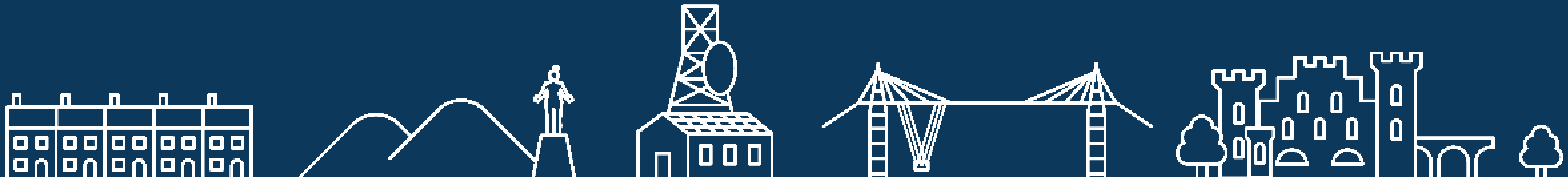
GIG CYMRU NHS WALES
Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

GWENT 35
Better health | Better care | Better lives
Iechyd gwell Gofal gwell Bywydau gwell

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Cyfarfod Cyffredinol Blynyddol
Annual General Meeting
2025 / 2026



Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Overview of the Health Board’s Performance

2025 / 2026

Nicola Prygodzicz
Chief Executive

Our Mission

To reduce health inequalities by improving population health

Key Achievements in 2025/26

- Published the **new Organisational Strategy** Gwent 35: Better Health, Better Care, Better Lives and launched the People Plan 2025-2030.
- Continued focus on **quality and safety and patient experience and outcomes** with the number of open Nationally Reported Incidents and reported Duty of Candour Incidents falling since 2024/25.
- **Reduced very long waiters** with the number of patients waiting over 104 weeks for treatment reducing by 92%, the number of outpatient waits over 52 weeks reducing by 91% diagnostic waits over 8 weeks reducing by 80%.
- **Further developed specialist and regional services** with significant delivery of cataract activity through the Regional Ophthalmology Programme and opening of the Satellite Radiotherapy Centre at Nevill Hall Hospital .
- **Expanded care closer to home**: strong delivery in pharmacy, optometry, enhanced community care and palliative care pathways.
- **Staff engagement in the staff survey rose** from 13.3% to 32.5%; with an increase in positive engagement score. Over 300 additional substantive clinical staff supported by reduction of agency spend.
- **Financial savings** of £43m achieved, £3m above planned levels.

Challenges in 2025/26

Sustainability and morale of our workforce

Rising complexity of patients causing increased needs for ongoing care

Estate challenges

Challenging financial context supported with short-term funding initiatives

Considerable pressures on our system during Winter

Digital infrastructure

Delivery against Priority Programmes

Embedding Prevention and Population Health in all that we do

- Women’s Health Hub established in March 2026
- Diabetes: increased the percentage of patients who received all eight NICE care processes to 47.3% exceeding the target
- Healthy Child Wales: 99.6% six-week physical examination and 91.8% weight and measurement at eight weeks exceeding the targets
- Newborn Hearing Screening completed within four weeks for 95.6% of babies
- Autumn COVID Vaccination uptake 60.4% and influenza vaccination uptake for over 65s increased from 2024/25 to 73.9%
- Vaccination equity and smoking cessation remain priority areas for improvement

Delivery against Priority Programmes

Progressing Place Based Models of Care and sustainability in Primary and Community Services

- All GP practices continue to achieve the national access standards
- 37,789 people accessed pharmacist independent prescribing exceeding the 24,065 plan
- 91,240 people accessed the Common Ailments Scheme above the 79,553 plan
- Influenza vaccination performance for adults aged 65 and over was 73.9%, an improvement on the 2024/25 performance and higher than the All-Wales average
- Enhanced Community Care capacity increased to 6545 contacts above plan
- Weekend community nursing capacity remained below the planned level (92,343 against 128,347)

