



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

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



**ELUSEN**  
Gwasanaeth Ambiwllans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Service  
**CHARITY**

## **CHARITY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Trust's Standing Orders and this committee's terms of reference requires that board committees evaluate their effectiveness annually and present an annual report to the Trust Board/Corporate Trustee.
2. As the factors underpinning effective governance can change, for example as people leave, organisations restructure, or strategy shifts, regular reviews of committees ensure governance remains fit for purpose.
3. Standing Orders, committee terms of reference, and codes of governance provide that boards should routinely assess the effectiveness of their governance arrangements, of which this committee forms an integral part.
4. The committee met on 13 January 2026 and 2 April 2026 and through a facilitated discussion reviewed its effectiveness, its terms of reference, and its operating arrangements. This Annual Report reflects on the effectiveness of the committee in 2025/26 and proposes changes to terms of reference.
5. The Trust Board has commissioned an external effectiveness review which commenced in early 2026 by the Good Governance Institute (GGI). The GGI will be reviewing the board committee framework within quarter four 2025/26 and quarter one of 2026/27 which may necessitate further changes throughout 2026/27. Although at this stage it is not anticipated that there will be material changes to this committee.

## **PURPOSE OF THE COMMITTEE**

6. The purpose of the committee as set out in its terms of reference is to:
  - Contribute to the development of the charity's strategy and monitor its implementation.
  - Assure the Corporate Trustee that charitable funds are accounted for, deployed, and invested in line with legal and statutory requirements, taking account of the public benefit guidance.
  - Consider and endorse the annual report and accounts for approval by the Corporate Trustees; and
  - Raise the profile and reputation of the charity within the Trust.

## **MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE**

7. The committee met four times as scheduled in 2025/26, was well attended and quorate on each occasion.
8. The committee is supported by the Chair and two Non-Executive Directors. The Director of Partnerships and Engagement is the executive lead, and the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources is the Charity Treasurer. Attendance in 2025/26 was excellent. The chart below illustrates the attendance of members and attendees as listed in the terms of reference, and in addition, the committee welcomed guests and observers at various meetings.

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE				
Name	2 April 2025	3 July 2025	2 October 2025	13 January 2025
Peter Curran (Chair)				
Ceri Jackson				
Hannah Rowan				
Estelle Hitchon				
Chris Turley			Ed Roberts	
Lee Brooks		Mark Harris		From item 7 to 13
Andy Swinburn				
Liz Rogers	From Finance Item		Sara Williams	
Trish Mills				
Hugh Parry			Left meeting at 09:30	
Damon Turner			Left meeting at 09:30	
Marcus Viggers	From Performance Item		Left meeting at 09:30	
Julie Boalch				
Jo Kelso				
David Hopkins				
Leanne Smith			Attended for item 11	
Jackie Hatton-Bell				
Andrew Cotton				
Matt Dugdale				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member/not member

## COMMITTEE'S VIEWS ON EFFECTIVENESS

### Feedback from membership

9. The committee undertook a light effectiveness review on 13 January 2026, as agreed with the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC). This was due to the comprehensive review undertaken in 2024/25 involving a detailed examination of the terms of reference and the assurance arrangements for each delegated responsibility. No changes have been proposed to the terms of reference for 2026/27 except for the removal of the Executive Director of Paramedicine as a prescribed attendee.
10. For the 2025/26 effectiveness review, a survey of the members was carried out to gather feedback on the proposed changes to the terms of references and to identify what is working well, and where improvements could be made. The questions asked were:
  - Are there any changes you wish to see to the terms of reference?
  - Are there any changes you would like to see to the committee's membership?
  - What works well in this committee?
  - What improvements would you recommend?

11. The feedback from the committee concluded that members were content with the current terms of reference, and most felt the committee's membership remained appropriate; though some suggested considering involvement from project leads for emerging areas of charity work such as volunteering, staff wellbeing, or the Wish Ambulance as new strategic projects progress. The committee felt there was strong engagement from members and commended the quality of papers. Some improvements were suggested which focused on strengthening pre-committee governance structures to streamline operational discussions, and enabling a clearer focus on strategic priorities, alongside a call to further accelerate the Charity's ambition.

