



Annual Report and Accounts 2015

A community to stop MS

2015 was an inspiring year to be part of the MS Society, as we launched our new five year strategy, which sets out how we'll put people living with MS at the heart of all that we do. I know that as we strive to achieve our ultimate aim - of stopping MS - we can do so much more by becoming an organisation of, not just for, people affected by MS.

Overall, 2015 was a strong year in which our income grew by 6.5% compared with 2014. Donations increased by more than 23%. If we are to achieve our strategic goals we know we need greater resources and more money. That's why we invested in fundraising and increased our support costs in 2015. We hope to inspire more people to support our vital work over the coming year.

Volunteers make a huge contribution to the MS Society. A particular highlight of 2015 was a reception at 10 Downing Street, hosted by Samantha Cameron, to say thank you to all the volunteers who've given us their precious time, energy and commitment.

Volunteers contributed in so many other ways too - I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them, again, for their hard work and dedication.

It was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on how far we've come since Richard and Mary Cave founded the MS Society back in 1953. Now, we have more than 270 branches across the UK, all run by dedicated volunteers. These branches are a vital source of support, and reached an estimated 13,000 people affected by MS in 2015.

Volunteers contributed in so many other ways too - from answering enquiries received by our MS Helpline, to giving feedback on the content of our information booklets, to reviewing research proposals. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of them, again, for their hard work and dedication.

Another highlight was World MS Day, when we were able to greatly raise awareness of MS and the difficult journey many people experience on the way to a correct diagnosis. Thousands watched our two videos of people with MS talking about their personal experiences of symptoms and waiting for diagnosis.

Looking back at all we've achieved, as my time as Chairman comes to an end in 2016, I'm confident that I'm leaving the MS Society in a strong position. I'll continue to follow the organisation's work over the coming years, and I'm sure I'll see the community flourish, until we achieve our ultimate aim - to stop MS.

Hilary Sears
Chairman

A clear vision

This is my second full year at the MS Society and I've been hugely impressed by the dedication of our community - our wonderful volunteers, staff and supporters. I'm convinced that we can make our vision, of a world free from the effects of MS, a reality.

In January, we were excited to launch our new five year strategy, which sets out seven goals that will take us closer to achieving our vision. The goals are prioritised according to what people with MS have told us they most want and need. Top of the list is having more effective treatments, and better access to them.

That's why I was so proud to see the publication of our report on the importance of early treatment for relapsing forms of MS. The report - which we developed with people affected by MS, health care professionals, the MS Trust and Shift MS - marks a sea change in thinking which could transform life for thousands of people with MS. Through our Treat Me Right campaign, we'll continue to work hard to ensure that people with MS can access the right treatment, at the right time.

We know there's so much more to do - especially for progressive MS. The absence of licensed treatments simply isn't good enough. It's why our work with the Progressive MS Alliance is so vital, and in 2015, the Alliance awarded grants to 11 collaborative projects that are looking to speed up the search for effective treatments.

Our strength is in our community. When I see their passion and commitment, our goals feel that much closer. I know that, together, we will stop MS.

We also awarded grants to 16 new research projects that are looking to improve treatment and care for all forms of MS, including one study that's looking at how simvastatin could be working for secondary progressive MS - an incredibly exciting area.

Treatment is just one of the things people with MS need to live full lives. In 2015, we also tackled problems with the welfare system through our MS: Enough campaign, shared information and built connections through our Living with MS events across the UK, and provided grants to help people with MS get the care and support they need.

I'm delighted by all we achieved in 2015, but I know we need to do even more. Our strength is in our community. When I see their passion and commitment, our goals feel that much closer. I know that, together, we will stop MS.

Michelle Mitchell OBE
Chief Executive

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We're the MS Society

We're here for everyone living with multiple sclerosis - to provide practical help today and the hope of a cure tomorrow. We play a leading role in research. We fight for better treatment and care. We let people with MS know they're not alone, and offer advice and support to help them manage their symptoms.

MS is an unpredictable and incurable condition that affects people's nervous systems. It can attack suddenly or progress steadily, bringing a range of symptoms which can include sight loss, incontinence, fatigue and mobility problems. No-one with MS can be sure when or how it will affect them next.

We're here because people who cared about MS came together to found the MS Society in 1953. Out of their passion we've grown a powerful movement of people living with MS, supporters, volunteers, staff, campaigners and fundraisers. Every day, every year, we're working together to make sure people with MS can live life to the full and secure the care and support they need.

This report is dedicated to everyone who reached out, signed up, ran, marched, researched, laughed together, cried together, challenged themselves and challenged us in 2015 - thank you for being there. With your support, we've achieved so much. And with your support, we'll be able to do even more - until we stop MS together.

For over 100,000 of us in the UK, MS is a daily reality.

Our approach

Several common themes run throughout our work to support people living with MS. These themes guide what we do, how we work, and the decisions we make.

Working alongside people affected by MS

People affected by MS are at the heart of our decisions and work. But, we know we can do much more to become an organisation of, not just for, people affected by MS. We'll involve people affected by MS in all areas of our work, and take full advantage of their insight, experience and knowledge.

Working with other organisations

We know we can't achieve everything by ourselves. Working alongside other MS charities, professionals, service providers, government departments and organisations across the MS, neurology and disability sectors will be crucial if, together, we are to make real progress towards our goals.

Focusing on areas where we can have the greatest impact

Our resources are finite. We'll prioritise our work to ensure the best and most effective use of resources. And we'll be clear and explicit about our role and what we expect of others.

Understanding what we want to achieve

Having a clear understanding of the outcomes we want to achieve and the progress we're making is fundamental to our success. So we're focused on developing better ways to measure our impact.

Reaching out to everyone affected by MS

We exist to support everyone affected by MS. Yet we know that, although our work reaches and supports large numbers of people, there are others we don't always reach. We'll make sure our work is inclusive, and actively strive to reach and engage with all individuals and communities.

Tailoring our approach

There's so much we can learn and achieve by working collaboratively across the world. And there are other contexts in which a UK-wide, nation-specific, or local approach will be necessary. Whatever the context, we'll continue to be a UK-wide organisation working to achieve common goals.

Our goals

Our vision is a world free from the effects of MS. To get there, we're working to achieve seven goals, ordered according to the priorities of people living with MS. These goals form the heart of our strategy from 2015 to 2019.

1. **Effective treatments:** people with MS will have access to treatments for their condition, including treatments that can slow, stop or reverse the accumulation of disability.
2. **Responsive care and support:** people with MS, including those being diagnosed, will have access to support that is responsive to their needs, and recognises them as equal partners in their care.
3. **Preventing MS:** progress in research means that fewer people will develop MS.
4. **Quality information:** people affected by MS will have access to high-quality information that meets their needs.
5. **A strong community, independent lives:** people affected by MS will be able to live their lives, strengthened by a community that ensures no one has to face MS alone.
6. **Supporting families and carers:** the families and carers of people with MS will have access to the support they need.
7. **Greater certainty about the future:** people with MS will have greater certainty about how their condition will progress.

We launched the strategy at the start of 2015. But this year wasn't all about strategy; it was about starting to make the changes that will transform life for everyone living with MS. Turn over to see some of our highlights of 2015, or turn to page 10 to read more about what we got up to.

Highlights of 2015

At the start of 2015, we introduced an ambitious new strategy. The strategy set out our seven key goals for 2015 to 2019, ordered according to what people affected by MS told us matters most.

We then set about putting the strategy into action, working towards achieving these goals, which could transform the lives of everyone affected by MS. Here we've highlighted just some of our key achievements from the year.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped us along the way - our fantastic volunteers, staff, campaigners and fundraisers, and everyone who took time to make a difference for people living with MS.

We achieved so much in 2015, and with your help, we can achieve even more - until we stop MS together.

Effective treatments

We published a new consensus on the importance of **early treatment** for relapsing forms of MS, which could **transform life** for thousands of people.




The Progressive MS Alliance supported 11 collaborative research 'planning' projects to speed up the search for effective treatments.




We awarded grants totalling around **£1 million** to **8 research projects** investigating new effective treatments for all forms of MS, including a project looking at how **simvastatin** could be working for secondary progressive MS and whether **vitamin D** could be used to help treat MS.

Responsive care and support

We launched our new **Services and Support Strategy**, setting out how we'll modernise and improve our services and support to reach even more people affected by MS. new

 Our **Models of Excellence** programme worked with people affected by MS to identify priorities for improving care, services and treatment.

 We awarded grants totalling around **£1 million** to help people living with MS get the care and support they need.

 Our **MS Helpline** responded to **14,839 enquiries**, providing support and information to people affected by MS.

Preventing MS





We brought together **50 of the top research minds** to provide key recommendations for the future direction of MS prevention research.


We committed around **£550,000** to **2 research projects** exploring the causes of MS. 

Quality information

894 PEOPLE attended one of our **Living with MS** information days to hear about the latest MS research, pick up tips on managing their MS, and connect with other people affected by the condition.


We updated **9** of our information booklets and gave them a more user friendly format.

Our information booklets were downloaded **24,873** times  ...and we sent **103,329** copies to people who requested them. 

 Around **1.9 million** people visited mssociety.org.uk

Strong community, independent lives

After the General Election, we re-established the All Party Parliamentary Group for MS, which will work to ensure that government policy takes into account and builds in provisions for people with MS and their families.

18,516  people signed our **MS: Enough** petition, calling on government to make the welfare system make sense for people with MS.

 Our **MS: Enough** video had **219,082 views**, raising awareness of the difficulties of life with a fluctuating condition.

 Our local branches offered over **2,000** services and reached an estimated **13,000** people with MS.

Supporting families and carers

As an official supporter of **Carers Week**, we promoted the need for carer-friendly communities.

We attended a **Carers Week** networking event at the Houses of Parliament, telling **132 MPs** about the support carers need. 

We held and attended **events across the UK** to raise awareness of the hugely important role that carers play in society.

We proudly became a more carer friendly workplace, with a new **Carers' Policy** and paid carers' leave entitlement. 

Greater certainty about the future

200 of the brightest minds in MS research attended our **MS Frontiers** conference, discussing ways to give people with MS greater certainty about the future. 

1,801 PEOPLE joined the MS Register, bringing the total number signed up to 12,937, all helping to build a rich picture of what it's like to live with MS in the UK.

3,174 PEOPLE took part in an MS Register survey, giving researchers information that could improve the way people with MS are supported when discussing their prognosis with health care professionals.

We awarded around **£280,000** to projects seeking to understand how MS progresses.

Our achievements in 2015

Goal 1:

Effective treatments

People with MS will have access to effective treatments for their condition, including treatments which can slow, stop or reverse the accumulation of disability.

People with MS have told us access to effective treatments is their number one priority – so it's ours too. While there are now several treatments for relapsing forms of MS, the UK continues to have one of the lowest prescribing rates for MS drugs in Europe, and there are still no licensed treatments for progressive MS.

Our award-winning Treat Me Right campaign is challenging decision-makers to increase access to treatments. And we are accelerating our investment in world-class research to find new effective treatments for everyone with MS.

A new consensus

In 2015, as part of our Treat Me Right campaign, we announced a new consensus on the importance of early treatment for people with relapsing forms of MS. This new consensus marks a shift in thinking that could improve life for thousands of people with MS.

We launched Treat Me Right in 2014, calling for people with MS to receive the right treatment at the right time, whatever their situation, wherever they live.

In the months after the launch, we brought together people affected by MS, neurologists, MS nurses, and other MS organisations to examine the evidence around the right time for people with relapsing forms of MS to start treatment.

The experts concluded that the evidence shows us that, rather than waiting to see whether more relapses occur, disease modifying therapies (DMTs) should be offered as soon as possible after a person is diagnosed with a relapsing form of MS.



Spotlight on Northern Ireland

In partnership with the British Heart Foundation, we launched the Keep Us Well campaign to protect free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions in Northern Ireland. Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) received 1,655 emails from campaigners and the Health Minister announced he wouldn't re-introduce charges during his time as minister.

We published this finding in September 2015, as Time to act – a new consensus on early treatment.

The new consensus was also endorsed by the MS Trust and Shift MS, marking the first time all three organisations have worked together in this way.

The Association of British Neurologists has updated its prescribing guidelines to include a recommendation that treatment for relapsing forms of MS should begin as close to diagnosis as possible.

In Northern Ireland, early treatment was the focus of the first meeting of the NI Assembly All Party Group on MS. In Wales, the Welsh Government backed our Treat Me Right campaign at a parliamentary event on early treatment. And in Scotland, one of the neurologists endorsing the new consensus presented to the Cross Party Group on MS in the Scottish Parliament.

Spreading the word

We recognised that this news might be hard for some people with MS to hear, so we ensured that we were ready to respond effectively and sensitively and worked with key health care professionals and decision makers to help them respond in the same way. We also updated our Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs) information booklet. You can read more about this on page 19.



Spotlight on Northern Ireland

More than 100 people attended our reception at Stormont during MS Week, including the Health Minister who pledged to raise awareness of MS treatments.

Spotlight on Wales

Two new infusion clinics opened in Llandudno and Swansea, and a new monthly multidisciplinary clinic opened in Wrexham, after we worked with health boards to ensure people with MS have more local treatment options.



Research focus

We're accelerating our investment in research with the largest fundraising appeal in our history, aiming to fund ground-breaking projects that will transform the wellbeing, outlook and quality of life of everyone affected by MS. The appeal is currently in a discreet phase as we build support from high net worth individuals, grant making trusts and foundations, companies, and statutory funders before widening the appeal to our networks, branches, members and the general public. Nevertheless, in 2015, the first year of the appeal, income exceeded our expectations.

In 2015, we awarded grants totalling around **£1 million** to eight new projects, at universities across the UK, which are looking for new effective treatments. Some of the avenues being investigated include how simvastatin could be working for secondary progressive MS and whether vitamin D could be used to help treat MS.

We also awarded more than **£29,000** to researchers who are using a model bladder to understand urinary tract infections in MS and more than **£64,000** to researchers who are investigating the management of cognitive problems in MS.

There are currently no treatments that can alter the course of **progressive MS** and one of our top priorities is to change that. In 2013, we joined forces with MS charities around the world to drive forward the search for treatments through the **International Progressive MS Alliance**. In 2015, the Alliance announced funding for 11 research 'planning' projects, in the race to find the most promising collaborative progressive MS projects in the world. The most successful of these projects will be awarded over **€4 million** in 2016 to embark on longer term research.

We saw some exciting results from a previous investment in research in 2015: in April, we announced results from a phase 2 trial that we co-funded, which showed that the epilepsy drug **phenytoin** reduced the damage that occurs in **optic neuritis**. If these findings are confirmed by larger studies, this could be translatable to the wider nervous system and lead to treatments that protect nerves from damage in MS.

Goal 2:

Responsive care and support

People with MS, including those being diagnosed, will have access to support that is responsive to their needs, and recognises them as equal partners in their care.

We know that people with MS want personalised support and to feel that they are at the centre of all decisions about their care.

We can't achieve everything by ourselves. We work together with other charities, organisations, professionals, service providers, government departments and other organisations to seek changes in policy and practice.

Driving forward change

Throughout 2015, we contributed to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) public consultation on its Quality Standard for MS. Designed to drive improvements in MS care, the Standard was published in January 2016. We're pleased that, following our suggestion, it includes a recommendation that adults with MS who have problems with mobility or fatigue should be offered support to remain physically active.

The Standard does not cover everything people with MS need from the health service, and we'll be working closely with the Association of British Neurologists and the MS Trust to push NICE to develop it further.

In England, we led a group of charities in producing a guide for local authorities on implementing the Care Act for people with fluctuating conditions (this work was done in 2015 and the guide was published at the start of 2016). We'll be closely monitoring the impact of the Act, which has the potential to improve the care and support available for people with MS.

In Northern Ireland, we worked with the Health and Social Care Board to help develop the first MS Specification for Northern Ireland, based on NICE guidelines. This aims to improve the quality of MS services and we expect it to be published in 2016.

