



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd  
Addysgu Powys  
Powys Teaching  
Health Board

**CHARITABLE FUNDS COMMITTEE (CFC)  
(POWYS HEALTH CHARITY – REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1057902)**

**CONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON  
16 MARCH 2026 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

<b>MEMBERS</b>		
Carl Cooper	CC	Chair (Committee Chair)
Pete Hoggood	PH	Deputy Chief Executive/Executive Director of Finance, Capital and Support Services
Cathie Poynton	CP	Independent Member
Ian Thomas	IT	Independent Member
Chris Walsh	CW	Independent Member
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>		
Monique Beck	MB	CAHMS Primary Mental Health Worker (for item 3.1)
Helen Bushell	HB	Director of Corporate Governance / Board Secretary
Rhiannon Beaumont-Wood	RBW	PTHB Vice Chair (observing)
Matthew King	MK	Deputy Director Therapies and Health Sciences
Shania Jones	SJ	Charity Administrative Support Officer
Paul Matthias	PM	Investment Manager Brewin Dolphin
Martin O’Brien	MOB	Head of Charity
Liz Patterson	LP	Head of Corporate Governance (Committee support)
Sarah Pritchard	SP	Assistant Director of Finance (Accounting and Services)
Tom Richards	TR	Financial Accountant
<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:</b>		
Claire Madsen	CM	Executive Director of Allied Health Professions, Health Sciences and Digital

<b>1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS</b>
<b>1.1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES (CF/25/70)</b>
The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received as recorded above.
<b>1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (CF/25/71)</b>
No declarations of interests were received in addition to those already recorded on the register.
<b>1.3 COMMITTEE ACTION LOG (CF/25/72)</b>
CC provided an update on the Action Log, highlighting:

- CF/25/55a and b – matters relating to Brecon League of Friends – COMPLETE
- CF/25/55c – improvement requests for Charity Dashboard – COMPLETE
- CF/25/55b – improvement requests for Communications Report – COMPLETE
- CF/25/53 – benchmarking charitable fund administration across Wales – COMPLETE
- CF/25/51 – Terms of Reference review – COMPLETE

A request to extend the timeframe for CF/25/52 (discussions to examine potential to support palliative care with legacy funds) was accepted.

One further action remains on track.

The Committee **NOTED** the action log update and **AGREED** the requested extension.

## **2 CONSENT AGENDA (CF/25/73)**

No items were raised.

## **3 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL/RATIFICATION/ASSURANCE**

### **3.1 POWYS GENERAL PURPOSES AND LOCAL FUNDS BIDS FOR APPROVAL (CF/25/74)**

#### Cysur Natur / Comfort in Nature

MB introduced the scheme outlining that the intention was to offer preventative support to children and young people on the cusp of entering mental health services. A video on the project was shared outlining ways of working and hearing from children and young people the benefits they had found in receiving support through the project. MB added that this style of delivery was being successfully used elsewhere in the UK and it was intended to work with children and young people to shape service delivery.

Independent Members asked the following questions for assurance:

*Can assurance be provided that the project would not replace or detract from core CAHMS services?*

MB confirmed that the project did not replace core CAMHS provision, which remained essential and fully in place. The initiative is complementary, offering an alternative therapeutic approach alongside existing services. Expectations were being clearly managed with families and that the work represented a cultural shift rather than a withdrawal or substitution of statutory CAMHS services.

*Is the proposed funding sufficient and realistic to support effective delivery of the project?*

MB advised the budget reflected the scale of the original grant application and previous comparable projects.

Committee Members shared that the fund remained open for further funding requests if resource pressures emerged as the project progressed. MOB noted that should the project underspend, any monies unspent would return to the Charity.

*How will the impact of the project be measured and evidenced?*

MB confirmed that recognised wellbeing and anxiety scales were being used to capture quantitative outcomes. In addition, qualitative feedback was being gathered from children, young people, and families through bespoke feedback forms, with early responses informing the ongoing development and evaluation of the project.

*What was the longer-term vision for the project and how might it integrate more widely across the system?*

MB shared the longer-term ambition which included developing dedicated mindful spaces, expanding preventative and community-based approaches, and strengthening links with schools and education partners. The project aimed to support earlier intervention, demonstrate wider system benefits, and potentially reduce future demand on CAMHS services through closer integration with education and community settings.

The Committee **APPROVED** the application by Cysur Natur of funding of £140,397 for a three year period (of up to £147,322 to account for inflation).

### **3.2. CHARITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT (CF/25/75)**

HB presented the draft Charity Strategy which had been developed through collaborative work led by MOB, with input from the task and finish group and wider colleagues. It set out the proposed strategic direction to 2030, including vision, values, a summary SWOT analysis and four strategic ambitions to inform future annual plans. Members were invited to provide initial feedback to inform refinement, ahead of a full Board session and subsequent Committee approval.

