



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Thursday 13 July 2023, 10.30am
MS Society, Carriage House, 8 City North Place, London, N4 3FU and via video conference

Present Trustees

Professor Sir Paul Curran	Chair of the MS Society
Sarah Schol	Vice Chair
Stuart Secker	Treasurer
Ady Dike	Trustee
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Chris Murray	Trustee
David Silver	Trustee
Emily Reves	Trustee
Marion King	Trustee
Mohini Raichura-Brown	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee

Council Chairs

Dr Kate Laverty	Northern Ireland Council Chair
Laura Ingram	Scotland Council Chair
Susannah Robinson	Wales Council Chair
John Stainton	England Council Vice Chair

Staff Attending

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

1. Opening Remarks

- 1.1. The Chair of the MS Society welcomed the Board and attendees to the meeting. The Board welcomed Nick Keveth, who had been appointed Treasurer of the MS Society, to replace Stuart Secker, who had reached the end of his term.

2. Transformation Programme Development

- 2.1. The Board received an update on the transformational programme being funded through significant investments, which comprises three strands - Services and

Support Transformation, which will provide a clear, integrated and consistent approach to our national, regional, local, in person and online services and support offer; Engagement and Income Generation Transformation, which will build meaningful engagement with all members of the MS Community as well as increasing our supporter numbers, and growing and diversifying our income; and Project Sage, which will deliver integrated, personalised and aggregated data.

2.2. The Board noted progress made to date and approved funding for the Programme Management Office function that would deliver the transformation programme. Funding for phase one of the Engagement and Income Generation Transformation was approved. The Services and Support Transformation Case for Support was endorsed and the development of a core project team to deliver the initiation phase of this strand of the programme was approved.

3. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive gave a report on progress that had been made on delivering impact for the MS community since the last Board meeting. The report included a summary of our financial performance in quarter 1 2023, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities.

4. Audit, Risk and Finance Committee Report

The Board received a report on the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee (ARFC) meeting of 5 June 2023. The Committee had considered each of the strands of the Transformation Programme prior to Board approval and endorsement. The Committee had considered the Management Accounts to 31 March 2023. The Committee had approved the updated Investment Policy.

5. National Councils Report

The Board received reports from the National Councils on the issues that matter most to people in the nations. Discussion took place about the role of Councils in contributing to the transformation of our Services and Support offer, and the need for clarity on areas of focus for Councils while the transformation programme was in development.

6. Governance Matters

6.1. The Board received an update on the external evaluation of Board effectiveness being undertaken in line with the Charity Governance Code recommendation that this process should take place every three years. Discussion took place about the forthcoming review of the Board's committee structure, and plans for this year's Trustee recruitment round.

6.2. The Board approved the appointment of Chris Murray to the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee; Chris Murray and Nick Keveth to the Board of MSS (Trading) Ltd; and Nick Keveth to the Board of MSS Nominees Ltd.

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

7. Strategic Deep Dive – People Strategies

The Board undertook an in-depth review of our Employee Engagement Strategy - 'Developing a Highly Engaged Workforce'; our Volunteering Strategy -

'Developing an Engaged and Inspired Community of Volunteers'; and our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Strategy - 'Putting Diversity and Inclusion Front and Centre'. Our Head of HR, Head of Volunteering & Community Networks, and EDI Programme Manager joined the meeting, and discussion took place about current trends, challenges and opportunities, and progress made against the outcomes we are trying to achieve.