Delivery against Priority Programmes

Urgent and Emergency Care

- Opened phase 1 of the Grange University Hospital(GUH) Emergency Department (ED) extension delivering a safer more modern waiting room environment
- Completed the delivery of the approved investment in ED Consultant expansion, with accompanying active locum recruitment underway to deliver short term gaps
- Expanded the Transfer Lounge and associated model at GUH enabling safer and more patient centred flow
- One hour Ambulance handovers reduced from 774 to 666 (reduction of 14%) per month and crew hours lost reduced from 3117 to 2195 (reduction of 29.6%) but still more work to do
- 12-hour waits reduced slightly from 1210 to 1184 but remained above the plan of 750. 4-hour performance continues to be one of the best in Wales
- Stroke process measures improved substantially following data correction and focused improvement work
- Acute Frailty Response was rolled out across all sites

Delivery against Priority Programmes

Planned Care and Cancer

- Referral to treatment times: number of patients over 104 weeks fell from 288 to 23 and outpatient waits over 52 weeks fell from 14,265 to 1,228
- Diagnostic waits over eight weeks reduced from 1,155 to 233
- The Satellite Radiotherapy Centre in Nevill Hall opened in June 2025
- Launched the Keeping Well service to support and signpost patients on elective treatment lists
- Theatre utilisation increased significantly from 56.5% to 79.1% and Day Surgery (BADS – British Association of Day Surgery) rates improved to 80% demonstrating good progress towards national expectations
- Significant innovation in diagnostics with deployment of AI in Radiology and Pathology and Trans-nasal Endoscopy (TNE) and Capsule Sponge in Endoscopy

Delivery against Priority Programmes

Improving our Mental Health Services

- Adults: 86.6% were assessed within 28 days; 93.7% receiving intervention within 28 days and 91.3% receiving a valid Care and Treatment Plan
- CAMHS: 99% were assessed within 28 days, 80.4% received intervention within 28 days, 95% received a valid Care and Treatment Plan; which is well within National Targets.
- Use of PROMS (Patient Reported Outcome Measures) expanded to all wards across Adult and Older Adult services
- Progressed 111 press 2 / single point of access and service model work for Adults, older Adults and Adults with Learning Disabilities
- Needs-led model continues to be embedded for children and young people and Neurodevelopment assessment performance remained at a static position and therefore remains a priority for 26/27

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Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Financial Accounts
2025 / 2026

Robert Holcombe
Executive Director of Finance and Procurement

Audit Opinion on Financial Statements

Our Accounts were approved by the Board on 24 June 2026
Auditor General for Wales signed the Accounts and Certified Auditors Report on 26 June 2026

Opinion on Financial Statements

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board as at 31 March 2026 and of its net operating costs for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006 and directions made there under by Welsh Ministers.

Opinion on regularity

- In my opinion, except for the matter(s) described in the Basis for Qualified Regularity Opinion section of my report, in all material respects, the expenditure and income in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the Senedd and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

