

Sickle Cell Society

44th Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Saturday 09 September 2023

Meeting conducted virtually by Microsoft Teams

Meeting commenced at 11.00am

Present

Michele Salter- Chair
Claudette Allerdyce- Trustee
Lisett Brown- Trustee
Carol Burt- Trustee
Nathan Fordwor-Hepburn- Trustee
Julia McLarty- Treasurer
Shubby Osoba- Trustee
Zainab Garba- Sani- Trustee

Apologies for Absence

Kilali Ominu- Evbota – Trustee
Ganesh Sathyamoorthy- Trustee

In Attendance

John James OBE – Chief Executive
Paula Shutt -Communications Manager
SCS staff and volunteers

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 44th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Sickle Cell Society. She said it was now a full year since her appointment as Chair of the charity and a year of continued progress.

The Chair reported that Shubby Osoba had resigned as a trustee due to a combination of life changes (marriage) and work commitments. On behalf of the board of trustees and staff, the Chair thanked Shubby for his contribution to the work and stewardship of the charity over the last 3 years. She wished him well for the future and hoped that he would continue to support the charity going forward.

The Chair added that the charity would be advertising for a new trustee and encouraged anyone who believed they have the requisite skills, competencies and capacity, to consider applying.

Appointment of new Trustees

The Chair reported that earlier in the year an open recruitment process had been followed to appoint two new trustees. She introduced Julia McLarty as one of the two new trustees. She said Julia was an experienced and qualified accountant and will be the charity's new Treasurer. The Chair

also introduced Claudette Allerdycy as the second new trustee. Claudette was an experienced NHS Pharmacist. Julia and Claudette introduced themselves to the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2022

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 11 September 2022 were received and noted.

Annual Report of the Board of Trustees for the financial year 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The Chair introduced the above report and said she hoped members had the opportunity to read the report, which sets out the comprehensive achievements of the Society during the financial year 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. Referring to the achievements during the year the Chair said she particularly wanted to highlight some examples which were making a positive difference to the sickle cell community.

- The annual children and family retreat which had been held in person for the first time since the Covid19 Pandemic.
- The continued growth of the Give Blood Spread Love, blood donation programme, encouraging more black and mixed race people to donate blood. Over 300 new donors added.
- The excellent work of the Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia All Party Parliamentary Group (SCT APPG), led by Janet Daby MP, continuing to raise in Parliament, the need for action from NHS England on health care improvement for the sickle cell community.
- The good work in supporting Public Health England Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia Screening Programme on securing valuable service user feedback on how newborn screening results are communicated to parents, so that service improvements could be made
- The re-introduction of the children and young people's peer mentoring programme in London, together with plans to expand the programme outside of London.

The Chair thanked her trustee colleagues, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work during a positive year of progress, despite the challenges for a national charity of the size of the Sickle Cell Society.

Audited Accounts for the financial year 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023

The Treasurer introduced the externally audited accounts for the financial year 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. She said she was delighted to be sharing the accounts in her role as the new Treasurer of the charity. She drew attention to page 27 which outlined her summary overview of the 2022/2023 financial year.

The Treasurer took the meeting through the salient point of the financial numbers within the accounts. She also drew attention to the independent external auditor PKF Littlejohn statement on pages 24 - 26 giving the financial statements a clean bill of health. She said from her perspective as Treasurer, for the charity to achieve a surplus of £129,409 at the end of a busy and challenging year was a significant achievement.

In summary, the Treasurer extended her thanks to donors, staff, volunteers, trustees and Patrons for their continued support and contributions= in enabling positive financial performance.

Appointment of Auditors

The Chair thanked PKF Littlejohn for their independent external audit work during the year. It was agreed that PKF Littlejohn would continue as the Independent external Auditor for the charity.

AGM Questions and Comments

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

Vote of Thanks

In closing the AGM, the Chair extended her thanks to all stakeholders, in particular to staff and volunteers. She thanked the charity's CEO John James, THE Finance and Administration Manager Miriam Williams, Julia McLarty the new trustee Treasurer and Paula Shutt Communications manager for ensuring a smooth and participative AGM

The AGM concluded at 12.45pm.