

THE MACFARLANE TRUST

A meeting of the Board of Trustees held on Monday 25 April 2016 at 11.00am at Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QS.

PART A

PRESENT	Roger Evans	(Chairman)
	Paul Biddle	
	Matt Gregory	
	Vanessa Martlew	(via teleconference)
	Alasdair Murray	
	Jamie O'Hara	(via teleconference)
	Patrick Spellman	(via teleconference)
IN ATTENDANCE	Jan Barlow	(Chief Executive)
	June Omadoye	(Office Manager/PA)
	Victoria Prouse	(Director of Operations)

816.16 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

817.16 Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016, which had previously been circulated in draft form, were agreed as correct record.

818.16 Matters arising from the minutes other than those itemised separately on the agenda

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

FINANCE

819.16 Current financial position

The board received an analysis of the current financial position as at 31 March 2016. It was noted that the figures were provisional and subject to audit. JB highlighted that the actual deficit at the end of the year was less than the budgeted deficit, due to underspends in certain areas. JB also highlighted that the figure in the management accounts for grant spending was less than actual spend during the year; this was because the figures in the management accounts had been adjusted to take account of accruals for grants awarded in previous years which were no longer required.

820.16 Budget for 2016/17

i) Department of Health allocation letter for 2016/17

JB advised the board that the allocation letter for 2016/17 from the Department of Health had still not been received.

ii) 2016/17 Budget

In the absence of the allocation letter, JB had provisionally drafted the 2016/17 budget on the same basis as the previous year's budget, pending confirmation of the allocation. The draft budget maintained the same level of support to beneficiaries, with the gap between proposed expenditure and the likely allocation of £2.2 million from the Department of Health being funded from reserves, as in previous years. The draft budget for 2016/17 would retain winter fuel payments, regular payments for primary beneficiaries and bereaved spouses and partners, and child supplements. The budget for Grants Committee and Office Guidelines grants had been set to reflect the higher level of spend on these during 2015/16.

It was understood that the rate of MFET regular payments for 2016/17 would not be increased. MFET and Skipton Fund regular payments were increased annually in line with the previous September's CPI; in September 2016 CPI was negative. However, instead of reducing the rate of payments, it was understood that the Department of Health would keep them at the same level as for 2015/16. As MFT regular payments had been increased at the same rate as MFET regular payments each year, the board agreed that MFT regular payments would not be increased if the MFET regular payments were to be kept at the same level as in 2015/16.

The board approved the budget, subject to receiving confirmation of the allocation for 2016/17.

821.16 Investments

- i) The board received the report of the Trust's investments at 31 March 2016 and was disappointed at the negative return over the period. The board agreed to review the investment strategy at the July board meeting in light of the outcome of the Department of Health consultation, assuming it was known at this stage.
- ii) The board noted the Sanlam Private Wealth questionnaire completed in February 2016.

WELFARE

822.16 Grants Committee

- i) The board received the minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016.
- ii) The board received the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2016.
- iii) The board received the management information pack which included the consolidated grant schedules up to 31 March 2016. It was noted that the turnaround times for Grants Committee grants was 10 days and for Office Guidelines grants was 5 days. It was agreed that there were a number of issues, such as the policy on providing advances, and grants criteria, which would need to be discussed once the outcome of the Department of health consultation was known, particularly if there was to be some rationalisation of the existing Alliance House organisations.

823.16 Political developments

- i) The board received the final written response to the Department of Health consultation, which had been submitted on behalf of the five Alliance House

organisations on 11 April 2016. RE thanked board members for contributing to the response document and advised that the Chairs of the five organisations had all agreed to the final draft before it was submitted to the Department of Health.

- ii) The board received a report from JB on the latest political developments.

JB and the Chairs of the five Alliance House organisations had met with Helen Shirley-Quirk, Director of Health Protection and Emergency Response at the Department of Health on 15 April 2016. She had advised that it was intended to retain the status quo for 2016/17 and that an announcement regarding the outcome of the consultation would be made as quickly as possible.

It was noted that a three-hour debate had been held in the House of Commons on 12 April 2016, brought by Diana Johnson MP, Co-Chair of the APPG, to air concerns regarding the Department of Health's proposals to reform financial and other support to those infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood.

Approximately fifty MPs had spoken during the course of the debate, and as in previous debates, many spoke of the personal experiences of individual constituents. A number of concerns about the consultation proposals were raised, focussed on the fact that many people were likely to be worse off financially if the proposals were implemented.

JB also reported that on 18 March 2016, the Scottish Government had announced that it would be increasing financial support to those infected with HIV and Hepatitis C by contaminated NHS blood and blood products in line with the recommendations made by a Review Group towards the end of 2015. There had been no indication that the Department of Health in England would be likely to adopt the Scottish recommendations, meaning that there would be two different systems of support in the UK for people infected with HIV and Hepatitis C as a result of contaminated blood.

MANAGEMENT

824.16 Chief Executive's Report

There were no other items to report that weren't already covered elsewhere on the agenda.

825.16 Any other business

There was no other business.

826.16 Date of next meeting

Monday 25 July 2016, 11am.