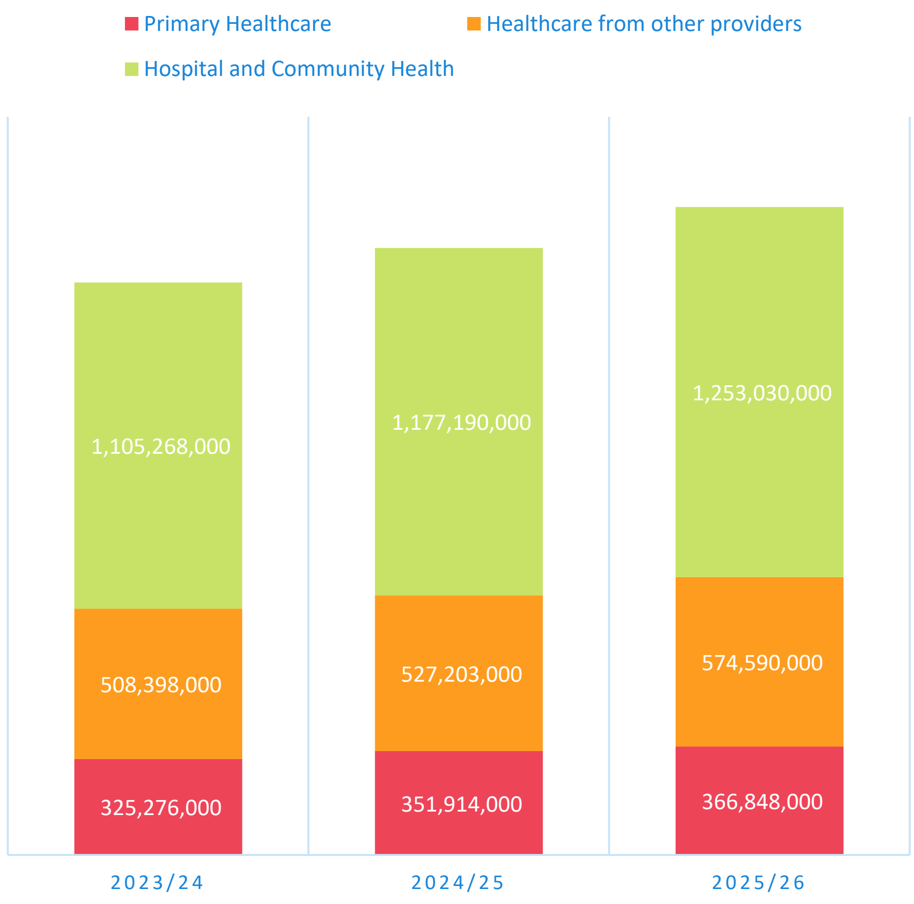
Basis for Qualified Opinion on Regularity

- I have qualified my opinion on the regularity of the Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board's financial statements because the Health Board has breached its resource limit by spending £75.233 million over the amount that it was authorised to spend in the three-year period 2023-24 to 2025-26.

Financial Performance 2025/26

KPI	2023/24 £000	2024/25 £000	2025/26 £000	Commentary
Deliver Against Revenue Resource Limit	(49,754)	(7,185)	(18,282)	The Board did not meet its revenue resource limit for the year and reported a deficit of £18.282m
Breakeven over a rolling three-year period	(86,359)	(93,793)	(75.233)	The Board did not meet the target to break even over a rolling three-year period and reported a deficit of £93.793m
Deliver Against Capital Resource Limit	41	66	47	The Board met its capital resource limit for the year and delivered a surplus of £47k
Breakeven over a rolling three-year period against Capital Allocation	134	150	154	The Board met its breakeven target over a rolling three-year period for capital with a rolling surplus of £154k
Pay 95% non-NHS trade creditors within 30 days	97.4%	97.7%	97.1%	The board met its commitments to pay 95% of its non-NHS trade creditors within 30 days, with 97.7%, the highest performing HB in Wales.
Hold a year end cash balance not exceeding £6m	£4.145m	£4.823m	£5.551m	The board met its commitment to hold sufficient but not excessive cash (deemed £6m) as at the year end.

Revenue Expenditure 2025/26



We spent over £2.1 billion supporting the health and wellbeing of those we serve, an annual increase of £138m (7%). With the population of ABUHB of 595k people, this represents a cost per head of £3,685, the second lowest across all Health Boards.

Our expenditure includes:

Primary Healthcare - £367m (2024/25: £352m) ↑£15m

Our GMS costs increased by £7.6m, largely due to the increase staffing costs for managed practices. Also, cost pressure was experienced in Prescribed Drugs, increasing by £4.9m year on year, this included cancer and weight management specialist drugs for both volume and price rises.

Healthcare from other providers- £575m (2024/25: £527m) ↑£47m

An increase of 9% reflecting strategic decisions to invest in specialised services and with external providers to reduce waiting times.

