

## Key Matters and Escalation Report to the Group Trust Board

**Name of Committee:** Charitable Funds Committee (In Common)

**Chair:** John Kennedy

**Meeting Date:** Thursday, 22 January 2026

### Key matters

The following reports were discussed:

#### NCHC

- Trust Officers Report – **Substantial Assurance**
- Finance Report (including approval of the release of £40,000 from investments to help to maintain a healthy cash balance) – **Reasonable Assurance**
- Investment Report – the portfolio had made a return of over 8% in the last year. A proposal to consolidate and restructure the investment portfolio following the merger, along with a new risk profile and investment strategy, would be prepared during the second half of 2026 in time for the committee to consider in January 2027.
- Requests for Expenditure over £10k - agreed in principle to fund a proposal to restore heritage stonework and create a wildlife-friendly garden at Norwich Community Hospital, subject to further review of location and grant funding (£74,952).
- Charity Supporting Non-Charity Checklist – no concerns raised following an annual review.

The Committee noted the following:

- The Charity had supported and delivered several excellent fundraising events and initiatives during the reporting period (further details below).
- For the financial year up to 31 December 2025, the Charitable Funds received income of £211k, £201k of which was from charitable income and £10k from investment dividends.
- Voluntary income was below forecast by £31k, mainly due to difficulties in securing external grants.
- Expenditure for the period totalled £131k, of which £120k was direct charitable expenditure.
- The Charitable Funds had seen an overall net gain £115k after income and expenditure movements; this leaves fund balances on 31 December 2025 of £609k.

#### CCS

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

The Committee noted the following:

- Fund balances as of 31 March 2025 were £791,938.

- During the reporting period the Main fund had received £53,188 in donations.
- Dream Drops continued to fundraise and support children with additional needs in the Huntingdonshire area.

The overall balance of cash funds held by Dreamdrops at the end of December 2025 was £197,301. During the period Income received totalled £26,847; expenditure for the period totalled £30,604.

- During the period funds had supported staff “celebratory” events, away days and team building events, the purchasing of specialist equipment to enhance clinical delivery across Children’s services in Bedfordshire and Luton and additional non-core support for two apprenticeship posts in the MSK (Musculoskeletal) and Dental services.

### In Common

- The committee discussed the planned merger of CCS and NCHC charitable funds, legal costs, governance, and branding, and agreed to pursue a streamlined, cost-effective approach and to consult with the Communications Team on branding strategy.
- In preparation for the merger and new organisation from 1 April 2026, the committee reviewed the proposed draft Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) and approved the revised charitable expenditure limits in preparation for adoption by the new Trust Board.

### **Key escalations**

None identified.

### **Key risks and issues**

None identified.

### **Good practice or innovation**

- **North Cambs Hospital, Wisbech (CCS):** The Trust had progressed the works funded by the Friends of North Cambridgeshire Hospital as part of the disbanding programme. In total there would be approximately £460k of investments supporting a range of services including Palliative Care and Children’s services and additional specialist equipment.

The NCHC Charity has supported and delivered several excellent fundraising events and initiatives over the last six months, including:

- Multi faith prayer room (Norwich Community Hospital)
- Enhancement of staff area (Long Stratton Health Centre)
- Patient therapy kitchen and quiet room (Swaffham Hospital)
- Lymphoedema Low Level Laser Therapy equipment (West Pottergate Medical Centre)
- Enhanced equipment (Priscilla Bacon Hospice)
- Securing corporate sponsorship to fund Christmas trees for all inpatient sites as well as presents for all inpatients.