

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
ROYAL SOCIETY FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
HELD AT 3:30PM ON THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2019
AT
28 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON, W1B 1LY**

Present:

Mr P Woodward (Chair)
Professor C Wallace
Major L Le Besque
Mrs B Goring Moore
Ms J Turner
Ms A Heughan
Ms L Sydenham
Dr M Brennan
Ms J Radford
Mrs D Haugh
Ms L Arai

Mr F Michell
Dr N Carter (Treasurer)
Mr A Bah
Mr T Vickers-Byrne
Dr S Kasinathan
Ms V Franklin Gould
Mr S Price
Professor L Ackerley
Dr M Qureshi
Ms J Wigmore-Welsh

In Attendance: Mrs S Cramer (Chief Executive, RSPH)
Mr P Parthipan (Director of Finance & Corporate Resources, RSPH)
Mr R Rahman (Finance Manager, RSPH)
Mr W Durant (Campaigns & Communications Executive, RSPH)
J Constable (Director of Membership & Educational Services, RSPH)

1. Welcome and Introduction

Mr Philip Woodward welcomed everyone and congratulated the consistency of RSPH AGM attendance.

Mr Woodward stated that the purpose of the AGM was to present annual report and financial report for 2018.

2. To confirm the minutes of the Society's Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2018.

Mr Fred Michell pointed out that his name was spelt wrong in the previous year's minutes. This was noted by Mr Woodward as an amend to the minutes.

Dr Qureshi proposed amended minutes, Ms Turner seconded the amended minutes and was unanimously agreed.

3. Chair's Report

Mr Woodward advised that the verbal report would summarise the activity and financial outcome from the calendar year 2018 and handed over to Mrs. Cramer who ran through key activities which she stated also form the first part of the Annual Report.

Mrs Cramer thanked everyone for attending another AGM and noted that had been a busy and productive year. Mrs Cramer brought attention to the 2018 annual report which used a different format to previous years, which had been used to better reflect the organisation.

Mrs Cramer reported that RSPH now had over 6,650 members, being one of the few organisations with a growing membership. Members were from 90 countries and 46 professions. In order to develop the next generation of members, RSPH has developed partnerships with a number of universities including Nottingham, Wolverhampton and Salford.

Mrs Cramer mentioned RSPH's four Special Interest Groups which are increasingly influential, covering the areas of Water, Food Safety, Arts and Health and Behaviour Change. There were 370 registrations from 37 countries for the Arts and Mental Health Webinar.

Mrs Cramer noted the growing impact of the RSPH journals. There were over 675,000 downloads for Public Health and over 100,000 downloads for Perspectives in Public Health, in 2018. Mrs Cramer thanked the editors and editorial boards of both journals for their hard work and expertise.

Mrs Cramer stated that RSPH had developed new e-learning programmes, including on campylobacter, sleep, gambling and health improvement. RSPH also held five conferences on a range of issues, as well as 2 full courses of the diploma in occupational medicine.

Mrs Cramer reported a record number of applications to the Health and Wellbeing Awards in 2018, with 6 finalists in line for the public health minister's award.

Mrs Cramer said that over 50,000 students gained an RSPH qualification in a broad range of areas. RSPH also approved 700 centres and 83 qualifications. Mrs Cramer noted that 2018 was a difficult year for qualifications, with cuts to local authority spending meaning that income from qualifications was lower than in the previous year. 12 new qualifications were developed in 2018, including one in infection control for tattooists and body piercers requested by the Welsh Government. The qualification was released with the Skins and Needles report. RSPH also launched the new Level 2 Award for Young Health Champions, the Level 2 Award in Understanding Emotional Wellbeing and the Level 2 Award in Supporting Behaviour Change.

Mrs Cramer also mentioned the development of the Connect 5 programme to help non-specialist have conversations that support mental health and wellbeing. In 2018, 670 individuals were training under the programme.

Mrs Cramer stated that RSPH were commissioned by Public Health England to establish a registry for Healthy Living Pharmacies, that 9,000 pharmacies were on the registry and 75% were compliant.

Mrs Cramer noted the high media profile RSPH maintained throughout 2018, continuing the organisation's principle of including the general public's views in all reports and campaigns. RSPH won its first award for a media campaign, Size Matters, with Slimming World.

Mrs Cramer reported that the Health on the High Street report released in 2018, funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, examined how high streets were changing and what impact businesses had on health and wellbeing. The report was featured in 858 press articles and in 763 broadcast mentions. Mrs Cramer announced plans underway to adapt Health on the High Street for the United States, involving the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mrs Cramer said that RSPH's work on 2017's #StatusOfMind report was built on in 2018 by launching the All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Media and Young People's Mental Health, with Chris Elmore MP as chair and William Wragg MP as secretary. During 2018, the APPG conducted a national inquiry with written and oral submissions on the issue of social media and mental health and wellbeing, leading to the #NewFilters report released in 2019.

Mrs Cramer stated that 2018 saw the launch of RSPH's first ever public facing campaign, Scroll Free September, which aimed to encourage more meaningful use of social media platforms to improve mental health and wellbeing. The campaign appeared in over 2000 press and broadcast features,

including Sky News which followed the campaign throughout the month. Mrs Cramer mentioned that RSPH are currently running the campaign again this year.

