

Key Matters and Escalation Report to the Group Trust Board

Name of Committee: Charitable Funds Committee (In Common)

Chair: John Kennedy

Meeting Date: Monday, 09 June 2025

Key matters

The following reports were discussed:

NCHC

- Trust Officers Report, including operational plan – **Reasonable Assurance**
- Fundraising Strategy 2025-26 (approved - including an interim Charity Fundraising and Marketing Officer post to help aid delivery of the proposed strategy) – **Reasonable Assurance**
- Finance Report (approved – including a draw down of £44,000 from investments to help to maintain a healthy cash balance) – **Reasonable Assurance**
- Investment Report
- Requests for Expenditure over £10k (approved a request for £12,868*)
- Draft Annual Report & Charity Accounts (approved) – **Substantial Assurance**
- Independent Examination Report

The Committee noted the following:

- The Charity had delivered a number of excellent fundraising events and initiatives during the reporting period.
- It was important for management to support the inpatient restructuring project at Swaffham Hospital so that legacy funding was spent.
- Current in-house resource to support the delivery of the Charitable Funds Strategy was at capacity, hence the need for additional resource. This would be reviewed as part of the ongoing work to align both Trusts (NCHC & CCS).
- For the financial year up to 31 March 2024, the Charitable Funds received income of £195k, £180k of which was from charitable income and £15k from investment dividends.
- The Charitable Funds had seen an overall net loss of £102k after income and expenditure movements; this leaves fund balances at 31 March 2025 of £494k.
- The request to draw down £44,000 from investments was temporary, as there would be an opportunity to inject additional funds into the investment pot later in the year.
- The request for £12,868 of charitable funds was to support a project to provide Photobiomodulation (PBM Therapy) Low Level Laser Therapy (LLLT) at the Norwich and King's Lynn Lymphoedema clinics to improve tissue repair.

CCS

- Finance Report & Activities – **Reasonable Assurance**

The Committee noted the following:

- Fund balances as at 31 March 2025 were £814k.
- Numerous projects had been supported during the year including staff “celebratory” events and away days, purchasing specialist equipment to enhance clinical delivery across MSK, iCaSH (integrated Contraception and Sexual Health) and Children’s services and fixed term support funding for specialist posts in Diabetes and Epilepsy.
- The Dreamdrops Fundraising Committee continues to provide activities and support for children and families in the Huntingdon area through its fundraising activities.
- Following the intention of the Friends of North Cambridgeshire Hospital to “disband”, a £500k investment programme for the hospital was being prepared for agreement by the group.

In Common

- 2025-26 Charitable Funds Committee Workplan – agreed to move the next meeting from October 2025 to January 2026 (approved).

Key escalations

There were no escalation points to report.

Key risks and issues

None identified.

Good practice or innovation

Opportunities for working together – overviews were provided by both Trusts which highlighted a number of opportunities to align charitable funds work streams; discussions would continue to drive this forward.