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MEETING SUMMARY

DATE OF MEETING	Monday 2nd November 2026 09:30-12:30
VENUE	Microsoft Teams

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board – Charitable Funds Committee: Meeting Summary

Committee Papers: Agenda and Papers

Committee Members:
Paul Deneen, Chair
Neil Patrick, Vice Chair
Akmal Hanuk, Independent Member
Robert Holcombe, Director of Finance & Procurement
Nicola Prygodzicz, Chief Executive

Meeting Administration & Attendance: The meeting was opened with apologies noted and attendance confirmed.

Funds Available & Consideration of Bids/Small Grants: The Committee considered four funding applications following review by the Charitable Funds Bid Review Panel. Three applications were approved and one was not approved at this stage. The Committee agreed that the unsuccessful application could be reconsidered through the established process should circumstances change.

NHS Charities Together Lottery: The Committee revisited the proposal to participate in the NHS Charities Together lottery scheme and the Committee was satisfied that the matters previously raised had been addressed. The Committee ratified the decision to participate in the scheme as part of the Charity's approach to developing additional sources of income.

Investment Management Contract: The Committee considered a revised specification for the procurement of future investment management services, developed following further detailed work between meetings. The revised approach provided greater clarity on investment objectives, governance arrangements, ethical and values-led investment requirements, sustainability, costs and tender evaluation criteria.



The Committee approved the draft tender specification and evaluation criteria and agreed that the Committee Chair and Committee Vice Chair would participate in the tender evaluation process alongside officers.

Review of New Fund Procedure: The Committee considered proposals to strengthen and simplify arrangements for establishing new charitable funds. Discussion focused on reducing unnecessary individual funds, improving the clarity and consistency of fund names and ensuring charitable resources could be used effectively for the benefit of patients, staff and communities.

The Committee approved delegated arrangements for specified categories of new funds, agreed an assessment approach for other requests and endorsed a wider review of existing fund titles. The Committee further supported continued work to identify opportunities to consolidate funds where appropriate and improve oversight of funds with limited expenditure.

Draft Annual Accounts and Annual Report 2025/26: The Committee reviewed the Charity's draft Annual Accounts and Annual Report for 2025/26. Total funds held at 31 March 2026 were reported as £4.19 million, compared with £4.944 million in the previous year, and noted that the movement reflected both investment market losses and expenditure exceeding income during the year.

The Annual Report was welcomed as an important opportunity to demonstrate the impact of charitable funding across the Health Board. Members endorsed the report and supported its wider use to promote the Charity and demonstrate how donations were benefiting patients, staff and services.

Finance & Performance Report: The Committee reviewed financial performance for the first two quarters of 2026/27, and noted recovery in investment values following the market losses reported at the end of the previous financial year, while expenditure continued to exceed income. The Committee also noted the need to continue monitoring reserves, investment performance and cash flow.

Retrospective approval was provided for the creation of eight funds, and the Committee supported the establishment of a fund associated with the interstitial lung disease support group, subject to alignment with the newly agreed approach to fund naming and management.

Legislative and Reporting Changes: The Committee received an update on changes to charity reporting requirements which would apply to the 2026/27 financial year. Based on current income levels, the Charity was expected to fall within the Tier 2 reporting requirements, which would require enhanced narrative and outcomes-based reporting. The Charity

team would continue working with internal and external audit colleagues to prepare for implementation.

In addition, the Committee considered forthcoming changes to employment legislation and the implications for charitable funding of fixed-term or grant-funded posts. The Committee emphasised the importance of ensuring that funding awards remained clearly defined, time limited and aligned with Health Board policies and employment arrangements.

Marketing Strategy Update: The Committee welcomed continued progress in raising the profile of the Charity and strengthening future income generation. Developments included progress with the charitable fund's magazine, participation in the lottery scheme and increased use of the Charity's refreshed branding.

In addition, the Committee discussed technical difficulties affecting the use of Goodbox contactless donation devices across Health Board sites. Further work would be undertaken with Digital colleagues to explore options for resolving these issues and enabling greater use of contactless giving.

Spending Plans and Slow-Moving Funds: The Committee reviewed arrangements for monitoring larger and slow-moving charitable funds, with a continued focus on ensuring that available resources were being actively managed and used for their intended purposes. Further fund holders would be invited to future Committee meetings to provide assurance regarding their spending plans.

The Committee also received presentations regarding funds supporting breast services and GP training. Members were assured that plans were in place for the use of these resources, including investment in equipment and service development within breast services and ongoing delivery of the GP training programme. The discussions also highlighted opportunities to further promote the role and impact of the Charity.