Mrs Cramer mentioned another set of reports released by RSPH in 2018: Labelling the Point, a report on the public's views on alcohol labelling, and Life on Debt Row, a report involving the End High Cost Credit Alliance which highlighted the impact of debt on health and wellbeing. Life on Debt Row was launched with RSPH's Vice President and actor Michael Sheen. RSPH also launched a report on the potential of exercise professionals to be part of the public health workforce, with UK Active. RSPH partnered with the Gulbenkian Foundation on That Age Old Question, a report examining attitudes to ageing and how these affect our health and wellbeing. This report was accompanied with a panel discussion including broadcaster Janet Street Porter.

Mrs Cramer mentioned that RSPH was commissioned by Public Health England to host the Emergency Services Hub on the RSPH website, which showcases best practice and materials related to public health and blue light services.

Mrs Cramer announced RSPH's intention to continue to focus on the wider determinants of health, health inequalities and emerging public health issues like debt, social media and the opioid crisis. Mrs Cramer states that she was proud that RSPH is a trusted partner with UK media and that RSPH views are regularly sought after, with influence beyond traditional public health channels.

Mrs Cramer thanked members for their support over the year, and RSPH staff, for their commitment and initiative. Finally, Mrs Cramer thanks outgoing chair Philip Woodward for his time as Chair, who, along with the other trustees, have developed and supported RSPH's strategic direction.

4. To receive the Audited Accounts of the Society for the year ended 31st December 2018, the Trustees' Report and the Auditors' Report on those Accounts

Mr Woodward handed over to Dr Carter.

Dr Carter states that the audited accounts are prepared in statutory format to the statement of recommended practice and FRS102.

Dr Carter stated that the Council approved the accounts at the meeting of 25th June 2019 and that the auditor was present at that time. He went on to say that the audited report was clean with no outstanding issues to report.

Dr Carter mentioned the performance of activities in the trustees' report and highlighted the main points on the audited accounts;

- The total income for the year was £3.5 million compared to £3.37 million in the previous year.
- The total expenditure was £3.65 million which is 3% higher compared to £3.54 million in the previous year.
- Net deficit for the year, before investment gains/losses, was £150k compared to the £177k in the previous year.
- RSPH's investment portfolio was £643k at the end of the year compared to £1.06 million in the previous year. We had to withdraw £450k cash during the year from the investments for our operational needs.

Dr Carter stated he was happy to field any questions. None were proposed.

Mr Woodward thanked Dr Carter.

Mr Woodward then proposed the Annual report and accounts to be endorsed:

Annual report and accounts were unanimously approved.

5. Re-appointment of Auditors

Mr Woodward announced that after having the same auditors for the last ten years, the board would like to pursue a different provider.

Mr Woodward stated there would be a proposal by January 31st 2020, when the contract for auditors will go out to tender.

6. Appointments to RSPH Council

Mr Woodward noted that three individuals were no longer trustees for the organisation, but RSPH had also gained one more, James Morris who is Director at Adelman's.

Mr Woodward announced RSPH are shortlisting for new trustees and have already received lots of applications from strong candidates. Interviews would be conducted over the next month, which could result in up to fifteen new trustees.

Mr Woodward announced that the AGM was his last as chair. He congratulated RSPH on the work they've done and thanked the trustees for their support.

Mr Woodward announced that the AGM would be followed by a debate on the topic 'Is obesity a disease?' and a sculpture awards ceremony.

7. To transact any other ordinary business of The Society

Mr Woodward asked the audience if there were any questions.

Major Leon Le Besque asked whether RSPH had any RSPH-branded ties available to members. Janice Constable replied that RSPH no longer have a tie, citing issues that there would need to be an equivalent for female members. Mrs Cramer stated that a new tie would be considered.

Ms Jennifer Radford asked whether RSPH would do any work regarding the decline in health visitors, work relating to the new RSE curriculum or work relating to occupational health.

Mrs Cramer replied that RSPH have a good relationship with the Institute of Health Visitors and the Royal College of Nurses, supporting their work. For RSE and sex education, RSPH support the Association of Directors of Public Health work in this area.

Ms Jill Wigmore-Welsh asked how involved RSPH is in the area of climate change.

Mrs Cramer replied not as much as RSPH would like, with staff not being experts in this area. RSPH have supported the Food, Farming and Countryside Commission and its report released earlier in the year. Mrs Cramer stated that RSPH are considering to work more in this area.

One member stated that Government are not considering the issue of excess of winter deaths, feeling that not enough organisations are talking about it and asked if RSPH would take up the baton.

Mrs Cramer replied that this is part of the social determinants agenda. We don't have cross sector working on health and wellbeing and RSPH have argued for a Future Generations Act for the UK as a way of doing this. Mrs Cramer also mentioned that drugs policy is being dealt with in the Home Office, which is totally the wrong place. RSPH are also arguing and lobbying for a New Zealand-style wellbeing budget with the public health network.

Mr Woodward then closed the meeting.