

## 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.

<b>Corporate Trustee Meeting Date</b>	31 July 2025
<b>Committee Meeting Date</b>	03 July 2025
<b>Chair</b>	Peter Curran

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Trustees to areas of attention)

#### Charity Strategy

1. The Committee approved the **Charity Strategy Delivery Plan 2025-27** aimed at achieving the Charity's Strategic Objectives and Enablers over the next two years. The plan highlights three main objectives focused on staff wellbeing, community resilience, and enhanced patient care, alongside strategic enablers for governance, income generation and communications. Members were assured that the component parts of the plan will deliver the Charity strategy. They highlighted the importance of articulating the fundraising strategy which underpins the overall plan and will ensure focused fundraising efforts. Progress on the delivery plan will be reported biannually, with the next update scheduled for January 2026.

#### ADVISE

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

#### Lived Experience

2. Members expressed thanks to **Elain Roberts and Kelly Wallace for sharing their experience and insight into setting up the WAST Netball team** which successfully applied for funding through Round 1 of the WAST Charity Sports Fund and were awarded funding of £2,000 in January 2025. These funds enabled the team to become established and purchase equipment, team kit and pay for the weekly hire of a netball court. It is an example of how charitable funds can be utilised to help improve staff and volunteers physical and mental wellbeing, stress reduction and morale. The enthusiasm demonstrated by Elain and Kelly was palpable, and the positive impact of their engagement in the netball team were commended by Committee. Members hugely enjoyed the presentation and having the opportunity to view the team kit with the WAST Charity logo embossed (images available in Annex 1).

## Reflections

- Members reflected positively on the development, integration and convergence of various aspects of the Charity's operations such as strategy, risk management, delivery plans and finance. Members highlighted the importance of having the right foundations in place for the Charity to thrive and noted the intentionality in resourcing across the Trust and Charity. Excellent assurance was received by committee with a demonstration of good decision-making and organisational health.

## ASSURE

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

## Charity Performance

- The Charity Performance Report was received showing performance against the NHS Charity Together (NHSCT) grants:
  - The Development Grant project has been completed with a total spend of £30,007, resulting in a small overspend of £26, funded from unrestricted funds.
  - Stage 3 Recovery Grant Progress: As of May 2025, £62,782 has been spent out of £88,000 awarded, with various projects ongoing, including a Volunteer Development Programme and Mind over Mountains.
  - Ambulance Grant Update: The Ambulance Grant has recruited 235 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 was 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.
- Updates were received regarding future grant opportunities available from NHS Charities Together and aimed at enhancing community health and wellbeing. These funds include the Community Resilience Fund, the Innovation Challenge, Work Wellbeing, and Greener Communities fund.

## Charity Finance Update

- The summary of accounts for the financial year 2024-25 shows a total income of £66,838 and total expenditure of £246,517, which when taken alongside a small investment loss of £5,567 results in a net movement of (£185,246). This will now form the basis of the Charity's 2024-25 accounts, which will be drafted over the next couple of months and subject to an Independent Examination by Audit Wales.
- In terms of the new financial year, 2025-26, total income in the first two months to the end of May 2025 was £5,799 while total expenditure reached £36,859, leading to a net movement of (£31,060).

9. The balance of funds held as of 31 May 2025 is £730,580 comprised of £210,429 unrestricted funds; £177,867 in designated funds; and £342,284 in restricted funds. Between 01 April 2025 and 31 May 2025, the unit price of the charity's investments has increased by 0.45%, resulting in an overall small gain of .c1.1k. The charity current holds 1,090.14 units at a unit price of £252.9766, giving a total market value of £275.8k. 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.

### **Bids and Bursary Panels**

10. The AAA reports from extraordinary Bids Panel meetings held on 02 April, 16 May and 23 May 2025 were received. There were no bids over £5,000 for the committee to approve. A total of five bids were considered, with three approved relating to Bryn Tyrion relocation memento, a memorial bench and reclining chairs for a station; one bid was rejected, and one redirected for further consideration. The total funding awarded for approved bids was £4,600.
11. The AAA from the scheduled Bids Panel meeting held on 04 June 2025 was also received noting that five new general charitable fund applications were approved totalling £4,304.50, with specific conditions for some approvals.
12. Round 2 of the NHS Charities Together Sports Fund saw eleven applications reviewed by the panel, resulting in separate approvals with a total spend of £10,837.93, with some applications being rejected or deferred for clarification.
13. Barmouth ongoing risks related to unutilised awards and the need for a spending plan to address the Barmouth Restricted Fund. Action is being taken to mitigate these risks. A meeting was held on 01 July with Locality Manager, Head of Charity, Trade Union Partner and staff at Barmouth Station. ELT discussed this more broadly, including the potential of exploring the lifting of restrictions via the Charity Commission and the purchase of a higher value mannequin for training purposes.
14. The Bursary Panel met on 14 April 2025 advising that the Bursary Rounds for 2025 have now closed with 35 submissions received. Committee approved the revised Terms of Reference.

### **Committee Priorities and Cycle of Business Monitoring report**

15. Members 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 two new risks:

CHAR-003 - Lack of compliance with legal and regulatory framework.

CHAR-005 - Lack of internal processes and governance structures in place to meet the conditions of grants on the register.

CHAR-001 - Lack of resource and capacity to manage the Charity was closed from the register noting that the risk has been mitigated, and the residual risk has been included in CHAR-008 - Failure to meet financial targets which will be presented at the next meeting.

**COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING**

Charity Strategy Delivery Plan	Charity Performance Report	Charitable Funds Finance Report
Risk Management Report	Bids Panel AAA reports	Bursary Panel AAA report
Committee Priorities and Cycle Monitoring Report 2025/26		

**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		Mark Harris		
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

**Annex 1:**

