

## **Board of Trustees - September 2017**

### **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy Planning**

As part of our strategy to make sure that as many people as possible affected by MND access the MND Association and all of our services, we are working on our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy. The principles of the policy will be fully integrated into the Association's normal practice by 2021.

### **Campaigning – priorities and decision making**

Following a request from trustees for more information about the Association's campaigning activities, External Affairs Director Chris James, delivered a presentation on our work in this area. Part of Chris' presentation explained that as campaigning was one of our three mission areas, it was important people are engaged in activities both locally and nationally, working together effectively and collaboratively.

### **Bristol MND Care and Research Centre Re-Application and Stoke MND Care Network Application**

The Board were pleased to approve the reapplication of Bristol as an MND Care Centre again for the next four years. In addition, the application from Stoke as an MND Care Network was also approved and the trustees and directors were very impressed with the service following their recent site visit. Stoke is to be a new centre funded by Ice Bucket Challenge money.

### **Credit Suisse**

Fundraising Director Linda Allen, presented a paper to trustees reporting on the fundraising that has taken place since January, in partnership with Credit Suisse. She gave examples of the enormous support from staff, which had resulted in a total so far of £418k, not including gift aid.

### **Research**

The Department of Health confirmed they had awarded a grant for the HiCals research project, investigating the effects of a high calorie diet in ALS. As with all research, we hope this will prove to be a major benefit to people living with MND.

### **Finance**

Mike Ranson (outgoing Honorary Treasurer and Chair of Finance and Audit Committee) gave a full report from the Finance and Audit Committee including encouraging news and confirmation of the current financial stability of the MND Association.

The Chair of the Board of Trustees then reported that that this was the last Board meeting to be attended by Mike as his tenure as Honorary Treasurer and Trustee has come to an end. The Board of Trustees and Executive team extended their thanks to Mike for his work and support for the MND Association over the last few years. We also wished him well in all his future plans.