



infertilitynetwork UK
Advice, Support & Understanding



ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

Y/E 31ST MARCH 2014

The trustees present their report and accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting Charities," issued in March 2005.

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Name: The Infertility Network (UK)

Charity number (England and Wales): 1099960

Company number: 4822073

Scottish Charity Number: SC039511

Registered office: Charter House
43 St. Leonards Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1JA

Reporting Accountants: McPherson CFG Limited
23 St. Leonards Road
Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Bankers: Lloyds TSB plc
25 Cornhill
Bridgwater
SOMERSET
TA6 3AY

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, and is therefore governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association. A Board of Directors/Trustees consisting of up to twelve members governs The Infertility Network (UK). The Board meets quarterly and as necessary. The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, who served during the year, were:

Board of Trustees

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Melissa Asare | |
| Elizabeth Ascham | <i>(Appointed 16 October '13)</i> |
| Nicola Dawson | <i>(Resigned 25 January '14)</i> |
| Louise Evans | <i>(Appointed 14 June '14)</i> |
| Jessica Hepburn | <i>(Appointed 14 June '14)</i> |
| Melissa Hillier | |
| Carol Hulley | |
| Nicola Murray | <i>(Appointed 26 March '14)</i> |
| Maria Rodriguez Portela | |
| Sylvia Shearer | |
| Rachel Watson | <i>Chairperson</i> |

The Trustees are each members of the company and have no beneficial interest therein and guarantee to contribute £1.00 in the event of a winding up.

The Chief Executive, Clare Lewis-Jones, retired on 31st December 2013 and Deputy Chief Executive, Susan Seenan, took over on 1st January 2014.

The Chief Executive is appointed by and reports to the board of trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the Charity and has overall responsibility for managing the Charity's employees. As at 31st March 2014 there were a total of three full time and ten part time employees. The Chief Executive is co-chair of the National Infertility Awareness Campaign which is supported by a wide range of organisations involved in the field of infertility, including infertility charities such as the Donor Conception Network and the Daisy Network; healthcare professionals societies such as the British Fertility Society and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, and the pharmaceutical industry.

There are two onward networks; ACeBabes for those who have been successful in their efforts to have a family, either through fertility treatment, adoption, fostering or surrogacy, and More To Life (MTL) which provides help and support to those who will remain childless.

The Charity continues to be seen as the leading, national fertility patient organisation, providing patient representation on several committees including:

- Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority
- British Fertility Society
- National Infertility Group in Scotland
- All Wales Fertility Advisory Group
- National Gamete Donation Trust
- European Society of Human Reproduction & Embryology Psychology Guideline Development Group
- Reproductive Medicine Clinical Studies Group for the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists
- Meetings/Conferences called ad-hoc during the year

The Charity continues to enjoy excellent relationships with its sister organisations working in the field of infertility. The Charity founded and Chairs the Association of Fertility Patient Organisations (AFPO) and co-ordinated two meetings during this financial year.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Rachel Watson –
Chair



Melissa Asare



Liz Ascham



Louise Evans



Jessica Hepburn



Melissa Hilier



Carol Hulley



Nicola Murray



Antonia
Rodriguez



Sylvia Shearer

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The Charity's objectives are subject to review each year to ensure it continues to deliver value to the individuals, couples, communities and entities it supports.

OUR OBJECTIVES CHARTER

- ❖ To relieve the suffering from infertility particularly through the provision of information, advice and support;
- ❖ To support the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK for all sufferers of infertility, sub-fertility and secondary infertility;
- ❖ To support the needs of persons suffering from infertility through the provision of inter alia, a network of local support groups, a supportline service, a website and a regular magazine and e-newsletter;
- ❖ To advance public education about all aspects of fertility and infertility;
- ❖ To raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media and in general, in an informed, responsible manner; and
- ❖ To encourage and assist further research in its broadest sense into infertility and its various effects.

Main activities for the year

In light of a continuation in the reduction in the provision of grants to charities, our major focus during the year was to consider how and then to ensure that our planned activities would contribute to the Charity's overall aims and objectives. We succeeded in accomplishing this objective in a number of ways during the past year and the Charity is proud to highlight and précis some of these activities below, with more detailed descriptions and statistics on each in the *Appendices* at the end of the Report:

a. An education project

An education project funded by the Scottish Executive that originally commenced in July 2012 with the appointment of two part-time development workers, based in the North East and South West of Scotland, received renewed funding for a period of one year from July 2013.

The project's main aims were:

- ◆ **To provide fertility information and education in universities, in GPs and in the workplace to ensure that people are better informed on all aspects of fertility issues; how to take care of their fertility and how and when it declines.**
- ◆ To raise awareness amongst young people in university of fertility issues and to educate them about those issues that can impact their fertility, such as (STD's) and lifestyle choices.
- ◆ **To reduce the instances of infertility through improved outcomes in terms of sexual health and lifestyle.**
- ◆ To help alleviate the effect on those already affected by this illness through information, self help and support by providing information events throughout Scotland.

This project proved a tremendous success as evidenced by the positive comments received from GPs and we are hopeful that, despite past difficulties in reaching GPs, this success signals the start of a new trend in effectively communicating with and targeting GPs. (*See feedback, comments and ratings in Appendix a*)

Charity staff attended numerous patient evenings and days during the year, held at clinics throughout Scotland including the Stillbirth event, the Scottish Human Reproductive and Embryology Group Conference and Family Planning clinics.

