

Endowment Committee Report to Grampian NHS Board Committee Meeting held on 5 June 2020

This report updates the Grampian NHS Board on key issues arising from the Endowment Committee meeting held on Friday 5 June 2020 and a general update on the Endowments charity activities during the pandemic

The Board is asked to note the following key points:

1. Investment Performance

At the end of the financial year, the valuation of the portfolio dropped to £40.6m, reflecting the global market in the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, on 28 May 2020, the portfolio was valued at £45.7m. Investment income for the year ended 31 March 2020 was £1.555m. There is an expectation that income in the current year will fall and while £1.4m is anticipated by our investment manager, actual income is unpredictable. The annual budget of the Endowment Fund is based on income of £1.25m. It was agreed to embargo expenditure of general funds but that restricted funds were available for expenditure

2. COVID-19 Response

The success of the Comfort Box project was commended. Around 900 comfort boxes were delivered to healthcare teams throughout Grampian working in hospitals, in the community and in care homes. The work of the volunteers from Sheddocksley Baptist Church and the vans and drivers from John Clark Group was commended and the generosity of the Church in providing the Fine Peace Café as the distribution centre was acknowledged.

Several large donations were received for which the donors specified or wished agreement on the use of the donation:

£100,000 i-Pads for Virtual Visiting programme

£100,000 50% to be used for COVID-19 research (Trustees agreed all to be used for research)

£ 43,500 Sample system for Genetics

£ 40,460 Automated sample management system for Microbiology

£136,500 NHS Charities Together for Stage 1 of its funding programme.

3. Grants Programme

The Trustees agreed that a Grants Programme be devised to ensure there is a robust framework for decision making around the Coronavirus Support Fund. Donations of £505,972 were received to this Fund in April and May; the large projects listed above accounts for £283,960. A further tranche of NHS Charities Together funding is expected in late summer.

4. Applications

A number of applications to the Coronavirus Support Fund were received, totalling around £1m. Two projects were approved:

- Design fees for a Staff Haven in the Emergency Department; this will produce accurate costs for a further application for funding which will consider provision of staff havens across a range of NHS Grampian locations.
- Research into COVID-19; this is the second project which the Endowment Fund Trustees have approved which together total almost £200,000.
- The other applications received will be asked to resubmit when the Grants Programme is open in late summer.

5. Trustee Meetings

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) be held on 21 August 2020, that monthly Endowment Committee meetings are convened, that the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) resumes and that the Evaluation Support Scotland workshop is rearranged via Microsoft Teams.

Luan Grugeon
Chair of Trustees
10 June 2020