

Board of Trustees – May 2020

Impact of Covid-19

CEO Sally Light outlined the work being undertaken to support people living with MND and their families in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Staff and volunteers were in the process of making contact with all people living with MND known to the Association, and at the time of the meeting some 3,200 phone calls had been made. Additionally, an emergency grant application process, for grants of up to £250, had been introduced.

A decision to utilise the government furlough scheme had been taken early on with consideration for areas of work that had decreased, with the number of staff furloughed being under constant review.

Director of External Affairs Chris James outlined the work that had been done on the extremely vulnerable campaign and acknowledged the involvement of supporters and volunteers. He also noted the strong focus on encouraging people to self-register.

Given the constraints imposed by travel and on numbers of people meeting together, a decision had been taken to cancel the International Symposium, which was to have taken place in Montreal in December, but discussions were taking place on the possibility of holding a virtual event in its place.

2020 Financial Projections

Director of Finance Mark Chapman and Director of Fundraising Linda Allen outlined two projected scenarios that had been developed to assess the possible financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in terms of both income and expenditure. In overall terms, in the medium case scenario, an income shortfall of £4.2m against budget is anticipated and in the worst case £5.9m. Those projections had been developed a few weeks prior to the Board meeting, and a more detailed re-forecast was in the process of being prepared. The Board agreed to move forward on the basis of the medium case projection.

Governance

CEO Sally Light Sally offered recognition and thanks to two Trustees, Wendy Balmain and Emma Adams, who were stepping down from the Board after this meeting. Since it had previously been agreed that the AGM would be postponed, it had also been agreed that the two Trustees eligible for re-election – Siobhan Rooney and Katy Styles - would have their term extended by a year. Finally, the Board formally confirmed the co-option of Dr. Shaun McGee.