

Chairman's Statement

The year through to March 2020 was an important one for our organisation. As well as continuing to make real and substantial impact on the lives of the many people who attended our programmes, we completed the transformation of the charity that we have been implementing over the past few years. We ended the year with a slimmed down but focused team and a new information infrastructure that has provided us with a platform for growth and innovation over the next few years.

Whilst the NHS commissioning environment remained very challenging and we saw a decline in turnover, we are now the more agile, flexible and scalable organisation that we sought. This enables us not just to deliver more services for people living with long term conditions, but to expand our research, service development and campaigning role. This has been proved in 2020 with the serious challenges that COVID has presented for all health and social care providers. As most of our work has involved face-to-face education and support for patients, we had to postpone courses for much of 2020. However, the rapid changes in technology acceptance enabled us to advance our plans for programmes delivered over the internet. With the support of our commissioners and the extraordinary commitment of our staff, Self Management UK has been delivering online programmes with very positive results.

Online delivery is not the same as face-to-face and we remain committed to both. Each can enhance access for particular groups of people and from September 2020 we are running both with plans for an expanded range that can meet the diverse needs of those we are here to help. We are also actively seeking funding to research the relative impacts of different delivery modes and how these can be used to reduce inequalities. Whilst I'm sure it will continue to be a difficult financial climate; the charity sees an exciting future where we are able to make even greater impact for more people and their carer. whilst reducing demand on the NHS.

During the 2019 we said farewell to two trustees who had completed two terms on the Board. Kate James and Miriam McKee brought their extensive experience and their enthusiastic commitment to the work of the charity and they are already missed. Sadly we also said goodbye to several members of staff who have been so important to the turnaround of the charity and whose commitment to the people we serve has been wonderful. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank each and every one of them for their contribution.

We were very pleased in 2019 to appoint Marc Berryman as a new trustee and as Honorary Treasurer. Marc is a highly experienced financial professional who has already brought great value to the organisation and compliments the range of experience and skills of our Board.

We are already looking forward to 2021, how we can leverage our knowledge and capabilities and how we can make the case for self management as a core pathway in the NHS. As part of this, the trustees have begun the process to recruit the next chair of the charity as my second term comes to an end in March. There will continue to be a lot of uncertainty in care provision over the coming period, but the charity will be focused on innovation to fulfil our purpose.

Anthony Levy 16/09/20