



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Wednesday 11 December 2024
Carriage House, 8 City North Place, London, N4 3FU and via video conference

Present

Trustees

Professor Sir Paul Curran	Chair of the MS Society
Emily Reves	Vice Chair
Nick Keveth	Treasurer
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee
Jason Jaspal	Trustee
Leah Mates	Trustee
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Chris Murray	Trustee
David Silver	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee
Dr Stephanie Wright	Trustee

Council Chairs

Laura Ingram	Scotland Council Chair
Susannah Robinson	Wales Council Chair
Matthew Ward	England Council 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
Ed Tait	Executive Director - Engagement & Income Generation

1. Opening Remarks

The Chair of the MS Society welcomed the Board and attendees to the meeting. It was confirmed that the Members had reappointed Bayan Mohajeri to serve a further three-year term as a Co-Opted Trustee, commencing 1 January 2025. Thanks were given to Sarah Schol, who was due to reach the end of her term and retire from the Board on 31 December 2024.

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 3 2024, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities.

3. Organisational Strategy 2025-2029

The Board approved the new Organisational Strategy 2025-2029. The Board received a presentation covering the five delivery strategies that would enable us to achieve the Organisational Strategy, the principles underpinning delivery of outcomes and how success will be measured. A wide range of perspectives had been gathered in the development of the Strategy, with involvement and engagement from: People with and affected by MS; healthcare and research professionals and charities; our volunteers and staff.

A comprehensive communication plan would be put in place in 2025 to ensure the Strategy was properly launched and shared with key stakeholders.

4. Business Plan & Budget

The Board approved the Business Plan & Budget for 2025, which had been considered at their previous meeting, and scrutinised by the Strategic Implementation & Finance Committee (SIFC). The Board also approved the long-term financial model which forecasts our income and expenditure over the next five years.

5. National Councils Report

The Board received reports from the National Councils. Discussion took place about the England Council focus on sharing their own lived experience of MS to increase engagement and awareness of the services and support we provide. The ongoing challenge of recruiting Group Coordinators in Scotland and Wales was noted.

The Board noted the appointment of Phillipa Donnelly as Interim Chair of the Northern Ireland Council, and that Lynsey Grey (Vice Chair) and Hew Mathewson (Vice Chair) had decided to stand down from the Scotland Council on 31 December 2024.

Thanks were given to Laura Ingram, who was due to reach the end of her term as Chair of the Scotland Council and retire on 31 December 2024.

6. Committee Reports

The Board received a report on the Nominations & Remuneration Committee (NRC) meeting of 29 October 2024. The Committee had considered the implementation of the new staff pay structure; the recruitment and appointment of Co-Opted Trustees and Independent (non-trustee) Committee Members in 2024; and the annual reviews undertaken by the Chair with Trustees and Council Chairs. The Committee Performance Review had been completed, and the Board approved the 2025 NRC work plan.

The Board received a report on the Strategic Implementation & Finance Committee (SIFC) meeting of 19 November 2024. The Committee had scrutinised the 2025 Business Plan & Budget and long-term financial model, and had received the Q3 2024 Performance Report and Management Accounts to 30 September 2024. The Committee had approved changes to the Engagement and Income Generation, and Data, Digital and Technology transformation programmes. The Committee had considered the quarterly investment

report and the Corporate Risk Register. The Committee Performance Review had been completed, and the Board approved the 2025 SIFC work plan.

The Board received a report on the Audit & Risk Committee (ARC) meeting of 20 November 2024. The Committee had considered progress against the 2024 Internal Audit and approved the 2025 plan. The Committee had also approved the 2024 External Audit plan. The updated Acceptance and Refusal of Donations Policy had been approved, and the Serious Incident Report had been received. The Committee Performance Review had been completed, and the Board approved the 2025 ARC work plan.

7. Governance Matters

The Board agreed that the current Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy should be updated to include a set of EDI principles to embed EDI throughout our work, to extend the scope of the Policy beyond the nine protected characteristics, and to distinguish between and cover both equality and equity.

The Board approved changes to the Staff Pay & Reward Policy and agreed to delegate the approval of any further minor amendments to the Policy to the NRC.

The annual review of Board effectiveness was completed. Performance against the Board's areas of focus for 2024 was reviewed and the results of the Board Effectiveness Self-Assessment Survey were considered. The 2025 Board agenda plan, schedule of strategic deep dives, and learning and development were agreed. A review of the membership of the Board's committees was completed and changes were approved.

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.