As a member of the Neurological Alliance, in England, we made sure the voices of people with MS were heard in a parliamentary inquiry into neurological services, which found that services could be improved. We'll continue to work with the Alliance to keep up the pressure until people with MS receive the services they need.

We also worked with the Wales Neurological Alliance to make sure MS was on the agenda during discussions about neurological services at the National Assembly's Cross Party Group for Neurological Conditions. We also made the case to health boards across Wales for improvements to services for people living with MS.

In Scotland, we worked with other charities and public sector partners to keep MS on the agenda. Through the Cross Party Group on MS and our parliamentary reception 'My MS, My Life' we got continued support from MSPs and the Scottish Government to improve services for those living with neurological conditions in Scotland.

Transforming our services

In 2015, we launched a new three-year Services and Support strategy. It sets out how we'll modernise our information provision, deliver self-management programmes to thousands of people affected by MS, provide emotional support to even more people, increase the types of financial and practical support we offer, create new peer-to-peer support groups and pilot innovative new services both locally and nationally.

People affected by MS are at the heart of the strategy. We will develop our new services with them and involve them in delivery wherever we can.

We'll ensure that our services and support are based on the evidence of what makes the biggest difference to the lives of people affected by MS through our Models of Excellence programme, which you can read about on page 15. And we'll make sure that our services and support are available in the ways that people affected by MS want to access them, for example, in their local area or over the web.



Spotlight on Scotland

Along with our third sector partners we campaigned behind the scenes on the importance of specialist nurses for those living with neurological conditions. The Scottish Government released further funding for specialist nurse posts which has led to an increased MS nurse provision in some health boards in Scotland.

Spotlight on England

We've been working hard to get our Treat Me Right message across to key decision makers. In some areas this has led to our involvement in the re-design and improvement of services. For example, in the south east of England two MS nurse posts were at risk, but after our intervention the hospital trust agreed to permanently fund the posts.

As part of our Services and Support strategy, we want to use new funding sources to develop new services and ways of supporting people affected by MS, which can increase our organisational reach and impact. Developing this work has taken longer than hoped, as we've needed to put in place new processes and approaches, as well as recruit new staff with the right skills and experience. However this groundwork is now in place and we expect to make significant progress on this work during 2016.

Our Local Networks Programme will be key to transforming our local services - you can read more about it on page 24.

Tackling fatigue

Many people with MS experience debilitating fatigue - an overwhelming sense of tiredness. This can have a huge effect on all aspects of life, from going to work, to socialising, or cooking a meal. Finding ways to help people with MS manage fatigue is one of our research priorities. In 2006, we funded a study showing that a programme using cognitive behavioural therapy and energy effectiveness techniques - known as FACETS - helps people with MS manage and reduce their fatigue.

We're now training health care professionals and volunteers to deliver the FACETS programme to people with MS. In 2015, we surveyed the professionals we've trained so far. From that survey, we estimate that over 1,500 people with MS have received some form of FACETS training from 59 FACETS trained professionals.

Defining excellence

We want to use the best possible evidence to inform our work, so we can make the biggest possible improvements to the lives of as many people affected by MS as possible. Our Models of Excellence programme is aiming to deepen our understanding of the needs of people affected by MS and to define what excellence in services and support looks like to meet those needs. We also plan to use Models of Excellence to influence other service providers and decision makers to provide the most impactful services and support.

In 2015, we commissioned the University of Surrey and Sheffield Hallam University to produce literature reviews looking at: information, advice and advocacy; co-ordinated care; emotional and psychological wellbeing and physical activity.

Working collaboratively with people affected by MS, health and social care professionals and voluntary sector colleagues, we then reviewed the evidence and identified priorities for



Research focus

In 2015, we awarded around **£10,000** to a study that's looking at the **interactions** between people with MS and health care professionals. This project aims to highlight good ways of interacting and provide guidance on how to improve interactions. This means that people with MS would be more likely to get the information they need, and have a positive experience when they see their health care professional.

development. We also established the outcomes that people affected by MS want to see in services, care and treatment.

A listening ear

Our MS Helpline is a vital source of emotional support and practical information for people affected by MS. In 2015, the MS Helpline responded to 14,839 enquiries. Most of these (13,145) came by phone, with email, web contact form, social media, visits and letters making up the rest.

Our MS Helpline is accredited to the Helplines Standard, a nationally recognised quality standard from the Helplines Partnership, which shows that the MS Helpline follows best practice and meets the needs of people affected by MS.

We were one of three charities given a free mystery shop by Connect Assist. We used this opportunity to check that callers to the MS Helpline were having a consistent experience. We were mystery shopped 10 times and the results were encouraging. Call handlers received the highest possible score for listening, and almost 90% received the highest score for empathy. Call handlers also scored highly for use of language, with all their language being deemed clear, and almost 90% positive.

Individual support

In 2015, of the £1.4 million we awarded in grants to people affected by MS, around £1 million went to providing people with MS with responsive care and support.

**Goal 3:
Preventing MS**



Progress in research means that fewer people will develop MS.

Our vision is a world free from the effects of MS. For people with MS, that means no relapses, no accumulation of disability, and no uncertainty. It also means preventing new cases by unravelling the complex interaction between the genetic and environmental factors that cause MS.

We're bringing together scientists from around the world to establish the priorities for MS prevention research and we're investing in studies that could provide some of the answers that will lead to a world without MS.

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A meeting of minds

In November, we joined up with other MS organisations to host our first conference on preventing MS. We brought together 50 delegates, who made four recommendations for the future direction of MS prevention research.

These recommendations were:

- To review messaging around smoking and lifestyle factors for close relatives of people with MS.
- To establish an international working group to look at developing plans for prevention trials.
- To investigate whether MS could be included in plans to trial Epstein-Barr virus vaccines in the USA.
- To focus more research on the underlying biology of MS and risk factors, particularly in the areas of emerging theories.

We'll be working hard to keep MS prevention high on the research agenda in 2016.

Research focus

In 2015, we committed around **£550,000** to two projects that are seeking to understand the causes of MS and ways to prevent it. In one project, scientists in Cambridge are looking for the 'master' genes that control the behaviour of immune cells in people with MS; in the other project, researchers in London will investigate the role of a particular molecule in nerve loss in MS, which could provide new insight into the causes of progressive MS.

Goal 4: Quality Information

People affected by MS will have access to high quality information that meets their needs.

We know people affected by MS want access to independent, reliable, quality information in the format that best suits them. This is vitally important, because information empowers people affected by MS to make decisions about their care. For example, we know that people with relapsing forms of MS who feel they have enough information about medicines are 32% more likely to be taking a disease modifying therapy.

We want people affected by MS to see us as a trusted source of information - whether in print or online - that enables them to make their own informed choices about their condition.

Meeting local needs

In 2015, we held six Living with MS information days across the UK, in Glasgow, Reading, Belfast, Nottingham, Northampton and Cardiff. A total of 894 people attended to hear about the latest MS research, pick up tips on managing their MS, and connect with other people affected by the condition. We developed the programmes for all our Living with MS days to address local needs.



Spotlight on Northern Ireland

320 people attended our Living with MS day in Belfast. We also held three Meet the Consultant events in Lisburn, Omagh and Coleraine, helping over 120 people find out about MS treatments and services.

Spotlight on England

Our Living with MS event in Nottingham was the biggest we've held in England, with 180 people attending. We held the event in collaboration with Nottingham University and the Queen's Medical Centre, which gave us even more opportunity to tailor the content to the area, as there was a focus on presenting local research.

A fresh approach

In 2015, we updated and redesigned nine of our information booklets, transforming them from the text-heavy MS Essentials format to something smaller and more user-friendly, with pictures and illustrations. These included our Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs) and Just Diagnosed booklets, the latter being translated into 14 languages.

We continue to be a certified member of The Information Standard. This quality mark shows our information is clear, accurate, impartial, evidence-based and up to date.

Making a decision about treatments is complex. Our own research has shown the important role of information and support in helping people make informed decisions about getting the right treatment at the right time. For this reason, we knew it was important that we publish our updated DMTs booklet at the same time as our new consensus on early treatment (see Goal 1, page 10).

We then undertook research to understand how helpful the updated DMT booklet is. We asked people with MS to answer some questions about their knowledge of DMTs and possible actions. For the 31 participants who were not taking a DMT, their level of feeling informed doubled after reading the booklet, and all but two said they were now either likely to or very likely to speak to their MS specialist about DMT options. Among all 113 people surveyed, 92% strongly agreed or agreed they found the booklet helpful, and 95% strongly agreed or agreed they would recommend the booklet.

Altogether, in 2015, our information booklets were downloaded 24,873 times and we sent 103,329 printed copies to people who requested them.

During 2015, we had intended to make significant progress on transforming our information provision. We planned to modernise our resources to better meet the changing expectations of people affected by MS, and to reflect evidence on how best to support people to use information to achieve outcomes that are important to them. Due to staffing changes we haven't been able to make the progress we intended, but we have now established robust plans and will implement them from 2016.



Spotlight on Wales

We held five events for people newly diagnosed across Wales. We also held 19 information sessions on Personal Independence Payments, informing more than 250 people about changes to benefits.

Spotlight on Scotland

We held a benefits information event in Edinburgh, which included a discussion on MS and benefits in light of further devolution.

Digital highlights

Our website, mssociety.org.uk, had about 1.9 million unique visitors in 2015. We had the highest number of visitors on World MS Day, when more than 21,000 people headed to the site to find out more about the condition (see Goal 5, page 22). Other highlights included the launch of our new consensus on early treatment (see Goal 1, page 10), which saw more than 14,000 people visit the site, and the launch of our MS: Enough campaign (see Goal 5, page 21), when more than 12,000 people visited.

Our social media communities grew in 2015; we had 44,970 likes on Facebook (a 25% increase compared with 2014) and 34,713 followers on Twitter (a 23% increase), creating a bigger space in which members of our community can share stories and support each other, as well as giving us more opportunities to promote our work to a wide audience.

Our forum (community.mssociety.org.uk/forum) is another space in which our community can share information and support each other. We had 1,485 active forum users in 2015, who posted nearly 30,000 comments on more than 7,000 topics.

Goal 5:

A strong community, independent lives

People affected by MS will be able to live their lives, strengthened by a community that ensures no one has to face MS alone.

We know that MS can be an isolating illness, both for those who have the condition and those who care for them, so it's vital that we create a community that supports everyone affected by the condition.

Giving MS a voice

In the run up to the General Election, we ran our Voice for Change campaign, giving our community the tools and resources they needed to ask candidates to pledge to work for people with MS if elected. Over 1,700 people emailed their candidates, reaching every constituency within the UK.

Of the 106 candidates who responded positively to the Voice for Change campaign, 31 were elected.

After the election, we re-established the All Party Parliamentary Group for MS (APPG) in Westminster. The APPG allows us to give MS a voice in Westminster and helps us campaign for changes that will improve the lives of everyone affected by MS. The group's chair, Simon Hoare MP, was recruited as a direct result of the Voice for Change campaign - he shared his personal connection to MS with us after being emailed by one of our supporters. Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson has also since become an officer of the APPG for MS.

Making welfare make sense

In September, we launched our MS: Enough campaign, calling on the UK government to make the welfare system make sense for people with MS.

We developed the campaign after asking 1,780 people with MS about the role of disability benefits in their lives. They told us the process of claiming benefits could be stressful, and that assessments often ignored invisible symptoms such as pain and fatigue and did not accurately determine the impact of their MS.



Spotlight on Scotland

As part of our MS: Enough campaign, we called on Scotland's decision makers to use the new powers that will be devolved to build a better benefits system for people living with MS. We met with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, who backed our campaign. Across Scotland, we secured extensive media coverage to raise awareness of what needs to change, including stories on STV news and BBC Radio Scotland.

Almost half (48%) of those who responded and who had face-to-face assessments for Employment and Support Allowance said it caused their MS to deteriorate or relapse. The same was true for over a third (36%) of those who had assessments for Personal Independence Payment.

When we launched the campaign, we asked people to sign a petition calling on the UK Government to recognise the reality of living with MS and make welfare make sense. By the end of the year, 18,516 people had signed the petition.

In November, we met Justin Tomlinson MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Disabled People, to discuss the petition and our concerns about why the welfare system isn't making sense for people with MS.

Our video to accompany the campaign, Does Emma need benefits?, had 219,082 views and was named one of the Guardian's charity videos of the year.

As a result of the campaign, Maximus, the organisation that carries out Work Capability Assessments, are looking at the way assessors conduct interviews to improve how they capture the real impact of conditions like MS. They have agreed to work with us and other charities to develop and produce an interview tool for assessors, focusing on the most important issues for people with the condition. They're also considering introducing fluctuating conditions champions in their centres and we're fighting hard to secure their commitment on this.

Elsewhere, the companies that carry out assessments for Personal Independence Payment, Atos and Capita, have agreed to carry out further work to improve their training materials for assessing people with fluctuating conditions.

Shining a light on diagnosis

On World MS Day, we published the results of a survey of over 1,500 people, which showed that four out of five people with MS were initially misdiagnosed. We secured widespread media coverage, including the Guardian, Daily Mail, Daily Telegraph, Sky News, and BBC 5 Live, helping to raise awareness of MS and the difficult journey many people experience on the way to a correct diagnosis.

We created two videos for World MS Day featuring individual experiences of symptoms and waiting for diagnosis. We shared them on social media using the hash tag #inthedark. By the end of the year, over 74,000 people had watched the videos across Facebook and YouTube. Our website received over 21,000 visits on World MS Day, the highest recorded total since Jack Osborne's diagnosis with MS was announced in 2012.

Local reach

Our volunteer-led, local branches are a vital part of our community. In 2015, we identified just over 2,000 services being offered by 268 branches (out of a total of over 270), helping people affected by MS to find friendship, support and information in their local area.

Branches provided a huge range of services and support, such as exercise classes, emotional support over the phone and support groups. Branches also provided a range of social events, giving people affected by MS the chance to make connections and share experiences.

We estimate that our branches reached about 13,000 people with MS – about 13% of the total population of people with the condition. Our local networks programme (see page 24) is our ambitious plan to grow the reach of our branches and support even more people affected by MS.

As well as providing services and support, our branches play an important role in raising funds, both to support our local work and towards other activities, such as our research programme. Branches raised a fantastic £5.3 million pounds in 2015.

Being mindful

Some of our local branches have offered a six week mindfulness course for people with MS.

Research studies, including some that we have funded, have shown that mindfulness-based interventions can help people with MS cope better and can help decrease depression, stress and anxiety.

We conducted before-and-after research with participants on one of these mindfulness courses, in Belfast, using a validated scale for measuring emotional distress. On average, participants experienced improvements in their emotional wellbeing after taking the course.



Spotlight on Northern Ireland

We held over 200 exercise classes across the country, helping about 100 people with MS get active.

Spotlight on Scotland

We supported our local branches to set up two new counselling services in Ayrshire and Dumfries.

Strengthening our local networks

The local networks programme is our ambitious and practical plan to increase the strength of our branches. It's based on our research into what people affected by MS want and need. In 2015, we set out what the programme aims to achieve. It will be rolled out from 2016.

Through our groups across the UK, people affected by MS support each other, provide an important source of information, campaign for change and raise vital funds for our national and local work. In partnership with people affected by MS, we'll be creating exciting opportunities to bring in new funders to support scalable innovation and evidence-based local services.

At the same time, we'll be simplifying administration and providing improved fundraising and campaigning tools to increase our locally raised income and influencing power.

People affected by MS and our dedicated volunteers are at the heart of what we do. We'll be increasing the ways that people can volunteer for us locally so that our community remains strong and supportive to everyone affected by MS.

Supporting volunteers

In 2015, we identified the roles and volunteer numbers that are required to deliver our new strategy. We estimate that we'll need to increase our volunteer numbers from the current level of about 5,500 to over 8,000 by 2019.

We reviewed all the volunteer roles across the organisation and refined them to around 25 roles across seven categories of volunteering. This will help us to develop a clear volunteer journey for each role and ensure that volunteering is a truly rewarding experience.

We also developed and successfully piloted our Volunteer Portal, which will enable branches to access up-to-date membership information online.

