



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Thursday 28 September 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
Nick Keveth	Treasurer
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Chris Murray	Trustee
David Silver	Trustee
Emily Revesse	Trustee
Marion King	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee

Council Chairs

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.

2. Business Plan and Budget – key assumptions

2.1. The Board considered the draft business plan and budget, which recognised the numerous ongoing challenges faced by people affected by MS that can prevent them living well, and that these challenges have become more pressing because of the pandemic, our health and social care sectors and the economic environment. The draft plans and budgets for 2024-26 sought to strike a balance between the immediate priorities of the MS Community, our transformation programme and our long-term objectives.

2.2. It was noted that the final plan would be signed off at the December Board meeting, after scrutiny by the Audit, Risk and Finance Committee.

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 2 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 6 September 2023. The Committee had considered and commented on the business plan and budget paper before it came to the Board for approval. The Committee had considered the Management Accounts to 30 June 2023. The supporter promise had been reviewed and recommended to the Board for approval.

5. National Councils Report

The Board received reports from the National Councils on the issues that matter most to people in the nations. Themes coming through included the wider implications of the cost of living, such as impact on transport costs and ability to access services. The importance of the PIP campaign was highlighted, and the strength of the MS Society's voice on this issue welcomed.

6. Governance Matters

6.1. The Board received a report following the completion of an external evaluation of Board effectiveness. The review was undertaken in line with the Charity Governance Code recommendation that this process should take place every three years. Overall, the governance processes in place are strong and align with the requirements of the Charity Governance Code. Some areas for improvement were already being addressed, such as through the review of the Board's sub-committee structure, which was underway. An update on this year's trustee recruitment round was provided, including the timelines for the elections in November.

6.2. 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 – Engagement and Income Generation

The Board undertook an in-depth review of our engagement and income generation strategies, incorporating the areas of marketing, income generation and digital. The discussion focused on the interconnectedness and complexity of this area and on the challenges and opportunities for delivering better engagement and support that meet the needs of the whole MS community.