ELUSEN Gwasanaeth Ambiwlans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Service CHARITY

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG Gwasanaethau Ambiwlans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust

CHARITY COMMITTEE
HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO CORPORATE TRUSTEE

This report provides the Trustees with key escalation and discussion points at the last Committee meeting. A full list of items discussed appears at the end of the report to enable members to raise any questions to the Chair which have not been drawn out in the report. The papers for this meeting can be found by following this link to the Committee page on the Trust website.

Corporate Trustee Meeting Date	30 July 2026
Committee Meeting Date	07 July 2026
Chair	Peter Curran

KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

ALERT

(Alert the Trustees to areas of attention)

1. There were no alerts raised in this meeting.

ADVISE

(Detail any areas of on-going monitoring, approvals, or new developments to be communicated)

2. Members approved the proposals for the **expenditure of the Charity's Regional Funds** to fund successful Bids Panel applications from the South-East region from the Staff Appreciation Fund or from the Charity's national unrestricted funds until such time as all three regional funds have been spent down. Members recognised the need to ensure equity of provision across all three regions and noted that all donated monies received since April 2024 have been allocated to the Charity's national unrestricted fund to support a consistent and equitable approach to charitable spending across the Trust.

3. The **Charitable Funds Policy** was approved.

4. Members **reflected** positively on the significant progress made in developing the charity, noting the tangible impact being delivered for staff, patients and communities. The committee particularly welcomed Darren Griffiths' inspiring account of fundraising for the London Marathon, recognising the wider wellbeing, engagement and awareness benefits generated through charitable activities.

   The committee placed on record its sincere thanks to David Hopkins and Andrew Cotton for their leadership and contribution to the charity, acknowledging the substantial progress achieved over recent years, the strong foundations now in place, and the lasting improvements made to the charity's profile, governance and performance.

5. **Darran Griffiths shared his experience** of running the London Marathon in support of the WAST charity. Having not been a regular runner for several years, he took on the challenge with around four

to five months' preparation, describing the experience as both life affirming and transformative. He reflected that it had taught him a great deal about himself, the importance of resilience, and the generosity of others.

Darran explained that he had initially been concerned about fundraising, recognising the financial pressures many people are currently facing and feeling uneasy about asking others for money. However, he was overwhelmed by the support he received from colleagues, friends, local businesses and the wider community. He highlighted the significant support and guidance provided by David Hopkins and others, which helped him develop fundraising ideas and navigate the process. Through community fundraising events, donations and sponsorship, Darren raised £3,063 for the charity. Together with fellow runners Tom Fallon and Keith Ellingham, the team raised a combined total of £6,851.

The committee thanked Darran for his commitment and fundraising efforts, with members noting the positive impact the experience had clearly had on his physical and mental wellbeing. Darran emphasised that beyond the fundraising total, the experience had reinforced his appreciation of people's willingness to support good causes and had given him a renewed sense of purpose and confidence.

ASSURE

(Detail here any areas of assurance the Committee has received)

Charity Delivery Plan

6. Members received an update on progress and whilst they were assured on progress, they noted that there will need to be a review of the delivery plan to come to future meetings. This is due to the future of the charity model and the staffing required to maintain the delivery plan.

Charity Performance Report

7. The committee was assured with respect to the charity’s management of grant funding, including delivery against agreed objectives and learning arising from the application of funds.

8. Progress across current grants and fundraising activity was positively received and Members noted the strong contribution of staff-led fundraising initiatives, ongoing engagement work across the Trust and progress against funded projects, including the Community Resilience Fund and wellbeing garden development.

9. The NHS Charities Together (NHSCT) Ambulance Grant closure report was received noting all funding had been spent in accordance with the terms of the grant.

Charity Finance Update

10. Members noted that the balance of funds held as of 31 May 2026 is £719,742 comprised of £204,088 unrestricted funds; £140,525 in designated funds; and £375,129 in restricted funds. Between 01 April 2025 and 31 May 2026, the unit price of the charity’s investments had increased by 8.44% resulting in an overall small gain of c£21.9k meaning that the cumulative position remains positive, with gains

overall. The charity holds 1,090.14 units giving a total market value of c£280.9k. Since the finance report had been written, the charity's investment fund had increased by a further £2k reflected favourable market performance.