The Charity helped a patient whose employer did not recognise fertility treatment under their medical policy to draft a motion "*Recognition of infertility as a medical condition in the workplace*" to present to the patient's Unison AGM. A meaningful intervention in that it helped to affect the unanimous vote taken by the Glasgow City Branch of Unison members to pass the motion in March 2014.

b. Membership structure review

Following a review of the Charity's membership structure and in light of the plethora of free information available on the internet, we concluded that it would be in the Charity's best future interests, to offer our services free of charge, with an additional option to pay to subscribe to the Charity's magazine. As part of this strategic decision we have adopted a

more proactive approach to the use of social media and our website in order to target and attract visitors from a much wider and more diverse area and demographic. Our revised membership strategy resulted in a significant uptake of visitors to our website and those signing up to receive our e-newsletter this year. *(See the activity numbers in Appendix b)*

c. Volunteer project

The Charity continued to develop the services provided by volunteers including the provision of a third year of training for volunteers on listening skills. This training provision, for which we are most grateful, is funded by the Department of Health Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund and has resulted in an increase in excess of sixty five percent in our volunteer numbers over the course of its three years, enabling us:

- ◆ To enhance job satisfaction amongst our volunteers
- ◆ To improve job performance and ultimately provide better support services to those contacting the Charity and in need of our care

(For a detailed description of the listening skills training for volunteers see Appendix c)

d. UK information dissemination

The Charity continued its efforts to distribute information to as many patients and professionals throughout the UK, by way of both printed literature and downloads from the Charity's website. Our social networking continued to expand during the year and the Charity now has active groups for Infertility Network UK, Infertility Network Scotland and Infertility Network Northern Ireland with separate groups for More To Life and ACeBabes on Facebook, Twitter as well as a growing community on Health Unlocked.

(See Appendix d for statistics)

e. Supportline and freephone helpline

Our trained, part-time nurse continues to run the professional supportline offering support to anyone experiencing fertility issues, at whatever stage on their journey

and succeeded in achieving a sixty percent increase in calls handled on the previous year. Our head office too continues to support patients and individual callers calling in on our freephone helpline. *(See Appendix e for actual numbers)*

f. Media activity

We continued to work proactively with the media to raise the profile of issues concerning fertility and infertility in the media. Many of our staff members took part in media interviews and many of our volunteers continued to help raise awareness of these issues by sharing their personal stories. (See *Media Activity summary in Appendix f*)

g. Campaigning initiatives

We continued to undertake campaigning initiatives during the year in an ongoing effort to improve the equality of access to NHS funded fertility treatment, including numerous personalised and targeted approaches to MPs in England, our work on the Health Board project in Scotland funded by the Scottish government as well as our representation on the All Party Group on Infertility (APGI) in N Ireland.

(For detailed summaries of the campaigning initiatives undertaken by geographical region see *Appendix*)

h. Research projects

Our involvement in research projects as representatives on behalf of patients continued this year with a few noteworthy initiatives aside from our ongoing representation on the Reproductive Medicine Clinical Study Group, which falls under the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists. The first research project was aimed at determining whether elective freezing of all embryos for later thawing and transfer is more effective as compared to embryo transfer in the ovarian stimulation cycle and determining the differences in

expression of key molecular markers of endometrial decidualization, receptivity and nutritional status at the time of fresh embryo transfer, compared to transfer of frozen thawed embryos in a non-stimulated cycle. The second research project was aimed at undertaking further research into previously infertile couples' experiences of adjustment to biological parenthood to understand the social context of couples' experiences after successful in vitro fertilisation/ intracytoplasmic sperm injection (IVF/ICSI).

i. More To Life and ACeBabes

We continued to provide support to those facing involuntary childlessness as well as to those who have been successful following fertility issues through our two onward networks – More To Life and ACeBabes, including providing training for volunteers for both networks under our volunteer project.

(For a detailed description of the listening skills training for volunteers see *Appendix c*)



or from a mobile: 01424 732361



OPERATING HIGHLIGHTS

Three key operating initiatives warrant mention and perhaps the most significant and far-reaching in terms of the life of the Charity and our ability to continue to provide the vital support and services we offer, is our income generation.

1: Income Generation

With grant funding becoming increasingly difficult to obtain, we have recognised the need to diversify our income generation and increase our core funding. Our services are in demand, often providing a lifeline to those experiencing fertility challenges as research shows around one in six couples in the UK will experience difficulties in conceiving –currently around 3.5million people.

In an effort to build out the Charity's capabilities to develop new income streams other than via government grants, we successfully recruited a part time Business Development Manager in March 2014 to work alongside our Head of Business Development.

This team has produced an income generation strategy for the coming financial year, with particular focus on increasing income across the whole of the UK

(See the Section on Looking Ahead for more details of our income generation strategy for the upcoming financial year)

2: The Fertility Show

The second operating highlight for this year was our work done in association with Intuitive Events Ltd on The Fertility Show which was held on Saturday 2nd and Sunday 3rd November 2013. Our work included topic guidance, media promotion and the provision of speakers for the programme. Certainly the largest and most publicised fertility event of the year in England and Wales, our exhibit was inundated with interested parties throughout the duration of the two-day event.

3: National Fertility Awareness Week

Our third operating highlight for the year was the launch of our first National Fertility Awareness Week (NFAW) 2013 as part of our tenth anniversary campaign. This provided us and will continue to serve as a platform for the Charity to raise awareness and generate income.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Against a backdrop of ever decreasing and unpredictable grant funding, coupled with the fact that infertility, as a topic is not always high on the agenda for local government, we have taken major steps to diversify our income generation in an effort to safeguard against any further decline. We budgeted for a deficit during the year and the end of year results saw a slightly better than anticipated deficit, mainly due to increased income coming from our fundraisers and the awareness week fundraising initiative.