Goal 6:

Supporting families and carers



The family and carers of people with MS will have access to the support they need.

We know that the impact of MS goes far beyond the people who have the condition, to their families and carers who also live with the uncertainty of MS. We are working to ensure services recognise the impact MS can have on everyone whose lives are touched by it, and that families and carers can access support and information where and when they need it.

Carer-friendly communities

Carers Week, of which we are an official Supporter, took place from 8-14 June. We support Carers Week to raise awareness of the hugely important role that carers play in society and to encourage service providers, decision makers and employers to create environments that are more supportive of the needs of carers.

The theme for Carers Week 2015 was 'building carer-friendly communities'. Carer-friendly communities are aware of the part played by unpaid carers. They have some understanding of a carer's daily reality - that they can be under a lot of pressure, and are often hidden from view.

Together, our staff and carers of people with MS attended parliamentary events across the UK to raise awareness of the issues carers face with decision makers. At the Houses of Parliament, 132 MPs attended a Carers Week networking event. Our Chief Executive, Michelle Mitchell, attended a roundtable discussion event, which was also attended by Alistair Burt, Minister of State for Community and Social Care, and representatives from NHS England and other Carers Week supporter charities.

Spotlight on Wales

At a Carers Week event at the Senedd, our Council member Terry told Assembly Members about caring for his wife Elaine, who has MS.

Spotlight on Northern Ireland

Around 80 people attended our Carers Week BBQ in Belfast, co-hosted with Carers Northern Ireland, to celebrate the huge contribution made by carers.

Some of our local branches were involved in Carers Week activity. That included hosting events, sharing information for carers or attending other events hosted by the local carers services. For example, our Macclesfield Branch held a Carers Awareness Day, our Derby Branch held a week of events in partnership with other local organisations and our Bexley and Dartford Branch held an information event in partnership with their local carers service, Carers First.

Recognising that we could do more to be a carer-friendly employer, we proudly launched our own MS Society Carers Policy and paid carers' leave entitlement in Carers Week, making us one of the few charities to take this important step to support and retain our valuable staff.



Spotlight on Wales

We worked with Wales' Carers Alliance to protect and improve support for carers. In 2015, the Alliance secured an amendment to legislation so that health boards are still required to plan for carers. Much more needs to be done to ensure that the needs of carers are met. We'll continue to work with the Carers Alliance to monitor the impact of changes to care and support as the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act is introduced during 2016.

Goal 7:

Greater certainty about the future



People with MS will have greater certainty about how their condition will progress.

Life with MS can be scary and unpredictable. One day you might feel fine, the next you might wake up unable to move or see. MS progresses at different rates in different people, so, when someone is diagnosed, no one can tell them what the future holds. We're investing in research to help us better predict the course of the condition.

New Frontiers

In July, 200 of the brightest minds in MS research from around the world attended the 2015 MS Frontiers conference, our flagship event that brings together the scientific community to share the latest developments on stopping MS.

Research that could give people with MS greater certainty about the future was a hot topic of discussion, with sessions addressing a range of subjects. These included: understanding progressive MS so treatments can be developed to target progression; enabling people to make informed decisions about their future by understanding risk factors and personalising treatment and care; and speeding up diagnosis and treatment development through progress in imaging techniques.

A richer picture

Since 2009, we've been funding the MS Register, a ground-breaking study that links information from people with MS to clinical data. In 2015, 1,801 people with MS joined the register, bringing the total number signed up to 12,937, all helping to build a rich picture of what it's like to live with MS in the UK.

In 2015, 3,174 people took part in an MS Register survey on how they feel about the uncertainty around their prognosis and how support could be improved. The information they shared will help researchers improve how people with MS are supported when discussing their prognosis with a health care professional.

Research focus

In 2015, we awarded three grants totalling around **£280,000** to projects that are aiming to give people with MS **more certainty** about the course of their condition. These include a project to test a **new imaging** technique that could help detect MS earlier, a study that will help provide answers to whether **early treatment** improves the prognosis for people with MS, and research looking at how people with relapsing forms of MS can make the **best decisions** about their treatment options.

Our impact

Our 2015 to 2019 organisational strategy commits us to measuring our organisational impact - to understanding the difference we make to the lives of people affected by MS, and using that evidence to increase our future impact. In December 2014, our Board approved our organisational impact framework, which sets out our overall approach to measuring our impact, and during 2015 we began to put this approach into practice.

Throughout this report are some early examples of this work - chosen because they provided an opportunity to develop and test this approach. This has both begun to demonstrate the difference we make, and also helped us to develop further practical but robust ways to understand our impact. Over the coming years we're committed to measuring the impact of all of our work, as we develop and implement new approaches.

Local services and support

This includes our first ever estimate of our local reach - that our local branches support an estimated 13,000 people affected by MS across the UK (see Goal 5, page 23). We have also begun work to understand the impact of these local services and support on the lives of people affected by MS. For example, a simple evaluation of a mindfulness programme in Belfast showed the impact of this programme on reducing the emotional distress of those participating (see Goal 5, page 23). We will be repeating this approach for a range of different local services during 2016 so that we can get a much better understanding of our local impact.

Information resources

We also tested a new approach to measuring the impact of our information resources - using a validated measure through before-and-after surveys to understand the difference our Disease Modifying Therapies booklet made to understanding and decision making (see Goal 4, page 19). This showed the significant difference that the booklet made to people with MS, and that this pragmatic approach can provide high quality and meaningful evidence.

Early treatment

One of our most significant achievements during 2015 was the publication of a new consensus statement on early treatment of relapsing forms of MS (see Goal 1, page 10). This marks an important shift in the community's position on how MS should be treated, with the potential to transform the lives of thousands of people affected by MS. We'll continue to monitor the impact of this work, to ensure that people with MS across the UK are able to access the right treatment, at the right time.

Fatigue management

Measuring the impact of research can be particularly challenging, as progress in research can take many years to translate to meaningful benefits to people. However, during 2015 we did just that - following up the roll-out of a fatigue management programme which had been successfully evaluated and shown to be effective in an MS Society funded clinical trial, published in 2013. Since 2014 we have been facilitating training for health professionals to give them the skills to provide the programme to people affected by MS locally, and a follow-up survey showed that they had reached over 1,500 people with MS through the programme (see Goal 2, page 15).

Our plans for 2016

In 2016, we'll be focusing on eight priority activities that will take us closer to achieving our goals.

- We'll increase our investment in research and prepare for a multi-group adaptive trial for progressive MS, to further speed up the search for effective treatments.
- We'll introduce innovative services, locally and nationally, to improve life for people affected by MS. This work, which is part of the implementation of our Services and Support Strategy, will also extend our reach and help us attract new funders.
- We'll change the way we support people affected by MS locally, mobilise our community and grow our local income by implementing our local networks programme. The programme will also help us improve our impact and help our volunteers have a better, more satisfying experience.
- We'll mobilise our community to improve awareness and understanding of MS and influence key stakeholders by sustaining our investment in campaigning and communications. This investment will also help us generate more income.
- We'll implement our new fundraising strategy, and invest in key areas to secure, grow and diversify our income.
- We'll continue to improve our understanding of the needs of people affected by MS and the most effective ways to meet these needs. This will help us improve our decision making and prioritisation, enhance our reputation, and grow our income.

- We'll improve our organisational culture, behaviour and performance by beginning the implementation of our people strategy.
- We'll review our infrastructure needs to ensure that we continue to have the resources we need to achieve our strategy and to meet the changing needs of people affected by MS, our staff and volunteers.

We'll continue to involve people affected by MS in our work, harnessing their insight, experience and knowledge. And we'll work hard to ensure we reach out to those parts of the MS community that we don't currently reach.

We'll report on our performance against these key activities next year.

Our people

Over **33,000** members
Around **5,500** volunteers
More than **280** staff members
One aim: to stop MS

Our loyal members, dedicated volunteers and passionate staff make us who we are. We'd like to thank every single one of them for their contributions in 2015.

Our volunteers

Volunteers are the cornerstone of the MS Society - they make significant contributions to two thirds of our activities, from running our local branches, to operating our MS Helpline and blogging on our website. We simply would not be able to achieve all of the things we do without them.

We were delighted to be able to say a special thank you to our volunteers in 2015, at a reception at 10 Downing Street, hosted by Samantha Cameron.

We send our heartfelt thanks to everyone who gave their time freely to build a stronger MS community in 2015. You are true MS heroes.

Our campaigners

Our campaigns community enables us to speak with the voice of thousands of people affected by MS, calling on decision makers to make meaningful changes to improve life for people affected by MS.

Our campaigners tackle both local and national issues, from fighting to keep MS nurses or get treatment clinics in their area, to calling on their MPs to improve the welfare system.

When it comes to campaigning, we know every voice counts and we want to thank all those who call for change.

Our MS Society Ambassadors

In 2015, we were delighted to name four new MS Society Ambassadors. They are volunteers who've pledged to work closely with us and use their public profiles to raise awareness of MS and our work in the media, helping us reach a wider audience. Our Ambassadors are:

Trishna Bharadia

Trishna, who has MS, was named Volunteer of the Year at the MS Society Awards in 2013 for her work with support group Asian MS. She also competed on BBC One's The People's Strictly in 2015.

Tony Johnstone

Tony, who has MS, is a golfer and Sky Sports commentator. He's raised awareness of his experience of living with MS in many interviews and raised significant funds for our work through the golfing world.

Scott Mills

BBC Radio 1 DJ and broadcaster Scott Mills' mother Sandra and friend and colleague Beccy Huxtable both have MS. He's given interviews on TV and in the press, organised fundraising events, fronted campaigns and hosted the MS Society Awards in 2014.

Oritsé Williams

Solo artist and former JLS founding member Oritsé was a young carer for his mother Sonia who has MS. He's helped to raise awareness and funds in many ways, including helping judge Young Carer of the Year for the MS Society Awards in 2014.

Stuart Nixon

Our new team members join existing Ambassador Stuart Nixon MBE, whose incredible achievements during nearly 20 years of volunteering for us include Stu Steps Up, a 60 kilometre walk with the aid of a specially adapted walking frame in 2013, inspiring our MS Walk event. Stuart won the Lifetime Achievement Award at the MS Society Awards in 2013.

Our staff

Our staff are committed to bringing about positive change for people affected by MS.

We offer our staff a compelling vision and strategy which will bring with it opportunities to have an impact on, and make a difference for, people affected by MS. The opportunity to work alongside brilliant people who share the same set of values and who are high performing individuals with drive and energy. Clearly defined roles, inspiring leadership, opportunities for personal growth in an environment conducive to equality and inclusion, where people support each other in the pursuit of our goals.

Our staff have a voice and the opportunity to influence what they do and how they do it; with career and development opportunities aimed at helping people to achieve high performance and move towards future volunteering or staff roles. Roles that bring with them rewarding experiences that encourage people to engage and give willingly of their discretionary time and effort in an environment that recognises the impact people have made.

We believe that our organisation should reflect society and the communities we serve, visibly having equality, diversity and inclusion at its heart. We actively seek to increase the levels of people working and volunteering with us from under represented groups.

We are a member of the Jobcentre Plus Positive About Disability scheme, and are showing our commitment to employing, retaining, training and developing the careers of disabled employees. Around 15% of our employees have informed us that they have a disability.

We want all our staff to enjoy working for us and to feel supported in their career development. Every two years, we conduct a staff survey to find out exactly what our workers are thinking. The 2015 survey was particularly important as it came after a period of change in the organisation, as we restructured to better enable us to deliver our new 2015-2019 strategy.

The 2015 survey showed strong support from employees for our vision and goals. People also told us they believed we were a well organised and well run charity. There was huge commitment to MS and individuals had a strong desire to do a good job.

But the survey also identified areas for improvement, particularly around creating a stronger organisational culture in which people feel free to express ideas and try new approaches, improving engagement, and providing more opportunities for development.

As a result of the staff survey, we've developed a People Strategy that we are introducing in 2016. The strategy outlines how we'll attract, retain, develop, lead and manage the people we need to deliver our organisational strategy and goals and make the MS Society an even better place to work.

Funding our aims

Legacies

In 2015, the kind supporters who chose to remember us in their wills left gifts totalling more than £9.3 million. This represents 34% of our income, making legacies, and the people who leave them, incredibly important to our work.

The supporters who leave us a gift in their will make a generous and selfless contribution to future generations, and we really appreciate every legacy, big or small.

Legacy income was £1.4 million less than we expected in 2015, but legacies do fluctuate and we don't foresee this being a downward trend.

Local heroes

Our local branches contribute a huge amount to our fundraising, generating more than £5 million in 2015 (in line with our expectations). For example, our Hull, Beverly and Holderness Branch celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2015 and raised over £60,000 for MS research. And our Tamworth Branch raised around £2,000 from various charitable trusts to support new activities, such as a singing group and ukulele band.

#WrapUpMS

Our Christmas appeal focused on myelin repair research. Traditionally, our big annual fundraising appeals have been built around a letter and information pack that we post to our supporters. This year, we increased our digital activity around the campaign. One of our young supporters, 12 year-old Sam, who has MS, helped us by interviewing researcher Dr Veronique Miron for a series of short films about myelin repair. 21,658 people watched the three videos and there was a 760% increase in new users visiting our website from YouTube during the appeal.

We also invited our supporters to #WrapUpMS and post a #scarfie on Twitter, encouraging them to send a text message to donate £3 when they did so, turning a fun way of raising awareness into a fundraising opportunity. Altogether, the Christmas appeal raised more than £308,000 for MS research.

The Christmas appeal was just one part of our direct marketing, which also included other cash appeals. Altogether, direct marketing raised £4.8 million in 2015.

Running and riding to stop MS

We had a great year of running and cycling events. More than 270 brave souls took on the London Marathon, raising a staggering £580,000. Other running highlights included marathons in Brighton, Paris, Cardiff, Belfast and Edinburgh as well as the Great North Run and Great Manchester Run.

Our cycling events were also popular in 2015, with 140 people taking part in the Ride 100 through London and Surrey, 60 navigating their way from London to Brighton and 20 taking on the challenge of a lifetime by riding the length of the UK, from Land's End to John O'Groats.

Altogether, our running and riding challenges raised more than £1.5 million. Well done to all our MS Superstars!

Cake Break

Cake Break is a fantastic excuse for people to get together to catch up, show off their baking skills and raise funds towards better treatments, support and information for people affected by MS. In 2015, our fabulous Cake Breakers raised over £230,000 and got creative to raise awareness of MS - one baker even made an oligodendrocyte cell from chocolate rolls and strawberry laces to show how MS can affect the nervous system.

We'd like to say a big 'Thank You' to all our Cake Break hosts who make these events such a success!

MS Walk

The South Bank turned orange in September when more than 700 of our supporters took to the Thames Pathway for our MS Walk. Among them was MS Society Ambassador, Stuart Nixon. He told us why he loves the event: 'Walking the Thames was fantastic; sharing tales with fellow MSers along the way, hearing the stories and the many reasons that had brought them there. We walked, rolled or ran the course, but however we did it, we made the statement that MS is there to be beaten.'

Altogether, our community and events fundraising - which includes running and cycling, Cake Break, the MS Walk and other challenges - generated £4.2 million in 2015, slightly below our expectation of £4.6 million.

Partnership fundraising

Our ambitious and dynamic partnership fundraising team works with trusts, foundations, statutory funding sources, major donors and companies across the UK to build networks and secure funding that will help us provide vital support to people affected by MS - until we stop MS for good.

They develop proposals and asks, cultivate relationships with individuals, build partnerships with organisations and host special events to raise our profile and raise money.

In 2015, the team began to expand its work and identify and work with donors who'll be able to make significant contributions to our major new fundraising appeal for MS research.

Altogether in 2015, partnership fundraising raised £3.5 million.

Trading activities

Our trading activities, such as our online shop and our Easter and Christmas raffles, also made a significant contribution to our fundraising in 2015, generating £1.7 million.

