

## THE EILEEN TRUST

Minutes of a Meeting of the Trustees held at Alliance House  
on Thursday, 17th February 1994 at 10.45 a.m.

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Present: The Reverend Prebendary Alan Tanner, Mr Palmer,  
Ms Phipps, Miss Winterton

In attendance: Wg Cdr Williams, Mr Williams

### AGENDA

- 94.01 Minutes of previous meeting - 25 Nov 93
- 94.02 Administration
- 94.03 Finance
- 94.04 Appointment of Auditors
- 94.05 Registration/Statistics
- 94.06 Grants and Assistance
- 94.07 Grants and Payments Policy
- 94.08 Contact between members
- 94.09 Any other business

Opening the meeting the Chairman relayed apologies from Dr Mayne who was unable to attend.

### 94.01 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 25 November 1993

No comments were raised on the Minutes which had been circulated. Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Miss Winterton, seconded by Ms Phipps and carried unanimously. It was accepted that matters arising would be covered by the current agenda.

### 94.02 ADMINISTRATION

The Secretary reported that payments to the Macfarlane Trust as agreed had been made for three quarters of the year. Early in March he would be

making the final assessment of costs so that the full charge could be settled before the end of the financial year. The final figure would probably be below the original estimate of £15,500.

He also drew attention to the overall management cost estimate as circulated, and the probably surplus of around £4,700 which would be due for return to the Department of Health.

The Trustees took note, and agreed with a suggestion by the Chairman that the Secretary be authorised to make further spending within this surplus on any items which could be justified as necessary.

### **94.03 FINANCE**

**a. Grants and Payments** The summary to 31 January 1994 that had been circulated was reviewed. Trustees noted that this was in line with expectations and that the forecast expenditure for the current financial year was acceptable.

**b. Investments** It was noted that the Charity Equity Fund (Schroders) had now recovered to a bid value slightly above the original offer (purchase) value. At the same time the value of the CAFINVEST fund had dropped further which meant that the overall market value of investments showed an unrealised loss of approximately £7,000. This general market trend gave no cause to question the original decision on placement but it reinforced the dissatisfaction that delay in registering the Trust had denied the opportunity to take advantage of the rising market values in 1993.

**c. Accounts** A summary of the Accounts to 31 January 1994 had been circulated and the Trustees accepted this as an indicator of the probable results for the year ending 31st March.

### **94.04 APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

The Secretary drew attention to the requirement to appoint Auditors. He said that the firm Glazers, of Finchley, had made a proposal to the Macfarlane Trust which had been completely acceptable but had been narrowly beaten by the firm selected. An informal approach had been made to Glazers who would be happy to act for the Trust.

Trustees considered the advantages and disadvantages of appointing the same or different auditors as were acting for the Macfarlane Trust, and opted for a different firm.

The Secretary was therefore authorised to invite a formal bid from Glazers which could be circulated to Trustees and, if satisfactory, approved ex-committee.

### **94.05 REGISTRATION/STATISTICS**

#### **a. Current Position**

A summary of the Trust's internal statistics as at 10 February 1994 had been circulated and an update of the Department of Health overall statistics was tabled.

Trustees took note of the positive, though still slow, growth indicated by the former and the very limited increase in numbers shown by the latter. It was felt that differentiation between living and deceased in the Department of Health statistics would be useful to help decide how much further pressure would be justified in seeking further enrolments. The Secretary would request this information from the Department of Health.

It was reported that all the new nominations from the Department of Health had been written to but not all had yet replied. Initial visits were being arranged with those who requested. It was confirmed that these visits were proving very valuable in establishing a rapport and in assessing the needs of those registering.

#### **b. Further Trawl**

It was accepted that establishing contact with anyone already in the system would probably have to be pursued via the Department of Health route, but that any search to find people who had not yet made a claim might also find people who had received a settlement payment but were for any reason still unaware of the Trust.

Subject to some suggested amendments the Trustees approved the draft letter and leaflet for distribution to HIV co-ordinators and other appropriate people on the mailing list which was being obtained from the National Aids Manual.

It was agreed that no further major action be taken until results, if any, of the proposed circulation could be assessed. Beyond that, further action would be considered though it was agreed that it would be necessary to avoid action which could embarrass, and thus antagonise, the Department of Health.

### **94.06 GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE**

Two cases were reviewed and the staff authorised for appropriate further action.

### **94.07 GRANTS AND PAYMENTS POLICY**

**a. Health Supplement** Mr Williams outlined to Trustees the research and reasoning behind the health-related supplementary payment recently introduced by the Macfarlane Trust.

The Trustees discussed the matter and agreed that a similar scheme would be appropriate for the Eileen Trust.

It was proposed by Miss Winterton and seconded by Mr Palmer that any registered person or infected intimate whose health had deteriorated to a level such that they qualify for the high rate of the Care component of Disability Living Allowance should be paid £50 a month supplement over and above whatever rate of regular payment they would otherwise receive.

This was carried unanimously.

**b. Effect of the Settlement Payment** It was agreed that in considering any request for financial assistance the Trustees would be aware that a lump sum had been received and that in viewing the case on its merits this might be one factor which had to be taken into account. However it was agreed that for the present no fixed parameters or preconditions should be set on the relationship between the lump sum payment and the possibility of further financial help.

**c. Payments to Dependants** The subject of regular payments to dependants of deceased persons was discussed, and the historic causes and effects of such payments being made by the Macfarlane Trust were reviewed. It was agreed that the Macfarlane Trust system might be different if restarted at present from first principles and that it was not necessarily a good pattern to follow, at least until the Eileen Trust developed further experience of its own. It was however unanimously agreed that the Trust should help through the period of bereavement and readjustment.

On this basis it was determined that on the death of any person registered with the Trust, or of an infected intimate, a payment of £1,000 would be offered to the dependants or carers of the person deceased, and in the case of dependants any regular payment being made would be continued for six months at the same rate. Any further support beyond this period would be examined on a case by case basis.

This was proposed by Ms Phipps, seconded by Miss Winterton and carried unanimously.

#### **94.08 CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS**

Arising from a request by one registered person to be put in touch with others, the Trustees considered whether the Trust could undertake such a role, and if so at what level.

There was immediate consensus (including the reported view of Dr Mayne) that any such action should be viewed with extreme caution. In particular there was concern that the Trust should not take the risk of adding to rather than relieving the stress which may be felt by individuals. The small number and wide dispersal of members were not conducive to ready and regular association between them. There was also the awareness that motivation in some cases could be more political than social.

It was agreed that the views of those registered should be sought, but that even this should be regarded as a highly sensitive area for action. A simple query would not be sufficient, since some people might at first thought approve of the idea and then be drawn into action they might subsequently regret. The Trust should therefore accept the responsibility of setting out some of the possible disadvantages as well as the advantages of cross contact between those registered. The staff were requested to produce a draft on these lines for Trustees to consider.

Until this census could be completed Trustees felt it inappropriate to discuss the levels of involvement by the Trust, either in activity or in financial support. There was however a general feeling that the Trust should only act in response to a majority demand, and that one-to-one or small group relationships could not be promoted.

#### **94.09 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Discussing the programme for future meetings it was agreed that following the delaying of the current meeting, the next date scheduled (14 March) was now too early and should be postponed.

Further dates were therefore agreed for:

Tuesday, 19 April  
Tuesday, 24 May  
and Tuesday, 26 July (provisional) all at 10.45 a.m.

There was no further business. The Chairman thanked everyone for their active participation and the meeting was closed at 12.15 p.m.

The Reverend Prebendary Alan Tanner  
Chairman

19th April 1994