**Sickle Cell Society**

**41st Annual General Meeting**

**Wednesday 09 September 2020**

**Meeting conducted virtually by Microsoft Teams**

**Meeting commenced at 11.00am**

**Present**

Kye Gbangbola- Chair

Michele Salter- Vice Chair/Treasurer

Joy Adeyemo- Trustee

Carol Burt- Trustee

Nathan Hepburn-Trustee

Shubby Osoba

Josephine Ruwende-Trustee

Philip Udeh-Trustee

Ganesh Sathyamoorthy-Trustee

**Apologies for absence**

Sheree Hall

**In attendance**

John James OBE- Chief Executive

**Welcome and Introductions**

The Chair welcomed guests of the Society, members of the Society, stakeholder representatives, Support Group representatives, family members, donors, Society staff/volunteers and supporters to the 41ST Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sickle Cell Society.

He said that the last 9 months of the Coronavirus- Covid19 pandemic had taken a huge toll on the lives of everyone in the UK and globally, particularly the significant and sad loss of life through Covid19. He paused to remember all those who had lost their lives including those in the sickle cell community. In particular, he drew attention to the sad passing of Carol Nwusu, who was a close friend of the Society and leader of Young Stroke Survivors group.

The Chair said that given the challenges of the last 9 months, he was delighted at the turnout for the organisation’s first ever virtual AGM and thanked the audience for their continued support.

**Matters Arising**

There were no Matters Arising.

**Appointment of new Trustees**

The Chair reported that two new trustees had been appointed since the last AGM in 2019 following an open process of recruitment. He introduced Nathan Hepburn and Shubby Osoba and asked them to introduce themselves to the meeting. The trustee appointments were unanimously endorsed by the meeting.

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 20 July 2019**

The Minutes of AGM held on 20 July 2019 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

**Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for the financial year 01 April 2019 to 31 March 2020**

The Chair introduced a summary of the annual report. He gave a summary presentation providing an overview of the key areas of progress, challenges and achievements against the Society’s corporate objectives for 2019/2020. He said that despite continued challenges for the charity sector because of political uncertainty, funding constraints and the impact of the coronavirus –Covid19 pandemic in the closing months of the financial year to March 2020, the organisation has worked hard to translate the organisation’s objectives into visible improvements and impact for people living with sickle cell and their families.

He reminded the meeting that the Sickle Cell Society worked hard with stakeholders such as NHS England and the Department of Health and Social Care to ensure that sickle cell was included on the national shielding list of patients for Covid19. He also advised that there was bespoke advice about sickle cell and Covid19 on the Society’s website as well as webinars with Medical and Nursing Advisers, planned for the coming months.

He drew attention to page 6 of the annual report referring to the joint statement from himself and the Chief Executive and highlighted some of the many achievements of the Society during the year. The Chair said that the financial year April 2019/2020 was severely disrupted by Covid19 and the full impact of that on the Sickle Cell Society and the sickle cell community will be clearer in the next financial year 2020/2021.

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 2019 to March 2020**

The Vice Chair/Treasurer presented the independently audited accounts for the financial year April 2019/2020. She added that she concurred with the statement on page 6 of the annual report from the Chair and Chief Executive.

The Vice Chair/Treasurer took the meeting through the numbers for the income and expenditure during the financial year as set out on pages 26-42. She also drew attention to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn statement on page 23 of the annual report, giving the financial statements a clean bill of health.

In summary, the Vice Chair/Treasurer highlighted that the Society ended the financial year with a surplus of £78,614. This was the fifth consecutive year of achieving a surplus. However, the Vice Chair/Treasurer explained that the surplus was only achieved because of funds received for the office refurbishment but not spent during 2019/2020, due to both delays in the programme and the impact of Covid19. She said that without this office refurbishment underspend, the financial performance would have been close to a deficit as had been budgeted for at the beginning of the financial year.

She said she also wanted to extend her thanks to her trustee colleagues, staff, donors and our volunteers for their contribution in ensuring sound financial performance during the year.

Looking forward to the next financial year 2020/2021, the Vice Chair/Treasurer said that the Covid19 pandemic and its duration will inevitably have significant implications for people living with sickle cell as well as the Society but that the organisation will continue to do its best to continue to provide services for patients and families.

**Appointment of Auditors**

The Vice Chair/Treasurer reported that the Society’s former Auditors BDO Ltd ceased their commission with the organisation at the end of March 2020. Following an open tender process, PKF Littlejohn were appointed as the Society’s new independent external auditors. She added that they worked well with her, the Chief Executive and the Finance and Administration Manager, Miriam Williams, and that they were also timely and thorough in completing the audit.

The Vice Chair/Treasurer therefore endorsed the appointment of PKF Littlejohn to the meeting.

**Conclusion**

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

The AGM concluded at 12.30pm