Our supporter promise

Our supporters make a huge difference to the lives of all those affected by MS. We believe supporting the MS Society should be a positive and rewarding experience, and so, in 2015, we set out our promise to supporters:

To always listen and respect your wishes

If you would like to change the way you hear from us, or do not want to hear from us again, we will respect your decision. We will be especially careful and sensitive when speaking to people we believe to be vulnerable.

To be honest and transparent about where your money goes

We will always use your donations responsibly and carefully and keep you up to date on how they are making a difference to people affected by MS.

To respect any personal information you share with us

Your personal information is safe with us. We will never sell on or swap your personal details and will only contact you in ways you're happy to hear from us.

To be accountable and committed to the highest standards

We will always strive for the highest standards in our fundraising and adhere to best practice and will demand the same from all partner agencies we work with.

To listen and learn from you

We will always strive to make your experience of the MS Society a positive and rewarding one. We will listen and respond to your feedback to ensure we continuously improve our relationship with you.

Financial review

How we raised our money

Donations rose strongly in 2015, from £12.3 million to £15.2 million (a 23.2% increase). This was mainly due to a big push to raise funds through partnership fundraising, which is an area we had previously been less strong in. The focus was to raise funds for research - in 2014 we raised £2.0 million restricted to research, whereas in 2015 we obtained £4.7 million restricted to research. Given the prevailing difficult circumstances, with other charities looking for more voluntary income following reduced government funding and negative press coverage of charities generally, this result was excellent. The aim is to build a designated fund for research to enable us to invest in clinical trials from 2018 onwards.

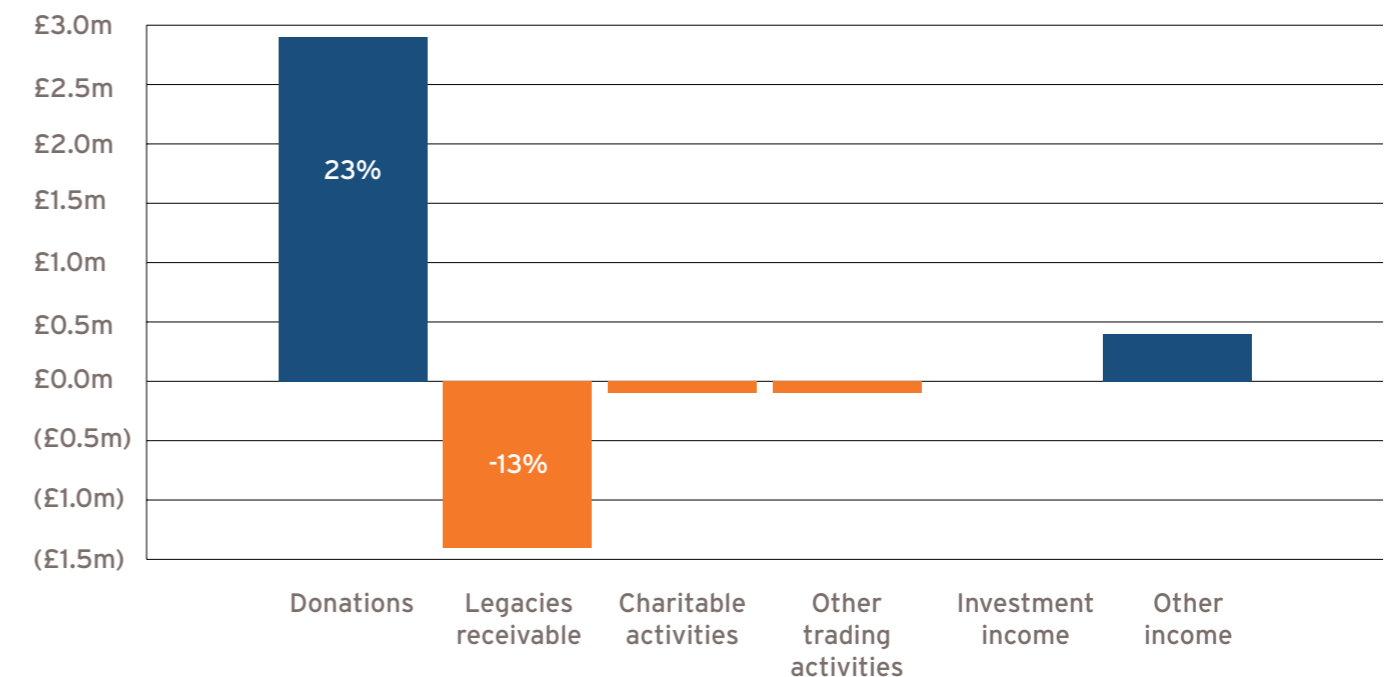
Legacy income fell 13.2% to £9.3 million from £10.7 million in 2014. Legacy income

is unpredictable and we do get swings in income from time to time as we receive the occasional large legacy. As we look to increase the amount we receive in donations we are hoping to be less reliant on legacy income. But at the same time, we are looking to increase our legacy marketing activities to at least maintain (if not grow) our legacy income for the future.

Income from charitable activities was slightly lower at £843,000 (£924,000 in 2014). This was due to the receipt of less grant funding for charitable activities and one grant that had to be refunded (£26,000).

Income from other trading activities decreased due to receiving commission from the Christmas catalogue rather than purchasing the goods and then selling them.

Movement in income comparing 2015 to 2014



Overall income rose 6.5% in 2015.

How we spent our money

Spending to raise funds

To meet our ambitious new strategy we will need to increase our income. To facilitate this, we have boosted our investment in fundraising, particularly in the area of partnership fundraising. As a result, our expenditure on raising funds increased by 28% to £6.9 million. Included within raising funds are 'new donor acquisition costs', which relates to activity done to attract new donors. This includes the cost of setting up our major appeal for MS research (see page 12), such as identifying high-value donors who could contribute to it. Net return on fundraising is expected to be higher when significant donations are received. Other donor acquisition activity has concentrated on maintaining the size of our current donor base.

Spending to meet our goals

Our new strategy for 2015 to 2019 was based on the priority areas that people with MS told us we should focus on - our seven strategic goals. We have restated 2014 expenditure items under the new goals. We undertook a major people change programme in 2014 to ensure we were ready to meet the demands of the new strategy, with many new roles being created and others disappearing, with the overall net effect of keeping staffing at the same level. The effect of these changes has resulted in some of the swings in expenditure between the two years.

The graph on pages 38 and 39 outlines some of the activity that has taken place in respect to each goal.

Expenditure on effective treatments (Goal 1) was £762,000 higher than 2014 (a 26% increase). We have increased our focus on this area because people affected by MS told us it should be our number one priority. We awarded an additional £200,000 in research grants targeted towards effective treatments, with most of the rest of the increase being spent on policy and campaigns work associated with effective treatments.

Expenditure on responsive care and support (Goal 2) fell by £417,000 due partly to a drop in individual grants awarded, from £1.2 million to £1.0 million. About a third of the costs of MS Life, our flagship lifestyle event, are allocated against this goal. We hold MS Life every two years, and since there was no MS Life in 2015, this also lowered expenditure (£124,000 was allocated against Goal 2 in 2014 for MS Life). The people change programme contributed to most of the rest of the drop in expenditure.

Most of the expenditure on preventing MS (Goal 3) is research grants to universities. In 2015 we awarded additional grants of £283,000 in this area compared to 2014.

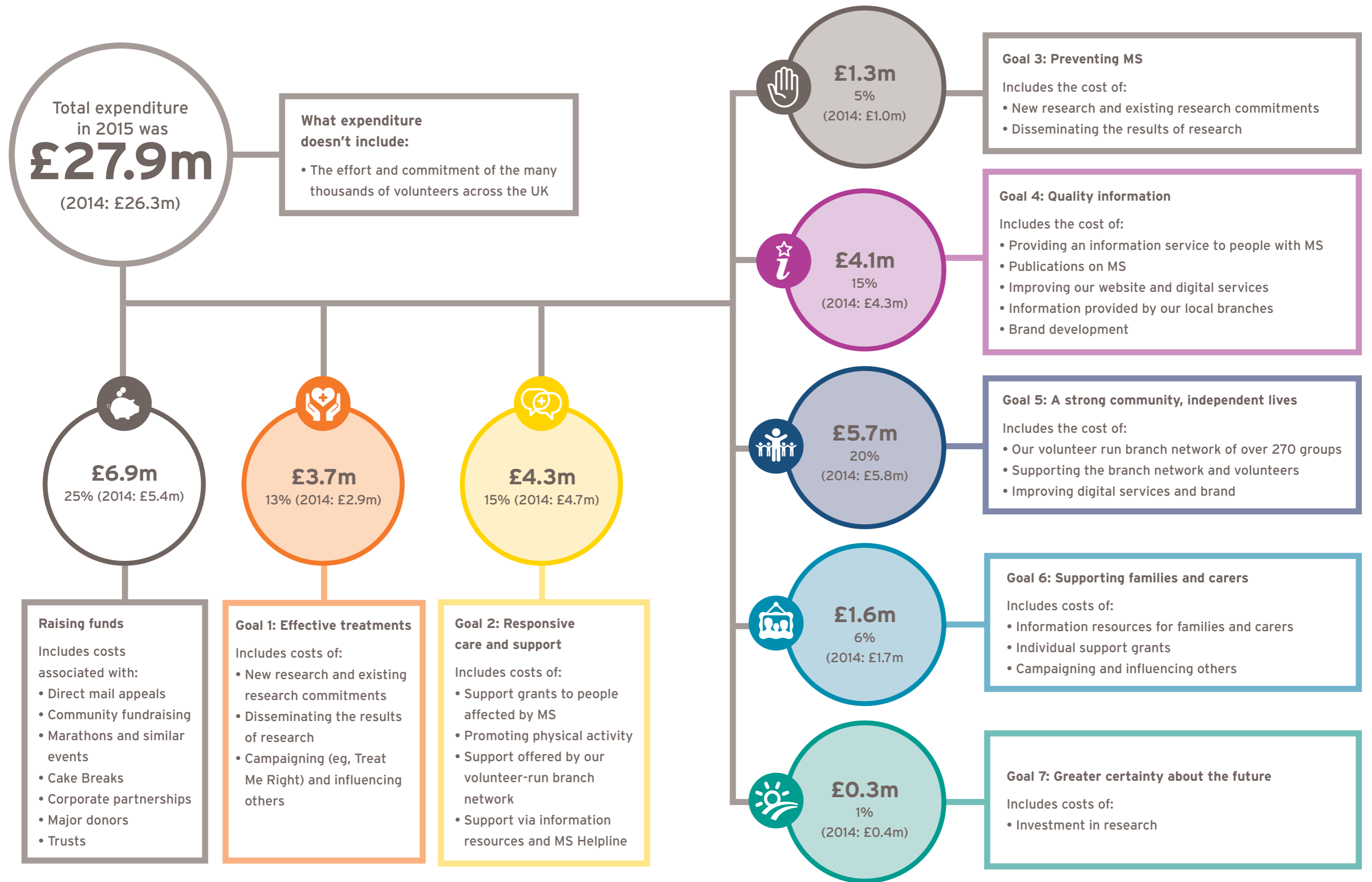
Quality information (Goal 4) saw a slight reduction in expenditure in 2015 to £4.1 million from £4.3 million, primarily due to there being no MS Life in 2015.

Expenditure on a strong community, independent lives (Goal 5) dropped to £5.7 million from £5.8 million, primarily as a result of the people change programme, which led to a decrease in operational delivery costs.

Expenditure on supporting families and carers (Goal 6) dropped to £1.6 million from £1.7 million, which is mostly accounted for by a slight decrease in support grants to individuals.

The drop in expenditure on greater certainty about the future (Goal 7) related to there not being an MS Life in 2015 (which brought costs down by £124,000).

Support costs increased due to a number of one-off factors. The change programme to align the MS Society with the new 2015 to 2019 strategy was a significant step in modernising the charity and putting into place not only benchmark practices, process and systems but also ensuring we are agile enough to be responsive to a quickly changing environment and that required investment. Also included here was a strengthening of the team that looks at strategy and impact as we look to ensure we achieve our goals and are able to demonstrate, clearly, the impact we make to the lives of people affected by MS. We upgraded our IT and Finance systems in 2015. Overall there was an increase of 12.5% in support costs in 2015 compared to 2014.



Grant making policy

The MS Society awards several types of grants to meet its objectives. The major types are support grants and research grants.

Support grants

The MS Society provides financial assistance to individuals with MS, their families and carers. These grants help with a range of costs associated with daily living, including the cost of home adaptations, mobility aids, short breaks and respite care. Funded by local donations, administered through our volunteer branch network and complemented with centrally held funds, the MS Society awarded £1.4 million in support grants in 2015.

Research grants

The MS Society provides grants for research in the areas of cure, cause and quality of life. These grants cover small and large projects, PhDs and fellowships. The MS Society's current priority for research is around progressive MS – more specifically in the areas of myelin repair, protecting nerves from damage and symptom relief. We actively pursue research collaboration both as a funder and a source of considerable expertise. The MS Society committed over £4.2 million to research grants in 2015.

Review of reserves

In planning and budgeting for its activities, the MS Society considers the level of reserves held to strike a balance between the continuing development of our services and the need for prudent management of our working assets and commitments, as well as providing for contingencies.

In determining an appropriate level of reserves the MS Society has used various scenarios, taking into account:

- Our working capital requirements.
- The key risks contained in our corporate risk register, their potential effect on reserves and the time frame in which any reduction in reserves would occur.
- How we could mitigate the effect on reserves of key risks crystallising.
- Unexpected opportunities to further the achievement of the MS Society's goals and/or unexpected additional expenditure.

The MS Society defines reserves as unrestricted reserves that are freely available to spend on our charitable purpose. During 2015, the Board of Trustees established a designated fund for research in order to be able to make a significant investment into clinical trials within the next five years. The balance of the designated fund for research is included within the definition of reserves as it is freely available to spend.

The MS Society's reserves policy is to keep between 10 to 14 weeks of planned expenditure. The balance of the designated fund for research is added to the upper limit to ensure that the reserves policy does not restrict the MS Society's ambition to make a significant investment into clinical trials.

The following are excluded from planned expenditure for the purposes of calculating the reserves policy level:

- Any planned expenditure which is met from restricted funds held on 31 December 2015.
- Any planned expenditure which is dependent on receiving income for it.

The total funds held at the end of the 2015 amounted to £16.2 million. Included within the funds are:

- £2.8 million of restricted funds.
- £1.4 million of designated fund for research (included in reserves).
- £5.9 million that relates to the carrying value of fixed assets (which are not restricted) and shown as a designated fund in the accounts.
- £6.0 million of general reserves.

At the end of 2015, total reserves held of £7.4 million was within the reserves policy level of between £5.2 million and £8.9 million.

Going concern

We have set out above a review of financial performance and the charity's reserves position. We have adequate financial resources and are well placed to manage the business risks. Our planning process, including financial projections, has taken into consideration the current economic climate and its potential impact on the various sources of income and planned expenditure. Although the MS Society has net current liabilities, the investment portfolio could easily be drawn down should working capital be required.

We believe that there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the charity's ability to continue. The accounts have therefore been prepared on the basis that the charity is a going concern.

Investment policy

Rathbone Investment Management Limited became the MS Society's investment managers on 26 September 2014 following a transfer of the charity business from Jupiter Asset Management Limited. From inception the portfolio has generated a return of 40.4% (the point at which Jupiter Asset Management Limited took over the portfolio on 30 June 2012).

In 2015, the main portfolio was monitored on a total return basis using consumer price inflation (CPI) plus 3%. The portfolio achieved a total annual return of 8.7% against a benchmark of 3.2%.

Bonds must be of investment grade. There is a mandatory exclusion placed on the equity portfolio (see Socially Responsible Investment policy below).

During 2015, the performance review of the MS Society's investment funds was delegated to the Investment Committee which met twice a year in London. Quarterly reports from the Investment Manager were considered by the Investment Committee members. Reports were made to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee and Board of Trustees following each quarterly review. The Board of Trustees carries out an annual review of the investment principles under which the managers operate and the terms of reference under which the Investment Committee operates.

Overall the MS Society received investment income in 2015 of £220,000 (2014: £203,000) from the investment portfolios and a net investment gain of £809,000 in 2015 (2014: £304,000).