The Charity's principal funding sources are currently by way of grants, donations, fundraising and our corporate partnership scheme.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the following organisations and funders who provided us with new or continued grant and project funding during the year enabling us to continue to offer and develop our services.

(See Appendix h: Funding Sources for more details on each)

Funders

- ❖ Merck Serono Regional Organiser London
- ❖ Scottish Government Section 16B Health Board Project
- ❖ Department of Health Third Sector Investment Programme
- ❖ Scottish Government Section 16B Fertility Education Project
- ❖ Belfast Cathedral Sit-Out
- ❖ Health & Social Care Board
- ❖ Merck Serono N.Ireland
- ❖ Scottish Government Section 16B Grant
- ❖ Scottish Government Additional Funding
- ❖ Western Health Trust
- ❖ Health and Social Care Board Contract Variation
- ❖ Scottish Government Match Funding for Volunteer Co-ordinator

We are equally grateful to our corporate partners who have supported us during the year.

Corporate Partners

- ◆ Ferring Pharmaceuticals
- ◆ Merck Serono
- ◆ Auxogyn
- ◆ Gedeon Richter (UK) Ltd – Preglem UK
- ◆ Pharmasure
- ◆ Access Fertility
- ◆ Hologic
- ◆ Casmed

We extend our gratitude to all those who have made donations and raised much-needed funds for the Charity during the year.



Before we turn to our future plans, it is important at this juncture to draw attention to the Charity's reserve policy. It is our policy that unrestricted funds that have not been designated for specific use, are maintained at a level equivalent to a minimum of approximately six months expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant decline in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities, whilst consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves was maintained throughout this year.

LOOKING AHEAD

Our future plans for the upcoming year fall neatly under the following main areas of focus.

- Operating activities
- Funding and new business development
- Campaigning work
- Staffing and recruitment
- Service offering
- Media and communication
- Business planning

Operating Activities

Our National Fertility Awareness Week will be a key focus for us this upcoming year. Our drive will be to promote the importance of fertility education, targeting especially the young to help equip them with the knowledge to make healthier decisions in areas that can affect their fertility later in life. Our Education Project in Scotland proved a resounding success and it is our aim to approach the Scottish government once again to extend their generous support to enable us to repeat the roll out of this initiative in the upcoming financial year.

We will be campaigning for better emotional support for those struggling to conceive which will include improved access to counselling during treatment.

We will again assist the organisers of the sixth annual Fertility Show in November 2014 with communication, media, promotion and the provision of speakers. I N UK will have a prominent stand at the exhibition.

Our team in Scotland will continue their awareness creation work in universities, with health professionals and employers across Scotland.

Funding and New Business Development

We will continue to pursue alternative income generation including fundraising leading up to National Fertility Awareness Week and encouraging individual supporters of the Charity to fundraise for us. We are exploring creative ways to use the website to generate income by hosting webinars and competitions and we are working with our corporate partners and advertisers to increase their support and spend.

Campaigning Work

We firmly believe that our campaigning work is a key driver of change and in keeping fertility top of mind and as such will continue to co-chair the National Infertility Awareness Campaign, re-launching as Fertility Fairness, our work with the Clinical Commissioning groups in England and the Health Boards and National Infertility Group in Scotland. Our work in this area enables us to maintain open channels for effective dialogue with government and parliamentary representatives.

Staffing and Recruitment

Although our current funding for our listening skills project for volunteers has come to the end of its life, we are committed to working with our volunteers to ensure we provide the best possible service to those contacting the Charity whilst we simultaneously work to secure renewed funding for volunteers' skills development.

It is our intention to recruit an Education Officer for England, Wales and N Ireland and hence our efforts to secure funding for this position will continue. We will continue to look for funding to recruit the necessary regional resources in areas where we have no representation, namely the North East, North West, Wales, London and the South East and South West as part of our Brand building and increased support initiatives.

Our Service Offering

We recognise and appreciate the importance of the support and information ACeBabes and More To Life provide individuals and couples. We therefore aim to increase awareness and enhance our services in these areas.

Media & Communication

Our vision is for Infertility Network UK to become a household name and brand synonymous with fertility health. To build brand strength and automatic association when it comes to all things fertility related, we are embarking on a more proactive approach to working with the media, increasing the frequency and reach of our communication efforts regionally and focusing on delivering consistent, informative and targeted messages to a wider audience. Contact with the NHS and private clinics by means of talks, information sharing and the provision of our services literature will be enhanced and undertaken by regional staff in areas where we have coverage. This includes our information days planned for N Ireland, Wales and Scotland and we are actively pursuing grant funding to enable us to hold like events across other parts of the UK.

Business Planning

We will regularly review our business plan at each board meeting and this will be updated annually to accurately reflect the changing needs of the Charity and those we support.

TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficit for the financial year. In doing so the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make sound judgments and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for maintaining proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the Charity and enables them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Reporting Accountants

McPhersons CFG Limited were appointed Reporting Accountants to the company and a resolution proposing that they be re-appointed will be put to the Annual General Meeting.

Signed on behalf of the Board of Trustees

Louise Evans
Trustee

Dated 21st September 2014

Charity Registration No. 1099960

Company Registration No. 4822073 (England and Wales)

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS' INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE REPORT ON THE UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)

To the Trustees of The Infertility Network (UK)

We have performed certain procedures in respect of the Company's unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 as set out on pages 2-10, made enquiries of the Company's trustees and assessed accounting policies adopted by the directors, in order to gather sufficient evidence for our conclusion in this report.