11. The committee also received an update on the **draft 2025/26 charity accounts** and was advised that work is underway with Audit Wales to accelerate the independent examination timetable to support earlier completion and avoid the year-end time pressures experienced in previous years.

12. Members were assured that, whilst recent decisions are expected to reduce the charity's forecast income and make the original income targets unlikely to be achieved, this does not present a financial risk to the Corporate Trustee as there is no committed expenditure dependent upon achieving those targets. Expenditure will be adjusted in line with income received, avoiding any funding gap. The committee agreed that the implications of the decision should be reflected in the report to the Corporate Trustee and noted that the October 2026 finance report will provide a revised assessment of the charity's financial outlook and forecast position.

Director's Report

13. Members noted that the Charity has seen positive fundraising activity, with colleagues and supporters raising significant sums through marathon, walking and challenge events. Engagement work is progressing with staff, volunteers, TU partners and communities to strengthen links, ensure compliance with fundraising guidance, and demonstrate impact. Future opportunities include expanding clothing recycling banks, submitting a Stage 1 National Lottery application for the Wish Ambulance, and continuing partnership work with NHS charities.

Bids and Bursary Panels

14. The AAA report from the **Bids Panel** for June 2026 was received noting that two bids were approved by the Panel relating to a replacement TV and picnic bench totalling £1,036. One bid was deferred and a further bid rejected. Members noted the proposed allocation of up to £10,000 to support Christmas staff activities and heard that Bids Panel members had expressed concerns regarding the impact of reducing this provision on staff morale and wellbeing. The committee noted these considerations as part of its ongoing oversight of charitable fund allocation and staff benefit activities and acknowledged that this has been raised as a potential corporate sponsorship opportunity.

15. Members received a verbal update on the activity of the **Bursary Panel** noting that 25 expressions of interest had been received for the current funding round. Members were assured that recent changes to the application process are improving compliance with eligibility criteria, resulting in fewer ineligible submissions and stronger alignment with patient and public benefit principles. Members noted ongoing work to develop revised bursary guidance and heard that applications are currently being assessed, with a more detailed update and draft guidance to be presented at a future meeting.

16. In **private session** members endorsed a revised operating model and staffing arrangement for the WAST Charity. The committee also considered a review of the existing restricted legacies held on trust.

RISKS

Risks discussed: The charity's risk register was received. The committee noted there were no material changes this period. The risks are as follows:

- CHAR-003 - lack of compliance with legal and regulatory framework with a current risk score of 10 (2x5)
- CHAR-005 - lack of internal processes and governance structures in place to meet the conditions of grants with a current risk score of 6 (2x3)
- CHAR-008 - failure to raise sufficient funds to deliver the Charity's strategic objectives with a current risk score of 12 (3x4).

Members discussed the implications of decisions taken in private session and agreed that the relevant charity risk would require review to reflect the changes to the operating environment and the potential materialisation of previously identified risks.

COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING		
Director's Report	Staff Lived Experience – Charity Fundraising	Charity Delivery Plan
Charity performance report	Charity funds finance report	Risk Management Report
Charitable Funds Policy	Bids Panel Options Paper – Expenditure of Charity's Regional Funds	Bids panel highlight report (08 June 2026)
Bursary panel highlight report		

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE				
Name	**2 April 2026**	**7 July 2026**	**1 October 2026**	**14 January 2026**
Peter Curran (Chair)	Hayley Hutchings			
Ceri Jackson	Chair			
Hannah Rowan		Hayley Hutchings		
Estelle Hitchon				
Chris Turley		Ed Roberts		
Lee Brooks				
Liz Rogers				
Trish Mills	Julie Boalch			
Hugh Parry				
Damon Turner				
Marcus Viggers				
Julie Boalch				
Jo Kelso				
David Hopkins				
Leanne Smith				
Jackie Hatton-Bell				
Andrew Cotton				
Matt Dugdale				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member/not member