Socially responsible investment

The MS Society has adopted a Socially Responsible Investment position that seeks to ensure that our investments do not conflict with our stated vision and mission, and that minimises the risk of stakeholder alienation and damage to the MS Society's reputation.

There are a number of areas where the MS Society wishes to exercise discretion, as far as investments are concerned, in the context of our vision and mission, because they potentially pose a reputational risk to the MS Society. Examples of the areas that are of particular interest to the MS Society include disability rights, residential care, and financial services and insurance, typically areas which are of concern to people affected by MS. The MS Society's policy is not to invest in tobacco companies.

The MS Society may direct an Investment Manager to withdraw from investment in particular companies if it becomes aware of serious and persistent poor performance in the areas outlined above. The MS Society will endeavour to apply these principles where practical, and will work in partnership with the Investment Manager to implement the policy, but it is the responsibility of the MS Society to identify any specific stocks that are to be embargoed.

Principal risks and uncertainties

The MS Society is committed to effective risk management as an integral part of ensuring good corporate governance. Informed risk-taking helps to improve performance, manage our threats and opportunities and to create an environment of 'no surprises'. This enables us to get the right balance between innovation and change and the avoidance of shocks and crises. Risk management provides the framework and process that enables the MS Society to manage uncertainty in a systematic, effective and efficient way.

The MS Society's risk management processes are designed to enable us to conclude whether the major risks to which the MS Society is exposed have been identified and reviewed. This is carried out with advice from the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee, which considers reports from the MS Society's internal auditors and the MS Society's management team.

Internal audit carries out reviews across the MS Society based on a three year audit plan; these reports comment on the systems of internal control. The MS Society's systems and procedures that have been established to mitigate these risks are in accordance with the Charity Commission's requirements and Company law. Risks are assessed in terms of their financial and reputational impact and their impact on the delivery of the MS Society's seven strategic goals. Major risks are those which have a high likelihood of occurring and would have a severe impact on the achievement of the MS Society's seven core goals. As Trustees, the Board concentrates its efforts on ensuring the most serious risks are being managed effectively. There is a quarterly review by the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee following which, the Board receives the risk register as well as undertaking a more detailed review twice a year. The MS Society is confident the methodology enables major risks to be identified throughout the organisation.

Principal risks and uncertainties facing the MS Society	Summary plans and strategy to manage these risks
Effective people, including staff and volunteers	<p>The MS Society is developing and implementing a people strategy. There are also various staff development programmes.</p> <p>There are internal communications aimed at motivating and informing staff.</p> <p>We are also developing and implementing a volunteering strategy. Our local networks programme will also cover volunteer roles in our volunteer-run branch network.</p>
Sufficient financial resources and IT infrastructure	<p>To ensure sufficient financial resources the MS Society has a three-year plan and budget cycle with regular financial reporting. Further improvements are planned to financial reporting.</p> <p>A fundraising strategy outlines how the MS Society will raise the money to meet its strategic goals.</p> <p>A new fundraising appeal for research has been launched (successfully), currently targeted at major donors and partnerships.</p> <p>We recognise that the capability of technology and the use of data is changing rapidly. The Data and Technology strategy will set out how we can seize the opportunities which these changes can bring to make the MS Society a more impactful, efficient and effective charity.</p>
Specific programme risks (research, mobilisation and campaigning and local networks programme) and demonstrating organisational impact	<p>This covers a number of different areas. Each area has its own risk register, which is reviewed by the specific project group. Depending on the size and risk associated with a project, a further review may be undertaken by senior management and/or Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.</p> <p>To ensure delivery of major programmes of work, various performance and impact measurers are in place.</p> <p>An impact framework is being put in place to ensure we are demonstrating organisational impact. We have made incremental improvements in this area. Significant improvements are planned on impact reporting.</p>

Structure, governance and management

The 'Multiple Sclerosis Society' (the 'MS Society') is a charitable company limited by membership guarantees, registered in England and Wales, company number 07451571 and with a registered charity number 1139257. It was incorporated on 25 November 2010. It is linked via a uniting direction to its precursor, an unincorporated charity, 'The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' (MSS GB&NI) with a registered charity number 1139257/1 (formerly 207495).

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was formed under a Charter of Constitution dated 26 November 1953. At the 2010 Annual General Meeting of MSS GB&NI, members voted to become an incorporated charitable company with a single constitution, with the charity Trustees becoming its directors.

On 1 February 2011 most of the assets of MSS GB&NI were transferred to the new incorporated charity, the Multiple Sclerosis Society. The respite care centre activity was retained in MSS GB&NI and has been subsequently transferred to other organisations.

On the 4 December 2014 a resolution was passed by Trustees of both MSS GB&NI and the MS Society for the MS Society to become the sole Trustee and sole member of MSS GB&NI, in place of the individual Trustees of the MS Society.

The MS Society is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The MS Society is registered with OSCR as a cross-border charity, number SC041990.

Main purposes

The MS Society was set up with three main objects:

- To support and relieve people affected by multiple sclerosis.
- To encourage people affected by multiple sclerosis to attain their full potential as members of society by improving their conditions of life.
- To promote research into multiple sclerosis and allied conditions and to publish the results.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees (members of which are also directors under company law) is the governing body of the MS Society. Its principal role is to establish the policies, systems and procedures of the charity and to ensure the effective and equitable use of the MS Society's resources in pursuit of its objects. The rules which it may make include those relating to electoral processes, the supervision and accountability of officers and committees (at branch and national levels) and codes of conduct.

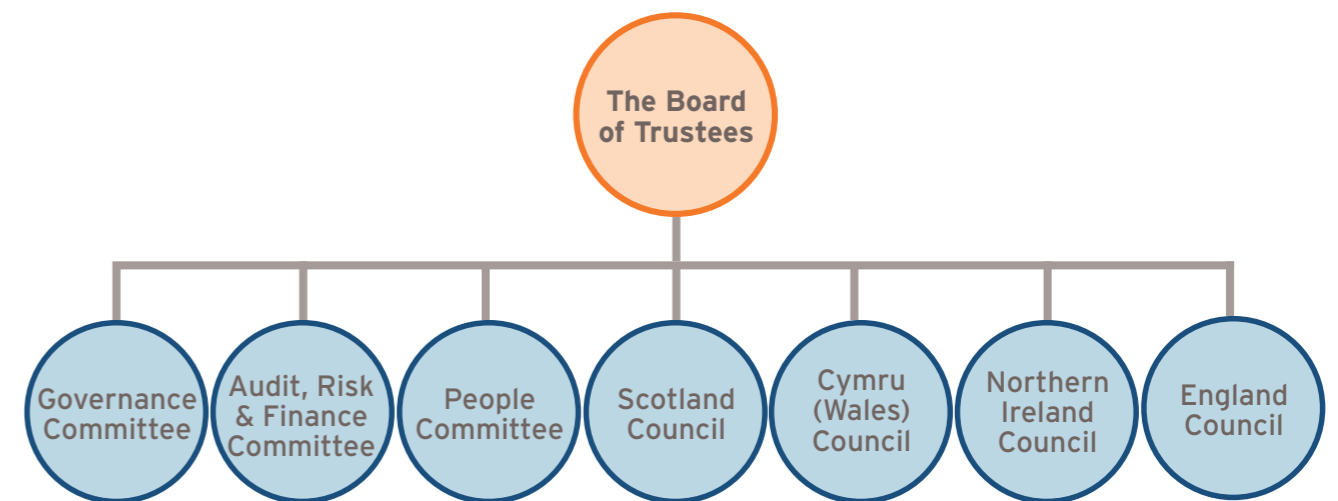
Trustees, who are volunteers, are responsible for the overall governance, policy and work of the MS Society. The majority of the Board is directly elected by the membership on the basis of one member, one vote. Trustees are elected to serve a term of three years and may be elected to serve a further consecutive term of three years, before a break of at least one year. Any member may apply to become a Trustee, provided they are entitled to under law and the MS Society's rules. A Trustee must be a member of the MS Society.

The Chairman of the MS Society is selected by the Board and may serve for one term of five years. The Treasurer is appointed by the Board for a three year term of office and may serve for two consecutive terms before a break of at least one year. Both the Chairman and the Treasurer may be co-opted by the Board (rather than being elected Trustees) for their skill-sets.

The Board may elect from its own number, at its first Board meeting following the AGM, a Vice Chair and an Assistant Treasurer to serve for a term of one year. A Trustee holding either of these roles can serve a maximum of three years in that role before a break of at least one year.

Each new Trustee receives an induction to the MS Society, which includes an emphasis on the MS Society's charitable objects and briefings on the key responsibilities of Trustees and the Board. The MS Society ensures Trustees receive ongoing support including familiarisation with its strategy, structure, workings, staff and volunteers, finance and health and safety. Trustees attend board-led events to discuss organisational strategy and receive regular feedback on the MS Society's work.

Committees of the Board



Board delegation

The Board delegates the exercise of certain powers in connection with the management and administration of the MS Society to the Chief Executive and her staff through the Scheme of Delegation which is available on the MS Society's website. The Board has seven committees.

Governance Committee is responsible, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, for governance issues within the MS Society across the UK, and also ensures that the distinct national voices of members are factored into the Board's decision making processes. As well as Trustees its members include the Chairs of the national councils.

Audit, Risk and Finance Committee provides detailed oversight, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, of the financial affairs of the MS Society, ensuring the financial viability of the charity, efficient, effective and proper use of its resources and safeguarding its assets. It also provides detailed oversight, on behalf of the Board, of the charity's systems for internal control and risk management and the operation of the arrangements for value for money. The current Chair of the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee is independent and not a Trustee.

The Audit, Risk and Finance Committee also oversaw the work of the MS Society's Investment Committee, which included independent professionals as well as Trustees.

People Committee provides, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, detailed oversight of the MS Society's strategy in relation to employees and volunteers. It includes a sub-group which monitors the performance and remuneration of the Chief Executive.

Four National Councils provide a voice for members in the individual nations of the UK, are an ambassador and advocate for people with MS and help to ensure that the MS Society's UK wide strategy is appropriately tailored within their nation. There is a national council in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Chief Executive and senior management

The Chief Executive is responsible for the day-to-day management of the charity's affairs and for implementing policies agreed by the Board. The Chief Executive is assisted by a group of senior managers and manages the MS Society's staff and volunteers. The Board approves the delegation of financial authority through the Chief Executive to the staff and volunteers within the MS Society.

Offices and branches

The MS Society has offices in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London. Its office in London, known as the MS National Centre (MSNC), serves as the MS Society's main and registered office.

The MS Society has over 270 groups, which are mostly volunteer run, including:

- The vast majority which cover geographic regions, providing information, support and access to a range of services to people affected by MS at a local level.
- MS Society national support groups for Asians affected by MS (Asian MS) and people currently or formerly working in the Armed Forces (Mutual Support).
- Other branches or groups which have been set up to raise funds or for other specific purposes.

The MS Society also works closely with other MS charities.

Volunteers

The MS Society has approximately 5,500 committed and active volunteers, many of whom have a personal connection to MS. Their personal commitment has been the cornerstone of the MS Society's success in delivering its goals.

The MS Society aims to provide the best possible experience to all those who choose to volunteer for the MS Society. The focus currently is on the development of a volunteering strategy to ensure we can continue to deliver effectively the organisation's goals and aims. The other priorities are: ensuring compliance whilst keeping our processes lean; increasing the ways we recognise our volunteers; improving the overall support we provide for our volunteers; and ensuring the diversity of our volunteer base so that it reflects the communities we serve.

Volunteers give around 700,000 hours to the MS Society each year. This is based on the average hours of 5,500 volunteers giving up their time, volunteering across the breadth of the organisation. Contributions by volunteers include acting as Trustees and council members, fundraising, providing expert professional advice, working to support and care for individuals affected by MS, and delivering services through our branches. Local support to people affected by MS is reliant on this indispensable group of people and they are crucial in our achievement of our goals.

It is difficult for us to put a value on the skills, care, devotion and commitment of our volunteers in working for people with MS.

Staff

The MS Society's approach to employing people with disabilities

The MS Society is dedicated to attracting and retaining a talented and diverse workforce and aims to be an exemplary employer of people with MS and other disabilities. The MS Society's commitment to non-discrimination is embedded in our policies, procedures and practice.

The MS Society makes reasonable adjustments to support disabled staff to meet their full potential by implementing best employment practice, tackling discrimination and removing access barriers, where reasonably practicable to do so. Staff with disabilities are given equal access to learning, development and promotion opportunities.

Keeping staff informed

The MS Society aims to be an organisation where staff members enjoy working and where they feel supported and developed.

The MS Society has well-established arrangements for consulting and involving staff in our work. There is a weekly email update, monthly staff newsletter and an intranet site to keep staff fully informed of the organisation's strategy and objectives. A quarterly staff meeting with the Chief Executive is held, keeping staff up to date on the performance of the MS Society, including its financial position. Also available to staff are the MS Society's Board of Trustees papers, which are on the MS Society's website. A joint negotiating and consultation committee – formed of union representatives, staff representatives and members of the Executive Group – meets monthly to discuss staff and organisation wide issues.

All managers hold regular meetings with their teams and individual staff to increase engagement and facilitate informal and formal discussion, information sharing and consultation on issues as appropriate. Individual performance is formally reviewed twice a year and is aligned with organisational goals. Learning and development is an integral part of the staff appraisal process, which also includes less formal, more regular meetings.

Remuneration

The MS Society aims to pay salaries which are fair, competitive within the charity sector and proportionate to the complexity of each role. In determining the right level of pay the MS Society:

- Has a detailed job evaluation process which is then benchmarked against Croner Charity Rewards.
- Aims to pay salaries at the median of charity sector salaries. The MS Society does not look to compete with private or public sector salaries.
- Is committed to ensuring that all staff are paid the living wage as defined by the Living Wage Foundation.
- Currently pays a dispersion ratio of approximately 4:1 between the highest salary and the median salary.

Remuneration for key management personnel
Trustees are not remunerated. Remuneration for other key management personnel is handled in the same way as for all other staff except for the Chief Executive which is decided by the sub-group of the People Committee but is also based on the same principles as for all other staff.

Relationship between the MS Society and its subsidiaries

The Multiple Sclerosis Society owns two shares in MSS (Trading) Limited. The principal activities of MSS (Trading) Limited include the sale of greeting cards, novelties and promotional activities for the benefit of the MS Society. MS Society Nominees Limited, a company limited by guarantee without share capital, holds the title deeds of the MS Society's property portfolio.

Joint venture - Neurological Commissioning Support Limited

Neurological Commissioning Support Limited (NCS) was a joint venture company limited by guarantee set up by the Motor Neurone Disease Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Parkinson's UK. The company was established in April 2011 to provide consultancy and other services to help improve the way services were commissioned for multiple sclerosis and other conditions. In 2014 the three charities decided to close NCS and pursue its objectives in other ways.

Public benefit

Senior management and Trustees of the Multiple Sclerosis Society have complied with the duty in s.4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission in administering the MS Society, in determining achievements against the aims they had set for 2015 and in planning activities for 2016.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities and corporate governance

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year and Trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- Select the most suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- Make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable group will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's

transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and ensuring their proper application under charity law and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as each of the Trustees is aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor are unaware
- the Trustees have each taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP has indicated its willingness to be reappointed as statutory auditor.

Approved by the Board of Trustees of the MS Society on 19 May including, in their capacity as company directors, the strategic report contained therein, and signed on its behalf by:

Lucy Fuller
Assistant Treasurer, 19 May 2016

Independent auditor's report

to the Members and Trustees of the Multiple Sclerosis Society

We have audited the financial statements of the Multiple Sclerosis Society for the year ended 31 December 2015 set out on pages 52 to 75.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'.

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charitable company's Trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 44(1c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's Trustees and members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and auditors

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and under the Companies Act 2006 and report in accordance with regulations made under those Acts.