This report is made solely to the Company's trustees who are also its directors, as a body, in accordance with the terms of engagement letter. It has been released to the trustees on the basis that this report shall not be copied, referred to or disclosed, in whole (save for the trustees' own internal purposes or as may be required by law by a competent regulator) or in part, without our prior written consent. Our work has been undertaken so that we might state to the trustees those matters that we agreed to state to them in this report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Company and the Company's trustees as a body for our work, for this report or the conclusions we have formed.

Respective responsibilities

You have confirmed that you have met your duty as set out in the trustees' statement. You consider that the Company is exempt from the statutory requirement for an audit for the year. Our responsibility is to form and express an independent conclusion, based on the work carried out, to you on the financial statements.

Scope

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales Interim Technical Release AAF 03/06. Our work was based primarily upon enquiry, analytical procedures and assessing accounting policies in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the UK. If we considered it to be necessary, we also performed limited examination of evidence relevant to certain balances and disclosures in the financial statements where we became aware of matters that might indicate a risk of material misstatement in the financial statements.

The terms of our engagement exclude any requirement to carry out a comprehensive assessment of the risks of material misstatement, a consideration of fraud, laws, regulations and internal controls, and we have not done so. We are not required to, and we do not, express an audit opinion on these financial statements.

Conclusion

Based on our work, nothing has come to our attention to refute the directors' confirmation that in accordance with the Companies Act 2006 the financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the Company's affairs as at 31 March 2014 and of its net income over expenditure for the year then ended and have been properly prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in the UK.

McPhersons CFG Limited

Chartered Accountants

23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

| | Notes | Unrestricted funds £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2014 £ | Total 2013 £ |
|--|-------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <u>Incoming resources from generated funds</u> | | | | | | |
| Voluntary income | 2 | 17,846 | 1,085 | - | 18,931 | 32,531 |
| Activities for generating funds | | - | - | - | - | 70 |
| Investment income | 3 | 3,413 | - | - | 3,413 | 3,873 |
| | | <u>21,259</u> | <u>1,085</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>22,344</u> | <u>36,474</u> |
| Incoming resources from charitable activities | 4 | 77,786 | - | 105,616 | 183,402 | 212,559 |
| Other incoming resources | 5 | 79,271 | - | - | 79,271 | 67,350 |
| | | <u>178,316</u> | <u>1,085</u> | <u>105,616</u> | <u>285,017</u> | <u>316,383</u> |
| <u>Resources expended</u> | | | | | | |
| Charitable activities | | | | | | |
| Direct Charitable expenditure | | 179,309 | - | 150,305 | 329,614 | 325,576 |
| Governance costs | | 20,914 | - | 3,783 | 24,697 | 28,186 |
| | | <u>200,223</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>154,088</u> | <u>354,311</u> | <u>353,762</u> |
| Net (outgoing)/incoming resources before transfers | | (21,907) | 1,085 | (48,472) | (69,294) | (37,379) |
| Gross transfers between funds | | (1,250) | (3,114) | 4,364 | - | - |
| | | <u>(23,157)</u> | <u>(2,029)</u> | <u>(44,108)</u> | <u>(69,294)</u> | <u>(37,379)</u> |
| Net expenditure for the year/ Net movement in funds | | (23,157) | (2,029) | (44,108) | (69,294) | (37,379) |
| Fund balances at 1 April 2013 | | 169,750 | 22,777 | 102,349 | 294,876 | 332,255 |
| | | <u>169,750</u> | <u>22,777</u> | <u>102,349</u> | <u>294,876</u> | <u>332,255</u> |
| Fund balances at 31 March 2014 | | 146,593 | 20,748 | 58,241 | 225,582 | 294,876 |
| | | <u><u>146,593</u></u> | <u><u>20,748</u></u> | <u><u>58,241</u></u> | <u><u>225,582</u></u> | <u><u>294,876</u></u> |

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2014

| | Notes | 2014 £ | £ | 2013 £ | £ |
|---|-------|-----------|---------|-----------|---------|
| Fixed assets | | | | | |
| Tangible assets | 8 | | 3,050 | | 3,652 |
| Current assets | | | | | |
| Debtors | 9 | 5,519 | | 12,029 | |
| Cash at bank and in hand | | 228,733 | | 297,802 | |
| | | | | | |
| | | 234,252 | | 309,831 | |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | 10 | (11,720) | | (18,607) | |
| Net current assets | | | 222,532 | | 291,224 |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | 225,582 | | 294,876 |
| Income funds | | | | | |
| Restricted funds | 11 | | 58,241 | | 102,349 |
| Unrestricted funds: | | | | | |
| Designated funds | | | 20,748 | | 22,777 |
| Other charitable funds | | | 146,593 | | 169,750 |
| | | | 225,582 | | 294,876 |

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2014. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and if its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The accounts were approved by the Board on 21st September 2014

.....
 Louise Evans
Trustee

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the Statement of Recommended Practice, "Accounting and Reporting by Charities", issued in March 2005 and the Companies Act 2006.

1.2 Incoming resources

Gifts in kind such as donated time are not accounted for. Any intangible income is treated as both a donation and an expense if the charity would otherwise have to purchase the donated facilities.

Grants received from government bodies and local authorities are apportioned over the period to which they relate.

Any deferred income will represent amounts received for future periods and is released to the profit and loss account in the period to which it relates.

Membership subscriptions and general donations are recognised on receipt.

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1.3 Resources expended

Fundraising and publicity costs include general advertising and promotion of the charity and its objectives.

Governance costs include costs associated with the strategic as opposed to the day to day management of the charity's activities.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis.

A liability will arise when the charity is under an obligation to make a transfer of value to a third party. Where costs cannot be attributed to a particular heading they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of the resources.

