

**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	29 May 2025
Committee Meeting Date	2 April 2025
Chair	Peter Curran

KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

ALERT

(Alert the Trustees to areas of attention)

Charity Strategy

1. The Committee held discussions on the **theory of change to drive the direction of travel of the charity's strategy** at both the January and April 2025 meetings. The three strategic objectives were endorsed for the charity, supported by five strategic enablers. The strategic objectives and enablers and the theory of change were endorsed by the committee with some minor amendments to wording of the strategic objectives, and they are before the Corporate Trustee for approval at their May meeting. The committee noted that this had been shared with Trade Union Partners at the Welsh Ambulance Services Partnership Team (WASPT) meeting in March.

The importance of the strategic enablers was emphasised to continue to strengthen governance, as was the monitoring of the objectives overall. These will be developed as the strategy comes through to the committee and the Corporate Trustee.

2. The **2025/26 fundraising targets and expenditure plans** were discussed and endorsed and are presented at this May meeting for Corporate Trustee approval. The charity aims to diversify its income streams, with the focus now shifting towards growing trust and foundations, voluntary donations, and community fundraising. The income projections were felt to be realistic and achievable, considering the anticipated timeline for hiring a fundraising officer. The overall trajectory shows a gradual increase in income, despite a dip expected in 2026-2027 due to changes in NHS Charities Together's grant-giving strategy.

The introduction of a fixed budget for the Bursary Panel aims to provide more certainty and enable better future planning for grant rounds. Additionally, a delegated budget for core fundraising costs to streamline the process and support fundraising efforts effectively was supported.

This is the first fundraising and expenditure plan for the charity, and it was welcomed. Members emphasised the importance of monitoring and evaluating the charity's performance against these targets, with regular updates to ensure alignment with the strategic direction.

ADVISE

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

Reflections

3. Members reflected that the hybrid format worked well and commented on the professionalisation of the charity and the progress made over the last 12 to 18 months. It was noted that this was the first meeting with Peter Curran as the Chair, and it was agreed that the meeting was well chaired. Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Non-Executive Director, joined the meeting to observe as part of her ongoing induction to the trust board.

ASSURE

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

4. Members were assured on progress against the **charity workplan** to date and over the next six months including:
 - Recruitment of fundraising and communications officer who it is anticipated will be start in post in July.
 - Launch of new visual identity for the charity
 - Launch of the challenge fundraising campaign, with places in various 10K, half and full marathons secured
 - Review of existing restricted and designated funds
 - Proactive fundraising strategy to compliment the strategic direction
 - Review of Bids and Bursary Panel processes and broader governance
 - Communications approach

Charity Performance

5. The Charity Performance Report was received showing performance against the NHS Charity Together (NHSCT) grants as of the 28 February 2025. This included the Development Grant, Stage 3 Recovery Grant, and Ambulance Grant. All grants are being administered according to their conditions and whilst there were some elements shown as amber; members were assured that there were mitigating plans to address these, and risks were considered.
6. Updates were received regarding future grant opportunities available from NHS Charities Together and synergies with our clinical model. These funds include the Community Resilience Fund, the Innovation Challenge, Work Wellbeing, and Greener Communities fund.

Charity Finance Update

7. The balance of funds held as of 28 February 2025 is £783,964 comprised of £214,394 unrestricted funds; £179,429 in designated funds; and £390,141 in restricted funds. Between 01 April 2024 to 28 February 2025, the unit price of the charity's investments has increased by 2.61%, resulting in an overall gain of .c£7.3k. The charity current holds 1,090.14 units at a unit price of £263.7826, giving a total market value of £287.5k. The overall trend with the investments remains positive.
8. The current financial position of the charity is as expected, with figures aligning with historical trends and activities. While the charity has considered seeking higher returns with greater risk in the past, risk-averse approach was emphasised to be preferable, especially with donated money; and any changes to the investment strategy would require careful consideration.

Bids and Bursary Panels

9. The AAA reports from Bids Panel meetings held on 24 February and 6 March were received and the panel's revised terms of reference were approved. There were no bids over £5,000 for the committee to approve, and four bids related to replacement televisions for Tenby, Knighton, Ferndale and Barmouth stations were approved at circa £500 each.
10. Further work is underway to ensure all funds awarded have been spent and a quarterly report will now be received by the Bids Panel to effectively monitor this. Revised processes that require funding to be spent within 12 months is being introduced.
11. Members thanked Julie Boalch, Assistant Director of Governance and Risk for her work in chairing and steering the panel over the last three years. Leanne Smith, Assistant Director of Digital – Data and Analytics, will now chair the panel.
12. The Bursary Panel met in January 2025 and approved allocation of funding for two applications: one part funding an MSc Advanced Clinical Practice to the value of £3,000, and one part funding an MSc Professional Practice for the sum of £1,188. The terms of reference will be reviewed at an upcoming meeting.

Committee Annual Effectiveness Review for 2024/25

13. The Committee's annual effectiveness review was held in January, and at its April meeting the 2024/25 annual report, revised terms of reference, and cycle of business for 2025/26 were approved. These will be presented to the board in May following review by the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee in May. Priorities for the committee for 2025/26 were agreed to be a development session for the Corporate Trustees in 2025/26, and the review of the Bids Panel and Bursary Panel terms of reference and operating arrangements.

RISKS

New Risks Identified: Committee received an update on the progress of developing the Charity Risk Register and a suite of risks. A detailed update will be presented at the next meeting in July 2025. The risks identified and in development are closely linked to the Charity's strategic objectives and enablers as set



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out in the new Strategy and to the topics of discussion outlined on the Committee’s agenda.

COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING		
Charity Strategy Update	Charity Performance Report	Charitable Funds Finance Report
Draft 2025/26 Fundraising Targets and Expenditure Budgets	Charity Risk Register	2024/25 Committee Effectiveness Review – Follow Up
Bids Panel AAA report	Bursary Panel AAA report	

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE				
Name	2 April 2025	3 July 2025	2 October 2025	13 January 2025
Ceri Jackson				
Peter Curran				
Hannah Rowan				
Estelle Hitchon				
Chris Turley				
Lee Brooks				
Andy Swinburn				
Liz Rogers	From Finance Item			
Trish Mills				
Hugh Parry				
Damon Turner				
Marcus Viggers	From Performance Item			
Julie Boalch				
Jo Kelso				
David Hopkins				
Leanne Smith				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member/not member