

Sickle Cell Society

40th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 20 July 2019

Grand Connaught Rooms, 61-65 Great Queen Street,

London WC2B 5DA

Present

Kye Gbangbola- Chair
Michele Salter- Vice Chair/Treasurer
Carol Burt- Trustee
Sheree Hall- Trustee
Philip Udeh- Trustee
Ganesh Sathyamoorthy- Trustee

Apologies for Absence

Joy Adeyemo – Trustee
Josephine Ruwende- Trustee

In Attendance

John James OBE – Chief Executive

Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed guests of the Society, members of the Society, stakeholders, support group representatives, family members, donors, Society staff/volunteers and supporters to the 40th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sickle Cell Society.

The Chair emphasised that it was a significant occasion marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Sickle Cell Society, serving the sickle cell community across the country. He said he was particularly pleased to note that the AGM audience included members from Scotland and other parts of the United Kingdom.

The Chair thanked Imara for sponsoring the Patient/Carer Education session (National Infected-Blood Inquiry, SCD Clinical Trial- Imara and Guide to Sickle Cell and Employment) that would follow the AGM.

Re-Appointment of Trustees

The Chair reported that Carol Burt had agreed to serve a second 3- year term as a trustee.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 July 2018

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21 July 2018 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for the financial year 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

The Chair introduced a summary of the above annual report. He gave a presentation providing an overview of the key areas of progress and achievements during the financial year April 2018 to March 2019.

The Chair said he was particularly pleased to report on some of the significant achievements during what was a tough year for the Society. He highlighted the tenders secured for the NHS Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme as well as NHS Blood and Transplant to deliver a programme in South London to encourage more black people to donate blood (South London Gives), the excellent work undertaken by the Peer Mentors for young people with sickle cell in Hackney, working closely with the local NHS and the award of an OBE for the organisation's Chief Executive John James in the Queen's Birthday honours list. He said that these were just a sample of the impressive achievements and that more were included in the narrative of the annual report.

Referring to the tough year financially, the Chair added that the Vice Chair/Treasurer; Michele Salter would cover that aspect in more detail in her report.

In conclusion, The Chair thanked the meeting, supporters, members, donors and staff/volunteers for their continued support and hard work for the Society.

Audited Accounts for the financial year 01 April 2018 to 31 March 2019

The Vice Chair /Treasurer presented the independently audited accounts for the financial year 2018/2019.

She endorsed the many achievements of the organisation highlighted by the Chair and stated that good progress had been made in delivering services for people living with sickle cell, despite the Society ending the year with a deficit of £37,377.

The Vice Chair/Treasurer reminded the audience that there had previously been 4 consecutive years of surplus funds achieved by the organisation and that it was therefore important to put the 2018/2019 deficit position in context. Referring to page 23 of the accounts (income and expenditure), she highlighted that income raised during 2018/2019 (£617K) was in fact greater than that achieved in the previous financial year 2017/2018, but expenditure in the year was greater by £37K) (£654K). The Vice Chair/Treasurer added that the deficit position was known in advance and thus was no surprise. She commended the staff on their efforts to limit the extent of the deficit as far as was practicable.

The Vice Chair/Treasurer took the audience through the financial statements and financial numbers in the report. She also drew attention to pages 21 and 22 of the accounts (independent auditors report) which showed a clean bill of health for the financial year 2018/2019. She also explained the basis on which the external auditors assess the accounts.

The Vice Chair/Treasurer endorsed the annual accounts to the meeting.

Appointment of Auditors

The Vice Chair/Treasurer reported that the independent Auditors BDO LLP had done a thorough and timely piece of work in finalising the annual report and 2018/2019 accounts, working closely with her, the Finance and Administration Manager; Miriam Williams and the Chief Executive.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a fully participative open session of comments, questions and feedback.

The Annual General Meeting concluded at 12.15pm.