### Management of the committee's work programme

12. The committee has a cycle of business that is aligned to its terms of reference. All matters scheduled for oversight and review have been brought to the committee and in this respect, it has discharged its responsibilities in providing assurance to the board and also to the Corporate Trustee. To ensure real-time effectiveness at each meeting the committee receives a monitoring report against the cycle of business which escalates matters for the attention of the committee.

13. The Corporate Trustee is kept informed of the committee's oversight of a range of issues by way of an 'Alert', 'Assure' and 'Advise' (AAA) report after each meeting. Any issues of concern are escalated to in the 'Alert' section, and the Chair of this committee presents that report at each corporate trustee meeting.

14. Other than that which is set out in this report, the substantial detail of the work of the committee in 2025/26 is included in the committee AAA reports which are linked below:

- 14.1. AAA: [2 April 2025](#)
- 14.2. AAA: [3 July 2025](#)
- 14.3. AAA: [2 October 2025](#)
- 14.4. AAA: [13 January 2026](#)

15. In year, all papers were published in line with the Trust's Board and Committees Secretariat Standard Operating Procedure except the fundraising targets and expenditure paper in April 2025, and the risk report and Bids and Bursary panel AAAs in October 2025.

## **SUB-COMMITTEES AND TASK AND FINISH GROUPS**

16. The Bids Panel and Bursary Panel are the established sub-committees of the committee. As set out above, they report to the committee by way of a AAA report and the committee in turn reports to the corporate trustee on their work. The Bids Panel has an authority level of £5k and Bursary Panel of £3k.
17. Both panels demonstrate the application of the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA) guidance on the use of NHS Charitable Funds.
18. The Bids Panel held seven meetings in 2025/26 (three of which were extraordinary meetings). The Bursary Panel met twice in 2025/26.
19. The terms of reference of both the Bids and Bursary Panel were reviewed and approved by the committee in 2025/26. During 2026/27, further work will continue to determine the most appropriate governance structures feeding into the committee, with the aim of strengthening the quality and flow of business from these panels, in particular. This will ensure that operational matters are addressed within the appropriate forums, enabling the committee to focus its time on strategic matters.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

20. There are no proposed amendments to the terms of reference for 2026/27 save for the adjustment to the prescribed attendees, with the removal of the Executive Director of Paramedicine from the membership.

## **PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS**

21. Proposed changes to operating arrangements for this committee are set out below. Some are relevant to arrangements across other committees also and they include:
  - 21.1. It was suggested that the committee may wish to explore inviting project leads for key areas of the charity's work, such as volunteering and staff well-being, or a representative from the Wish Ambulance (as the charity's new strategic projects begin).

## COMMITTEE PRIORITIES

### Priorities for 2025/26

22. The committee received an update on progress against its 2025/26 priorities at each meeting and as can be seen below, progress on agreed priorities has been good:

Priority	Progress
<p>1. Governance of the Bids and Bursary Panels' operating arrangements, including their new terms of reference.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ The revised Terms of Reference for the <b>Bids Panel</b> were approved by the Charity Committee at the April 2025 meeting.</li><li>▪ The Chair of the Bids Panel, with the Head of Charity, has progressed a review of the expenditure guidance for the Bids Panel. The guidance was endorsed by the Bids Panel in December 2025, and it is before the Committee for approval at this meeting.</li><li>▪ The Chair of the Bids Panel intends to undertake a review of its operational effectiveness in quarter four of 2025/26 to inform the arrangements from quarter one of 2026/27.</li><li>▪ The Terms of Reference for the <b>Bursary Panel</b> were revised and approved by the Charity Committee in July 2025.</li><li>▪ Conversations are ongoing between the Chair of the Bursary Panel and the Head of Charity to review guidance documents and application processes. A verbal update will be provided by the Chair of the Bursary Panel at the meeting.</li></ul>

<p>2. A development session for the Corporate Trustee, initially planned for last year, which has now been rescheduled with Withers Worldwide for February 2026 to explore the role of the Corporate Trustee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This session has been scheduled as part of the Board Development Day on 26 February 2026. The arrangements for this are being progressed by the Head of Charity. There will be no further update against this priority until the after the development session has been delivered.</li> </ul>
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Priorities for 2026/27

23. It is good practice for committees to set priorities for the forthcoming year when they review their effectiveness. The committee will do so at its April 2026 meeting, and these will be provided to the Corporate Trustee at its May 2026 meeting.
24. Progress on priorities will be reported to the committee quarterly and to the Corporate Trustee through its highlight report.