1.4 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Fixtures, fittings & equipment | 20% per annum on a straight line basis |
|--------------------------------|--|

1.5 Accumulated funds

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

2 Voluntary income

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Designated funds £ | Total 2014 £ | Total 2013 £ |
|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Donations and gifts | 17,846 | 1,085 | 18,931 | 32,531 |

3 Investment income

| | 2014 £ | 2013 £ |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Interest receivable | 3,413 | 3,873 |

4 Incoming resources from charitable activities

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total 2014 £ | Total 2013 £ |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Fundraising income | 35,469 | - | 35,469 | 10,698 |
| Subscriptions | 23,235 | - | 23,235 | 24,848 |
| Grants receivable for charitable activities | - | 105,616 | 105,616 | 159,800 |
| Advertising income | 19,082 | - | 19,082 | 17,213 |
| | 77,786 | 105,616 | 183,402 | 212,559 |

5 Other incoming resources

| | 2014 £ | 2013 £ |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Other income | 31,771 | 18,700 |
| Sponsorship | 47,500 | 48,650 |
| | 79,271 | 67,350 |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

6 Total resources expended

| | Staff costs £ | Other costs £ | Total 2014 £ | Total 2013 £ |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Charitable activities | | | | |
| <u>Direct Charitable expenditure</u> | | | | |
| Activities undertaken directly | 226,819 | 102,795 | 329,614 | 325,576 |
| Governance costs | 9,118 | 15,579 | 24,697 | 28,186 |
| | <u>235,937</u> | <u>118,374</u> | <u>354,311</u> | <u>353,762</u> |

7 Employees

Number of employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

| | 2014 Number | 2013 Number |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Average number of employees | <u>16</u> | <u>14</u> |

Employment costs

| | 2014 £ | 2013 £ |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Wages and salaries | 223,427 | 203,803 |
| Social security costs | <u>12,440</u> | <u>14,068</u> |

There were no employees whose annual emoluments were £30,000 or more.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

8 Tangible fixed assets

| | Fixtures, fittings & equipment £ |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Cost | |
| At 1 April 2013 and at 31 March 2014 | 12,066 |
| Depreciation | |
| At 1 April 2013 and at 31 March 2014 | 9,016 |
| Net book value | |
| At 31 March 2014 | 3,050 |
| At 31 March 2013 | 3,652 |

9 Debtors

| | 2014 £ | 2013 £ |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Other debtors | 682 | 5,880 |
| Trade debtors | 4,626 | 3,390 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 211 | 2,759 |
| | 5,519 | 12,029 |

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

| | 2014 £ | 2013 £ |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Trade creditors | 5,740 | 7,604 |
| Taxes and social security costs | 2,836 | 3,647 |
| Accruals | 2,394 | 3,189 |
| Deferred income | 750 | 4,167 |
| | 11,720 | 18,607 |

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

11 Restricted funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

| | Movement in funds | | | Balance at 31 March 2014 £ |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Balance at 1 April 2013 £ | Incoming resources £ | Resources expended £ | |
| Dept of Health S64 Grant - Enabling Informed Choices | 970 | - | (456) | 514 |
| Merck Serono Regional Organiser London | 6,148 | 4,364 | (10,512) | - |
| Dept of Health S64 Grant - PCT Liaison Project | 185 | - | (185) | - |
| Scottish Government Health Board Project & Information Packs | 27,494 | - | (26,409) | 1,085 |
| Dept. of Health IESD Fund - Volunteer training project | 13,613 | 27,382 | (33,128) | 7,867 |
| Awards For All | 300 | - | (149) | 151 |
| Scottish Government Fertility Education Project | 51,659 | - | (37,556) | 14,103 |
| Big Lottery Fund | 1,180 | - | (1,180) | - |
| Belfast Cathedral Sitout | 800 | 800 | (800) | 800 |
| Health & Social Care Board | - | 17,184 | (17,132) | 52 |
| Merck Serono N. Ireland | - | 16,169 | (9,534) | 6,636 |
| Scottish Government Section 16B grant | - | 11,700 | (11,700) | - |
| Scottish Government Additional Funding | - | 19,954 | - | 19,954 |
| Western Health TP | - | 4,207 | (4,207) | - |
| Health and Social Care Board Contract Variation for ACeBabes Coordinator | - | 1,405 | (1,141) | 264 |
| Scottish Government Match Funding for Volunteer Coordinator | - | 6,815 | - | 6,815 |
| | <u>102,349</u> | <u>109,980</u> | <u>(154,089)</u> | <u>58,241</u> |

Incoming Resources above includes a transfer of £4,364 from Designated Funds to the Merck Serono Regional Organiser London grant.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

(continued)

Dept. of Health S64 Grant - Enabling Informed Choices and Improving Wellbeing - Provision of written information for patients and health professionals of elective single embryo transfer and information packs on alternative parenting options and support.

Merck Serono Regional Organiser London - To employ a Regional Organiser for London and the South East to help patients and liaise with health professionals and commissioners in the region.

Dept. of Health S64 Grant - PCT Project - To continue the project performed over the previous financial years to liaise with the PCTs in England to encourage implementation of the NICE fertility guidelines.

Scottish Government Section 16B Health Board Project - To work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce Information Packs.

Department of Health Third Sector investment programme: Innovation Excellence & Service Development fund: Improving infertility services by recruiting and providing listening skills training for volunteer's project.

Awards For All - Informing and empowering infertility patients in Scotland.

Scottish Government Section 16B Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.

Big Lottery Fund - Redesign website in order to extend services to our users.

Belfast Cathedral Sitout - Funding towards information day and support group meetings in N.Ireland.

Health & Social Care Board - Awarded to provide a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and support to local patient groups.

