

SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND
Summary of a Meeting of the Board of Trustees
on 16 October 2018

Trustees present:

Peter Bennett-Jones, Chair
Fiona McBain, Vice-Chair
Arabella Duffield (item 3 onwards)
Gareth Davies
Naomi Eisenstadt
Mark Swallow
Sophie McCormick
Dianna Melrose
Charles Steel
Diana Carney
Sebastian James
David Ripert
Jamie Cooper (phone, items 1 and 2)

Apologies:

Anne Fahy
Tamara Ingram
Lisa Rosen
Babatunde Soyoye

In attendance:

Executive Directors:

Kevin Watkins
Sam Sharpe, Chief Financial Officer

Clare Conaghan, Executive Director of HR
Claire Rowney, Executive Director of
Fundraising & Marketing and Organisational
Change
Gemma Sherrington, Interim Director of
Fundraising & Marketing
Gwen Hines, Executive Director of Global
Programmes
Kirsty McNeill, Executive Director of Policy,
Advocacy & Campaigns

Staff:

Andrew Willis, General Counsel and
Company Secretary
Reema Malhotra, Head of CEO Office
Steven McIntosh, Director of UK Policy,
Advocacy and Campaigns
Rachael Sweet, Strategy Development Senior
Officer
Gareth Owen, Humanitarian Director
Esther Hodges, Project Adviser, CEO's Office

Guests:

Alan Paul, Regional Emergencies Director for
East and Southern Africa Region, SCI

Agenda:

1. Introduction to meeting
2. Chief Executive's report
3. Culture review and Charity Commission inquiry
4. Strategy update
- 4a. Governance review
5. Finance and budget update
6. Humanitarian work: the way ahead
7. Regular business
8. AOB

Item 1. Introduction to meeting.

Item 2. Chief Executive's report: The Chief Executive gave his quarterly update to the Board, covering the response to the tsunami in Indonesia, the recent IMF/World Bank Annual Meetings,

progress with development of our 2019-21 workplan, and the publication on 8th October of the [Independent Review of Workplace Culture](#) carried out by Dr Suzanne Shale.

Item 3. Culture review and Charity Commission inquiry: The Board received a brief update on the ongoing Charity Commission inquiry.

The Board discussed the findings and recommendations of the Independent Review of Workplace Culture. They welcomed the report on the Review and the launch of the ‘Stronger’ programme to drive further improvements in workplace culture. The Board asked the leadership team to produce a full action plan covering the recommendations in the review, and report back regularly.

Item 4. Strategy update: The Board reviewed progress on the development of our 2019-21 workplan – the second three-year workplan towards the delivery of the Save the Children movement’s [Ambition 2030](#) strategy. They welcomed the emphasis on addressing the needs of the most deprived and marginalised children, and on strengthening Save the Children International (SCI) Country Offices as agents of change. They encouraged the leadership team to focus Save the Children’s work more tightly on areas where we have clear comparative strengths to offer, and to strengthen systems for measuring impact.

Item 4a. Governance review: The Chair of the Audit Committee reported on the progress of the Governance taskforce, which is developing plans to improve governance arrangements for the Save the Children movement. The next steps will include consultation with members.

Item 5. Finance and budget update: The Board received a presentation on the draft budget for 2019. This outlined projections for restricted and unrestricted income. The leadership team asked the Board to approve the unrestricted expenditure budget for 2019, including operating budgets for our divisions, our contribution to the costs of Save the Children Association (SCA) and SCI, as well as a prioritised set of allocations for programme spending and other investments. The Board agreed the budget in principle but asked to see a more detailed presentation at its December meeting, alongside an accelerated plan for efficiency savings.

Item 6. Humanitarian work: the way ahead: The Humanitarian Director made a presentation to the Board about plans for further strengthening Save the Children’s capability for humanitarian responses, including by moving the surge capacity currently held in members onto a common platform.

Item 7. Regular business: The Board considered its regular business – which included a review of serious incident reports made to the Charity Commission, approving a revision to the Delegations of Financial Authority, receiving reports from Board Committees, receiving an update on the Humanitarian Leadership Academy, and reviewing the risk register.

Item 8. AOB: The Board reviewed plans for marking Save the Children’s centenary in 2019.