

Meeting:	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust Board of Directors
Date:	29th March 2016
Board Sponsor:	Chair, Charitable Funds Committee
Paper Author:	Chair, Charitable Funds Committee
Subject:	Charitable Funds Committee – January 2016

Executive Summary

The report describes the discussions at the Committee in January, which included a discussion on Charity Development Plan; the approval of the Annual Accounts and consideration of the external audit report on the Annual Accounts; and the relationship between the BSUH Charity and independent Charities operating in the hospitals

Links to corporate objectives	The BSUH Charity supports the corporate objective of <i>great experience</i>
Identified risks and risk management actions	The key risks discussed at the Committee concern the appropriate spend of Charitable Funds; and the risk of dispute between the BSUH and independent Charities
Resource implications	None applicable to this report
Report history	The Chair of the Committee report to the Board following each meeting of the Committee
Appendices	None

Action required by the Board

The Board is asked to note the Charitable Funds Committee report; and the Committee approval of the Charity Annual Accounts 2015/16

Report to the Board of Directors, 29th March 2016 Charitable Funds Committee Report

1. Charity Development

The January meeting was my first as Chair of the Charitable Funds Committee and the first meeting for some time, following the discussion at the Board and recommendations made by the Philanthropy Company. The interim Charity Development Manager, who was appointed to take forward those recommendations, presented a report on the short, medium and long-term plans for the development of the Charity.

This represents the first, systematic approach to utilise the potential of the BSUH Charity, which through donations, gifts and legacies draws in income in excess of £2m per annum, without any dedicated fund-raising.

Based on the proposal, and consideration of the approach taken by other NHS Charities, the Committee agreed an incremental approach, with staged investment in finance, communications and fund-raising staff, aligned with the Charity development plan.

2. Charity Annual Accounts

The external auditors presented the audit results report for the Charitable Funds for the year ending 31st March 2015. The audit conclusion was that there were no issues regarding the investment assets of the Charity, or incoming resources; and the 2014/15 expenditure and closing charitable fund balance were correctly stated.

The Committee consequently approved the Charity Annual Accounts 2014/15.

3. Delegated limits and spend

The Committee received a report on expenditure in excess of £10k since the last Charitable Funds Committee. Some of the items of spending, did not appear consistent with the objects of the Charity. The Committee has requested a review of the delegated limits and financial control for spending charitable funds to ensure they are spent appropriately and in accordance with the objects of the Charity.

4. Legacy Dispute

A number of independent Charities operate in the Trust which has led to a dispute between the Trust and one of the Charities regarding a legacy, and has the potential to cause confusion for patients and families who may wish to give money to the Trust.

The Committee agreed that the fund-holders of BSUH Charities would be issued with the Charity Commission guidance on managing conflicts of interest; and that declarations of interest would also be requested from all BSUH Charity fund-holders.

The Committee further agreed that legal advice would be sought to resolve the current dispute and will consider further the operation of independent Charities and their relationship with the Trust.

Michael Edwards
Chair
Charitable Funds Committee
March 2016