Committee Members provided the following feedback:

- Overall support for the direction and clarity of the draft strategy.
- Greater emphasis was requested on prevention, circular economy principles, and the Charity's economic contribution in Powys.
- Stronger reference to good charity governance and Charity Commission expectations were suggested.
- A need for a balanced communications approach, combining social media with traditional channels.
- Clearer alignment was sought between the Charity Strategy and the Health Board's wider strategic priorities, including how the Charity adds practical value.
- Support was expressed for further refinement and progression through Board development and approval.

The Committee:

- **RECEIVED** the draft Charity Strategy discussing the content and providing feedback
- **CONSIDERED** the proposed way forward and next steps.

### **3.3. HEAD OF CHARITY REPORT (CF/25/76)**

MOB presented the report and drew attention to the following areas:

- Plans for the Charity's 30th anniversary were highlighted, informed by feedback from Charity Ambassadors to improve visibility and presence across the county.
- Progress was noted on the *Improving the Cancer Journey* project, focused on securing funding to provide practical support to patients at the point of diagnosis.
- New income-generation opportunities were highlighted, including participation in the NHS Lottery and membership of a charity group, with the remainder of the report noted for information.

Independent Members asked the following questions for assurance:  
*What is the impact of the proposed NHS Charities Together (NHS CT) lottery on internal resources, and are there maximum or minimum entry requirements for participation?*

MOB advised all resourcing for the lottery will be undertaken by NHS Charities Together. There is a one-off introduction fee of £250, which enables access to the central website and platform with no ongoing internal resourcing impact for the Charity. Lottery entry is proposed at £1 per ticket. While a maximum number of entries per participant is controlled, the minimum number of ticket purchases required for viability is not yet confirmed. Further detail will be provided in a forthcoming paper from NHS England and NHS Charities Together.

*How are suggested sponsorship levels for "Run for Charity" events calculated?*

MOB noted suggested sponsorship targets are based on benchmarks used by Run for Charity. These targets can be adjusted by the Charity as required, and the Charity can amend its own section of the Run for Charity website to reflect local preferences.

*Is any further action required by the Charity in relation to the Brecon League of Friends, and when will the shop reopen?*

MOB advised an agreement prepared by NWSSP had been shared with the Brecon League of Friends and is awaiting review and signature by their trustees. A meeting with the League of Friends is being rearranged for April due to space constraints. The reopening date of the shop has not yet been confirmed.

The Committee:

- **RECEIVED** the report and took **ASSURANCE** the work of the Charity continues to be delivered.
- In terms of fundraising approaches, **APPROVED**
  - NHS CT lottery - Option 4 - to join the NHS CT lottery, and
  - Run for Charity - Option 3 - Become a member of Run For Charity

### **3.4. CHARITY OPERATIONAL BUDGET PROPOSAL (CF/25/77)**

MOB presented the report and drew attention to the following:

- The proposed operational budget mirrors the previous year, reflecting a period of limited expenditure and activity.
- Given uncertainty over future priorities and spend, no revised budget is proposed at this stage.

- The budget will enable focus in the coming year on raising the Charity's profile, increasing awareness, and supporting income generation.

HB added that the proposed budget reflected a twin-track position between current activity and future direction, with approval resting with the Committee. The £4.5k allocation for training and education appeared high in proportion to staffing levels and existing organisational arrangements, and should therefore be treated as a maximum. Budget alignment would be kept under review throughout the year, with any realignment managed appropriately and reported back to the Committee in line with the annual plan.

Independent Members asked the following questions for assurance:

*Given that only around 20–25% of the budget was spent this year, is it appropriate to request the same level of funding next year when there is limited clarity on how it will be used?*

MOB advised spending had been deliberately constrained to reflect the wider Health Board's cautious approach to expenditure on training, marketing and conference attendance. In addition spend this year had utilised unused budget from the previous year.

*Even allowing for reduced spend on training and education, what assurance can be provided on the intended use of the remaining budget next year?*

MOB noted the intention is to raise the charity's profile across the organisation by collaborating with local ambassadors, developing physical information points such as wall boards and workspaces, and increasing public awareness. These proposals respond to gaps identified through the strategy and SWOT analysis, with anniversary activity providing an opportunity to support both immediate and longer-term awareness of the charity.

The Committee:

- **APPROVED** in principle the operational budget of £18k for 2026/27 noting that a further budget report will be brought to Committee in June 2026 outlining budget alignment with the Annual Plan.

### **3.5. FINANCIAL REPORT (CF/25/78)**

SP presented the financial position as of Month 10 2025/26 and drew attention to the following:

- Income received to date exceeded expenditure by £51k,
- Further significant costs are expected by year-end, including administration and charity support charges, which are recharged after month 12 payroll when final figures are confirmed, and
- Benchmarking data had been provided in response to an action on slide 10.

Independent Members asked the following questions for assurance:

*In relation to the benchmarking figures, PTHB appeared to be third in the table. Was this a surprise or was it within expectations?*

SP noted it was expected that PTHB would be broadly in the middle of the pack. However, comparisons were difficult because other organisations may

have significant fundraising teams whose costs are accounted for differently. The benchmarking is based on figures drawn from standard notes in the accounts, and it is unclear whether other charities attribute additional support or staffing costs elsewhere.