Hospital and Community - £1,253m (2024/25: £1,177m) ↑£75m

An increase of 6.5%, reflecting cost growth in Drugs (£4m), the impact of staff pay awards (£42m) and increased contributions to the Pension Scheme (£4m).

Workforce Expenditure 2025/26

Staffing – Whole Time Equivalents (WTE)

	2024/25	2025/26	Change	Change (%)
Administrative, clerical and board members	2,722	2,819	97	4%
Medical and Dental	1,339	1,394	55	4%
Nursing, Midwifery	4,121	4,291	170	4%
Professional, Scientific and Technical staff	433	465	32	7%
Additional Clinical Services	2,903	2,933	30	1%
Allied Health Professions	982	1000	18	2%
Healthcare Scientists	257	260	3	1%
Estates and Ancilliary	1,054	1,106	52	5%
Students	6	3	-3	-50%
	13,817	14,271	454	3%

With Key Pay Cost metrics:

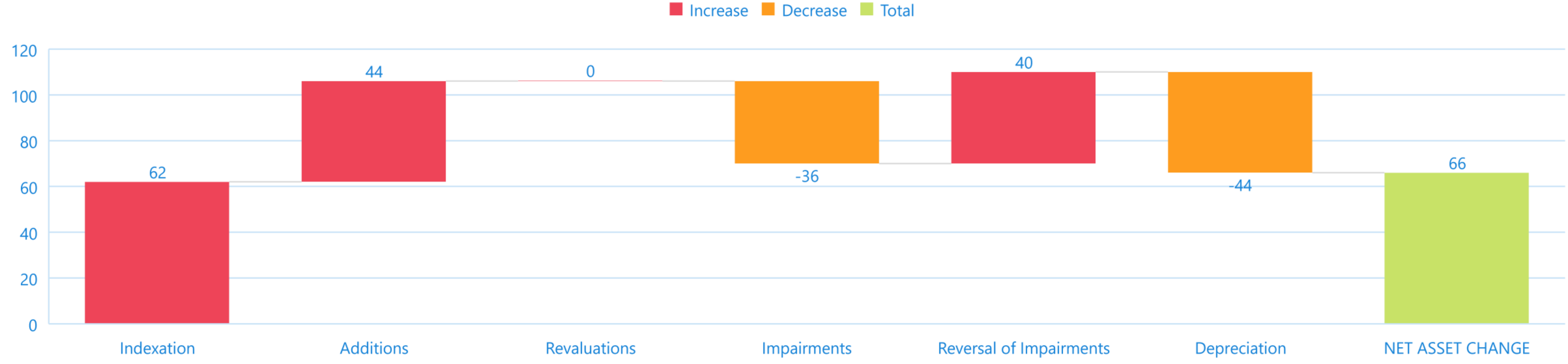
- Spend on employee costs in the year were £981m (2023/24: £904m)
- Average number of staff increased by 454 WTEs (3%), investing primarily in our frontline staff numbers.
- Agency staff cost £22m, 2% of our total pay costs (£29m, 3% in 24/25)
- Highest paid Director (full year equivalent salary basis) – Chief Executive Officer (Pay band: £245-250k).
- Staff remuneration ranged from £17k to £371k (2023/24: £17k to £459k)

Capital Finance 2025/26

We have made capital investment of just under £44m, including:

