

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

Summary of a (Virtual) Meeting of the [Board of Trustees](#) on 7 July 2020

Guests

Bidisha Pillai, *CEO, Save the Children India (item 7 only)*

Trustees

Present:

Charles Steel, *Interim Chair*
 Arabella Duffield
 Dianna Melrose
 David Ripert
 Anne Fahy
 Babatunde Soyoye
 Razia Khan
 Tanuja Randery
 Kajal Odedra
 Mark Swallow
 Richard Winter
 Jessica Gladstone

Executive Directors

Kevin Watkins *Chief Executive Officer*
 Francis D'Souza, *Interim Chief Financial Officer*

Lynne Holmes *Executive Director of Human Resources*
 Gemma Sherrington *Executive Director of Fundraising & Marketing*
 Gwen Hines *Executive Director of Global Programmes*
 Kirsty McNeill *Executive Director of Policy, Advocacy & Campaigns*
 Fiona Clark *Executive Director of Transformation*

Staff

Habibunnisha Patel *General Counsel and Company Secretary*
 Charlotte Knight, *Compliance Officer (minutes)*
 Reema Malhotra *Chief of Staff*
 Samantha Pow, *Administrative Advisor, CEO's Office*
 Tom Baker, *Director of Campaigns & Organising (item 7 only)*
 Hollie Warren, *Head of Education Team (item 7 only)*

Agenda:

1. Introduction to meeting
2. Chief Executive's report
3. COVID-19 update
4. Annual Report & Accounts for 2019
5. Reappointment of the External Auditor
6. Modern Slavery Statement
7. COVID-19 Global Advocacy response
8. People and Culture update
9. Agile working
10. Regular Business
11. Close and AOB

Item 1. Introduction to meeting: Charles Steel welcomed newest Board member Jessica Gladstone to her first Board meeting, as well as Francis D'Souza in his new position as Interim Chief Financial Officer. Charles noted that matters arising and the minutes from the previous Board meeting had been approved via email prior to the Board meeting.

Item 2. Chief Executive's report: Kevin Watkins gave his quarterly update to the Board, which focused on the charity's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including the success of [Save with](#)

[Stories](#) and our Emergency Grants Programme in the UK; and talked through progress on our breakthroughs for children. Kevin Watkins also addressed the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and the need for SCUK to do more to address racism both internally and externally. The Board thanked SCUK's BAME network for their recent report, and expressed full support for the commitments to anti-racism and solidarity set out by the [Executive Leadership Team](#).

Item 3. COVID-19 update: Francis D'Souza and Fiona Clark shared an update on financial and organisational planning. The Board was pleased to see that our financial performance to the end of May is in line with the forecast against a difficult backdrop. Fiona Clark shared an update on the support available to staff, from Wellbeing and support arrangements to the steps being taken to try and improve the working equipment for staff at home. The Board asked to be kept updated on any plans to reopen the offices.

Item 4, 5 and 6. Annual Report and Accounts for 2019, Reappointment of the external auditor and the Modern Slavery Statement: After a short discussion led by Francis D'Souza, the Board approved the Report & Accounts. Trustees thanked the team, including Laura-Louise Fairley, Sarah Abbott, Francis D'Souza and Sam Sharpe for their hard work in bringing this together. The other items covered were an update from the Board's Audit and Risk Subcommittee, approval of the reappointment of KPMG as our external auditor, and approval of our Modern Slavery Statement for 2019.

Item 7. COVID-19 Global Advocacy response: The Board welcomed Bidisha Pillai, who, spoke of the importance of the movement working together through mechanisms such as the GPAC (Global Policy, Advocacy and Campaigns) group and introduced the global [Save our Education](#) campaign. Hollie Warren and Tom Baker then introduced the [Save our Education report](#), which launched globally this week and sets out how we're responding to this education emergency.

Item 8. People and Culture update: Lynne Holmes and Fiona Clark shared updates on SCUK's people and culture work, including the creation of the Diversity and Inclusion Steering Group. The Trustees flagged that progress has been slower than anticipated – partly due to Covid-19 disruption - and asked to see some trackable deadlines and performance indicators for ongoing P&C work by the next Board meeting.

Item 9. Agile working: Gwen Hines, Kirsty McNeill and Fiona Clark led a discussion on the Target Operating Model (TOM) implementation and agile working within SCUK, recognising progress made in areas such as [Protecting Children in Conflict](#) (PCIC) and Leave No Child Behind. Trustees noted next steps include better linking our work to Save the Children International (SCI) and the movement.

Item 10. Regular Business: The Board considered its regular business. This included safeguarding reports, subcommittee updates and the Q2 risk update. The Trustees acknowledged the pandemic has created a sudden shift in our risk context, recognising that staff health, both physical and mental has become a prominent risk area.

Item 11. Close and AOB: The Board noted that Naomi Eisenstadt had stepped down as a Trustee of SCUK in June and expressed its gratitude for her many years of service.