Our responsibility is to audit and express an opinion on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and International Standards of Auditing (UK and Ireland). These standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards of Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the company's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the directors; and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, we read all the financial and non-financial information in the Report of the Board of Trustees and Directors to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements. If we become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies we consider the implications for our report.

Opinion on financial statements

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and the parent charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2015 and of the group's incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and Regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion the information given in the Report of the Board of Trustees and Directors for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the parent charitable company has not kept proper and adequate accounting or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the parent charitable company's financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Naziar Hashemi
Senior Statutory Auditor

For and on behalf of
Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP
Statutory Auditor
London

14 June 2016.

Crowe Clark Whitehill LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Consolidated statement of financial activities (SOFA) (incorporating an income and expenditure statement)

Year ended 31 December 2015		Unrestricted	Restricted	2015	2014
	Notes	funds	funds	Total	Restated Total
Income from:	5	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Donations		10,253	4,932	15,185	12,324
Legacies receivable		7,755	1,573	9,328	10,745
Charitable activities		526	317	843	924
Other trading activities		1,657	12	1,669	1,764
Investment income		256	14	270	257
Other income		448	-	448	31
Total income	5	20,895	6,848	27,743	26,045
Expenditure on:	6				
Raising funds					
Raising funds - Ongoing		5,497	682	6,179	4,700
Raising funds - New donor acquisition		758	-	758	735
Total raising funds expenditure		6,255	682	6,937	5,435
Charitable activities					
Goal 1 - Effective treatments		1,250	2,436	3,686	2,924
Goal 2 - Responsive care and support		3,528	794	4,322	4,739
Goal 3 - Preventing MS		172	1,081	1,253	970
Goal 4 - Quality information		3,665	449	4,114	4,342
Goal 5 - A strong community, independent lives		4,939	779	5,718	5,839
Goal 6 - Supporting families and carers		1,485	140	1,625	1,706
Goal 7 - Greater certainty about the future		99	171	270	385
Total expenditure	6	21,393	6,532	27,925	26,340
Net income / (expenditure) before investments		(498)	316	(182)	(295)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	15	830	(21)	809	304
Net income		332	295	627	9
Transfer between funds		74	(74)	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:					
Net interest in joint venture operating result		-	-	-	87
Other recognised gains and losses		42	-	42	-
Net movement in funds		448	221	669	96
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		12,877	2,612	15,489	15,393
Total funds carried forward	21	13,325	2,833	16,158	15,489

Prior year split between unrestricted and restricted appears in note 23.

Restricted funds includes endowment funds of £270k (2014: £291k) - see note 21 for an analysis. The Society's share of incoming resources from a joint venture were £0k (2014: 134k) - the joint venture ceased trading at the end of 2014 (see note 27) - all other activities above were from continuing activities.

Consolidated and charity balance sheets

31 December 2015		Consolidated		Charity
	Notes	2015	2014	2015
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets				
Intangible assets	12	206	-	206
Tangible assets	13	6,001	6,643	6,001
Investments	15	12,479	11,751	12,479
Total fixed assets		18,686	18,394	18,686
Current assets				
Debtors	17	3,749	2,926	3,744
Investments		1,800	1,600	1,800
Cash at bank and in hand		1,002	1,749	957
Total current assets		6,551	6,275	6,501
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	9,079	9,180	9,029
Net current liabilities		(2,528)	(2,905)	(2,528)
Total assets less current liabilities		16,158	15,489	16,158
Provision for liabilities		-	-	-
Total net assets	21	16,158	15,489	16,158
Funds				
Endowment funds	21	270	291	270
Restricted income funds	21	2,563	2,321	2,563
Unrestricted funds				
- Designated for intangible and tangible fixed assets		5,892	6,311	5,892
- Designated for research		1,426	-	1,426
- General funds		6,007	6,566	6,007
Total unrestricted funds	21	13,325	12,877	13,325
Total charity funds	21	16,158	15,489	16,158

These financial statements were approved and signed on behalf of the Trustees on 19 May 2016. The notes on pages 55 to 75 form part of these financial statements.

Lucy Fuller
Assistant Treasurer, 19 May 2016

Consolidated statement of cash flows

Year ended 31 December 2015		2015	2014 Restated
	Note	£'000	£'000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	A	(1,290)	(480)
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends and interest from investments		270	257
Proceeds from the sale of property, plant and equipment		722	45
Purchase of intangible assets		(36)	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(336)	(347)
Proceeds from sale of investments		2,847	1,883
Purchase of investments		(2,766)	(3,005)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		701	(1,167)
Cash flows from financing activities:			
		-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January		3,349	4,996
Change in cash and cash equivalents due to exchange rate movements		42	-
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December	B	2,802	3,349
A. Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities			
Net income/expenditure for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)		627	9
Adjustments for:			
Depreciation changes		534	578
Gains on investments		(809)	(304)
Dividends and interest from investments		(270)	(257)
Profit on the sale of fixed assets		(448)	(31)
Increase in debtors		(823)	(652)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(101)	177
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		(1,290)	(480)
B. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents			
Cash in hand		1,002	1,749
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)		1,800	1,600
Total cash and cash equivalents		2,802	3,349

Note the Society has taken advantage of the exemption contained in FRS 102 on the preparation of a charity cash flow statement.

Notes to consolidated accounts

Year ended 31 December 2015

1. Charity information

The charity is a private limited company (registered number 07451571), which is incorporated and domiciled in the UK. The address of the registered office is 372 Edgware Road, London NW2 6ND.

2. Accounting policies

a). Basis of preparation

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Practice as it applies from 1 January 2015.

The MS Society meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

These are consolidated accounts representing the accounts of the MS Society, its linked charity 'Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain and Northern Ireland' and its subsidiary company, MSS (Trading) Limited (registered company number 02895015). These accounts have been consolidated on a line by line basis.

MS Society's accounts include the returns from its volunteer run branches and support groups operating in the financial year. Branches produce either a paper return or keep a record online of branch transactions which get fed into the MS Society's accounting system.

Branches that complete a paper return are asked to submit accounts for the 12 months to the end of October with income and expenditure estimated for the final two months of the year. These estimates are netted with the resulting balance included within income or expenditure and are checked by comparing the closing bank balances at 31 October and 31 December. The resulting net balance will be added to or deducted from the following years income or expenditure.

Branches who record transactions online account on a receipts and payments basis.

Additionally selected branches are required to submit an 'Agreed upon Procedures Report' (APR) which has been signed off by a Chartered Accountant.

A summary of branch returns included in the accounts (including branches which have now closed, support groups and fundraising groups)

	Total	APR submitted	Only returns submitted	Failed to submit a return
Required to submit APR report	20	19	1	-
Not required to submit APR report				
Paper returns	113	-	113	-
Branches who record transactions online	156	-	156	-
	289	19	270	-

b). Restatements: Reconciliation with previous Generally Accepted Accounting Practice and the Society's new 5 year strategy

In preparing the accounts, the trustees have considered whether in applying the accounting policies required by FRS 102 and the Charities SORP FRS 102 the restatement of comparative items was required. As a result some income items have been re-categorised so they are in line with the new SORP.

Expenditure items have been restated as a result of:

- Governance costs being included within support costs rather than shown separately on the SOFA
- The Society's new strategy with 7 new strategic goals picked by people affected by MS replacing the previous five aims

In accordance with the requirements of FRS 102 a reconciliation of opening balances and net income/(expenditure) for the year is provided with the net income/(expenditure) under previous GAAP adjusted for the presentation of investment gains/(losses) as a component of reported income.

Reconciliation of reported net income	£'000
Net expenditure as previously stated	(295)
Adjustment for gains on investments now treated as a component of net income	304
2014 net income as restated	9

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

2. Accounting policies (continued)

c). Going concern

As set out in the Trustees report the Society has adequate financial resources and is well placed to manage its business risks. We believe there are no material uncertainties that call into doubt the charity's ability to continue. The accounts therefore have been prepared on the basis that the charity is a going concern.

d). Critical accounting judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, which are described in this note, Trustees are required to make judgements, estimates, assumptions about the carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and underlying assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an on-going basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects the current and future periods.

In the view of the Trustees, no assumptions concerning the future or estimation uncertainty affecting assets and liabilities at the balance sheet date are likely to result in a material adjustment to their carrying amounts in the next financial year.

e). Functional/Presentation currency

The functional currency of the Society and its subsidiary is considered to be in pounds sterling because that is the currency of the primary economic environment in which the group operates. The consolidated financial statements are also presented in pounds sterling.

f). Funds

The different funds are defined as follows

Endowment funds	<u>Permanent endowment</u> : where a donor specifies only income arising from a donation can be used and the income may also be restricted towards a particular purpose. <u>Expendable endowment</u> : An expendable endowment fund is a fund that must be invested to produce income. Depending on the conditions attached to the endowment, the Trustees will have a legal power to convert all or part of it into an income fund which can then be spent.
Restricted income funds	Restricted income funds are subject to specific restrictions imposed by the donor or by the nature of the appeal.
General funds / Unrestricted funds	General funds are unrestricted income funds available to the Society for its general purposes and include funds designated for a particular purpose. The use of designated funds remains at the discretion of Trustees.

g). Incoming resources

All income is accounted for when the Society has entitlement, the receipt is probable and the amount is measurable.

- Legacies are recognised when all the three criteria below are met:
 - Establish entitlement - in practice this would be estate accounts being finalised or cash received or where there is agreement on an interim distribution.
 - Where receipt is probable - being named in a will makes a receipt probable.
 - The amount is measurable - in practice this could come from estate accounts, cash received or correspondence from executors/solicitors confirming an amount to be distributed. Measurability will also be met where a reasonably accurate assessment can be made of the value.
- Donated services and facilities: are included at the value to the charity where this can be quantified. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers - with 5,500 volunteers the amount involved is significant but difficult to quantify.
- Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold at the price they are sold for.
- Grants: where related to performance and specific deliverables are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Where the grant is received in advance of performance, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors. Where entitlement occurs before the grant is received, it is accrued in debtors.

2. Accounting policies (continued)

h). Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis except for branches that use branch accounting online who account on a receipts and payments basis. Expenditure includes irrecoverable VAT where applicable. The Society makes research grants after evaluating the merits of each grant application and by peer review of grant applications. Each grant commitment is dependent on the satisfactory outcome of a review which, for most grants, is carried out annually. Consequently, for these grants, the Society commits expenditure up to the next date when a review will be done.

Expenditure is allocated to relevant activity categories on a basis that is consistent with the use of the resource.

- Raising funds include all costs relating to activities where the primary aim is to raise funds along with an apportionment of support costs.
- Charitable activities include all costs relating to activities where the primary aim is part of the objects of the Society along with an apportionment of support costs.

Support costs consisting of human resources department (HR), facilities and information technology (IT) are apportioned based on the number of staff (full time equivalents) working on core activities. Finance costs, governance costs and general management costs are apportioned based on direct costs on core activities.

i). Intangible fixed assets

Intangible fixed assets are included at cost and amortised on a straight line basis, in order to write off the assets over their useful lives. Assets below £2,000 are not capitalised. The only assets held as intangible fixed assets are software and costs associated with setting up a new website. These costs are amortised at 33⅓% in order to write off these assets over the period of time the Society will receive economic benefit from them.

j). Tangible fixed assets, depreciation and impairment

Tangible fixed assets are included at cost and depreciation is provided on a straight line basis, in order to write off the assets over their useful lives. Assets below £2,000 are not capitalised.

The depreciation rates are as follows:

Freehold land	Nil	Computer equipment	33⅓%
Freehold buildings	2%	Motor vehicles	25%
Leasehold buildings	Remaining term of lease	Fixtures and equipment	20%

Fixed assets are subject to a review for impairment where there is an indication of a reduction in their carrying value. Any impairment is recognised in the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities in the year in which it occurs.

k). Fixed asset investments

Investments are stated at market value. It is the Society's policy to keep valuations up to date such that when investments are sold there is no gain or loss arising from previous years. As a result the SOFA includes those unrealised gains and losses arising from the revaluation of the investment portfolio throughout the year.

Fixed asset investments will include cash held by the investment managers which is intended for investment or held as part of the portfolio.

l). Investments included within current assets

Investments included within current assets are monies held in deposit accounts or in short term notice accounts (less than 12 months).

m). Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and in hand refers to monies held in current accounts, bank accounts within the Society's cash pooling scheme and cash.

n). Financial instruments

Recognition criteria for financial instruments appear below:

Financial instrument	Measurement criteria (initial and subsequent)
Cash	Cash held then on amortised cost
Debtors including trade debtors and loans receivable	Settlement amount or amount advanced then at amortised cost
Creditors	Settlement amount after trade discounts then at amortised cost
Bank deposits	Cash amount of deposit then at amortised cost
Investments	Transaction cost then at fair value (market value of quoted investments)

o). Leasing

All operating leases and rental expenses are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

p). Pension Costs

The Society has an on-going defined contribution scheme as well as a historic defined benefit scheme which the Society will exit. All amounts are charged to the SOFA in respect to pension costs being the contribution payable in the year and the cost to exit the benefit scheme.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

3. Geographic split of consolidated results

	UK and England	Scotland	Northern Ireland	Wales/ Cymru	Trading Co.	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Incoming resources	24,831	1,533	683	348	348	27,743
Cost of raising funds						
- Raising funds - Ongoing	5,540	282	135	55	167	6,179
- Raising funds - New donor acquisition	729	27	2	-	-	758
Charitable activities						
- Goal 1 - Effective treatments	3,585	56	21	24	-	3,686
- Goal 2 - Responsive care and support	3,455	351	348	168	-	4,322
- Goal 3 - Preventing MS	1,253	-	-	-	-	1,253
- Goal 4 - Quality information	3,634	238	137	105	-	4,114
- Goal 5 - A strong community, independent lives	4,633	491	408	186	-	5,718
- Goal 6 - Supporting families and carers	1,374	125	64	62	-	1,625
- Goal 7 - Greater certainty about the future	270	-	-	-	-	270
Total resources expended	24,473	1,570	1,115	600	167	27,925
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	358	(37)	(432)	(252)	181	(182)

The above represents income received at national offices and branches within each respective country in the United Kingdom. Expenditure in this analysis reflects where the expenditure was initiated from. Centralised activities (e.g. research) have been included within 'UK and England'. Also included in 'UK and England' are national support groups, Isle of Man branch and the Guernsey branch.

Trading company surplus of £181k excludes inter-company transactions of £27k.

The turnover for the charity (i.e. excluding MSS (Trading) Ltd) was £27.4m (2014 £25.5m) and the net movement in funds in the charity was £669k (2014: £96k).

4. Role of volunteers

The Society has approximately 5,500 committed and active volunteers, many of whom have a personal connection to MS.

Volunteers contribute throughout the Society by being Trustees, National Council members, fundraising, providing expert professional advice, being part of our Research Network, working to support and care for individuals affected by MS and delivering services through our branches. The Society has a large volunteer-run branch network that raises and spends money locally to support those affected by MS in their area.