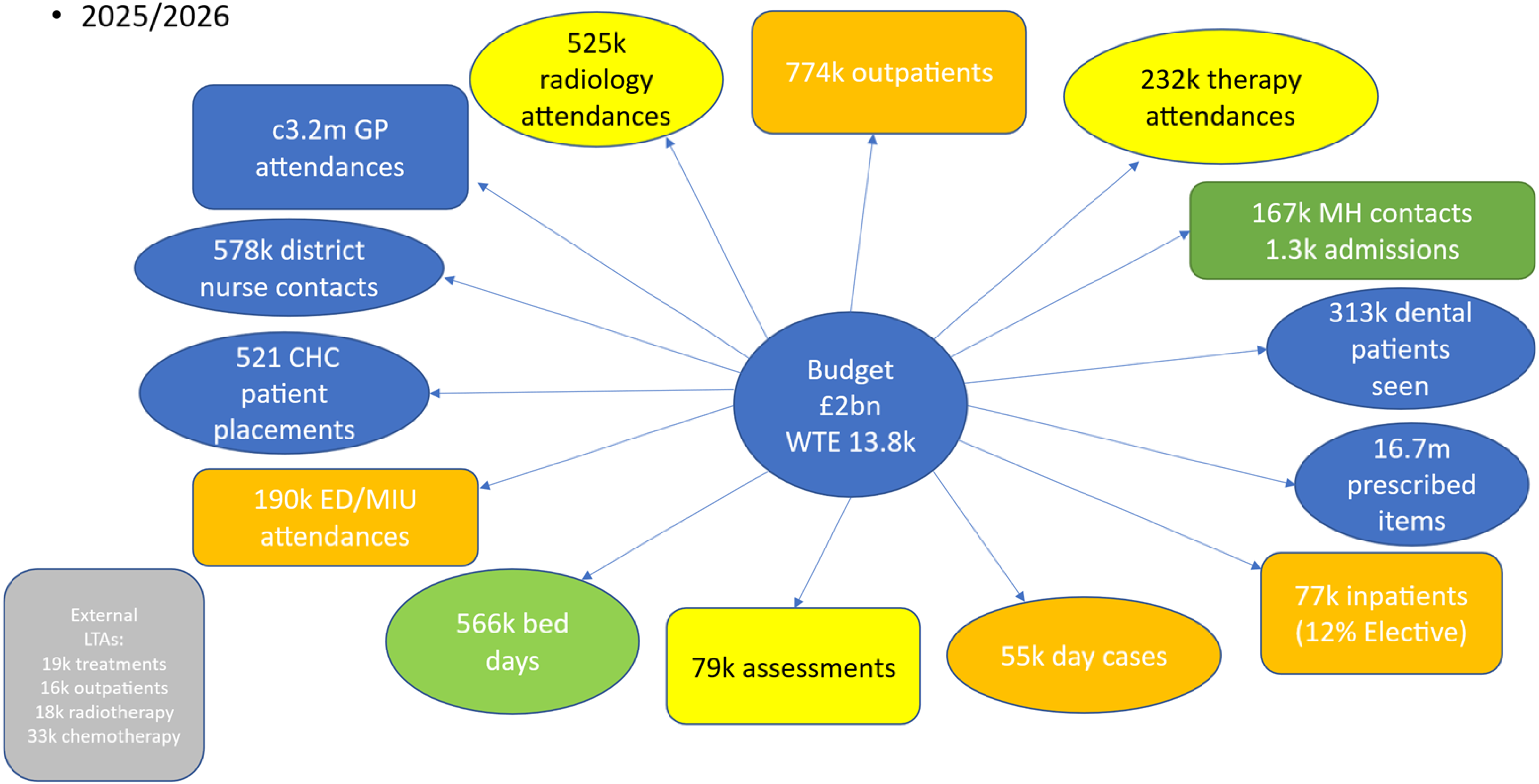
Significant investments	2025/26 £'m
Re-Fit programme and back log maintenance	15.2
RGH Centralised Decontamination Unit	3.6
NHH Satellite Radiotherapy Unit	0.9
Grange Emergency Department Extension	2.7
2nd MRI at the Grange Hospital	2.2
All - Wales funded Digital projects	5.6
IT Equipment replacement programme	4.2

With the value of our overall Property Plant and Equipment increasing by £66m (6.7%) on the prior year to £987m:



Services our investment delivered in 2025/26

- 2025/2026



Charitable Fund and Other Related Charities

We receive monies given to Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board from grateful patients, their loved ones and the wider community; thanking us for the NHS care and treatment we provide.

