

**THE COUNTESS CHARITY
1050015**

**ANNUAL REPORT
AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

for the year ended 31st March 2025

The Countess Charity

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The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOREWORD

Welcome to our Annual Report for 2024-25. The Corporate Trustee presents the Charitable Funds Annual Report together with the Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The Charity's Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025 have been prepared by the Corporate Trustee in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005. The Charity's report and accounts include all the individual funds registered as Designated Funds and Restricted Funds which are used to further the objectives of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. They do not by themselves constitute charities for accounts purposes and do not need to be separately registered.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Countess Charity, registered Charity Number 1050015 was created under Trust Deed executed on 19 April 1995 in accordance with the Charities Act 1993.

On the 25th July 2017, a supplemental Deed of declaration was made to amend the Charity's name in line with a programme of rebranding. The charity's name was amended from 'The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Charitable Funds' to 'The Countess Charity'.

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is the Corporate Trustee of the Charitable Funds. The role of Corporate Trustee is therefore carried out by the Board of Directors of the Foundation Trust, the Board being appointed in accordance with the Constitution of the Foundation Trust.

The members of the NHS Foundation Trust Board who served during the financial year were:

Executive Directors

Jane Tomkinson OBE	Chief Executive Officer	From 1st February 2024
Karen Edge	Chief Finance Officer	From 19th February 2024
Dr Nigel Scawn	Executive Medical Director	From 1st September 2022
Cathy Chadwick	Chief Operating Officer	From 29th March 2022
Mark Dale	Acting Chief People Officer	From 1st January 2024 to 19th May 2024
Debbie Herring	Interim Chief People Officer	From 1st May 2024 to 31st December 2024
Vicki Wilson	Chief People Officer	Acting from 1st January 2025, appointed substantively 1st July 2025
Sue Pemberton	Director of Nursing & Quality / Deputy Chief Executive Officer	From 1st February 2024
Jonathan Develing	Director of Strategic Partnerships	From 1st April 2024
Karan Wheatcroft	Director of Governance, Risk and Improvement	From 10th June 2024

Non-Executive Directors

Ian Haythornthwaite	Chair	Appointed for a three-year term of office from 1st September 2021. Resigned 14th February 2025
Neil Large	Chair	Interim Chair from 1st March 2025, appointed as Chair 1st July 2025
Michael Guymer	Non-Executive Director (Senior Independent Director from 9th February 2024)	Appointed for a three-year term of office from 1st October 2021.
Paul Jones	Non-Executive Director & Deputy Chair	Appointed for a three-year term of office from 1st March 2020 and reappointed for a further three-year term of office from 1st March 2023. Appointed as Deputy Chair from 9th February 2024.
Pamela Williams	Non-Executive Director	Appointed as Associate Non-Executive Director for a three-year term of office from 1st October 2021, then appointed as Non-Executive Director for a three-year term of office from 1st March 2022. Appointed for a second 3-year term from 1st March 2025
David Williamson	Non-Executive Director	Appointed for a three-year term of office from 1st November 2019 and reappointed for a further three-year term of office from 1st November 2022.
Prof. Andrew Hassell	Non-Executive Director	Appointed for a three-year terms of office from 21st January 2024
Wendy Williams	Non-Executive Director	Appointed for a three-year terms of office from 21st January 2024
Sarah Corcoran	Non-Executive Director	Appointed for a three-year terms of office from 21st January 2024

The members of the Charitable Funds Committee who served during the financial year were as follows:

Paul Jones	Non-Executive Director (Committee Chair)
Ian Haythornthwaite	Chair
Jane Tomkinson OBE	Chief Executive Officer
Karen Edge	Chief Finance Officer
Dr Nigel Scawn	Executive Medical Director

A statement of eligibility to Act as a Trustee is signed by members of the Board of Directors.

Appointment of Corporate Trustee, Induction and Training

The Countess of Chester NHS Hospital Foundation Trust has an Induction Policy for all staff, which is delivered at two levels. Corporate, providing Trust wide information, and local, providing the detail for their department and individual role.

Newly appointed members of the NHS Foundation Trust Board are also given additional information about their responsibilities as the Corporate Trustee which includes the Charity Commission booklet CC3 - Responsibilities of Charity Trustees.

Financial Awareness Training for Charitable Funds provides ongoing training for members of the Corporate Trustee and for Fund signatories.

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
WHO WE ARE

The Trust employs over 5,000 staff and provides acute emergency and elective services, primary care direct access services and obstetric services to a population of approximately 264,000 residents mainly in Chester and the surrounding rural area. More than 500,000 patients attend the hospital for treatment every year, ranging from a simple outpatient appointment to major surgery.

The Countess Charity exists to raise funds and receive donations for the benefit of the patients of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. By securing donations, legacies and sponsorship the Charity can make a real difference to the experience of patients and their families and the staff who look after them.

The Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust comprises the Countess of Chester Hospital, a 600 bed hospital providing the full range of acute and a number of specialist services, and also Ellesmere Port Hospital, a rehabilitation, intermediate care and outpatient facility.

Principal Office

The principal office for the charity is:

Executive Office

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Countess of Chester Health Park

Liverpool Road

Chester

CH2 1UL

Investment Fund Managers

M & G Charities

PO Box 9038

Chelmsford

CM99 2XF

Bankers:

Lloyds Bank Plc

Chester Branch

8 Foregate Street

Chester

CH1 1XP

Independent Examiners:

Xeinadin North West Limited

First Floor, The Foundation

Chester Business Park

Chester

CH4 9GB

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
Charitable Funds Committee

The Charitable Funds Committee has the delegated responsibility from the Board of ensuring that the Funds held on Trust are managed in accordance with the Corporate Governance Manual, and according to Charity Commission regulations.

