



KNOW

YOUR PENSION

A newsletter
for Benenden
Healthcare
Pension Plan

NOVEMBER 2022



Welcome to our 2022 newsletter which includes some important information about the Benenden Healthcare Pension Plan (the 'Plan') and activity over the past 12 months.

KNOW THE PLAN UPDATES

ADMINISTRATION HANDOVER + BROCHUREWARE SITE

As of 6 June 2022, the administrators of the Plan transitioned from Capita to Hymans Robertson, as announced in the communication to members on 27 April 2022. So please begin to divert all queries relating to your pension to the team at Hymans Robertson by telephone on 0141 227 9773 or via email on benendenpension@hymans.co.uk.

Full information about your Plan benefits and other Plan documentation can now be found at www.BenendenPension.co.uk, under the 'Scheme Information' section. The Plan's website also contains relevant documents such as the Statement of Investment Principles, topical news items and an electronic version of this member newsletter.

From this website, you are also able to access PRISM, a secure member web-service. All of the required information about PRISM and how to register can be found in the flyer on the Plan's website. You are able to find details of your own benefits, as well as access regular pension payment statements, expressions of wish and annual pension increase values. The Trustees plan to keep all members updated as new features are launched throughout 2022/2023.

FUNDING

There continues to be a funding deficit in the Plan, however the funding level of the Plan has continued to improve over 2021 as a result of contributions from the Society and Hospital Trust, the positive performance of the Plan's assets in 2021 and rising UK Government bond yields over the last few months. In fact, the Plan remains ahead of the recovery plan agreed as part of the 31 March 2019 formal valuation to remove the deficit over the long-term. The Plan is currently undergoing its formal valuation as at 31 March 2022 where we analyse the level of assets in the Plan against what we believe is required to meet all of the Plan's outstanding benefits. Once this has been completed, we will be able to share updated results and analysis of the Plan's funding position.

INVESTMENT

The Plan's invested assets performed positively over 2021 as economies continued to recover from the impact of Covid-19. Since the start of 2022 investment markets have been particularly volatile, mainly as a result of the Russia-Ukraine crisis, high inflation and a slowdown in economic activity. The Trustees will continue to monitor the situation and take professional advice from the Plan's newly appointed investment advisors, Hymans Robertson, to ensure the Plan's investments remain appropriate in light of the market environment.

TRUSTEE BOARD UPDATES

In last year's newsletter, I announced that there was a vacancy for a Member Nominated Trustee. Following a selection process, I am pleased to announce that Adele Spencer, Head of Procurement & Legal at Benenden Health, was appointed to the Trustee Board in late 2021. Thank you to all of those who put their name forward, there will be further opportunities to join the Board at a later date and help to ensure that the Plan is run effectively.

Following the resignation of Catriona from the Trustee Board in August 2021, Benenden are currently in the process of appointing a replacement employer nominated Trustee and will provide further information once this role has been filled. In the meanwhile, I would like to thank Catriona for her dedicated service as a Trustee and her valuable contribution to the running of the Plan.

DC SCHEME CLOSURE

In July 2021, the Trustees communicated to all of the members of the Defined Contributions Scheme about the joint decision of the Society and Hospital to close the Plan's Defined Contribution Section. The Trustees then advised that in September 2021, these benefits were transferred to the Legal & General WorkSave Mastertrust. Please contact Legal & General if you have any queries relating to your Defined Contribution benefits.

I hope that you find this newsletter insightful. Please do get in touch if you have any comments or queries.

Colin Richardson
Chair of Trustees

KNOW THE LATEST NEWS

PENSION SCAMS

Organised criminals are taking advantage of the concerns and anxieties pension savers have about the security of their benefits. The Financial Conduct Authority has said that protecting customers against serious and organised crime is a top priority because, on average, a scammed pension saver loses 22 years of pension savings – around 3 times their annual earnings. Our best advice would be to ignore all unsolicited emails, texts and social media posts about moving your pension. If receiving any contact about your pension, do look carefully at the address or number of the sender to check if it is a bona fide contact. We would also stress the importance of not clicking on any links in emails that you are unsure about and hanging up immediately on any unwanted or nuisance callers. Further information can be found here: www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart/how-avoid-pension-scams.

We would also encourage you to refer to the following websites: www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk and www.thepensionsregulator.gov.uk.

HIGH INFLATION

We are currently in a high-inflation environment, we would like to take the opportunity to remind you that pension increases are set out in the Plan's rules, with most pensions increasing annually in line with RPI subject to a maximum 'cap' of 3% p.a. or 5% p.a., depending on your period of pensionable service, and some increasing in line with CPI subject to a maximum 'cap' of 3% p.a. So, with the Consumer Prices Index (CPI) rising by 9.8% in the 12-months to August 2022 and the corresponding Retail Prices Index (RPI) rising by 12.3%, next year's pension increase is likely to be capped. Further details will be set out in the annual pension increase letter that is sent to the Plan's pensioners by our administrator Hymans Robertson. If you are thinking of retiring, getting professional financial advice is the best way to ensure you have a plan in retirement and that inflation is considered.

NEW MINIMUM RETIREMENT AGE

Following a government consultation on 11 February 2021, it has been announced that the normal minimum pension age will be increased from age 55 to 57 from 6 April 2028 to coincide with the rise of the state pension age to 67. Unless a member is retiring as a result of ill-health, this is the minimum age at which most pension savers can access their pension without incurring an unauthorised payments tax charge.



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

EXPRESSION OF WISH

The Plan offers protection for your loved ones in the event of your death. It is therefore important that the Trustees hold on file a completed, up-to-date Expression of Wish form for all members. You are able to update your nomination at any point and there are no restrictions on the number of beneficiaries. The form is only an expression of wish, so there is no legal guarantee that benefits will be paid to your nominees. However, if the form hasn't been completed, the Trustees will only be able to pay someone who was a relative, financially dependent on you or someone nominated in your will. If you suspect that you may not have completed such a form, or one which may now be out-of-date due to a change in circumstances, please contact the Plan's administrators, Hymans Robertson, or complete the Expression of Wish form on the Plan's PRISM site.

KNOW YOUR TRUSTEE BOARD

The Plan is governed by the Trustee Board, who take responsibility for managing the Plan prudently, conscientiously, in good faith, and in the best interests of members and beneficiaries.

Employer Nominated Trustees

Mr Colin Richardson of Zedra Governance Limited*

Mr Ian Blanchard

Member Nominated Trustees

Ms Helen Freeman

Mr Mohamed Hefni

Mr Neil McCallum

Ms Adele Spencer

*The independent Trustee firm PTL Governance Limited undertook a recent name change to Zedra Governance Limited although this was not a change in the Company itself and the individuals have not changed.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any queries regarding the Plan, or your benefits, please do not hesitate to contact the Plan's administration team at Hymans Robertson by writing, emailing or by telephone:

@ benendenpension@hymans.co.uk

📞 0141 227 9773
(phone lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm)

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