The objects of the charity are such that all expenditure from the charity is for the benefit of the National Health Service and as such is therefore for 'public benefit'.

The trustees shall hold the trust funds upon trust to apply income and at their discretion, so far as permissible, capital, for any charitable purpose or purposes relating to the National Health Service.

The corporate trustee is Aneurin Bevan University Local Health Board. The executive directors and independent members of the Board share the responsibility for ensuring that the health board fulfils its duties as a corporate trustee in managing charitable funds. The Board delegates its governance work to the Charitable Funds Committee.

The Charitable Funds Committee is aware of its duties in relation to public benefit and ensures that all expenditure fulfils public benefit criteria.

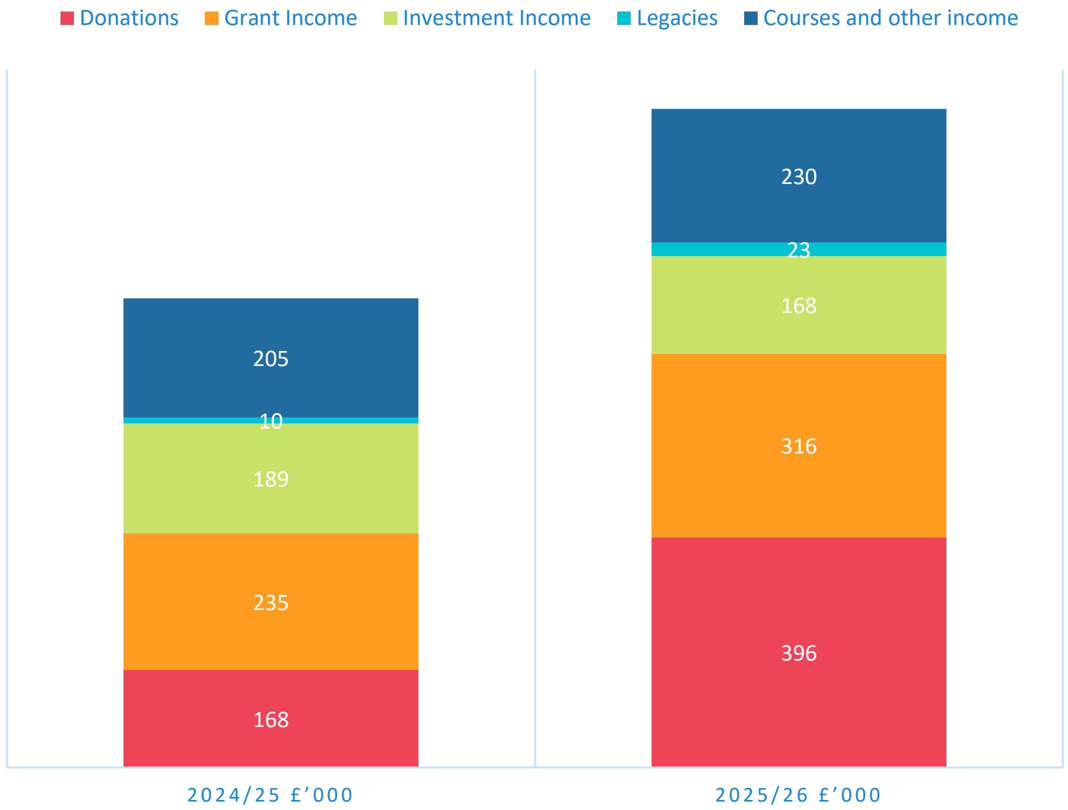
Charitable funds 2025/2026

Our income in the year was £1,133k (2024/25: £876k)

Our donations and legacies increased to £419k. This countered the falls seen across charities in recent years, supported by a donation by Be Heart Happy.

Continued provision of training courses and other income generating activities resulted in an increase of income by £25k, to contribute £316k.

