Blood and Transplant

Board Meeting in Public

Tuesday, 21 July 2026

Title of Paper	NHSBT Charity Committee Annual Assurance Report	**Agenda No.**	5.2.2
Nature of Paper	☒ Official	☐ Official Sensitive	
Author(s)	Omolola Majolagbe, Corporate Governance Officer		
Lead Executive	Carl Vincent, Chief Financial Officer		
Non-Executive Director Sponsor	Caroline Serfass, Non-Executive Director		
Presenter(s) at Meeting	Silena Dominy, Company Secretary		
Presented for	☐ Approval ☒ Assurance	☐ Information ☐ Update	
Is there a plan to communicate this to the organisation?	☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Yet to be determined		

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to summarise the Charity Committee's activity across 2025-26 and demonstrate that it has effectively discharged its delegated responsibilities, as set out within its terms of reference. The report has also informed the Accountable Officer's Annual Governance Statement 2025/26.

The Gap Analysis against the Committee's delegations highlighted no delegations that were not fulfilled. In view of a change to the regular attendees for the Committee during the year, an amendment has been proposed to the Terms of Reference to now include a regular attendee with a clinical background.

Previously Considered by

NHSBT Charity Committee on 22 June 2026.

Recommendation

The Board is asked to note the report for assurance.

Risk(s) identified (Link to Board Assurance Framework Risks)

P11 – Corporate Governance

Strategic Objective(s) this paper relates to:

☒ Collaborate with partners ☒ Invest in people and culture ☒ Drive innovation
☐ Modernise our operations ☐ Grow and diversify our donor base

Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Gap analysis against NHSBT Charity Committee delegations can be found in review room.

NHS BLOOD AND TRANSPLANT CHARITY COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE BOARD ASSURANCE REPORT 2025-26

Status: Official

Introduction

The NHS Blood & Transplant Charity is governed by the NHS Blood & Transplant Board who are the Corporate Trustees of the Charity. The NHS Blood & Transplant Charity Committee has been established by the Board of NHSBT as a committee of the Board, with the powers and responsibilities delegated to it within the NHSBT Standing Orders, Schedule of Delegation, Standing Financial Instructions and the Terms of Reference.

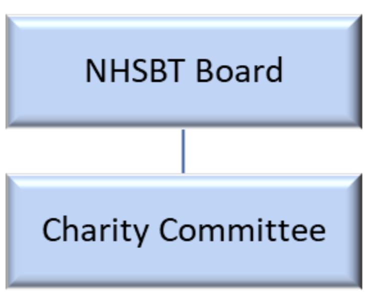
The purpose of this Board Assurance report is to summarise the Charity Committee's activity during 2025-26 and demonstrate that it has effectively discharged its delegated responsibilities, as set out in its terms of reference. The report will also inform the Accountable Officers Annual Governance Statement 2025-26.

Purpose of the Charity Committee

The purpose of the Committee is to administer the funds which are donated to the Charity, ensuring that they are kept distinct from the funds of the Authority, and are used effectively to further the interests of the Authority, its staff, (including for staff health and wellbeing), donors, recipients and other bodies and persons with whom the Authority has a relationship as part of the NHS in England and Wales. The Charity is responsible for ensuring compliance with the requirements of the regulations applicable to charities in England and Wales, and any requirements or restrictions attached to funds received. The Charity Committee is responsible for the development of the Charity's funding strategy and budget and oversight of its implementation and fundraising activities.

Reporting Structure

The Charity Committee reports its activities to the NHSBT Board, escalating significant matters after each meeting.



Committee membership and attendance 2025-26

During 2025-26, the Committee met four times. Meetings have been well attended and quoracy achieved on all occasions. The annual attendance of members is shown below:

Members	23.06.2025	08.09.2025	15.12.2025	02.03.2026	**Total**
Caroline Serfass Non-Executive Director *Chair from 01/04/2025*	√	√	√	√	4
Penny McIntyre Non-Executive Director	√	√	0	√	3
Rachel Jones Non-Executive Director	√	√	√	√	4
Carl Vincent Chief Financial Officer	√	√	√	√	4
Antony Tiernan Director of Communications and Engagement *Member from Sept 2024 to 1 August 2025.*	√	-	-	-	1
Kate Thomas Interim Director of Communications and Engagement *Interim from Sept 2025*	-	√	√	0	2
Mark Chambers Donor Experience Director *Member from 01/04/2025*	√	√	√	√	4

NHSBT has arrangements in place regarding the identification and management of any conflicts of interest. Members' interests are included on the agenda for visibility. During the year, Antony Tiernan declared his interest as a Trustee of NHS Charities Together. No further conflicts of interest requiring management were raised.

