

Asthma UK is dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the 5.4 million people with asthma in the UK

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Title of Meeting:	Asthma UK's Twenty-Eighth Annual General Meeting
Meeting date:	4 July 2017
Venue:	18 Mansell Street
Present:	<p>Members of the Lay Advisory Panel (members of Asthma UK): Philip Seagrave (Chair), Tressey Thompson</p> <p>Members: Josephine Warrington</p> <p>Trustees (members of Asthma UK): Professor Rob Wilson (Chair) Barbara Herts, Mary Leadbeater, Dr Paul Hodgkin, John Tucker, Martin Sinclair, Matt Smith, Jean-Francois Bessiron, Jim Bowes, Kate Clarke</p> <p>Senior leadership team Kay Boycott, Harriet Jones</p>
Apologies:	<p>Trustees George Anson, Jane Tozer, Professor Sir Lewis Ritchie</p> <p>Members Dr Bill Frankland, Doris Nicholl, John Bonnell-Steadman, Selina Thistleton-Smith, Brian Schirn</p>

Professor Rob Wilson welcomed all attendees to the twenty-eighth annual general meeting. He indicated that prior to the formal business meeting, presentations would be given by Kay Boycott - Chief Executive - to present an overview of the 2015 - 16 highlights and Harriet Jones – Director of Finance and Resources – to present the 2015 - 16 financial performance and outlook for 2016 – 17.

Areas covered in the presentation included:

- The charity's mission and focus
- How we are making a difference and Asthma UK's key strategies and achievements, covering research, campaign successes and advice and support highlights
- The five key strategies to deliver throughout 2016 - 17 including research, campaigning for good asthma care, support, ending complacency and attracting more funding for asthma

Harriet Jones took attendees through the overall financial performance of the charity through 2015 - 16, and provided an explanation for any figures that had changed significantly. She confirmed that

due to investment gains made through 2015 – 16 contributing to financial reserves at the end of the year, careful consideration is now being made by Council and the executive team as to how best invest the reserves to advance charitable objectives and generate income.

Following the presentations, the Chairman moved on to the formal business of the Annual General Meeting and reminded all attendees present that only members can vote.

1. Apologies for absence

These are shown above.

Professor Wilson informed the meeting that 168 members had appointed him as their proxy.

2. To approve the minutes of the AGM 2016 and matters arising

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were approved on a show of hands at the meeting, 11 votes in favour, combined with the 144 proxy votes received in favour and 2 abstentions.

3. To consider the accounts, balance sheet and auditors' report for the year to 30 September 2016

The Chairman reminded everyone that there was no need for a formal vote as the accounts had already been approved by the Finance and Audit Committee and Council.

4. To appoint Crowe Clark Whitehill as auditors and authorise the council to fix their remuneration

Martin Sinclair, in his capacity as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, gave a brief overview of the process taken to appoint the charity's auditors, and spoke briefly about the very positive and constructive experience the charity had been through during the annual audit process.

This was agreed with 140 proxy votes in favour, 5 abstentions and 1 vote against. In addition 13 people present at the meeting voted in favour.

5. To elect trustees to fill vacancies on Council

The Chair confirmed that the election of one candidate for a three-year term had been uncontested. He took the opportunity to congratulate the newly elected trustee Professor Ian Hall and welcomed the newest trustees that joined the Board during the year; Jean-Francois Bessiron and Jim Bowes.

He went on to thank the outgoing trustees John Lelliott and Barbara Herts for their contributions and hard work during their terms of service at Asthma UK. He also thanked John Garbutt for his contributions to Asthma UK during his 2-year term.

This concluded the formal business of the meeting.

Questions raised by members at the meeting included Dr Paul Hodgkin enquiring to Professor Rob Wilson as to whether there are any new drugs or treatments for people with asthma that are likely to become available in the next year or two. Professor Rob Wilson responded that there are potentially several new drugs in the pipeline following the NICE approval of Mepolizumab. He further explained that as research into asthma continues, gaining a better understanding of the basic mechanisms of asthma could allow scientists to determine new treatments that 'shut off' certain triggers for people

with different types of asthma. He expressed his view that he felt there could be some very exciting and important treatments emerging in the future for people with asthma.

Matt Smith asked Kay Boycott to elaborate further about the challenging fundraising environment the charity faces and asked about any new initiatives being considered to mitigate against uncertain risk. She summarised that the way in which supporters chose to donate is changing, and the challenge is to give opportunities to donate in different ways and across multiple channels.

Philip Seagrave asked Kay Boycott as to how Asthma UK are perceived and regarded in a reputational sense. Kay commented that awareness of Asthma UK and the seriousness of asthma is rising. She also said she had received positive feedback about Asthma UK's influence in the research world, driven by the leadership of the European Asthma Research and Innovation Partnership (EARIP) priorities. Professor Rob Wilson agreed and commented that the reaction from patients in his surgery regarding their awareness of Asthma UK is very different to that of just five years ago, nearly all the patients he treats currently have heard of Asthma UK, showing just how much the profile of the charity has increased. Kay also mentioned that Asthma UK are second to only NHS Choices in terms of asthma advice.

The Chairman drew the meeting to a close. He thanked everyone for attending and invited them to stay and meet members of Council and the Senior Leadership Team.