Merck Serono N.Ireland - To extend the regional network in Northern Ireland.

Scottish Government Section 16B grant - Received to assist with the cost of a Scottish Branch Co-ordinator including salary plus all expenses of the job such as computer equipment, production of information and travel for staff and volunteers.

Scottish Government Additional Funding - received to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland and to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups.

Western Health Trust - To run a series of "Think Positive" interactive workshops for infertility patients in N Ireland aimed at improving their mental and physical health by thinking positively.

Health and Social Care Board Contract Variation - to fund a part time ACeBabes Coordinator in N Ireland

Scottish Government Match Funding for Volunteer Coordinator - received to match funding already sourced to employ a volunteer coordinator in Scotland during 2014/15.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

(continued)

All of the above grants were received after successful application for funding by The Infertility Network (UK).

All of the grants are restricted to expenditure as agreed with grant body during the application process.

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

| | Unrestricted funds £ | Designated funds £ | Restricted funds £ | Total £ |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Fund balances at 31 March 2014 are represented by: | | | | |
| Tangible fixed assets | 263 | - | 2,787 | 3,050 |
| Current assets | 158,050 | 20,748 | 55,454 | 234,252 |
| Creditors: amounts falling due within one year | (11,720) | - | - | (11,720) |
| | <u>146,593</u> | <u>20,748</u> | <u>58,241</u> | <u>225,582</u> |

13 Financial Performance

During the year the charity incurred a deficit (net expenditure over income) of £69,294. This was not unexpected and represents an improvement on the budgeted deficit of £93,714. The charity accepts that there will be years when deficits are incurred especially given the current economic climate but is mindful of the need to maintain reserves by maximising income and minimising overhead costs.

During the year ended 31 March 2014 the charity incurred one off, non recurring expenditure. This included the temporary appointment of a Deputy Chief Executive to facilitate the transition to appointing a new Chief Executive. Additional expenses were incurred during this transitional period which by their nature are not expected to reoccur. The charity has also made provisions, both during the year and since the balance sheet date, to rationalise costs including staff costs. It has achieved the latter by consolidating staff responsibilities and roles within the organisation.

The charity has robust management reporting systems to ensure actual results are compared to budgeted figures on a monthly basis and action can quickly be taken where variances are greater than expected. The charity retains a healthy balance sheet and has accumulated funds at 31 March 2014 of £225,582. The charity has produced a very prudent budget for 2014/15 and expects to incur another deficit, however, accumulated funds carried forward at 31 March 2015 are anticipated to be in excess of £160,000. The accumulated funds at 31 March 2014 are represented by 'cash at bank' balances thus the charity has extremely strong liquidity. The budgeted accumulated funds at 31 March 2015 are anticipated to be similarly represented.

THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE INFERTILITY NETWORK (UK)

I report on the accounts of the Charity for the year ended 31 March 2014, which are set out on pages 2 to 10.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and examiner

The Trustees (who are also the directors of The Infertility Network (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investments (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The charity Trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993, the 1993 Act or under Regulation 10 (1)(a) to (c) of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (the 2006 Accounts Regulations), and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under Section 44(1)(c) of the Act and state whether particular matters have come to my attention. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a Chartered Accountant.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- (i) examine the accounts under section 43 of the 1993 Act and section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 (the 2005 Act);
- (ii) to follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- (iii) to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the Charity Commission and is in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (a) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:
 - (i) to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 386 of the Companies Act 2006, Section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations; and
 - (ii) to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of 396 of the Companies Act 2006, Section 44(1)(b) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities;have not been met; or
- (b) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Ainsley Gill BA FCA
McPhersons CFG Limited
Chartered Accountants
23 St Leonards Road
Bexhill-on-Sea
East Sussex
TN40 1HH

Dated: 22nd September 2014

Appendix a: An Education Project

During 2013/2014 approximately five thousand “your future fertility” leaflets were distributed. The leaflets featured an informative overview of issues that can impact on fertility including eating disorders, age, weight and smoking.

Presentations were conducted and information delivered to twenty nine GP surgeries, sixty midwives, ninety student nurses and several universities, and representatives from the Charity attended thirty two university/college Fresher’s and Health event weeks across Scotland. Following each presentation the student nurses and GPs completed an evaluation form with the following outcomes:

GPs

- 99% rated the information provided as excellent
- 1% rated the information provided as good
- 100% felt better informed about infertility pathways
- 100% felt better informed about the impact of infertility on mental health
- 100% felt better informed of the current criteria
- 100% felt better informed of the services offered by I N Scotland

Comments included:

- *“I did not realise the BMI had been reduced or smoking would now be tested”*
- *“I still believed Ayrshire and Arran offered 3 cycles of treatment”*
- *“Found this very informative and good knowledge when seeing anyone with fertility issues”*
- *“It was good to hear a specialist in the fertility spectrum speak too”*

Nurses and Midwives

- 95% rated the information provided as excellent
- 5% rated the information provided as good
- 100% felt better informed about the patient experience
- 100% felt better informed about the impact of infertility on mental health
- 100% felt better informed about infertility treatments.

Additional comments included:

- *“The patient experience was fantastic”*
- *“Very engaging presentation”*
- *“Excellent presentation, amazing story”*
- *“Found the whole presentation really informative”*
- *“Patient story really helps us to be better nurses”*

APPENDIX b

Appendix b: Membership Structure Review

As at 31st March 2014 there were a total of three thousand one hundred and eighty three members registered on the Charity's website, and over one thousand five hundred people signed up to receive the Charity's free e-newsletter. In an effort to reach a wider net of people beyond those registered, the Charity made use of social media and its website. The Charity's website had over three hundred and eighty thousand visits during the year of which two hundred and four thousand were unique visitors.