Summary of Activity

In 2025–26, significant focus has been placed on strengthening and growing the NHSBT Charity. The Committee:

- Approved the Charity Strategy and Operational Plan in September 2025.
- Reviewed and approved the Charity Risk Register and agreed the inclusion of the revised NHSBT Charity risk within the NHSBT Communication and Engagement Risk Register.
- Monitored the Charity's financial performance through quarterly finance reports received at each meeting.
- Reviewed the NHS Charities Together grant in June 2025, including reallocation of the remaining funds to new wellbeing initiatives.
- Approved the provisional 2025–26 budget in June 2025 pending development of the Charity Strategy and an updated 2025–26 budget in September 2025, reflecting strategic and cost changes.

- Received and reviewed Charity Quarterly Performance Reports at each meeting to support ongoing oversight and assurance.

- Undertook key governance responsibilities, including reviewing and approving the Charity Procedures Guide, conducting the annual review of the Trust Deed, approving updated Procedures, Guidance, and the revised Trust Fund Reserves Policy and reviewing the Terms of Reference of the Committee in June 2025 leading to the renaming of the Trust Fund Committee to the NHSBT Charity Committee.

- Received an annual update in June 2025 on Charity supported Research and Development projects, noting progress across three active projects and an update on the recent research funding call.

- Considered the final report for the Professional Nurse Advocate (PNA) NHS Charities Together grant, noting that funds secured in 2023 were successfully utilised to establish a PNA Lead role, resulting in a sustainable wellbeing and supervision model and an increased number of registered PNAs across the organisation.

- Reviewed and approved the submission of a funding application to NHS Charities Together for the Gift of Life Garden project in Luton, confirming alignment with the Charity's strategic priorities. Assurance was also received that robust delivery, oversight, and reporting arrangements are in place through established partnership frameworks, with approval granted subject to all necessary NHSBT authorisations.

- Received updates confirming strong staff engagement, with a tiered application process supporting both small and strategic bids, alongside robust review and approval systems. Oversight was strengthened through a grants panel and KPI monitoring, while clear guidance and case studies encourage staff participation. The approach also supported fundraising by creating a pipeline of projects for partners and donors, with managed engagement ensuring transparency and maximising funding opportunities.

- Reviewed and approved the 2024/25 Annual Report and Accounts, following independent examination which identified no significant issues.

- Considered members' skills and capabilities, confirming a strong overall balance of expertise and identifying a benefit from recruitment of an attendee with a clinical background. This gap is expected to be closed by June 2026.

