



BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 23 September 2025
SUMMARY NOTES

BPF Strategy Update

The Board agreed to continue with four formal Board meetings and four Strategy working group meetings a year. The dates of these meetings will be agreed and scheduled by the end of 2025.

Staffing Structure

A new member has joined the Central Office team. Abbie Mitchell joined in August and will work for two days a week, as a Fundraising Officer.

Patrons and Ambassadors

The British Polio Fellowship (BPF) has successfully recruited two new patrons: Kamran Malik and Jeremy Balfour MSP. It was noted however that Jeremy has recently resigned from the Scottish Conservative party. The Board sought clarification on the difference between a patron and an ambassador:

- Patrons: influence and raise the Fellowship's profile
- Ambassadors: represent the Fellowship and promote engagement.

Trustees asked for a short role description to be created for both positions.

Board Succession Planning

The Board discussed the ongoing need to strengthen its recruitment and succession planning. Earlier this year, the Trustee elections resulted in vacancies because there were fewer candidates who came forward, compared with available positions. The Board also reiterated the importance of maintaining a target of 75% elected trustees to be polio survivors - this remains an aspiration rather than a fixed rule.

Treasurer's Report

The BPF Treasurer reported the Fellowship's financial position remains strong and will continue to spend its funds in the most appropriate manner. The annual audit is yet to be completed but it will be soon.

Branch and Region Finances

Kripen Dhrona, Chief Executive reported on the challenges of updating bank mandates for the branches. In the meantime, the National program will work closely with Region and Branch Officers to ensure they have sufficient funds that cover all planned member initiatives and activities. Branch finance guidance will be written to clarify charitable purposes, spending parameters, and access to loan units.

European Polio Union, Expert Panel and Clinical Advisory Network

The European Polio Union (EPU) is planning to hold a conference in the UK in 2027 and the BPF will help with its organisation. The Expert Panel has agreed to meet less frequently as a full panel (approximately twice a year) but to convene more often in smaller groups to focus on specific tasks identified by the panel. The Clinical Advisory Network continues to function effectively and is working well.

Orthotics and work with BAPO

The Fellowship is continuing to work with the British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists (BAPO) and is looking to build a closer partnership to improve advocacy and support for polio survivors.

Global Polio Eradication

The Board confirmed that it remains committed to supporting global polio eradication efforts and working closely with partners such as Rotary International and World Health Organisation (WHO) networks.

Next Board meeting

The next formal Board meeting will be held on Tuesday 16 December 2025.