

TRUST BOARD IN PUBLIC	Date: 31st January 2013	
	Agenda Item: 6.2.3	
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, 13 Dec 2012	
Purpose of the Report and Action Required:		(√)
This report briefs the Board on the key issues discussed at the meeting of the committee on 13 December 2012.	Approval	
	Discussion	
	Information	√
Summary of Key Issues		
<p>The committee has now secured Communications support to increase the Charity's prominence on the Trust website, internal and external press releases and also the possibility of targeted fund raising activities.</p> <p>Staff need to identify areas of need and spend charities monies in accordance with the fund's objectives.</p> <p>The committee agreed to invest surplus charitable funds into both long term and short term investments with Church, Charities and Local Authority Investment Management Limited (CCLA).</p> <p>Charity's accounts have been audited and submitted to the Charity Commission.</p>		
Relationship to Trust Corporate Objectives & Assurance Framework:		
The Board Committee 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	Investment of Surplus Funds as noted in the report.	
Patient Experience/Engagement	This Committee benefits improvement of Patient Experience.	
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 13 December 2012. The report summarises the key issues discussed:

1. Charity promotion / Fund Raising

Management were previously asked to allocate sufficient Communications resource to provide support to the Committee in its drive to promote the charity and to increase donations.

It has now been agreed that Ian Mackenzie will join the Committee and Communications have agreed to:

- Raise prominence of the Charity on the Trust's website with greater visibility of the "donate" option and links to pages with further information on how charitable donations have been spent with photos by way of example.
- Set up fund-raising campaigns for the purchase of specific items.
- Issue a press release to raise awareness in the community about the charitable fund. This could be a personal story of a patient who has benefitted from the use of equipment purchased from charitable funds.
- Include standard text to be included in all future publications to highlight how to make donations.

2. Investment of Surplus Charitable Funds

The Charitable Funds Committee had previously approved an investment policy and strategy. Following a review of suitable investment vehicles for surplus funds, the Committee has agreed to invest surplus funds into both long term and also short term investments with CCLA Investment Management Ltd.

This comprises of an investment of £200k into the COIF Investment Fund which is a long term investment, mainly in equities. Additionally, £100k will be held on reserve (The COIF Deposit Account) which the Charity could access for additional cash support, over and above its current spending plans, if it needed it. Cash required for identified spends will be held in a current account for immediate access.

3. Financial Overview

The committee previously reviewed and approved a draft of the statutory accounts for 2011/12. At the time, the accounts were being reviewed by the newly appointed firm of accountants Grant Thornton; they have now completed the audit and there were no matters to be brought to the attention of the Committee or which indicated non-compliance with the Charities Act 2011. The Committee have subsequently adopted the accounts and submitted on line to the Charities Commission before end of January deadline.

The October Management accounts were reviewed: income was only slightly higher than spend and similar to last year. Expenditure plans have now been revised which should result in greater use of funds and monthly activity will be measured to encourage expenditure.

A large legacy has been left to the Trust which comprises of a number of financial assets. The Trust is entitled to 75% of the estate and this share has been estimated to be about £260k excluding legal and estate agent fees. Currently, about £170k has been realised from sale of the investments. The residential property remains unsold.

4. Department of Health Review of Regulation and Governance of NHS Charities.

The Department of Health is consulting on final proposals to revise the governance of NHS charities, which would allow NHS bodies to create new independent charities that are properly independent.

The DH carried out an initial governance review in August 2011 and is now seeking feedback from the NHS and other interested parties on this issue.
The Committee has now provided feedback to the proposals.

The Committee's next meeting will take place on 5th March. The Committee will have met its requirement to hold a minimum of three meetings within a financial year.

5. Recommendation

The Board is asked to note this report.