****

**Chair’s Report Financial Year 2022/23**

I would like to start my report by thanking John Marshall, who stepped down from the position of Chair of the Board of Trustees at last years AGM. John has been a great servant to Beaumond House Hospice Care (BHHC) and was at the helm to steer the organisation through the dark days of the Covid pandemic, which was an unparalleled time in the history of the charity.

I would, also, like to thank my fellow trustees for their support since I took over as chair in December 2022. The staff for their energy and commitment, as we came out of C-19 infection control measures and of course lockdown. To the volunteers who have stood by BHHC and supported us during very difficult times

As reported previously, our financial report within the finalised accounts and our Quality accounts provides the details of the number of patients we supported during the year and help demonstrate the importance of our services to the community and NHS moving forward.

Heidi Hawkins took over the role of Chief Executive at the beginning of the 2022/23 financial year. Heidi came from a background working in hospice movement, recently being the CEO of Kemp Hospice, however, Heidi resigned in December that year to take up the post of CEO at Bluebell Wood, children’s hospice, three months later. She left with our best wishes and I would like to thank her for all she achieved in her short period with us.

The search started for a new CEO and we were pleased to appoint the then Head of Care, Louise Sinclair, who has been overseeing the operational side of the organisation since March ’23, following Louise’s appointment. The trustees were pleased to see Karen Brown, the charities Clinical Nurse Lead, being appointed to the position of Head of Care, therefore filling all senior posts with seamless transition and without any prolonged vacancies.

The plan for developing our in-patient unit is continuing to progress with a number of options being considered before a final decision will be made. As soon as the plans are drawn up, we will communicate this to staff, volunteers, service users and supporters. It is an exciting time as we mould the hospices future.

**2023/24**

The budget agreed by the Board for 2023/24 shows a deficit of £367,302. This produces a daunting task for the leadership team to ensure that there is no slippage on this figure and hopefully we will produce legacy income to lessen the deficit. A deficit budget is not unusual for a charity to agree, if it does not exceed the reserve levels held by the organisation.

In the first six months of the year show the deficit at £129,702 compared to the budget of a shortfall of £192,086, £62,384 better than anticipated.

During the first half of the financial year, we received the notice from Cathy Lowe, who has been the Head of Fundraising for nine years. Cathy has kindly accepted a place on the Board, which shows the high esteem we hold her in. I am pleased to say that Matt Colbourne has been appointed to replace Cathy from within the team, who I have every confidence in taking the income generation forward.

The past twelve months has shown that the directors are earnest about succession management within the organisation and this has manifested itself it the promotions of Louise, Karen and Matt.

At this AGM we sadly accept the resignations of Julie Barker and Debbie Abrams. Both Debbie and Julie have served BHHC well during their periods in office and we wish them well for the future. I know they will both be greatly missed.

I would like to end by thanking all our supporters who have steadfastly stood with us through the difficult period of the pandemic and continue to give generously to our cause.

I can only end by again thanking everyone involved with the hospice and helping us achieve our goals.

Chair

George Cameron