Appendix c: Volunteer Project

We continued with the third year of our “Improving infertility support services by recruiting and providing listening skills training for volunteers” and once again the total number of volunteers increased. Over the three years, the number of volunteers has increased by over 65%, allowing us to significantly improve the services our volunteers provide to new contacts. During the year our Volunteer Co-ordinator:

- Arranged three “Listening and Counselling Skills” volunteer training events
- Developed a new e-learning programme to enable training to continue once the grant comes to an end
- Surveyed all volunteers and feedback received indicate that the training has been extremely well received with comments such as: *“Yes, it was a counselling skills course and was very useful to my role as a support group leader”*; and *“Loved it! Found it incredibly helpful and gave me the confidence to run larger groups and inspiration to change careers and train as a therapist!!!”*
- Developed posters promoting support groups which were sent to nearby clinics
- Updated I N UK and MTL volunteer guidelines
- Updated the Volunteer Recruitment and Selection Policy
- Updated procedure for referring callers to volunteer counsellors – we now have three volunteer counsellors

Our website continued to include a “Volunteers Update” forum where all volunteer opportunities and training were posted.

We believe that our project has continued to deliver better health outcomes and increase patient satisfaction for patients accessing the services provided by our volunteers. Also both old and newly recruited volunteers have continued to experience satisfaction in their roles through the provision of training thus ensuring they feel better able to provide the vital support services they kindly offer and, in turn, provide those contacting them with a trained service resulting in patient satisfaction and the ability to deal with their infertility better resulting in better health outcomes.

All of the above has improved the quality of services, experience and outcomes for our volunteers and in turn improved the quality of service, experience and outcome for patients contacting them. We are grateful to the Department of Health “Innovation, Excellence and Service Development Fund” for their support.

The Volunteer Co-ordinator resigned in February 2014 after 2½ years in post and our Professional Supportline Co-ordinator and Volunteer Support worker, Diane Arnold, who provided volunteer support to the Volunteer Co-ordinator and our Administration Officer Alison Onash, continued to ensure our current and potential volunteers were supported and managed.

Appendix d: UK Information Dissemination

- Over sixty-nine factsheets covering all aspects of fertility and infertility and related topics were made available to download from the website.
- Over two thousand patient factsheets on single embryo transfer were distributed to fertility clinics in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and over three hundred to fertility clinics in Scotland. This factsheet is available for download on the Charity's website, together with one on single embryo transfer specifically for health professionals.
- In the absence of further funding for the information packs on alternative parenting options following unsuccessful treatment, these are being turned into e-packs so that this vital information is still made available.
- The Charity received funding from the Scottish Government to produce and distribute one thousand four hundred information packs to all fertility clinics in Scotland.
- The Charity's Head Office distributed sixteen thousand five hundred pieces of I N UK literature including leaflets, posters and information cards to clinics across the UK during the course of the year.
- In addition the Charity and volunteers continued to distribute literature at infertility related conferences and on an ad-hoc basis.
- Three thousand one hundred and forty Infertility Network UK magazines, eight hundred and eighty More To Life newsletters and six hundred and forty five ACeBabes newsletters were disseminated.
- At 31st March 2013 we had a total of one thousand five hundred and forty nine subscribers to our free e-newsletters and during the year we published five editions that were circulated to a total of five thousand four hundred and eighty eight subscribers.
- We regularly reach over fifteen thousand followers each week using social networking.

Appendix e: Supportline and Freephone Helpline

- Our trained nurse on our professional supportline handled six hundred and thirty calls during the year, an increase of almost sixty percent on the previous year. A thousand patients were supported via email, forums and through the Charity's Health Unlocked community.
- Our staff at head office responded to over one thousand telephone calls during the course of the year, and supported many more patients through email and social networking.

Appendix f: Media Activity

Below are the media activities undertaken by the Charity and the resulting media statistics covering the last three months leading up to the financial year-end. The records for activity and relevant statistics prior to that date have not been sufficiently qualified to include in this annual report. The Charity has now firmly put in place a process to accurately record all media activity and related statistics going forward. These precise media recordings will from now on, be made readily available to all upon request and included in future annual reports.

| | Annual Equivalent |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| Press releases Jan-Mar – 12 | x 4 = 48 |
| Press comments Jan-Mar – 23 | x 4 = 92 |
| Media requests Jan-Mar – 74 | x 4 = 296 |
| Interviews Jan-Mar – 10 | x 4 = 40 |

Appendix g: Campaigning Initiatives

England and Wales

Our Chief Executive continued to Chair the National Infertility Awareness Campaign (NIAC) aimed at supporting the provision of an equitable system of publicly funded fertility treatment throughout the UK. Infertility Network UK also provides the press office for the campaign.

Seventy seven personalised approaches were made to MPs in England and we secured action (be it a meeting, letter to CCG, meeting with CCG, PQ in parliament or representation to the Minster) from twenty two MPs. Meetings were held with five MSPs resulting in the triggering of a debate in the Scottish Parliament.

We also held meetings with representatives of the National Institute for Health & Care Excellence and Charles Alessi, the Chairman of the National Association of Primary Care; the Royal College of Nursing and fed in to their Position Statement on Fertility for 2014.

We collaborated with NIAC on a survey of the level of funding for fertility treatment being provided by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across England. The results of this work were added to the NHS funding section on our website providing a much needed resource for patients.