Lastly, investment returns continued to weaken over the year to £168k (prior year £189k), reflecting both a downturn in investment markets (in response to the war in Iran and impact on global markets) and the overall reduction of funds held in investments.



Charitable funds 2025/2026

Our expenditure in the year was £1,569k (2024/25: £1,394k) continuing the trend of utilising reserves to support our charitable aims. This included:

Equipment for treating patients including: 10 ECG Systems for Cardiology (£71k), a Pintuition System for the Breast Unit in YYF (£66k), 3 Impella Cardiology Systems (£40K).

People: We funded the Staff Recognition award in July 2025, celebrating the contributions of our staff and volunteers. Funds were spent on Christmas festivities - patient presents for those staying with us on Christmas Day and decorations within our premises.

We have funded research costs including our contribution for the development of an Ovarian Cancer Algorithm, and supported posts championing our volunteers and progressing ABUHB decarbonisation plans. Additionally, with the Shaw Trust, we supported local medical students through graduate grants.

For our patients, we have provided reclining chairs for Partners in Maternity (£6k) to enhance their experience; we have supported patient facing activities such as “Meaningful Activities” (£121k) and psychological support services (£113k).

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board

Annual Plan 2026/27 (Three Year Intent)

Hannah Evans
Executive Director of Strategy, Planning and Partnerships

Our Plan for 2026-29

- Our Annual Plan sets 2026/27 sets out the Health Board's intentions for the next three years with detailed commitments for the next 12 months
- It translates Gwent 35 into action through three strategic aims: Better Health, Better Care, Better Lives
- It combines longer –term transformation with immediate recovery priorities: financial sustainability, urgent and emergency care, planned care and cancer performance and workforce and service sustainability
- Priorities include Place Based Care in Torfaen and Blaenau Gwent, establishing an underpinning Clinical Services Plan and redesign of Older Persons, Acute Medicine and Mental Health services

Opportunities and Priorities for 2026/27

Foundations for 2035

- Make progress against our organisational strategy; Gwent35
- Shifting towards prevention, population health & reducing inequity
- Deliver place based care in Blaenau Gwent & Torfaen
- Development of underpinning Clinical Services Plan

Sustainability for 2026

- Move towards financial sustainability driving efficiency & productivity
- De-escalate & stabilise Urgent & Emergency Care
- Reduce planned care and cancer waiting times
- Implement service redesign on Older Adults, Medical Model & Mental Health

Challenges for 2026/27

Performance

- Remain in Targeted Intervention for Urgent & Emergency Care (UEC)
- Need to de-escalate UEC and recover cancer / planned care
- Climate of increased demand with ED attendances forecast +2.4%; emergency inpatient admissions +4.1%; diagnostic and elective demand continue to rise.

Workforce

- Sickness absence remains above 6% in some areas; one third is stress, anxiety and depression.
- Spreading available staffing too thinly
- Staff morale to deliver service change
- High continued reliance on temporary workforce in some areas
- Persistent skills shortage
- Ageing workforce

Resources

- Planning and Finance remain in Targeted Intervention
- Need to achieve financial balance
- Ability to make continued financial savings as £18.282m revenue deficit despite £43m savings
- Growth in costs of non-pay items e.g. medicines
- Short funding initiatives
- Choices and prioritisation

Estate & Infrastructure

- Backlog maintenance of over £30m
- Specific issues with estate in NHH - RAAC
- Deliver core clinical system modernisation whilst maintaining cyber resilience and safe service continuity

GWENT 35

Better Health

Better Care

Better Lives

- Prevention
- Placed Based Care
- Mental Health & LD
- Urgent & Emergency Care
- Planned Care
- Cancer

6 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMMES

ENABLING PROGRAMMES

- People Plan
- Quality Management System
- Value & Sustainability
- Digital Change Programme
- Capital & Estates Programme
- Decarbonisation Programme

UNDERPINNED BY OUR CLINICAL SERVICES PLAN