

Endowment Committee Assurance Report to Grampian NHS Board

Purpose of Report

This report is to provide assurance to the Grampian NHS Board regarding the effectiveness of the governance arrangements for the NHS Grampian Endowment Funds charity (the Fund) regarding:

- 1.1 The distribution and use of the funds in line with the charitable status and defined purpose of the fund;
- 1.2 Monitoring of investment performance;
- 1.3 Operational management of the charity including monitoring of income and expenditure in line with the charter and operating instructions; and
- 1.4 Timeous preparation and publication of audited Financial Statements and other regulatory returns.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the following key points and assurances discussed by the Endowment Committee at the meeting on 19 November 2021.

1. Financial Update

The Committee received our regular update from abrDN, the appointed investment managers. Although there has been some volatility in equity markets throughout the year to date, the portfolio valuation at 12 November 2021 was £55m, an increase of £4.8m over the valuation at 31 March 2020. Arrangements to transfer £2m of this capital gain in to a separate liquidity account effective 1 April 2022, are well progressed in line with the plan to create a separate "Lasting Impact" fund, agreed by Trustees at the AGM. Income from investments is also recovering and is anticipated to return to pre-Covid levels by the end of the financial year.

The Committee also noted that a review of the current Investment policy will be progressed early in the New Year and that all Trustees have been invited to an initial meeting at 11am on 18 January 2022, which will be facilitated by abrDN.

The committee then considered the regular financial report from the Assistant Director of Finance which highlighted a significant reduction in donated income compared to prior years. In response to this, the Operational Manager had prepared a report outlining a series of proposed actions aimed at raising the charity's profile in the short term, pending development of an engagement and communication strategy in due course. The Committee were supportive of the proposed course of action and will monitor the situation closely at each meeting.

2. Applications Approved

Funding for the retention of a Data Manager to support cancer clinical trials was agreed to be extended from two specific cancer funds for a further five years to allow the ongoing servicing of long term cancer research projects. The benefit to patients of the contribution of data management to enable NHS Grampian to take part in national research projects was noted.

3. Community Grant Fund

A community grant programme was launched on 19 November inviting applications of up to £10,000 for projects which support preventative medicine, self-management and community based initiatives which are innovative and seek to address health inequalities.

This will cover three domains:

- Health and care services
- Staff wellbeing
- Research

The deadline is 31 December and the Endowment Committee will make decisions on awards on 28 January, following a review and prioritisation process similar to last year. An indicative budget of £200,000 has been earmarked from General Endowment Funds to support the programme but the Committee have agreed that there should be some flexibility on this amount depending on the quality and value of bids received.

4. GAPF Endowment Committee

Recognising the ongoing pressures across the health system and the obvious positive impact on morale within the workforce through supporting both team and individual development opportunities, the Committee approved a non-recurring increase to the GAPF Endowment Sub Committee budget for 2021/22, from £50,000 to £100,000, to come from General Endowment Funds.

5. Trustee Development session – 3 December 2021

A development session for all trustees will take place at 11.30 am on 3 December via MS Teams. The agenda will include an update on the charity's agreed strategic priorities, the sustainability challenge and an opportunity to consider the impact of the recommendations from the National Governance review.

**Luan Grugeon
Chair of Trustees
23 November 2021**

Attachment: 1. Agenda of meeting of Endowment Committee held on 19 November 2021.

**Meeting of the Endowment Committee
Friday 19 November 10:00-11.30am via TEAMS**

*Members should be aware that their names will be listed in the Minutes
which will be publicised on the NHSG website*

Agenda

Approx Timing		Item		Ref	Noting/ Decision
10:00	1	Apologies	LG	#	N
10:05	2	Declarations of Interest	LG	#	N
10:10	3.1	Minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2021	LG	*	N
	3.2	Action Log	SL	*	N
10:15	4	Operational Update	SL	*	D
	4.1	Operational Manager's Report	SL	*	N
	4.2	Grants programme	SL		N
	4.3	Charity Engagement	SL		N
	4.4	GAPF Additional Resource			D
10:30	5	Finance			
	5.1	Abrdn Investment Manager	GB		N
	5.2	Financial Report	GK	*	N
10:50	6	National Review	GK	*	N
11:15	7	Application : Data Manager – Cancer Clinical Trials	SL	*	D
11:25	8	AOCB	LG	*	N
11:30	9	Future Meetings Friday 3 December (Trustee Update) 11.30-13:00 Tuesday 18 January (Investment Review) 11:00-12:30 Friday 28 January 2022 10:00-12:00 Friday 25 March 2022 10:00-12:00 Friday 27 May 2022 10:00-12:00 Friday 29 July 2022* 10:00-12:00 Friday 22 September 2022 10:00-12:00 Friday 25 November 2022 10:00-12:00 *Chair unavailable			

* Paper attached; # Oral/verbal; ~To follow

Luan Grugeon
Chair
NHS Grampian Endowment Fund Trustees
November 2021