

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	27 November 2025
Committee Meeting Date	02 October 2025
Chair	Peter Curran

KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

ALERT

(Alert the Trustees to areas of attention)

1. Committee endorsed the proposed changes to be made to the entry on the **Charity Commission Register of Charities** which are before the Corporate Trustee for approval. These include the addition of two new working names for the charity, when the official name of the Charity is not used in full, and an amendment of the Charity's activities description, to better reflect patient benefit and the Charity's Strategic Objectives.

ADVISE

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

2. Committee received and approved the first **Charity Fundraising Plan** translating the Charity's ambitions into practical steps to increase and diversify income, aiming for long term sustainability as NHS Charities Together funding reduces, and legacy income remains unpredictable. Members highlighted the importance of the development of new income streams, clear governance arrangements between the Trust and the Charity, and recognised that additional investment in fundraising activities and staff capacity will be necessary to achieve the Charity's ambitions.
3. Members welcomed Jenny Wilson (Volunteering Manager), David Husband (Volunteer Support Officer), and Georgi Howard (Community Welfare Responder) to give details of the **Community Welfare Responder (CWR) project**, which was possible due to the receipt of the £315,290 NHS Charities Together Grant. The target with this grant was to recruit, onboard and train 400 new CWRs by the end of the project period. The Committee received an update on the project progress, and noted that 330 volunteers have been recruited, with 198 currently active. The significant positive impact on patient care was noted because of the CWR project; with over 1,100 patients supported in the first year, over half of which were able to remain at home after a 999 call. Operational challenges within the project were noted, such as volunteer mentoring and the need for consistent support; while Georgi candidly shared both the positive difference volunteers make and the frustrations around underutilisation, retention, and the need for targeted recruitment. The Committee welcomed the

honest feedback, acknowledged the initiative's clear benefits for patients and families, and recognised the importance of addressing operational teething issues. Members commended the passion and commitment of volunteers, affirmed the value of the CWR role, and noted that the learning from this project will inform future developments and funding strategies.

- Members **reflected** that the Charity is making strong progress in governance and operational maturity, with positive impacts on patients and staff. Members emphasised the need to support further growth by ensuring adequate capacity within the Charity, highlighted the benefits of cross-departmental collaboration, and expressed gratitude for everyone's contributions and the quality of reporting received.

ASSURE

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

- The **Charity Performance Report** was received showing performance against the NHS Charity Together (NHSCT) grants:
 - Stage 3 Recovery Grant Progress: As of 31 August 2025, £73,467 has been spent out of £88,000 awarded, with various projects ongoing, including a Volunteer Development Programme and Mind over Mountains. The remaining funds are to be spent by December 2025 with a projected underspend of £7,013.
 - Ambulance Grant Update: The Ambulance Grant has recruited 330 Community First Responders to date, with a target of 400 by February 2026. The project has been extended due to recruitment delays.
- All grants are being administered according to their conditions; however, there continues to be one red target within the Stage 3 Recovery Grant relating to Mind Over Mountains, and the target remains unlikely to be met. This will not affect future funding decisions and there are currently no proposals to fund any further walks beyond the final planned date of 11 October 2025. Risks were considered against the grants and members were assured of mitigations.
- Two grant applications have been submitted to NHS Charities Together since the last meeting - one for £142,000 (Community Resilience Fund) and one for £15,823 (Greener Communities Fund). Members also received a verbal update on NHS Charities Together Workplace Wellbeing fund, and on plans to submit an application towards Wish Ambulance to the National Lottery Community Fund.
- The **Charity Finance Update** was received noting that the balance of funds held as of 31 August 2025 is £741,331 comprised of £209,029 unrestricted funds; £181,288 in designated funds; and £304,362 in restricted funds. Between 01 April 2025 and 31 August 2025, the unit price of the charity's investments has increased by 1.67%, resulting in an overall small gain of .c£4.6k. The charity currently holds 1,090.14 units at a unit price of £256.1682, giving a total market value of £279.3k. The overall trend with the investments remains positive and the lowest risk. The investment strategy aligns with the charity's risk appetite, focusing on low-risk options to ensure stability.
- The **Bids Panel AAA** report from the 22 September 2025 meeting was received noting that there were no bids over £5,000 for the committee to approve. A total of six bids were considered, with four approved relating to the HART Garden Project, three TVs and a picnic bench; two bids were redirected for further consideration. The total funding awarded for approved bids was £3,990.

10. Round 3 of the NHS Charities Together Sports Fund saw three applications reviewed and approved by the panel, with a total spend of £3,830.
11. A new risk was identified in relation to Inequitable Awarding Patterns highlighting the potential for awards to be granted to similar groups or areas because awareness of the Charitable Funds is higher in some localities, services or departments. An update will be provided to the Panel at a future meeting on actions to mitigate this risk and to consider the process of approving national funds supplemented by the new application guidance in development.
12. The **Bursary Panel** met on 18 July 2025 advising that of the 35 Bursary Rounds submissions for 2025, six received financial support totalling £7,283.86 contributing partial funding to five MSc programmes and an Advanced Child Protection course. A second round of applications will be invited for Q3 to ensure the full fund is allocated.
13. Members received the **Committee Priorities and Cycle of Business Monitoring** report and were assured that there were no matters to escalate regarding the Committee's priorities for 2025/26 and the monitoring report was received.

RISKS

New Risks Identified: Committee received the new Charity Risk Register and approved inclusion of one new risk on the register: CHAR-008 - Failure to raise sufficient funds to deliver the Charity's strategic objectives scored at 12 (3x4).

A new risk on Inequitable Awarding Patterns was discussed in item 11 above.

COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING

Charity Fundraising Plan	Charity Performance Report	Charitable Funds Finance Report
Charity Commission Register of Charities	Risk Management Report	Bids Panel AAA report
Bursary Panel AAA report	Committee Priorities and Cycle Monitoring Report 2025/26	Liability and Indemnity – Internal Guidance for Charitable Activities
Volunteer Fundraising – Standard Operating Procedure		

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			Ed Roberts	
Lee Brooks		Mark Harris		

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE				
Name	2 April 2025	3 July 2025	2 October 2025	13 January 2025
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	

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member/not member