

**THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF
THE MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION 2024**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year since our last AGM has been successful for the Branch on several fronts which include, but not exclusively so, our fundraising efforts, our varied events, and our continued support of plwmnd in our region. Accounts of our major areas of activity are documented in the body of the report.

We have actively participated in the Association's Leadership Forum and are, as a Branch, compliant with our obligations to the Association.

We are continuing to develop our Branch Strategy and are mindful of the Association's planned People and Brand refresh as well as the challenges facing different aspects of the work within the Association.

A key feature of the Branch 2026 planning is the return of our regional "getting together" meetings which will be over and above our support networks and which will aim to inform everyone about current issues in MND research as well as facilitating connections between all the regional stakeholders.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Our income for the year ended 31st December 2024 was a record, and one we could not have predicted. Total income for the year was a record at £95,733, before fundraising costs. The main reasons were receipts of £13,687 from Lloyds Bank, a £10,000 donation from a will and the contribution from SMH Chartered Accountants, whose Golf Day provided us with income of £10,000 on top of their contribution of paying for the printing and posting of our Branch Newsletters. We are grateful to these supporters, but realise that we cannot rely on this to continue indefinitely. We will continue to explore all avenues for increasing our income so that if we lose one of our major supporters, we are able to meet all grants that those living with MND in our area require and request. We have been quite successful in recent years in doing this, due to the fantastic effort of own Fund-Raising Team of volunteers.

The amount paid out in grants for the year was also a record at £63,090. We live in challenging times such that the requirements of those living with MND are more likely to increase, than decrease, hence the need to strive for new sources of income. The £10,000 received from the will was put to research and a further £5,000 was contributed by the Branch, these going to projects that are being undertaken locally.

CARE REPORT

The Branch has continued to support people affected by MND in a variety of ways this past year. Regular support meetings in Sheffield and Barnsley have been running although lack of demand has seen the meetings at Rotherham and Doncaster finish for the present. A Past Carers group for the whole of South Yorkshire started up again in 2024. The Association Visitor AV team has had some changes. New members joined and there were also retirements. The Branch hopes to continue with face-to-face, telephone support and potentially on-line meetings, according to need, in the coming year.

Counselling and complementary therapies have again been funded for people affected by MND in the past year and external funding in the form of successful grant applications assisted with this. Unfortunately, the contracts with Aurora in Doncaster and the Cavendish Centre in Sheffield have now come to an end and will be greatly missed.

The third successful Family Fun Day brought together families affected by MND at Gulliver's Valley in June 2024 and 50 children accompanied by 75 adults attended this time. The organisation of this event is being offered this year again and the take up is expected to be high.

Brian Jackson has been administering a variety of grants for holidays, transport, household goods etc in the past 12 months. Branch funding for equipment and adaptations still provides essential support for families making the necessary practical adjustments for living with MND. In the same way the National Association continues its support with Cost-of-Living funding.

GRANTS REPORT

For the year ending 31st December 2024, the South Yorkshire Branch awarded 111 grants. £57,598 was awarded to pabmnd of which £20,271 came from the Branch. This was made up of mostly Quality of Life/Support Grants and the rest were Carers' and Young Carers' and Children's and Young People's Grants.

COMMUNICATION REPORT

The Communication Sub Committee, now down to just two volunteers, have continued to raise awareness by publicising the Branch as widely as possible. The Branch Newsletter is sent out to some 400 people, either via a hard copy or e-mail and includes articles of forth-coming events, fund raisers' experiences and up-to-date information about latest news relating to MND. The newsletter contains all Branch Committee members' details enabling readers to be able to contact them for help and support. Social Media platforms such as the Branch Website, Twitter etc are also used to highlight Branch events and details of support group meetings, amongst other items of interest to the MND community.

The printing and postage of the Branch Newsletter continues to be sponsored by Sutton McGrath Hartley who have funded the newsletter now for many years. The Branch Committee are grateful for this ongoing support, which would otherwise bite into the income raised, which in turn would mean less money available to support people living with MND.

Information Leaflets and Newsletters are also set out at all fund-raising events, enabling us to reach a different wider audience.

The Secretary continues the role-sharing of Branch Contact to handle telephone queries. She continues to send Welcome Letters to newly diagnosed people living with MND, via the information received on the FCH Information Portal. These welcome letters inform on the Support Group Meeting dates and venues, and include an information leaflet entitled "What We Do" which gives further details of the support we offer, grant information and about the South Yorkshire Branch in general. A Branch Newsletter is also included with the welcome letter. The Secretary also makes verbal contact wherever possible, answering any queries newly diagnosed people or carers may have and giving them as much information about the Branch and how it can support them. This means of

communication is an important one as it can clarify the support the Branch offers and encourages people to attend the peer group meetings.

The Secretary is also Editor of the Branch Newsletter and as part of the Branch's Action Plan, the Committee are continuing to work with the ASC towards recruiting volunteers to the Communication Sub-Committee, managing Facebook/Twitter/Website and with forward planning in mind, looking for someone to assist the Secretary.

Looking Forward in 2025

The Branch are continuing with holding a variety of fundraising events for 2025 and early 2026. We are greatly looking forward to getting out and meeting our South Yorkshire MND community, working with them to ensure that no one must face their MND journey alone.

I am pleased to confirm that all members of the Branch Committee remain enthusiastic and committed to working together in their current roles to raise awareness, fund-raise, and support people living with MND and the Association as a whole.



Andrew Gibson
Chairman
MNDA South Yorkshire Branch
August 2025

FUND-RAISING

We are very happy to report that 2024 was a very busy and successful year, raising a total of £95,733. This total makes 2024 the best-ever fundraising year since the South Yorkshire Branch was established.

There are several ways in which the Branch raises funds:

BRANCH EVENTS

Branch Committee members and volunteers work together to put on fundraising activities throughout the year, which contribute approximately 25% of the total funds raised. The mainstay of these fundraising events are the Band Concerts organised by Trevor and Doreen Peacock and the Golf Days organised by Paul Hebblethwaite. All the events involve many volunteer hours and we would like to offer our thanks and appreciation to everyone who contributes to these events.

Rotherham Titans Rugby Club - 2024 saw the Branch working in partnership with Rotherham Titans Rugby Club on a new event, the MND Spring Quiz. The evening was a great success, which, along with a Saturday match day bucket collection, raised £2,855. The Branch would like to thank the Rotherham Titans Team for making the events possible, especially John Whaling, Titan's Commercial Director and Diane and Barry Thurman.

DONOR EVENTS

The rest of Branch funds, around 75%, is raised by countless sponsored events, put on by the MND community in South Yorkshire, many of whom have been directly affected by the disease. The events, many more that can be mentioned here, include sports events, sponsored walks, hikes, bike rides, mountain climbs, craft fairs and cake sales. We thank you all!

SMH GROUP

The SMH Financial Group in Sheffield has been a significant donor to the South Yorkshire Branch over several years, so we offer our special thanks to them for their long-standing support.

LLOYDS BANK FOUNDATION

We continue to work in partnership with Lloyds Bank in Sheffield to raise funds for supporting those living with MND in South Yorkshire. The Lloyds Bank Foundation contributed £13,687 to the Branch in 2024. We are especially grateful to Frances Oxley, Charity Officer at the Sheffield Lloyds Bank Branch for her unwavering support throughout the year.