



OPEN

Board Meeting Summary Report Multiple Sclerosis Society Board of Trustees

Meeting date: Tuesday 24 September 2024, 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
Nick Keveth	Treasurer
Bayan Mohajeri	Trustee
Chris Murray	Trustee
David Silver	Trustee
Jason Jaspal	Trustee
Leah Mates	Trustee
Polly Williams	Trustee
Sarah Schol	Trustee
Dr Shewly Choudhury	Trustee
Dr Stephanie Wright	Trustee
Stephen O'Keane	Trustee

Council Chairs

Laura Ingram	Scotland Council Chair
Matthew Ward	England Council Chair
Susannah Robinson	Wales Council Chair
Tom Hunter	Northern Ireland Council Vice Chair

Staff Attending

Nick Moberly	Chief Executive
Vicky Annis	Executive Director - Corporate Services
Dr Sarah Rawlings	Executive Director - Research & External Affairs
Ed Tait	Executive Director - Engagement & Income Generation
Gavin Atkins	Executive Director - Services & Support
Shelley Elgin	Director of Wales and National Councils Lead

1. Opening Remarks

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

2. Chief Executive's Report

The Chief Executive gave a report on progress that had been made on delivering impact for the MS community since the last Board meeting. The report included a summary of our financial performance in quarter 2 2024, and against key performance indicators for the delivery of core activities. The CEO provided an update on the implementation of the new Pay & Reward Policy particularly focusing on the support being provided for the small number of people adversely affected by it.

3. Business Plan and Budget - key parameters and assumptions

The Board considered the draft Business Plan and Budget, which focused on the needs of the MS community, our priorities for meeting these needs, risks that would need to be mitigated, and the potentially available resources.

It was noted that the final Business Plan & Budget would be approved at the December Board meeting, after scrutiny by the Strategic Implementation & Finance Committee.

4. Transformation Programme

The Board received a report on progress against the different projects within the Transformation Programme. Investment in phase two of Data, Digital and Technology Transformation was approved.

5. Strategy Development

The Board received a report on progress to date on the development of the new organisational strategy, which it would be asked to approve at the December Board meeting.

6. National Councils Report

The Board received reports from the National Councils. In Wales, the Breathing Space project for carers was finishing and a new Community Connections project for people living with MS in Wales and southwest England was due to start. In Scotland, Living Well with MS events had been held in the northeast and southwest. In England, Council members had met with MPs to campaign for improvements to Personal Independence Payments and had connected with the UK MS Specialist Nurse Association. In Northern Ireland, a new Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) service had been launched for people with MS after many years of lobbying by the MS Society.

7. Committee Reports

The Board received a report on the Strategic Implementation & Finance Committee meeting held on 4 September 2024. The Committee had reviewed and recommended the draft Business Plan & Budget, the investment in phase two of Data, Digital and Technology Transformation, and the Risk Appetite Statements, to the Board for approval.

The Committee had received the Management Accounts and the quarterly Investment Report.

The Board received a report on the Audit & Risk Committee meeting held on 5 September 2024. The Committee had considered Internal Audit Reports on risk management, and impact measurement. The Committee had reviewed and recommended the Risk Management Policy to the Board for approval. The Committee had undertaken a deep dive into the management of risks associated with entering into corporate partnerships and strategic relationships.

8. Governance Matters

The Board completed its annual review of its Risk Appetite Statements, which set out the level and type of risk that the Board is willing to take in order to meet our strategic objectives, and approved the updated Risk Management Policy.

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 those taken between Board meetings.

9. Strategic Deep Dive – People Living Well With MS

The Board undertook an in-depth review of our Services & Support Strategy and Living Well services including our Helpline, specialist services, virtual services, digital tools, information provision, local groups, and services in devolved nations. The Board considered current challenges and development opportunities, and the work underway to transform the services we provide by developing a tailored experience to match the needs of the MS community, and to make our services and support available to more people than ever before.