

TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC	Date: 28 November 2013	
	Agenda Item: 5.1.3	
REPORT TITLE:	Update from the Charitable Funds Committee	
NON-EXECUTIVE SPONSOR:	Yvette Robbins (Chair, Charitable Funds Committee)	
REPORT AUTHOR:	Majid Bhatti (Head of Financial Accounts)	
REPORT DISCUSSED PREVIOUSLY: (name of sub-committee/group & date)	Charitable Funds Committee, 5 Nov 2013	
Purpose of the Report and Action Required: (√)		
This report briefs the Board on the key issues discussed at the meeting of the committee on 5 March 2013.	Approval	
	Discussion	
	Information	√
Summary of Key Issues		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee was glad to learn of the recruitment of the Consultant Nurse Specialist (to focus on dementia care for the elderly) which it had agreed to fund for one year. The committee is keen to further improve comfort levels of elderly patients and has asked the Chief Nurse to scope out requirements for this initiative.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee reviewed and approved the Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements (subject to some minor narrative changes).		
<input type="checkbox"/> The charity received a highly commendable green RAG rating from the internal auditors review of financial controls, with 4 low recommendations.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee acknowledged ongoing progress by the communications team in developing the charity website to further raise awareness of the charity.		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is planning to consider the merits of a professional fundraiser		
Relationship to Trust Corporate Objectives & Assurance Framework:		
The Board Committees support the achievement of all objectives.		
Corporate Impact Assessment:		
Legal and regulatory implications	The Charity is registered with the Charity Commission in accordance with the Charities Act 2011, registered number 1054072.	
Financial implications	N/A	
Patient Experience/Engagement	Committee approves expenditure of charitable funds that benefits patients	
Risk & Performance Management	N/A	
NHS Constitution/Equality & Diversity/Communication	N/A	
Attachments: N/A		

Update from the Charitable Funds Committee

The Charitable Funds Committee met on 5 November 2013. The report summarises the key issues discussed:

1. Care for the elderly

The committee was pleased to learn that a Consultant Nurse Specialist, which the charity had agreed to fund for one year, had now been recruited. This role will focus on much needed dementia care for the elderly and will involve working with local Mental Health Trusts. This initiative supports Francis recommendations and our quality priorities. This style of seed funding, similar to that used for Macmillan nurses, secures much needed senior clinical expertise for the Trust, which the Trust will fund in subsequent years.

The committee is also keen to support other elderly care initiatives to help patients on wards and to support the conversion of an additional family room with kitchen facilities, for short term overnight stay of relatives and friends of very sick patients. The Chief Nurse has been asked to scope these initiatives in the form of a proposal for funding.

2. Review of Financial Matters

The Committee reviewed the draft Annual report and Financial Statements for 2012-13 and approved it for audit subject to some agreed narrative changes. The accounts are subject to an independent examination by our external auditors on 21st November. This will take 3-5 days to complete and will cost £4k.

This will be followed by an online submission of financial information to the Charities Commission which needs to be completed by the end of January 2013.

The internal auditors completed their review of the charities financial controls and concluded a green RAG rating for the charity. This means that the Board can take substantial assurance that the controls upon which the organisation relies to manage this risk are suitably designed, consistently applied and effective. The four low level recommendations made by the auditors have now been implemented.

3. Charities Promotion / Fundraising

The committee acknowledged ongoing progress by the communications team in developing the charity website with the benefits of raising awareness of the charity. e.g. the inclusion of several new pages including a page called "Fundraising News" for stories of recent fundraising activities. A page "Where your money goes" lists examples of purchases and photographs.

The committee approved a replacement to the online payments facility, paypal, with Just Giving. This facility provides many more features such as an online fundraising page and calculates and reclaims gift aid and allows payment of donations by direct debit and text.

The Director of Corporate Affairs presented her findings of how other charities raise donations from her recent visit to the Royal Marsden. Their use of a professional fundraisers offered many benefits and the committee asked for a job specification for the next committee.

The Committee was delighted to hear that Halliwell-Marks, a local family run estate agents, have listed the charity, on their website, as one of three to whom donations will be made from the sale or let of properties in accordance with the wish of its customers.

The terms of reference have been updated with minor changes and the committee will have fulfilled its requirement under its work plan with its third meeting in the financial year, planned in January.

Name Yvette Robbins
Title Non-Executive Director and Charitable Funds Chair

20 November 2013