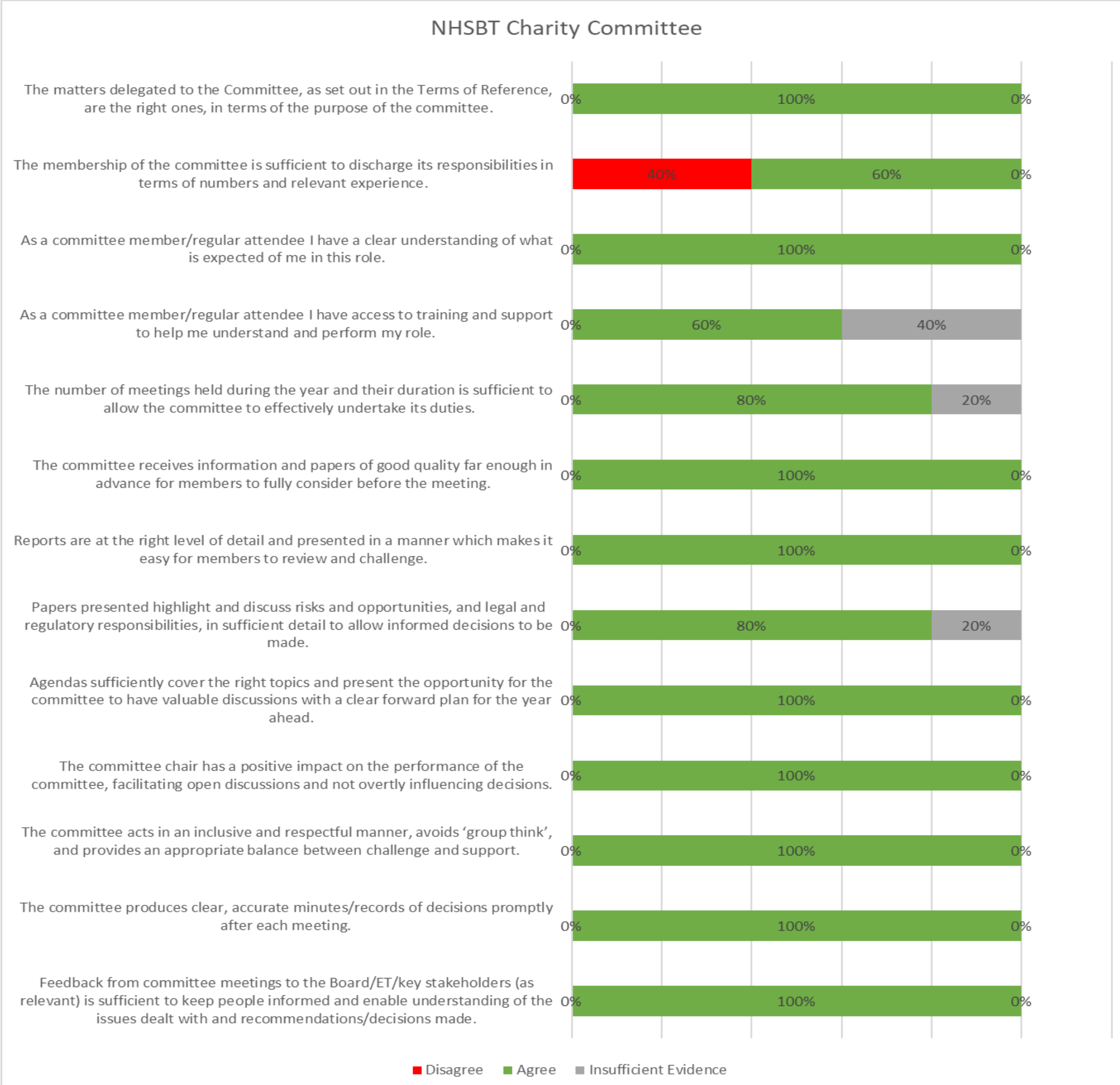
- Reviewed the grants process scheme and assurance was provided that a robust and transparent process is in place for 2025–26.

- In March 2026, approved the 2026-27 provisional budget.

Committee Effectiveness Review

An internal effectiveness review of the Board and its Committees was conducted in December 2025 by the Company Secretary using a questionnaire survey of Board members, with findings reported to the Board on 3 February 2026. The Committee was judged to be effective, with agreement scores ranging from 60% to 100%. Areas for improvement included ensuring appropriate membership and attendance, access to training and support, holding a sufficient number of meetings, and improving the quality of papers. The Committee has approved the the addition of an attendee with clinical background. No additional comments were submitted.

The graphs below show a summary of the results for section six for the period to February-December 2025.



The Committee wishes to record its appreciation for the significant contribution of all those who have dedicated time and expertise to its work to date; their continued commitment has been highly valued.

Assurance and Statement to the Board

The opinion of the Charity Committee is that the Charity's risk management, control and governance processes are adequate and effective and may be relied upon by the Board.

The Gap Analysis against the Committee's delegations has highlighted no delegations that were not fulfilled.

The Terms of Reference review will update membership/attendee changes including the addition of an attendee with a clinical background.

A full gap analysis against the Charity Committee delegations set out in the Terms of Reference has been completed and can be found in the review room for the meeting.