5. Analysis of income

	2015 £'000	2014 Restated £'000
Donations:		
Direct marketing	4,786	4,395
Community and events	4,240	4,177
Partnership fundraising	3,476	1,244
Raised locally	2,683	2,508
	15,185	12,324
Legacies	9,328	10,745
Charitable activities		
Charges made for services provided by branches to people affected by MS	356	347
Other fees and grants	487	577
	843	924

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

5. Analysis of income (continued)

	2015 £'000	2014 Restated £'000
Other trading activities		
MSS (Trading) Limited	348	544
Raffles, lotteries and similar	389	344
Sale of donated goods	443	447
Other (Branch fundraising events and rent received)	489	429
	1,669	1,764
Investment income		
Dividend income receivable	220	203
Interest receivable	50	54
	270	257
Other income (relates to the profit on the sale of fixed assets)	448	31
Total income	27,743	26,045

6. Expenditure

	Grants		Direct Costs	Support Costs Apportioned	2015 £'000	2014 Restated £'000
	Institutional £'000	Individuals £'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising funds - Ongoing	-	-	5,075	1,104	6,179	4,700
Raising funds - New donor acquisition	-	-	638	120	758	735
1. Effective treatments	2,424	-	907	355	3,686	2,924
2. Responsive care and support	83	1,017	2,482	740	4,322	4,739
3. Preventing MS	1,165	-	39	49	1,253	970
4. Quality information	313	136	2,927	738	4,114	4,342
5. A strong community, independent lives	20	-	4,758	940	5,718	5,839
6. Supporting families and carers	(4)	204	1,116	309	1,625	1,706
7. Greater certainty about the future	172	-	72	26	270	385
	4,173	1,357	18,014	4,381	27,925	26,340

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

6. Expenditure (continued)

Analysis of Support Costs apportioned

	Governance ²	Management ²	HR Costs ¹	Finance ²	IT Support ¹	Facilities ¹	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Raising funds - Ongoing	50	109	261	169	236	279	1,104
Raising funds - New donor acquisition	6	14	26	22	24	28	120
1. Effective treatments	21	47	72	73	65	77	355
2. Responsive care and support	33	74	175	114	158	186	740
3. Preventing MS	6	14	3	21	2	3	49
4. Quality information	32	70	177	109	160	190	738
5. A strong community, independent lives	48	105	209	164	189	225	940
6. Supporting families and carers	13	29	75	46	67	79	309
7. Greater certainty about the future	2	3	5	6	5	5	26
	211	465	1,003	724	906	1,072	4,381

Method of apportionment

¹ Apportioned on the number of full time staff equivalents.

² Apportioned based on total direct costs. Does not include management and finance costs that could be directly allocated to direct costs.

Analysis of governance costs

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Fees payable to the Charity's auditors for the audit of the annual accounts	47	59
Internal audit	40	51
Trustee expenses (Note 8)	9	11
AGM related costs	49	87
Board support related costs	66	123
Total governance costs	211	331

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

7. Grants

Strategic Goals	Research grants	Grant released in 2015		Support costs	Total grant award
		£'000	£'000		
	University of Cambridge				
1	Prof RJM Franklin - Cambridge Centre for Myelin Repair Renewal	439		8	2,263
1, 3	Dr S Sawcer - Establishing the functional consequences of an MS associated variant on chromosome 14q31 - the role of GPR65 and GALC in MS	68		2	204
1	Dr C Zhao, Neuroprotection of novel ROCK inhibitor BHDPC in mouse models of inflammation and toxin mediated demyelination	39		2	39
3	Dr F Gallagher, Imaging cerebral metabolism in acute multiple sclerosis with hyperpolarized carbon-13 MRI	40		2	40
1, 3	Prof A Coles, Does early treatment prevent progression?	32		2	93
1, 3	Prof S Sawcer, Identifying the master regulators of transcription in multiple sclerosis through single cell expression profiling	189		4	297
			807		
	University College London (UCL)				
1, 3	Prof K Smith - Exploring Mitochondrial Dysfunction And Protection In Early Neuroinflammatory Disease By In Vivo Confocal Imaging	74		2	214
1,2,3,5	Prof K Smith - A new therapy for new relapses?	39		2	113
1, 3	Prof K Smith - Deciphering the causes of hypoxia in the inflamed CNS	82		3	238
1, 3	Prof D Miller - Imaging research to facilitate new treatments for MS	300		6	1,350
1, 3	Prof D Miller - Understanding and preventing long-term disability in MS	59		2	167
1	Prof J Malone-Lee - Bladder symptoms in MS	38		2	112
1, 3	Dr R Samson - Quantification of myelin in the spinal cord in MS	28		2	83
1, 3	Dr J Rohn, - Urinary tract infections in people with MS	26		2	26
1	Prof J Greenwood, High dose Simvastatin treatment for Secondary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis: Impact on vascular perfusion and oxidative damage.	148		4	304
			794		
	Imperial College London				
1, 3	Prof R Reynolds - The role of chronic meningeal inflammation in cortical pathology and disease progression	89		3	263
1,3,4,7	The UK Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's Disease Tissue Bank at Imperial College	236		5	1,264
1, 3	Prof R Reynolds, The role of neuronal chemokine expression in the pathogenesis of Multiple Sclerosis	89		3	282
			414		
	Swansea University				
1,3,4,7	Prof K Jones - UK MS Register development phase		297	6	898
	University of Edinburgh				
1	Prof C Ffrench-Constant - Are endothelin receptors suitable targets for remyelination therapies?	34		2	101
1, 3	Dr D Lyons - Discovery of new genes and potential drug targets that regulate CNS myelination	81		3	157
1, 4	Prof MacLeold, Univ of Edinburgh 8ms - Vitamin D supplementation	21		2	21
1, 3	Dr A Astier, CD46-T cells zebrafish model	37		2	37
1, 3	Dr A Astier, Molecular mech controlling T cell migration	49		2	99
			222		
	Totals carried forward		2,534	73	

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

7. Grants (continued)

Strategic Goals	Research grants	Grant released in 2015		Support costs	Total grant award
		£'000	£'000		
	Brought forward figures from previous page		2,534	73	
	University of Glasgow				
1	Prof C Linington - Specificity profiling of pathogenic autoantibody responses in MS	63		2	188
1, 3	Prof C Linington - Dissecting the function of fibroblast growth factor 9 in the immunopathogenesis of multiple sclerosis	35		2	102
1, 3	Prof C Linington - The functional significance of autoantibody-dependent pathomechanisms in pediatric multiple sclerosis	33		2	96
3	Dr J Edgar, Univ of Glasgow, 3yrs, The myelinic channel in inflammatory disease	67		2	200
			198		
	Cardiff University				
1,3	Prof B P Morgan - Mechanisms and roles of microglial priming and activation in experimental demyelination and human MS.	36		2	104
1,3,4,7	Dr V Tomassini - Predicting the individual's potential for functional recovery in Multiple Sclerosis: a novel clinical and neuroimaging strategy			3	263
		92			
			128		
	Research grants released in 2015 brought forward				
	University of Birmingham				
1,3	Dr J Brooks - Epstein-Barr virus (EBV) and Multiple Sclerosis: investigating EBV antigen-induced T cell cross-recognition of central nervous system proteins.	61		2	89
1,3	Dr J Curnow - Identification of inflammatory CD4+Th subsets in the cerebrospinal fluid of patients with relapsing-remitting MS	51		2	148
2,4,6	Dr A Soundy - Interaction with healthcare professionals.	11		1	11
			123		
	Kings College London				
1,2,4,7	Dr A Bognosian - A longitudinal mixed methods approach to the study of adjustment to primary and secondary progressive MS	58		2	164
1,4	Prof R Moss-Morris, Exploring fatigue in children and adolescents with MS			3	80
		80			
			138		
1,3,4,7	International Progressive MS Alliance		107	3	750
	Plymouth University				
1,3,4,7	Prof Jeremy Hobart, Plymouth Univ - Integration of SWIMS and the UK MS Register		106	3	106
	North Bristol NHS Trust				
1,2	Optimising pelvic floor muscle training to improve quality of life outcomes for individuals with progressive Multiple Sclerosis and incontinence	70		2	226
1	Prof M Drake - Melatonin for the treatment of nocturia in progressive MS	35		2	104
			105		
	Totals carried forward		3,439	106	

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

7. Grants (continued)

Strategic Goals	Research grants	Grant released in 2015		Support costs	Total grant award
		£'000	£'000		
	Brought forward figures from previous page		3,439	106	
	University of Southampton				
1,3	Dr I Galea - Systemic Inflammation in Multiple Sclerosis (SIMS)		80	3	256
	Neuroscience Foundation				
1,3	Dr T Kalincik - Does early treatment with fingolimod or natalizumab improve the prognosis for people with multiple sclerosis?		72	2	72
	University of Portsmouth				
1,3	Prof A Butt - Novel role for Gas6 as a positive regulator of myelination	7		1	108
1,3	Prof A Butt, Targeting GSK3β/Wnt/β-catenin to promote oligodendrocyte regeneration and remyelination		63	2	198
			70		
	Via the British Council - (Cambridge University and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)				
1,3	Dr M Kotter and Prof S Rotshenker - Identifying new ways to repair myelin		67	2	200
	University of Leeds				
1,4	Dr A Manzano, CRIMSON - Considering Risk and benefits In Multiple Sclerosis treatment selection		63	2	155
1,2,3,7	University of Nottingham - 3 grants all less than £50k		62	2	188
	Leeds Teaching Trust				
2,4,5	Dr H Ford - Psychological determinants of job retention in MS		58	2	156
	Medical Research Council - Research fellowships		58	2	1,196
1-7	Other research grants (less than £50k) and grant write backs		208	15	
	Total institutional grants released in 2015 for research	Total	4,316	4,177	139
	Research team and associated support costs			698	216
	Total cost on research	Total	5,230	4,875	355
	Other sundry grants including MS Nurse specialist grants write back			(4)	0
	Total institutional grants (research and non research)	Total	4,312	4,173	139
	Individual support grants			1,357	45
	Total grants	Total	5,714	5,530	184

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

7. Grants (continued)

Summary of research grants released in 2015 by goal (excluding support costs)	Grants released	
	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Goal 1 - Effective treatments	2,423	2,224
Goal 2 - Responsive care and support	98	197
Goal 3 - Preventing MS	1,165	882
Goal 4 - Quality information	311	247
Goal 5 - A strong community, independent lives	19	64
Goal 6 - Supporting families and carers	(11)	5
Goal 7 - Greater certainty about the future	172	182
	4,177	3,801

8. Staff and Trustees costs

Total staff emoluments for the year were as follows:

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Salaries	8,959	8,513
National insurance	856	853
Pension	661	720
Redundancy payments (see note below)	34	114
	10,510	10,200

To ensure the Society can deliver on its new strategy for 2015 to 2019, a review was started in 2014 of staffing requirements. As a result of the review some new posts have been created along with some redundancies.

The average number of individuals employed by the Society during the year was as follows:

	Average Head Count	
	2015 Number	2014 Number
Charitable activities	221	218
Generating funds	58	50
Governance	2	2
	281	270

The number of employees whose emoluments as defined for taxation purposes (basic pay, vehicle and medical insurance) amounted to over £60,000 in the year was as follows:

	2015 Number	2014 Number
£60,001 - £70,000	4	3
£70,001 - £80,000	1	2
£80,001 - £90,000	3	-
£90,001 - £100,000	1	2

All of the employees whose emoluments were greater than £60,000 are members of a defined contribution pension scheme and the Society paid contributions of £81k (2014: £96k) for these employees.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

8. Staff and Trustees costs (continued)

Employee benefits paid to key management personnel

Key management personnel consist of the Trustees plus executive directors. The total amount of employee benefits to 8 (2014: 8) key management personnel in 2015 amounted to £616k (2014: £635k). Note that employee benefits are the same as emoluments above except 'employee benefits' also includes employer pension contributions.

Trustees recognise the need to attract the breadth and depth of expertise required to achieve its ambitious goals in a competitive employment market which include commercial, public sector and charitable organisations. Trustees have agreed that the remuneration package offered to all staff including key management personnel should be benchmarked against similar positions located in London through an external evaluation process. All vacancies are filled following an external recruitment process, if that process is initially unsuccessful a market supplement may be added to the remuneration package.

Total employee benefits paid to the Chief Executive in 2015 amounted to £129k (2014: £129k).

Trustee expenses and donations

The trustees all give freely their time and expertise without any form of remuneration or other benefit in cash or kind (2014: £nil). Expenses paid to the trustees in the year totalled £9k (2014: £11k). These expenses were made up of 8 trustees reimbursed for their travel expenses of £7k (2014: £7k) and accommodation £2k (2014: £4k).

Additionally trustees and related parties gave donations of £95k (excluding gift aid) to the Society in 2015.

9. Taxation

The Society has charitable status and is thus exempt from taxation of its income and gains falling within Section 505 of the Taxes Act 1988 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that they are applied to its charitable objectives. No material tax charges have arisen in its subsidiaries and no provision is required for deferred taxation. Irrecoverable VAT has been charged against the relevant expenditure.

10. Net movements in funds

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Net movement in funds is arrived at after charging:		
Depreciation of intangible and tangible fixed assets	426	578
Profit on disposal of fixed assets	448	31
Fees payable to the Charity's auditors for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	47	55
Fees payable to the Charity's auditors for other services to the group		
The audit of the charity's subsidiary pursuant to legislation	4	4
Other non audit services	1	-

11. Related party transactions

The Society had no related party transactions during 2014.

Jason Atkinson, who joined as a trustee in January 2015, is also one of the directors of Russam GMS Limited. During 2015 the Society sourced interim management services relating to Marketing and Brand from Russam for £113,022 with £4,554 outstanding to Russam at the end of the year. Jason Atkinson had no involvement at any phase in the initiation, sourcing and provision of this role; from the outset Russam's engagement was handled by the Society's Director of Marketing and Communications and the Board are content the transaction was based on a significantly reduced rate from normal commercial terms.

The Society has a trading subsidiary, MSS (Trading) Limited - transactions in the year are as follows:

	£
Balance brought forward - owed by MSS (Trading) Limited to the charity	227,818
2014 Gift aided profits remitted to the charity	(187,090)
Monies relating to MSS (Trading) Limited received/paid by the charity (net)	(19,368)
Monies relating to the charity received/paid by MSS (Trading) Limited (net)	5,121
Use of logo charge and management fee charged by the charity to MSS (Trading) Limited	31,500
2015 profits of MSS (Trading) Limited	153,641
Amount owing from MSS (Trading) Limited to the charity	211,622

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

12. Intangible Assets

Consolidated and Charity	Intangible Assets £'000
Cost	
Balance at 1 January 2015	-
Additions	36
Disposals	-
Transfers	624
Balance at 31 December 2015	660
Accumulated depreciation	
Balance at 1 January 2015	-
Charge for year	108
Disposals	-
Transfers	346
Balance at 31 December 2015	454
Net book value at 31 December 2015	206
Net book value at 31 December 2014	-

Intangible assets relate to computer software and website costs. Amortisation costs are included as support costs (IT costs) and apportioned across each expenditure heading in the SOFA on the basis of full time equivalents (See note 6 expenditure).

13. Tangible Fixed Assets

Consolidated and Charity	Freehold Land and Buildings £'000	Leasehold Property £'000	Computers £'000	Fixtures £'000	Motor Vehicles £'000	Total Tangible Assets £'000
Cost						
Balance at 1 January 2015	7,112	1,351	1,293	2,784	2,828	15,368
Additions	-	-	-	173	163	336
Disposals	(411)	-	(89)	(353)	(145)	(998)
Transfers	-	-	(624)	-	-	(624)
Balance at 31 December 2015	6,701	1,351	580	2,604	2,846	14,082
Accumulated depreciation						
Balance at 1 January 2015	2,066	529	1,016	2,484	2,630	8,725
Charge for year	131	21	(1)	134	141	426
Disposals	(146)	-	(89)	(352)	(137)	(724)
Transfers	-	-	(346)	-	-	(346)
Balance at 31 December 2015	2,051	550	580	2,266	2,634	8,081
Net book value at 31 December 2015	4,650	801	-	338	212	6,001
Net book value at 31 December 2014	5,046	822	277	300	198	6,643

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

14. Capital commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31 December 2015 or 31 December 2014.

15. Investments

Consolidated and Charity	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Market value at 1 January	11,751	10,325
Acquisitions at cost	2,766	3,005
Disposals at market value	(2,492)	(2,485)
Gains on investment assets	809	304
Market value at 31 December excluding movement in cash held	12,834	11,149
Movement in cash held	(355)	602
Market value of investments at 31 December	12,479	11,751

In addition to the above the charity balance sheet includes an investment of £2 in MSS (Trading) Ltd (Note 24).

Represented by	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
Assets held at Market Value		
Property investment	-	220
Investments listed on a Stock Exchange	11,988	10,685
Cash held as part of portfolio	491	846
	12,479	11,751

Included within 'Investments listed on a Stock Exchange' are investment assets outside the UK of £6.7m (2014: £4.6m). All other investments are investment assets in the UK.

