



BOARD MEETING

Saturday 11 May 2024

SUMMARY NOTES

Minutes of the Board meeting 9 March 2024

The Trustees approved the minutes for the Board meeting held on 9 March.

Strategy update

The current British Polio Fellowship (BPF) Strategy sets out the key priorities for 2022 -2025. It will soon need to be updated to outline how the BPF will use and build upon, the work it has already done. Members will have sight of the updated Strategy at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

In the meantime, the Strategy working groups (Improving Communications, People, Financial Resources, Outreach and Health and Wellbeing) will review their specific objectives and agree performance measures to help track progress. A colour coded report will enable the Board to quickly see how well each objective is being met. The new Strategy is due to be published in January 2025.

National Events

The Board is currently reviewing the national events the BPF organise and subsidise each year. These are the 'National Indoor Games' (known as 'The Games') held in March and the 'Annual General Meeting (AGM) and Information Day' held in September.

It was agreed by all Trustees that national events should continue and that the Games was a particularly popular event. However, it also acknowledged Trustees have a duty to consider whether these events are value for money, for as many members as possible.

A proposal for the two events next year will be submitted to the Board for discussion and Trustees urged Kripen Dhrona to issue a clear message to the membership that explained no decision about national events has yet been made.

Report from the National Treasurer as of 31 January 2024

The report from the National Treasurer showed figures for the first quarter of 2024. The BPF made an overall surplus of £55K, thanks to investment gains. The Board noted the expenditure on welfare grants was low and felt more should be done to encourage and/or target members to apply. Money was available to help struggling members. Branch Officers will be approached to ask for a financial contribution to the national programme, since any money raised through fundraising was for the benefit of the wider polio membership.

CEO Operations Update

Phones: The BPF has been experiencing a few technical problems with the new telephone system. These are slowly being resolved.

Safeguarding: Trustee, Linda Evers agreed to be co-lead for safeguarding, along with Sue Brown.

Fundraising: The Fellowship will recruit a part-time fundraising coordinator to work with Matthew Thomas, Operations Manager. This person will be taken on initially for six-month contract, with clear objectives relating to the minimum amount of funds that need to be raised.

Advisory/Expert Panel and EPU Update, Optimal Clinical Pathway

Advisory/Expert Panel: There has been no Expert Panel meeting since the last Board meeting. However, following the publication of the OCP, a recommendation was to develop a national network. Members of the OCP Steering Group have been invited to continue working with the BPF and be part of a Clinical Advisory Network. Most of those invited have agreed. The network has already been asked a question relating to the effectiveness of a medication for polio survivors.

EPU Update: The AGM for the European Polio Union (EPU) is being held in Budapest at the end of May. Kripen Dhrona and Trustee, Frances Quinn will attend. It is expected to generate an interesting discussion around polio numbers. Kripen and Frances will be giving a presentation on the OCP.

Optimal Clinical Pathway (OCP): The OCP team (Kripen Dhrona, Frances Quinn and Carol Levin) has met recently to plan the next phase of the project. It was agreed to:

- carry out a pilot, targeting three areas (yet to be agreed) which would be selected based on, for example population, level of deprivation, health outcomes, number of members living in the area, degree of branch/region activity etc.
- recruit polio champions in these areas to help promote the pathway.

Kripen and Carol recently met with MSP Jeremy Balfour to discuss the OCP. He agreed to sponsor an exhibition for the BPF in the Scottish Parliament building which has been provisionally booked for early May 2025.

So far 20 Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) in England have been approached by the BPF and this has generated two Zoom meetings with Medical Officers. Both ICBs specifically mentioned they had noted the endorsements and approvals received for the pathway. The remaining ICBs and Healthcare Boards in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will also be contacted.

Any Other Business

Gordon Richardson recently met with the team from the National Trust Purbeck Beaches. They have installed fully accessible changing places and a powered beach wheelchair at Studland in Dorset.

Next Board meeting

The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday 11 July 2024.