

Macfarlane Trust

The Macfarlane Trust has again seen many changes over the past year.

Two of the Trustees nominated by the Haemophilia Society completed their terms of office and were replaced by one other to fit in with the new slimline Board. A third found himself unable to attend several meetings as a result of ill health and very sadly he died early this summer. Trustees nominated by both the Department of Health and the Board are also now reduced in number.

Our previous chairman, Christopher Fitzgerald indicated at the start of the year that he wished to step down in April 2012 which started the hunt for his successor. After an unsuccessful attempt to recruit externally, Roger Evans was appointed from amongst the current Trustees to take over after the meeting in April 2012. He is intending to take steps to strengthen the links between the beneficiaries and the administration of their Trust.

As previously planned, the new slimline Trust Board was formed in April 2012 to coincide with the retirement of its current Chair.

The core staff at the Trust have continued to work very hard to incorporate their additional activities in connection with the new Caxton Trust which was established towards the end of 2011 to provide discretionary payments to those chronically infected with transfusion transmitted hepatitis C. More staff have been recruited and trained to take on the additional work in the enlarged office.

The search for the beneficiaries of those whose infected relatives succumbed to hepatitis C before the initial look back date continued throughout the year and the appropriate compensation dispensed via the Skipton Fund – but administered by the core and now combined office staff.

As the regular payments to beneficiaries have increased considerably the requests for discretionary payments has diminished significantly. Work has, therefore, also commenced with assistance of staff from the Comprehensive Care Centres to identify those relatives of deceased Macfarlane beneficiaries who might benefit from ex gratia payments from the reserves.

Since his return to work just before Christmas in 2010 Martin Harvey, our energetic Chief Executive has not enjoyed the best of health and is therefore planning to retire during 2012. He will be a hard act to follow!

The remaining staff are, therefore, to be congratulated on completing all this work to their usual standard in a most efficient and professional manner.

Dr Vanessa Martlew,
Medical Trustee, Macfarlane Trust
September 2012