

BOARD MEETING

Saturday 4 March 2023

SUMMARY NOTES

Minutes of the Board meeting 14 January 2023

The minutes for the Board meeting held on 14 January were approved.

Grants review

Gordon Richardson and Kripen Dhrona have reviewed all BPF grant forms and are looking to create a simplified, multi-purpose single form. Once approved, the grants will be widely promoted, and members encouraged to apply.

Strategy Update

Kripen will be organising a meeting with Region Officers, to discuss how they operate and what their role is for the Indoor Games and going forward.

Carol Levin will take over from Gordon as Leader of the Communications working group.

Cost-of-Living group update

The working group has agreed a £300 grant for members to address the Cost-of-Living crisis. Information about the grant has already been included in the March edition of the Members' Update and Support Services has had several enquiries. Further mentions will appear in the next edition of the Bulletin (out on 1 April) and online.

Kripen's partnership work is growing. He has managed to link up with Pain UK and is working to get a formal working partnership with Age UK.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion matters

The Board spoke further about arranging Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training. The training needs to be face-to-face. Trustees were keen to get on with the training, but there was some debate as to whether an EDI Audit was needed ahead of the training to identify what, if any, gaps exist.

CEO Operations including Indoor Games and IT issues update

The recruitment of a new Community Engagement and Wellbeing Officer continues. The right candidate has not yet been found.

Staff performance appraisals have been completed. Kripen's appraisal will be with Gordon.

Four Trustees will need to step down this year; Frances Quinn, Linda Davis, Sue Brown and Manoj Somasundaram. They can re-apply to continue as Board members. A Trustee Information Day will be held via Zoom on 12 April for anyone interested in being a Trustee.

Sue Brown agreed to lead the Heating Appeal for 2023.

AbilityNet will present at the next Zoom Café on 20 April and the Annual General Meeting on 16 September.

Stephotix will be attending the Indoor Games on Saturday 18 March to advise members.

The Fellowship has renewed its membership with the Welsh Neurological Alliance.

Key people have been approached and invited to become Patrons or Ambassadors. Letters have also been sent to those Patrons who haven't been in touch with the Fellowship for many years and if we don't hear back, will be removed.

The dates for next years' Indoor Games were confirmed as 15-17 March 2024 in Leicester.

Discussions will begin on celebrations for the Fellowship's 85th anniversary and future Indoor Games events. A subgroup of the Outreach and Health & Wellbeing working group will be created and will include Branch officers.

Advisory/Expert Panel and EPU update, and Care Pathway update

There were no updates from the Expert Panel or the European Polio Union (EPU). The EPU was still working on the Polio France conference at the end of May.

Healthcare Pathway workshops were held with Patients and with Clinicians in January to gather feedback. The next meetings with these groups will be in May. A report is currently being drafted. There will be a flurry of activity when the report was ready, and everyone will be asked to provide good quality feedback for the consultation.

Report from the National Treasurer as at 31 Jan 2023 and Ongoing issues with NatWest

The year ended with £2.2m of funds in total which is still a substantial amount. £0.5 m is available to Central Office to cover any shortfalls if necessary.

The Finance Committee held its first meeting on 9 February. The Loan Unit Project Fund has been re-named to the Branch Support Fund. It will provide less well-off branches with an opportunity to apply for financial support.

Kripen now has a summary of complaints about NatWest and has written the CEO a letter, co-signed by Terry Blackman and Kripen, along with supporting documents. If he does not get a resolution, he will go to the Financial Ombudsman.

Safeguarding and young persons at work policies update and Staff Handbook

It was confirmed that Kripen has received his DBS check. The deputy for the Safeguarding and young persons at work policies will be Charlotte McDonagh. DBS checks will be submitted for Charlotte, Viji and Zahida. The policies are complete and will be reviewed in one year. The next policy/guide to review is the Staff Handbook.

AOB

There was no other business.