*How confident can the Committee be that the benchmarking is comparing like with like?*

SP advised there is some uncertainty because it is not always clear whether all relevant charity-related costs are captured consistently across organisations. While the figures reflect core roles such as the Head of Charity and key finance support, other organisations may have larger associated teams whose costs are recorded differently. This makes direct comparison challenging, although further clarification can be sought.

*When reviewing investments, are Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors considered?*

SP confirmed the Charity has an ethical investment policy in place, which is reviewed annually and includes a defined risk profile covering areas such as arms and tobacco. Further detail will be provided by the Charity's investment manager who will be able to respond to any specific questions on ESG considerations.

The Committee:

- **DISCUSSED** and **NOTED** financial summary.
- **NOTED** the current level of income received and expenditure of funds from 01 April 2025 to 31 January 2026
- **NOTED** any actions or recommendations linked to the financial position of the funds.

### **3.6. INVESTMENT MANAGER PORTFOLIO UPDATE AND REPORT (CF/25/79)**

*PM joined the meeting 11.15*

PM presented the quarterly Investment Report to 31 December 2025, provided updates to date and drew attention to the following areas:

- The portfolio remains invested in a conventional long-term balanced mandate (Risk Category 6), which is considered appropriate given the charity's objectives, risk appetite and time horizon.
- The mandate continues to target an income yield of ~3%, based on income rather than total return.
- 2025 had been a strong year for performance, despite market turbulence and geopolitical uncertainty.
- The portfolio remains positive year-to-date, following recent market volatility.
- The portfolio was valued at ~£3.875m, generating just under £120k of annual income, paid to the charity.
- The importance of ongoing dialogue regarding any changes to financial position or future cash-flow requirements was emphasised.
- The mandate assumes a long-term investment horizon, acceptance of volatility, and no requirement to draw on capital.
- The portfolio is globally diversified and continues to meet its income objectives.

- The ethical investment approach was outlined, includes agreed exclusions (fossil fuels are not explicitly excluded). Divestment options remain available should the Committee wish to revisit policy.

HB suggested that further consideration could be given to the ethical investment approach in relation to fossil fuels. PM advised that Brewin Dolphin offered ethical workshops to consider such matters if this was required.

The Committee received assurance that the Charity's investment strategy continued to operate within the agreed risk appetite and appropriately reflected current geopolitical, inflationary and interest-rate risks. PM confirmed that the portfolio remained appropriately diversified, with no requirement for reactive or short-term changes, and that performance and positioning were subject to ongoing monitoring. The Committee was further assured that ethical investment risks were managed through established screening controls in line with the agreed ethical policy, with scope identified to strengthen clarity through future policy review should the Committee wish to do so.

The Committee **NOTED** the Investment Report and Investment Manager update.

### **3.7. TERMS OF REFERENCE REVIEW (CF/25/80)**

HB presented the proposed revised terms of reference and drew attention to the following areas:

- This was the annual review of terms of reference,
- It proposed a return to meetings being held in public with appropriate consideration of what information was shared in the public domain and what should be considered In-Committee, and
- Minor tidying up amendments were included.

The Committee received assurance that in line with NHS principles of transparency, the default position is for Committee meetings to be held in public unless there is a clear justification for private business. While the Committee had operated in private for the past 9–12 months, the intention is to return to holding meetings in public, with sensitive or contentious items taken In-Committee as appropriate. Committee meetings are not live-streamed or recorded; however, members of the public may attend in-public sessions by requesting a joining link via the website, ensuring transparency while maintaining appropriate governance.

The Committee:

- **ENDORSED** the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference;
- **IDENTIFIED** any further potential amendments;
- **AGREED** that the Chair of the Committee and Director of Corporate Governance will finalise the revised Terms of Reference for presentation to the Board in May 2026 for approval.

### **3.8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS HELD ON 01 DECEMBER 2025 AND 15 JANUARY 2026 (CF/25/75)**

The minutes of the meetings held on 01 December 2025, and 15 January 2026 were approved as accurate records.

<b>4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION</b>
There were no items for discussion
<b>5. CONSENT AGENDA (CF/25/76)</b>
The following items were provided for assurance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Projects approved under delegated authority</li> </ul> <p>The following items were provided for information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glossary</li> </ul>
<b>6. OTHER MATTERS</b>
<b>6.1 ANY OTHER BUSINESS (CF/25/77)</b>
No other business was raised.
<b>6.2 COMMITTEE REFLECTIONS (CF/25/78)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HB noted the meeting had covered a wide variety of topics including strategic and operational, the agenda was well balanced along the journey towards a more strategic approach, the meeting had been chaired efficiently</li> <li>• IT drew attention to the wide mix of items covered</li> </ul>
<b>6.3 DATE OF NEXT MEETING (CF/25/79)</b>
16 March 2026 at 10.00 via Microsoft Teams.