MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC MEETING OF WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES UNIVERSITY NHS TRUST, TRUST BOARD ON THURSDAY 25 JUNE 2026 HELD IN THE CARDIFF MAKE READY DEPOT

The meeting started at 9.30am

ATTENDEES:

Colin Dennis	Chair of the Trust Board
Jayne Beeslee	Non-Executive Director
Judith Bryce	Deputy Director of Operations *(deputising for Lee Brooks)*
Peter Curran	Non-Executive Director
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Professor Hayley Hutchings	Non-Executive Director
Ceri Jackson	Non-Executive Director
Carl Kneeshaw	Director of People
Angela Lewis	Director of Culture Change
Rachel Marsh	Deputy Chief Executive *(deputising for Emma Wood)*
Trish Mills	Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary
Hannah Rowan	Non-Executive Director
Jonny Sammut	Director of Digital
Andy Swinburn	Executive Director of Paramedicine
Chris Turley	Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Resources
Hugh Parry	Trade Union Partner
Damon Turner	Trade Union Partner

APOLOGIES:

Dr Umar Ahmad	Non-Executive Director
Lee Brooks	Executive Director of Operations
Bethan Evans	Non-Executive Director
Emma Wood	Chief Executive Officer

OPENING ITEMS

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND QUORUM

1.1 Apologies were received as set out above. Quorum was confirmed.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1 There were no other declarations recorded.

ITEMS FOR APPROVAL, ASSURANCE AND DISCUSSION

3. 2025/26 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL 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 2025/26 Annual Audited Accounts and Annual Report

3.2 Audit Report, 2025-26 Accounts (including Letter of Representation)

3.2.1 The board received the 2025/26 Annual Audited Accounts. The draft accounts were submitted to Welsh Government on 1 May 2026 and audited in line with required timelines, with Audit Wales certification deadline for final accounts for all NHS Wales bodies being 30 June 2026.

3.2.2 Members were advised that the Trust achieved a break-even position with a small, retained surplus of £78k. Total income and expenditure were each approximately £346m, demonstrating a balanced position. All statutory financial duties were met, including compliance with the Public Sector Payment Policy and delivery of the capital expenditure target set by Welsh Government.

3.2.3 Total income had increased year-on-year, primarily driven by Joint Commissioning Committee (JCC) and Welsh Government funding, pay awards and employer National Insurance changes. Total expenditure had increased in line with income, with pay costs representing the largest proportion, reflecting pay uplifts, workforce developments and previously identified pressures. Non-pay expenditure reduced slightly, supporting delivery of savings while minimising impact on frontline services.

3.2.4 The balance sheet reflected growth in assets linked to capital investment, alongside expected movements in cash, creditors and provisions. Capital expenditure was delivered in line with the approved programme.

3.2.5 Audit Wales issued an unqualified audit opinion, confirming that the accounts provide a true and fair view. There were no uncorrected misstatements and no significant issues requiring escalation to management or board. A small number of corrected disclosure-level adjustments were made, with no impact on the overall financial position.

3.2.6 The board received the Annual Report, noting the two parts: the Performance Report, which summarises the Trust's performance over the year and the Accountability Report, which includes the Director's report, governance statement and supporting disclosures. The board acknowledged:

- The governance statement, which sets out the Trust's governance framework, system of internal control and risk management arrangements, including a review of effectiveness
- The Remuneration and Staff report
- The Audit Certificate and report

3.2.7 The board noted that Welsh Government and Audit Wales had reviewed the draft Annual Report and proposed minor, non-material amendments, which were incorporated into the final report. Members were advised that the Welsh language version of the report was in progress and would be available for the Trust's AGM on 30 July 2026.

3.2.8 Peter Curran, Chair of the Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee (ARAC), confirmed that the committee had undertaken detailed scrutiny of the Annual Accounts and Annual Report at their meeting on 23 June 2026. The committee received strong assurance, highlighting a clean audit outcome, high-quality financial reporting, and giving full endorsement for board approval.

3.2.9 Members expressed their appreciation for the amount of work involved in preparing the Annual Accounts and Annual Report and noted the significant achievement in producing a balanced budget.

The board approved the Trust's draft 2025/26 Annual Audited Accounts and Annual Report and the Letter of Representation. The board agreed for these documents to be signed by the Chair, Chief Executive and Director of Finance before submission to Welsh Government via the Auditor General for Wales ahead of the 30 June 2026 deadline.

4. ANNUAL HEAD OF INTERNAL AUDIT OPINION

The paper 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.

4.1 The board noted the positive report, which provided reasonable assurance on the Trust's governance, risk management and internal control arrangements.

4.2 Members were advised that the internal audit programme for 2025/26 was risk-based, aligned to the Trust's highest-rated risks and was fully delivered. 20 audits were completed, with 17 reasonable assurance outcomes, two substantial assurance outcomes and one audit with no opinion as it was a routine follow-up audit. A further two internal audits, Emerging Technology and Digital Business Continuity, were finalised following the ARAC meeting and subsequently circulated to members.

CLOSING ITEMS

5. REFLECTIONS

5.1 There were no reflections shared at the meeting.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

6.1 There was no other business.

7. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

7.1 The next meeting will be held on 30 July 2026 at 9.30am.

The meeting closed at 9.59am