

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 16 December r 2025
SUMMARY NOTES

BPF Strategy

The British Polio Fellowship (BPF) Board has agreed that Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Kripen Dhrona should continue in the role of Strategy Lead which he took on following former Trustee Jerry Hutchinson stepping down as Lead earlier this year. Chair, Gordon Richardson and Kripen will meet monthly to review the strategy and involve Trustees where their expertise is required. Other Strategy topics discussed included:

- **Governance calendar:** Trustees will have online access to a Governance calendar which will provide them with a list of dates of annual BPF and Governance activities, such as the audit, trustee elections, national events, Charity Commission submission etc.
- **Away Day:** The Board and Kripen will attend an off-site meeting in May to discuss the progress of the Strategy and the future direction of the BPF. Matthew Thomas, Operations Manager and Carol Levin, Communications and Information Manager, as members of the Management Team, will also be present.
- **Outreach, Health and Wellbeing Working Group:** Leader, Sue Brown explained the working group will focus on isolation. A plan of action will be agreed and will include more support for Welfare Officers.

Trustee Recruitment process – Skills Matrix

Most Trustees had completed a skills matrix, which has identified a few gaps. Trustees will consider these needs, when they are considering Trustees for the next elections. In the meantime, the Board may wish to consider addressing some of the skill gaps earlier, through co-option.

Branch/Region Finances update

Branch and Region Treasurers have been asked to produce a budget, outlining how they plan to spend funds next year.

Report from the National Treasurer

The BPF's overall financial position at the end of November indicated that total funds remained strong. Although the national programme operated at a deficit, positive investment performance meant that the charity achieved a small overall surplus.

Looking ahead to the following year, the projected position shows a planned deficit. This is a fairly typical situation for the BPF, as it takes a cautious approach to estimating legacy income and has a track record of outperforming expectations.

CEO Operations Update

Referring to the CEO report, Kripen highlighted a few key points:

- **Safeguarding:** Kripen will arrange Safeguarding training for Officers, which will be delivered during a scheduled Officers meeting.
- **Patrons/Ambassadors:** A Christmas/New Year thank-you letter has been sent to all Patrons and Ambassadors. It includes an invitation to meet in the New Year to discuss further opportunities for collaboration. Mark Isherwood, Welsh Conservative Party politician and Member of the Senedd will retire in April 2026.

Advisory/Expert Panel and EPU Update

- **Advisory/Expert Panel:** The next BPF Expert Panel meeting will be held on 7 January 2026. The team is currently working on projects. The panel does not have a clinical lead at present, and this issue will need to be discussed.
- **EPU Update:** The European Polio Union (EPU) is discussing its next steps, with its next meeting scheduled for January 2026. A decision is yet to be made, but it is possible that the 2027 EPU Annual General Meeting (AGM) could be held in London, along with a conference. Preliminary meetings have been held with BPF staff to review a potential timeline and suggested meeting outline. It is intended that much of the cost would be covered through corporate sponsorship. The 1947 polio epidemic would also be commemorated as part of the event.

Recognition schemes

Other recognition schemes are currently being considered by the People Working Group, which hopes to thank recipients, such as supportive clinicians and other stakeholders, by sending them a certificate.

Orthotics – work with BAPO

Trustee, Frances Quinn and staff member, Carol Levin attended a British Association of Prosthetics and Orthotics (BAPO) Exhibition in Glasgow at the end of November.

Global Polio Eradication efforts

Kripen will be meeting Rotarian, Reg Ling on 17 December to explore how the BPF can collaborate more effectively with Rotary. Reg is with Rotary International and a leading figure in the End Polio Now campaign.

Next Board meeting

The next formal Board meeting will be held on Sunday 22 March 2026.