

**PWYLLGOR CRONFA ELUSENNOL
CHARITABLE FUNDS COMMITTEE**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	09 June 2026
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Charitable Funds Committee Annual Self-Assessment Report 2025-26
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Joanne Wilson, Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Clare James, Head of Corporate Governance

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Ar Gyfer Penderfyniad/For Decision

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The purpose of this report is to present the outcome of the Charitable Funds Committee (CFC) Self-Assessment 2025/2026 process.

Cefndir / Background

In line with Section 10.2.1 of the Standing Orders, the Board is required to undertake a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment of its Committees. Each Committee is also required to submit an annual report outlining its activity and effectiveness.

To avoid unnecessary survey burden and to support proportionate assessment, a short digital questionnaire was circulated to members for completion, supported by qualitative comments.

The assessment focused on the following five core areas:

- Corporate Trustee Responsibilities and Assurance
- Control and Management of Charitable Funds
- Scrutiny and Approval of Charitable Expenditure
- Investment Oversight and Financial Stewardship
- Governance, Risk and Reporting to the Board

Asesiad / Assessment

Members were asked to score their level of agreement with five key statements using a scale of 1–5 (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree), with the opportunity to provide supporting qualitative commentary.

A total of 6 responses were received. This equates to a 46% response rate.

Average Ratings

Area and Statement	Average Rating
<p>Corporate Trustee Responsibilities and Assurance <i>The Committee provides effective assurance to the Board, in its role as Corporate Trustee, that charitable funds are properly governed, managed, and administered in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements</i></p>	4.5
<p>Control and Management of Charitable Funds <i>The Committee effectively makes and monitors arrangements for the control and management of charitable funds, ensuring they are used appropriately and in line with donor intent and Board-approved priorities.</i></p>	4.17
<p>Scrutiny and Approval of Charitable Expenditure <i>The Committee provides robust scrutiny and approval of charitable expenditure, ensuring that all funding decisions are reasonable, appropriate, and deliver clear benefit to patients, staff, and services.</i></p>	4.33
<p>Investment Oversight and Financial Stewardship <i>The Committee provides effective oversight of the investment and financial management of charitable funds, ensuring sustainability, appropriate risk management, and value for money</i></p>	4.0
<p>Governance, Risk and Reporting to the Board <i>The Committee provides clear, timely, and robust assurance reporting to the Board, including oversight of risks, internal controls, audit findings, and compliance with governance frameworks.</i></p>	4.5

Themes Identified:

What has gone well

- Strong governance and leadership**
Clear evidence of effective governance arrangements, with strong leadership noted in the Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities, ensuring compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements.
- Effective financial oversight and management**
Regular input from finance and investment advisors providing assurance on fund management to support informed decision-making.
- Robust scrutiny and decision-making processes**
Funding decisions are generally well scrutinised, supported by good-quality information and clear processes.
- Positive committee culture and engagement**
Strong engagement between members, with constructive challenge and effective working relationships.
- Clear reporting and assurance to the Board**
Regular and appropriate reporting providing assurance on governance, risk, and use of funds.

- **Improved visibility of outcomes (for larger grants)**
Increasing evidence of feedback on funded projects, with some tracking from application to outcome.
- **Standardised evaluation and post-award reporting (including smaller grants)**
The charity team has taken steps to strengthen impact reporting through the review of the evaluation framework that will provide a strong foundation on which to build further improvements identified through the 2025/26 self-assessment.

What we want to improve going forward

- **Raise awareness of the evaluation framework introduced by the Charities Team in March 2025 to improve evidence and to ensure consistency and equitable access for all applications**
Consider revising funding application forms to ensure applicants clearly articulate the intended outcomes and how these will be measured and evidenced.
- **Utilisation of charitable funds**
Concerns raised regarding the volume of funds held in investments and the need for more proactive deployment.
- **Strategic approach to fund deployment**
Create opportunity to better align expenditure with service priorities and maximise benefit to patients and staff.
- **Committee pace, focus and challenge**
Feedback indicates scope to increase pace, strengthen challenge, and shift focus towards impact rather than process.
- **Member development**
Further development required in Corporate Trustee responsibilities, regulatory updates, and investment/risk areas.
- **Investment strategy and returns**
Consideration of the current investment approach and balance between holding and releasing funds.

Suggestions from respondents

- Ensure transparent and objective decision-making criteria to reduce subjectivity and increase focus on impact and outcomes.
- Review and increase utilisation of funds held in investments.
- Develop a more proactive and strategic approach to fund deployment.
- Improve committee pace, challenge and focus on impact.
- Provide targeted member development on Corporate Trustee role, regulation, investment, etc.
- Consider reviewing investment strategy and returns to ensure equitable allocation.

Areas of improvement and actions

Theme	Action	By Whom	By When
Equity and objectivity in decision-making	Revise funding application forms to ensure applicants clearly articulate the intended outcomes and how these will be measured and evidenced, in line with the charity's evaluation framework	Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities	Q3 2026/27
Utilisation of funds	Embed an organisation-wide approach to expenditure planning, ensuring all services have clear, forward-looking plans in place and are actively utilising funds in line with service priorities and donor intent.	Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities	Q3 2026/27
Utilisation of funds	Strengthen oversight and accountability for fund utilisation through improved monitoring including spend against plans and targeted support to remove barriers to accessing and deploying funds.	Head of Accounting & Statutory Reporting	Q4 2026/27
Committee effectiveness (pace and challenge)	Strengthen Committee challenge and focus on impact, reporting of risks and issues to the Board	Committee Chair / Committee Members	Q2 2026/27
Member development	Provide targeted development on Corporate Trustee responsibilities and regulatory requirements	Executive Director of Nursing, Quality and Patient Experience	Q3 2026/27 (ongoing)
Equity and transparency	Update the Integrated Performance Report to include analysis of charitable fund expenditure across services and localities, enabling assessment of equitable allocation.	Head of Accounting & Statutory Reporting	Q4 2026/27 (ongoing)

Overall Conclusion

Overall, the self-assessment indicates that the Charitable Funds Committee is functioning effectively with strong governance arrangements, appropriate financial oversight, and clear assurance reporting to the Board. Members highlighted positive committee culture, robust scrutiny, and improving visibility of outcomes for funded projects. However, the assessment

also identified opportunities to strengthen the Committee's effectiveness further, particularly in demonstrating measurable impact, improving the quality and consistency of applications, increasing utilisation of available funds, and enhancing strategic focus, pace and challenge. Addressing these areas will support the Committee in maximising the benefit of charitable funds for patients, staff and communities, while strengthening the assurance provided to the Board in its role as Corporate Trustee.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- Consider the outputs from the Committee Self-Assessment process.
- Agree the actions identified to further improve Committee effectiveness.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)

Objectives: (must be completed)

Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	12.6 The Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary, on behalf of the Board, shall oversee a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of the Committee's performance and operation including that of any sub-committees established.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not applicable
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	Not Applicable
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	Not Applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	Not Applicable
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	10. Not Applicable

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	CFC Terms of Reference CFC Self-Assessment form results
Rhestr Termau: Glossary of Terms:	Contained within the report
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Cronfa Elusennol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to Charitable Funds Committee:	Director of Corporate Governance/Board Secretary Head of Hywel Dda Health Charities

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	No direct impacts
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	No direct impacts
Gweithlu: Workforce:	No direct impacts
Risg: Risk:	No direct impacts
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	No direct impacts
Enw Da: Reputational:	No direct impacts
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	No direct impacts
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	No direct impacts