16. Financial instruments

	2015 £'000	2014 £'000
At the Balance Sheet date the Society held the following:		
Financial assets measured at fair value (quoted investments at market value)	12,479	11,751
Financial assets measured at amortised cost	6,551	6,275
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	9,079	9,180
Interest received from financial assets measured at amortised cost	34	29
Financial assets measured at fair value (quoted investments at market value)		
Income	236	228
Expenditure	76	110
Net gains on investment assets	809	304

Other financial instruments

In March 2015, the Society entered into a forward contract for €282,500 maturing on 26th February 2016 at a GBP/EUR rate of 1.334. The purpose of the transaction was to hedge against a payment of euros for the same amount which was due for payment in February 2016, however the commitment to pay the euros had been included in the accounts when it was committed in 2013. The original transaction had been included in the 2013 accounts at a GBP/EUR rate of 1.1897. At the end of December 2015 the GBP/EUR rate was 1.3605 and the resulting gain on exchange on the €282,500 was £30k and this has been included within 'other recognised gains and losses' in the SOFA.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

17. Debtors

	Consolidated		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Legacy income accrued ¹	1,251	246	1,251	246
Trade debtors	82	154	25	20
Tax and VAT	1,186	1,092	1,182	1,092
Prepayments and accrued income	980	999	831	971
Amounts due from group companies	-	-	212	228
Other debtors	250	435	243	418
	3,749	2,926	3,744	2,975

¹ Not included in the legacy figure above are approximately £4.8m (2014: £3.3m) of legacies where we had received probate but where measurement and certainty of entitlement was not confirmed at year end.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

18. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Consolidated		Charity	
	2015	2014	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Research grants	7,062	6,966	7,062	6,966
MS Specialists grants	-	16	-	16
Trade creditors	738	421	723	397
Accruals	629	1,103	594	1,038
Tax and Social Security	333	305	333	301
Other creditors	317	369	317	369
	9,079	9,180	9,029	9,087

19. Grants

	Sundry Grants	Grants to individuals	Research	MS Specialists	Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Creditor at 1 January 2015	-	-	6,966	16	6,982
Grants awarded during year	12	1,357	4,177	(16)	5,530
Payments in the year	(12)	(1,357)	(4,081)	-	(5,450)
Creditor at 31 December 2015	-	-	7,062	-	7,062

Funding for research grants is released a year at a time and, in theory, the full amount of the creditor will be due for payment within 1 year. From time to time there may be delays to research projects and sometimes research institutions can be slow in providing invoices.

In addition to the amounts committed and accrued noted above, there are also authorised research grants which are subject to an annual review. The total amounts authorised but not accrued as expenditure at the year end was £5.8m (2014: £7.2m) - these amounts will be funded by future income and the designated fund set up for the appeal.

20. International Progressive MS Alliance

The Society is part of the International Progressive MS Alliance which was set up in 2013 to fund grants into progressive MS. The International Progressive MS Alliance consists of MS charities around the world and other interested organisations such as foundations, trusts and corporate entities. The MS Society is a founding member and joined the Alliance as a managing member giving it influence on the research the Alliance will fund. There are five other MS charities who are managing members these are the Associazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla (Italy), MS Research Australia, Multiple Sclerosis International Federation, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada and National Multiple Sclerosis Society (USA).

In addition to managing members there are five other MS charities who are members of the alliance - they represent Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Netherlands and Spain.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

21. Statement of funds

Consolidated and Charity

	At 1/1/2015	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Other gains and losses	At 31/12/2015
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
General Funds	6,566	20,895	(19,819)	(2,507)	872	6,007
Designated Funds						
Net book value of intangible and tangible fixed assets held	6,311	-	-	(419)	-	5,892
Research funds ¹	-	-	(1,574)	3,000	-	1,426
Total Designated Funds	6,311	-	(1,574)	2,581	-	7,318
Total Unrestricted Funds	12,877	20,895	(21,393)	74	872	13,325
Restricted Funds						
Restricted Funds ²	276	4,738	(4,763)	-	-	251
Big lottery fund grant ³	-	10	(10)	-	-	-
Northern Ireland day centre	-	126	(126)	-	-	-
Grants to individuals	-	70	(70)	-	-	-
Assets purchased with restricted monies						
Bournemouth buildings and vehicle	135	-	(4)	-	-	131
Redbridge physiotherapy building	56	-	(2)	-	-	54
Skegness holiday bungalow (Barnsley) ⁴	54	-	(2)	-	-	52
Swansea day centre	48	-	-	-	-	48
Geographic Funds⁵						
Blackpool and Fylde	-	103	(19)	-	-	84
Croydon	-	260	(2)	-	-	258
Harrow	51	3	(1)	-	-	53
Newmarket	197	201	(17)	-	-	381
North Norfolk	46	102	(104)	(31)	-	13
Oxfordshire area (welfare)	54	-	(10)	-	-	44
Rotherham area	96	2	(2)	-	-	96
South East Essex	181	2	(44)	(15)	-	124
Southampton	55	2	(44)	-	-	13
Sefton area (formerly Southport and Formby)	85	3	(20)	-	-	68
Scotland	-	214	(214)	-	-	-
Other sundry restricted funds (<£50,000)	987	1,012	(1,078)	(28)	-	893
Total restricted income funds	2,321	6,848	(6,532)	(74)	-	2,563
Endowment funds						
Margaret Hutchinson memorial fund - Borders area	281	-	-	-	(21)	260
Derby branch endowment	10	-	-	-	-	10
Total endowment funds	291	-	-	-	(21)	270
Total funds	15,489	27,743	(27,925)	-	851	16,158

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

21. Statement of funds (continued)

¹ A designated fund for research was set up in 2015 to fund research in future years - £3m of unrestricted funds were allocated to designated funds in 2015.

² Research funds are monies held for research and include monies given for specific research projects as well as monies given for general research.

³ Grant for an evaluation of our individual support grants service.

⁴ The Skegness holiday bungalow is now maintained by the Barnsley branch.

⁵ Geographic restrictions arise where a donor has specifically asked that monies be used in a certain area and/or spent by a particular branch. In some cases branches may have been given considerable discretion on the use of these funds including using the funds outside of their own locality in which they serve.

Transfers relates to monies restricted for the purchase of assets.

Note: The funds of the charity include £2 (2012: £2) relating to the total funds of MSS (Trading) Ltd.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted & Endowment funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fund balances at 31 December 2015 are represented by			
Intangible fixed assets	206	-	206
Tangible fixed assets	5,686	315	6,001
Investments	12,211	268	12,479
Net current assets	(4,778)	2,250	(2,528)
	13,325	2,833	16,158

23. SOFA split for prior year (2014) between unrestricted and restricted

2014	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:			
Donations	10,047	2,277	12,324
Legacies receivable	9,873	872	10,745
Providing services to people affected by MS	883	41	924
Other trading activities	1,761	3	1,764
Investment income	242	15	257
Other income	28	3	31
Total income	22,834	3,211	26,045
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds			
Raising funds - Ongoing	4,700	-	4,700
Raising funds - New donor acquisition	735	-	735
Total raising funds expenditure	5,435	-	5,435
Charitable activities			
Goal 1 - Effective treatments	1,172	1,752	2,924
Goal 2 - Responsive care and Support	3,900	839	4,739
Goal 3 - Preventing MS	970	-	970
Goal 4 - Quality information	4,239	103	4,342
Goal 5 - A strong community, independent lives	5,218	621	5,839
Goal 6 - Supporting families and carers	1,603	103	1,706
Goal 7 - Greater certainty about the future	385	-	385
Total expenditure	22,922	3,418	26,340
Net income / (expenditure) before investments	(88)	(207)	(295)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	295	9	304
Net income / (expenditure) after investments	207	(198)	9
Transfer between funds	530	(530)	-
Other recognised gains and losses:			
Net interest in joint venture operating result	87	-	87
Net movement in funds	824	(728)	96

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

24. MSS (Trading) Limited

The Society has a wholly owned trading subsidiary which is registered in England and Wales. MSS (Trading) Limited raises funds via commercial activities and sponsorship. Any taxable profits made by MSS (Trading) Limited are donated to the Society under Gift Aid.

A summary of the trading results which have been consolidated on a line by line basis are shown below.

MSS (Trading) Limited	2015	2014
Profit and loss account	£'000	£'000
Retail		
Turnover		
- Sales to branches	4	10
- Sales to third parties	348	544
	352	554
Cost of sales	(160)	(329)
Gross profit	192	225
Administration	(38)	(38)
Interest payable	-	-
Net profit before taxation and gift aid	154	187
Gift aid donation to Multiple Sclerosis Society	(154)	(187)
Taxation	-	-
Retained profit carried forward	-	-
Called up share capital	2015	2014
	£	£
Authorised:		
1,000 ordinary shares of £1 each	1,000	1,000
Allotted, called up and fully paid:		
2 ordinary shares of £1 each	2	2

25. Share Capital

The Society has no issued share capital as it is a company limited by guarantee.

26. Pension funds

Defined Contribution Schemes

The Society contributes towards a number of Defined Contribution Schemes. The cost of these schemes is charged to the SOFA and amounted to £661k (2014: £720k). They did not give rise to any provisions/reserves.

At the end of the year £75k (2014: £68k) was owed to the pension provider.

Defined Benefit Schemes

At the end of the year £178k (2014: £223k) was owed to the pension provider, this relates to the buy out payment for an historic defined benefit scheme.

Notes to consolidated accounts (continued)

Year ended 31 December 2015

27. Neurological Commissioning Support

Neurological Commissioning Support Limited (NCS) was a joint venture company registered in England and Wales number 07518070. The partners in the company were the Motor Neurone Disease Association, Multiple Sclerosis Society and Parkinson's UK. In 2014 the three charities decided that NCS should cease trading with the services it provides being transferred back to the individual charities. NCS did not trade in 2015.

The Society owns one third of the company and has been accounted for as a joint venture in accordance with FRS9 and the Charities SORP under the gross equity method.

The Society's proportion of NCS's turnover in 2015 was £0k (£134k in 2014). NCS made a loss of £39k in 2014.

NCS was inactive at the end of December 2015.

28. Monies from the Medical and Healthcare industry

The Society has a policy position on working with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Industry which is available from the Society's website.

Under this policy, the Society will report collaborations and financial contributions over £5,000 received from the Medicines and Healthcare industry.

During 2015 collaborations and financial contributions over £5,000 were:

	2015	2014
	£'000	£'000
Biogen Idec Limited	21	59
Novartis Pharmaceuticals (UK) Ltd	12	32
Genzyme, a Sanofi Company	18	22
Teva UK Limited	16	7

Total financial contributions from the Medicines and Healthcare Products Industry amounted to less than 0.5% of total income.

The statement which appears below is the same as the Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities but excludes MSS (Trading) Limited and has been included so that these accounts are legally compliant.

Statement of financial activities (SOFA) charity only

Year ended 31 December 2015	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2015 Total	2014 Restated Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:				
Donations	10,253	4,932	15,185	12,324
Legacies receivable	7,755	1,573	9,328	10,745
Charitable activities	526	317	843	924
Other trading activities	1,309	13	1,322	1,220
Investment income	255	14	269	257
Other income	448	-	448	31
Total income	20,546	6,849	27,395	25,501
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Raising funds - Ongoing	5,330	683	6,013	4,365
Raising funds - New donor acquisition	758	-	758	735
Total raising funds expenditure	6,088	683	6,771	5,100
Charitable activities				
Goal 1 - Effective treatments	1,250	2,436	3,686	2,924
Goal 2 - Responsive care and Support	3,528	794	4,322	4,739
Goal 3 - Preventing MS	172	1,081	1,253	970
Goal 4 - Quality information	3,665	449	4,114	4,342
Goal 5 - A strong community, independent lives	4,939	779	5,718	5,839
Goal 6 - Supporting families and carers	1,485	140	1,625	1,706
Goal 7 - Greater certainty about the future	99	171	270	385
Total expenditure	21,226	6,533	27,759	26,005
Net income / (expenditure) before investments	(680)	316	(364)	(504)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	830	(21)	809	304
Net income	150	295	445	(200)
Transfer between funds	74	(74)	-	-
Other recognised gains and losses:				
Net interest in joint venture operating result	-	-	-	87
Other recognised gains and losses	42	-	42	-
Net movement in funds	266	221	487	(113)

Restricted funds includes endowment funds of £270k (2014: £291k) - see note 21 for an analysis. The Society's share of incoming resources from a joint venture were £0k (2014: 134k) - the joint venture ceased trading at the end of 2014 (see note 27) - all other activities above were from continuing activities.

Get involved!

Learn

Whether you are a person with MS, a carer or someone who just wants to know more, we have resources that can help. Our website, online films, publications, DVDs and events are all free. Find out what you need to know and how you can make a difference mssociety.org.uk

Take action

Too many people affected by MS in the UK have to fight for the treatments, services, care and support they need. Our campaigns aim to change that. Join the campaigns community mssociety.org.uk/campaigns

Volunteer

Our volunteers are vital - we simply couldn't achieve the things that we do without them. Whatever your skills, from IT to events, and whether you have an hour to spare or a day, we have volunteer roles to suit everyone. Our volunteer website has all the latest news and information about volunteering for us volunteers.mssociety.org.uk

Donate

Whether you give regularly, or make a one off donation, your support will help to fund vital research into new treatments, support and services and campaigns mssociety.org.uk/donate

Remember us in your will

More than a third of our work is funded by wonderful supporters who have left us a gift in their will. A gift of any size really will help to make a difference to future generations.

Thank you

We want to thank all MS Society donors for their extraordinary generosity. This includes all trusts and corporations, those that wish to remain anonymous, our branch supporters and those who have left us a legacy. We would also like to thank our many celebrity supporters and friends for their work in raising both funds and awareness for the MS Society.

Adam and Charlie Henson	Norton Rose Fulbright LLP
Adam and Daniel Hignell	Novartis Pharmaceuticals (UK) Ltd
Sir Alan and Lady Parker	Kimberley Wilson
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The Betty Lawes Foundation	Newhall Publications Limited
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John and Vicki Brice	Tony Johnstone
Mr and Mrs John Cooper	Trishna Bharadia
Mr Maurice Price and Mrs Edith Martingdale	The Warshaw Family Charitable Trust
The McKeefry Trust	

Who we are

Founder

Sir Richard Cave* KCVO, CB,
KCSG, DL

Vice-President

John Walford OBE

Chairman

Hilary Sears

Vice-Chair

John Litchfield (until Dec
2015)

Nick Winser (from Jan 2016)

Key management personnel

Trustees

Jason Atkinson

Charles Bland

Suzi Clay (until March 2016)

Paul Cooper (until May 2016)

Marsali Craig

Esther Foreman

Lucy Fuller

Christine Gibbons

John Grosvenor
(from January 2016)

Ruth Hasnip

Adrian Howd (until April 2015)

John Litchfield
(until December 2015)

Gideon Schulman

Hilary Sears (Chairman)

Anne Shinkwin

Nick Winser

Chief Executive

Michelle Mitchell

Treasurer

Paul Cooper (until May 2016)

Assistant Treasurer

Lucy Fuller

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Executive Director of
Fundraising (from April 2015)

Vicky Annis

Executive Director of Finance
(from Sept 2015)

Ed Holloway

Executive Director for
Strategy, Innovation and
Services (from Jan 2016)

John Palmer

Executive Director of Marketing
and Communications

David Prince

Executive Director of People
(from May 2015)

Nick Rijke

Executive Director of Policy
and Research

Neil Spence

Executive Director of Finance
(until Sept 2015)

Rosemary Watt-Wyness

Executive Director of Services
and Support (until Jan 2016)

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Lynne Hughes

Director, MS Society Cymru

Mark O'Donnell

Director, MS Society Scotland
(until May 2015)

Morna Simpkins

Director, MS Society
Scotland (from May 2015)

Appeal Director

Emma Whitcombe

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MS Helpline 0808 800 8000

Multiple Sclerosis Society. Registered charity nos.1139257 / SC041990.
Registered as a limited company by guarantee in England and Wales
07451571.

*Deceased



MS Society, 372 Edgware Road, London, NW2 6ND

www.mssociety.org.uk

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