Clare Lewis-Jones was appointed as a specialist lay member of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Quality Standard Advisory Group which is being produced by NICE following the publication of the updated NICE Clinical Guideline 156: "Fertility: Assessment and treatment for people with fertility problems" in November 2013. NICE quality standards are a concise set of prioritised statements designed to drive measurable quality improvements within a particular area of health or care.

Scotland

Our Chief Executive, Susan Seenan; Head of Business Development, Sheena Young and Scottish Branch Co-ordinator, Gwenda Burns continued to represent patients on the National Infertility Group in Scotland which was established in 2010 by the Scottish government to address the inequities in NHS funding for fertility treatment across Scotland and to readdress the guidelines that were in place. Our Scottish Branch Co-ordinator continued the important work of the Health Board Project, kindly funded by the Scottish government, by liaising with Health Boards, attending Health Board meetings and facilitating the sharing of good practice to bring about full implementation of government recommendations for the treatment of those with fertility problems.

The Scottish Branch Co-ordinator continued to attend and be a member of several groups which have been established i.e. Waiting times, Gametes Group, Access Criteria, Data group etc. to investigate different areas leading up to the review of the criteria in early 2015 at the latest. She also co-ordinated a number of letters that were sent to Members of the Scottish Government (MSPs) and attended meetings with MSPs. In September this led to a debate being held in the Scottish Parliament and many PQ's being presented from several MSPs.

Northern Ireland

Our Regional Organiser for Northern Ireland, Sharon Davidson, leads on the campaign in the region. Northern Ireland currently only commissions one cycle of IVF treatment for eligible patients and this only allows for the transfer of one frozen embryo, contravening NICE's definition of a 'full' cycle.

In June 2013, a meeting took place with a number of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) to propose an All Party Group on Infertility (APGI). The official launch of the APGI took place on 22 October 2013 in Parliament Buildings Stormont. At this meeting, it was proposed and agreed that the focus of the APGI would be to push for the implementation of the new NICE Guidance on Infertility 2013, in particular, those pertaining to 3 full cycles, the extension of the age range to 42 (under strict criteria) and the opening up of criteria for those that have an infectious disease or disability. The APGI's aim is to act as a conduit between the Assembly and patients, and as a vehicle for policy change at a national level.

In December 2013 a representative from the DHSS&PS advised that the "Minister had recently endorsed the revised NICE Guidance on fertility as applicable to the Health & Social Care Board (HSCB) in the context of currently available resources and other HSCB priorities." On 4 April 2014 further communication from the DHSS&PS stated that a new protocol for implementing NICE Guidance had come into effect delaying any decision making until July/August 2014. It also stated that the HSC Boards initial assessment of the revised NICE Guidance on fertility indicated that implementation would have significant financial implications.

Taking advantage of this extra time, NIAC worked with the All Party Group to draft a set of recommendations to take to the Health and Social Care Board and the Minister, effectively setting out what we think the new policy in Northern Ireland should look like.

The view from NIAC is that a cash injection be found to increase clinical capacity in Northern Ireland and that a second cycle of treatment be commissioned as a means of preparing the service for the transition to a third treatment cycle at the earliest opportunity.

Plans are underway for NIAC representatives to meet with the DHSS&PS during August/September 2014 to probe them on timelines on its next budget and to enquire whether they have considered 2 NHS cycles of IVF treatment instead of 3. The All Party Group plan to submit a set of core recommendations during a meeting planned for mid-September 2014 detailing a new IVF implementation policy.

In addition...

Our Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive gave presentations at various infertility related conferences both within the UK and Europe, speaking on various topics relating to patients needs and experiences as well as NHS funding for fertility treatment. Equally our regional staff in Northern Ireland and Scotland took part in media interviews and meetings relating to NHS funding for fertility treatment.

Appendix h: Our Funders and Corporate Partners

- Merck Serono Regional Organiser London - To employ a Regional Organiser for London and the South East to help patients and liaise with health professionals and commissioners in the region.
- Scottish Government Section 16B Health Board Project - To work with Health Boards to bring about full implementation of recommendations for the provision of fertility services in Scotland and to produce patient information packs.
- Department of Health Third Sector investment programme: Innovation Excellence & Service Development Fund: Improving infertility services by recruiting and providing listening skills training for volunteers project.
- Scottish Government Section 16B Fertility Education Project - To raise awareness of issues surrounding fertility and infertility through working with universities, health professionals and employers across Scotland to introduce ways of ensuring people are better informed about how their fertility can be conserved.
- Belfast Cathedral Sit-Out - Funding towards information day and support group meetings in N.Ireland.
- Health & Social Care Board - Awarded to provide a confidential telephone helpline service, practical information services and support to local patient groups.
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- Scottish Government Section 16B Grant - Received to assist with the cost of a Scottish Branch Co-ordinator including salary plus all expenses of the role such as computer equipment, production of information and travel for staff and volunteers.
- Scottish Government Additional Funding – received to allow us to continue to provide a comprehensive support service to infertility patients throughout Scotland and to provide patient representation by participating in the various meetings following on from the National Groups.
- Western Health Trust - To run a series of "Think Positive" interactive workshops for infertility patients aimed at improving their mental and physical health by thinking positively.
- Health and Social Care Board Contract Variation – to fund a part time ACeBabes Co-ordinator in N.Ireland.
- Scottish Government Match Funding for Volunteer Co-ordinator – Received to match funding already sourced to employ a Volunteer Co-ordinator in Scotland during 2014.

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Infertility Network (UK)
Charter House
43 St. Leonards Road, Bexhill-on-Sea,
East Sussex
TN40 1JA - See more at:
www.infertilitynetworkuk.com



Chief Executive
Susan Seenan

Email : susanseenan@infertilitynetworkuk.com
Twitter : @SusanSeenan