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Welsh Ambulance Services  
University NHS Trust

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF  
WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST  
CORPORATE TRUSTEE ON THURSDAY 29 JANUARY 2026  
HELD IN THE CARDIFF MAKE READY DEPOT AND VIA TEAMS**

**Meeting started at 09:30**

**PRESENT:**

Colin Dennis	Chair of the Trust Board
Emma Wood	Chief Executive Officer
Jayne Beeslee	Non-Executive Director
Lee Brooks	Executive Director of Operations
Peter Curran	Non-Executive Director
Bethan Evans	Non-Executive Director
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Professor Hayley Hutchings	Non-Executive Director
Ceri Jackson	Vice-Chair of the Trust Board
Carl Kneeshaw	Director of People
Angela Lewis	Director of Culture Change
Rachel Marsh	Executive Director of Strategy, Planning & Performance
Trish Mills	Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary
Hannah Rowan	Non-Executive Director
Hugh Parry	Trade Union Partner
Chris Turley	Executive Director of Finance & Corporate Resources
Damon Turner	Trade Union Partner
Liam Williams	Executive Director of Quality and Nursing

**ATTENDEES:**

Meshack Ezeadim	Aspiring Board Member
Ben Collins	Head of Service – EMS South Central
Sarah Harland	Corporate Governance Officer
David Hopkins	Head of WAST Charity
Alex Payne	Corporate Governance Manager
Ed Roberts	Deputy Director of Finance & Corporate Resources
Leanne Smith	Assistant Director of Digital Services (Deputising for Jonny Sammut)

**APOLOGIES:**

Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood	Non-Executive Director
Angela Mutlow	Director of Operations, Llais
Jonny Sammut	Director of Digital Services
Andy Swinburn	Executive Director of Paramedicine



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## PART 1

### OPENING ITEMS

#### 1. CHAIR'S WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND QUORUM

1.1 Apologies from Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Angela Mutlow, Jonny Sammut and Andy Swinburn were noted. It was also noted that Trade Union Representatives were in attendance virtually. Quorum was confirmed.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no other declarations recorded.

### ITEMS FOR APPROVAL, ASSURANCE AND DISCUSSION

#### 3. CHARITY ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2024/25, INCLUDING AUDIT WALES INDEPENDENT EXAMINATION REPORT

*The papers for this item are in the committee pack in IBabs and on the Trust's website, therefore detail of the content is not repeated here.*

3.1 Having undergone an independent examination by Audit Wales, which provided a clean and unqualified opinion, Ed Roberts presented the Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 for approval. The report introduced new case studies this year to better demonstrate the Charity's impact, which members welcomed as a positive development. The Audit Wales independent examination report was received by the Trustee.

3.2 David Hopkins outlined the financial position, reporting income of £66.8k, and noting that expenditure had increased significantly, in line with the Charity's objective to utilise its funds. This resulted in a net movement of £185k, while investment funds recorded a £5.5k loss linked to market conditions. Work is ongoing to review investment options. A small adjustment was also required relating to a historic legacy that had only recently been correctly classified as restricted.

3.3 Members offered assurance and support, noting that the accounts were reassuring and aligned with expectations, and welcomed the inclusion of new case studies, which strengthened the clarity of the Charity's impact. Members also confirmed that the Charity Committee had appropriately scrutinised the Annual Report and Accounts when it reviewed them earlier in the month.



3.4 The Corporate Trustee confirmed approval was required urgently due to the filing deadline with the Charity Commission the following day. Electronic signatures would be added immediately following approval. The Corporate Trustee received assurances and approved the Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25 for signing.

**The Corporate Trustee:**

- 1. Received assurances on the Charity Annual Report and Accounts 2024/25, including Audit Wales Independent Examination Report; and**
- 2. Approved the Charity Annual Report and Accounts for 2024/25, ahead of submission to the Charity Commission by 31 January 2026.**

## **PART 2**

### **1. CHAIR'S WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND QUORUM**

1.2 Apologies from Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood, Angela Mutlow and Jonny Sammut were noted. It was also noted that Trade Union Representatives were in attendance virtually. Quorum was confirmed.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

2.1 There were no other declarations recorded.

### **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 27 NOVEMBER 2025**

3.1 The minutes of the Corporate Trustee meeting of the Trust Board held on 27 November 2025 were received and approved.

### **4. ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 The Action Log was received; there are currently no open actions.

## **ITEMS FOR APPROVAL, ASSURANCE AND DISCUSSION**

### **5. CHARITY FINANCIAL PLANS 2026-29**

*The papers for this item is in the committee pack in IBabs and on the Trust's website, therefore detail of the content is not repeated here.*

5.1 David Hopkins presented the financial plan and budget for the 2026–27 financial year, projecting income of approximately £225,000, which is broadly in line with the current year's performance. A significant change noted that this will be the first year since the Covid19 pandemic without substantial income from NHS Charities Together, reflecting the national drawdown of that funding stream. The Charity is therefore reprofiling its financial model to reduce reliance on historic grant funding.



- 5.2 Expenditure plans include drawing on previously received grants and legacies, contributing to a projected net cash outflow of around £330k as the Charity moves to utilise long held funds, including those tied to the Community Resilience Grant and ringfenced legacies. Some expenditure, particularly the £150k Colwyn Bay legacy, faces delivery challenges due to capacity constraints within other Trust departments.
- 5.3 Members discussed the realism of delivering expenditure, the need to ensure timely use of donor funds, and the requirement to balance opportunities with risk in a more competitive and unstable funding environment. The Charity's efforts to diversify income streams were welcomed, including exploring competitive grants and designated/national funds (e.g., Staff Thank You, National Volunteering, Ambulance Fund). These were recognised as mechanisms that could improve fundraising by offering clearer outcomes for donors.

**The Corporate Trustee:**

**1. Approved:**

- **The Charity's expenditure plans for 2026/2027;**
- **The Charity's income forecasts for 2026-2029; and**
- **A 2026-27 budget of £16,140 towards core fundraising costs, delegated to the Head of Charity.**

**2. Noted that income projections are estimates and there is limited certainty around their achievement, recognising that best efforts will be made to secure them.**

**6. 13 JANUARY 2026: CHARITY COMMITTEE AAA HIGHLIGHT REPORT (TO INCLUDE THE COMMITTEE QUALITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW 2025/26)**

*The papers for this item are in the committee pack in IBabs and on the Trust's website, therefore detail of the content is not repeated here.*

**The Corporate Trustee: Noted the Charity Committee AAA Highlight Report and approved the Charity Committee Terms of Reference.**

**CONSENT ITEMS**

**7. 02 OCTOBER 2025 CHARITY COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**The Corporate Trustee: Noted the 02 October 2025 Charity Committee Minutes.**



## **CLOSING ITEMS**

### **8. REFLECTIONS**

8.1 There were no reflections recorded for this meeting.

### **9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

9.1 There was no other business discussed.

### **10. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

10.1 28 May 2026

**MEETING CLOSE: 09:45**