright	Trustee
Stephen O'Keane	Trustee

National Councils

Dr Kate Lavery	Northern Ireland Council Chair
John Stainton	England Council Vice Chair
Lynsey Gray	Scotland Council Vice Chair

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

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

Board appointments were announced. A General Meeting of the MS Society Members had been held to appoint Jason Jaspal and Leah Mates to the Board of Trustees. The Trustees had appointed Neal Aggarwal as an Independent Member of the Audit and Risk Committee, and had appointed Philippa Donnelly, Sissel Heiberg and Lucy Tusa as Independent Members of the Strategic Implementation and Finance Committee.

2. Chief Executive's Report

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 2 2024, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities.

3. Transformation Programme

The Board received a report on progress against the different projects within the Transformation Programme. Investment in phase one of Employee Engagement Transformation was approved, and an interim investment in Data, Digital and Technology Transformation was approved.

4. Strategy Development

Following the Board and Executive Group Strategy Day in June, the Board received a report on progress to date on the development of the new organisational strategy.

5. Post-Election Update

The Head of Campaigns and External Relations joined the meeting and gave a report on activity that had been undertaken in the run up to the General Election, and the team's plans for building connections with the new Government and identifying priority policy areas to focus on.

6. National Councils Report

The Board received reports from the National Councils. The ongoing disparity of services between north and south Wales was noted. The England Council was progressing well, although concern was raised that the Council did not reflect the diversity of the MS community in England. The Northern Ireland Council was focused on the renovation of the Belfast Resource Centre. In Scotland, the Council was working with staff to review services in Edinburgh and had attended a Parliamentary drop-in session where they met 31 MSPs and four ministers.

7. Committee Reports

The Board received a report on the Audit & Risk Committee meeting of 4 June 2024. The Committee had reviewed the updated Scheme of Delegation and completed its annual review of the Assurance Map. The Committee had discussed the strategic deep dives it would undertake. The Committee had received the Internal Audit Progress Report and the Serious Incident Report and had approved the updated Gifts and Hospitality Policy.

The Board received a report on the Strategic Implementation & Finance Committee meeting of 4 June 2024. The Committee had received the 2024 Q2 Performance Report, and the Management Accounts to 30 June 2024. The Committee had reviewed progress against the Transformation Programme and considered the cases for investment in Employee Engagement Transformation, and Data, Digital and Technology Transformation. The Committee had reviewed the updated Corporate Risk Register and considered the areas of risk highlighted.

The Board received a report on the Nominations & Remuneration Committee meeting of 10 June 2024. The Committee had considered the future approach to CEO and Executive Group pay, and recommended the Staff Pay and Reward Policy to the Board.

8. Governance Matters

The Board approved the updated Scheme of Delegation, recommended by the Audit & Risk Committee. The Board also approved the Staff Pay and Reward Policy, recommended by the Nominations & Remuneration Committee.

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

9. Strategic Deep Dive - Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

The Board undertook an in-depth review of our Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy to consider whether the agreed objectives and plans continue to be the best way to address current trends, challenges, and opportunities. The EDI Programme Manager 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.