

Key Matters and Escalation Report to the Trust Board

Name of Committee: Charitable Funds

Chair: John Kennedy, Non-Executive Director

Meeting Date: 15 June 2026

Key matters

The following reports were discussed:

- **Trust Officers Report (NCHC Charitable Fund) – *reasonable assurance***
- **Trust Officers Report (CCS Charitable Fund/Dream Drops) – *reasonable assurance***
- **Investment Report** - the asset portfolio totalled £387,000, with a yield of 2.8% and a split between fixed income and equity. The investment strategy was under review with future arrangements due to be discussed at the next meeting in January 2027.
- **Annual Plan for the Charitable Funds Charities 2026-27 – *reasonable assurance***
- **CCS/Dream Drops Draft Annual Report & Accounts for 2025-26** - the information presented provided *partial assurance*; full assurance was dependent on the resolution of historic reporting issues and completion of an independent examination of the full Annual Report and Accounts.
- **NCHC Draft Annual Report & Accounts 2025-26 – *reasonable assurance***
- **Merger of Charities – *reasonable assurance*** – the committee approved a proposal to merge the two main charities with full implementation expected by April 2027.

Key escalation

None identified.

Points to note:

- CCS/Dream Drops accounts for 2025-26 - partial assurance owing to historic reporting issues. Plans are in place to address this with support from an independent auditor. The committee chair briefed the Trust Board on 17th June 2026.
- The NCHC Annual Report and Accounts for 2025-26 were approved by committee, following independent evaluation.
- The loss of the NCHC charity's website had impacted online donations with no transactions since the beginning of April. The issue would be formally escalated with the communications team, and a plan would be developed to restore donation functionality.

Key risks and issues

None identified.

Good practice or innovation

The committee welcomed external representatives from the Princess of Wales Hospital Charity who observed part of the meeting. The Trust's charitable funds team have been working closely with the charity to help with good charity governance practices.

Projects delivered since the last meeting include:

- **Long Stratton Health Centre** – enhanced staff rest facilities delivered for the South Community Nursing team, funded by a patient legacy.
- **Kelling Hospital LED panels** – two decorative LED panels installed (March 2026) to improve lighting in areas with limited natural light.
- **Kelling Hospital artwork** – nine framed pieces installed April 2026 to improve the ward environment, create interest, and support wayfinding particularly for dementia patients.
- **Pine Cottage patient day room** – provision of a television and vinyl wall artwork to enhance the newly refurbished amputee rehabilitation space.
- **Ogden Court Community Hospital** – delivery of equipment for physiotherapy use, funded by grants from Alan Boswell Charitable Group Trust and Paul Bassham Trust.
- Contribution to the development and installation of an **Immersive Space at Castle School**.