Governance

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust Board approves the Corporate Governance Manual which comprises the documents for the regulation and proceedings of business. These include:

- Standing Orders
- Standing Financial Instructions
- Scheme of Delegation

These documents set the framework within which all Directors and employees of the Trust must operate. These documents apply equally to the Trust's Charitable Funds as to the Foundation Trust. The Board considers that these arrangements ensure that the activities of the Charity are considered and applied in accordance with the strategic and operational objectives of the Corporate Trustee, thus ensuring that the same consistency and openness is applied to all the Trust's funds.

The NHS Foundation Trust Board has devolved responsibility for the on-going management of funds to the Charitable Funds Committee which administers the Funds on behalf of the Corporate Trustee. This Committee has specific terms of reference approved by the Trust Board and the membership comprises the Chair and nominated Executive and Non-Executive Directors of the Trust.

During the Financial Year, the Charitable Funds Committee usually meets on a quarterly basis to monitor the overall appropriateness of expenditure from the funds. The minutes of these meetings are submitted to a full Trust Board.

The Chief Finance Officer is the Executive Director nominated by the Board to have prime responsibility for the administration of the Trust's Charitable Fund activities. All expenditure over £10,000 is reported to the Charitable Funds Committee.

Acting for the Corporate Trustee, the Charitable Funds Committee is responsible for the overall management of the Charitable Funds. The committee is required to:

- Ensure the Charitable Funds of the Trust are invested in accordance with the Charitable Funds Registration lodged with the Charity Commission;
- If required to appoint an Investment Advisor qualified within the meaning of the Trustee Investments Act 1961, provide them with guidance and to annually review their performance;
- To monitor the management and performance of the Countess Charity;
- To make recommendations to the Board of Directors on the nature and frequency of major appeals and to monitor performance;
- To approve the annual Countess Charity Accounts; and
- To ensure adequate processes are in place to approve amendments to the schedule of approved Charitable Funds and to monitor the activity of Charitable Funds in accordance with the Trust's Standing Orders and Standing Financial Instructions and the approved purpose of the individual fund.

The Foundation Trust Finance Department, located at the Principal Office maintains the application process, records all financial transactions and provides a management information service to Fund signatories. The financial records are kept on the main Foundation Trust financial system and Fund signatories receive quarterly fund statements.

The Corporate Trustee fulfils its legal duty by ensuring that funds are spent in accordance with the objects of each fund and by designating funds the Trustee respects the wishes of our generous donors to benefit patient care and advance the good health and welfare of patients, carers and staff. Where funds have been received which have specific restrictions set by the donors a restricted fund has been established. Further details of funds can be found on pages 29 and 30.

The Countess Charity

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

How our activities deliver public benefit

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is the main beneficiary of the charity and is a related party by virtue of being Corporate Trustee of the charity. By working in partnership with the Trust, the charitable funds are used to best effect for the benefit of the public served by the Trust. When deciding upon the most beneficial way to use charitable funds, the Corporate Trustee has regard to the main objectives, strategies and plans of the Trust, whilst ensuring that the grants reflect the wishes of patients and staff.

At the core of every charity is the requirement to provide benefit to the public. This is the foundation of their charitable status, and each charity must demonstrate how this requirement is met through their aims and activities.

The focus of our activities as described below are to benefit the public who utilise the services of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. This hospital mainly serves the community of Chester and its surrounding rural areas, all of which have equal access to its facilities. Charitable expenditure is made by way of direct grants to the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to enhance the patient care already provided.

The Trustee refers to Charity Commission guidance on achieving public benefit when reviewing the aims and objectives of the charity, and in the planning of future activities.

During the year the funds continued to provide a wide range of charitable and health related activities to benefit patients, staff and the wider community. Funds are generally used to purchase a range of additional goods and services over and above the NHS provision. This includes medical and other equipment, furniture and fittings to enhance the patient environment.

In addition to the designated funds on page 30, each ward has their own staff and patient charitable funds, and donations are made specifically to the wards that the donors would like to acknowledge. The funds can then be used for charitable activities to benefit the staff and patients on that ward, including investing in staff to attend courses to help update them on new techniques and developments in their individual specialties.

The Fundraising team work to support their main appeal as well as other smaller fundraising projects during the year. The appeals have continued to attract support from individuals, families, companies and members of staff who have offered us their support in a range of inspiring and innovative ways. We have continued to promote the charity within the hospital to staff, patients and visitors using the fundraising noticeboard, and are engaging with new staff through involvement in the staff induction courses.

How we manage the Money

Our Grant Making Policy

The Countess Charity makes grants from both its unrestricted and restricted funds

General Funds - These funds are received with no particular preference expressed by donors. These funds are utilised when applications are made by the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust for monies to be spent on charitable expenditure which will enhance the patient experience.

Designated (earmarked) Funds - contain donations where the donor expressed a wish that the funds be used within a certain department or specialty without any further constraints. Their nomination of an individual fund is not binding on the Trustee and the designated funds are overseen by fund holders who can make recommendations on how best to spend the money in their specialty.

The Countess Charity TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT OUR OBJECTS

Governing Document

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Trust gained Foundation Trust status in April 2004 following the official passing through Parliament of the relevant statutory instrument. Prior to the creation of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Trust, Chester Health Authority administered the various charitable funds as part of a pooling arrangement under the provision of the NHS Act 1973. The charitable monies were transferred to the Trust by Statutory Instrument 1994 No. 1301 which came into effect on 9th June 1994. The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is legally recognised by the Charity Commission as Sole Corporate Trustee for all its funds held for the benefit of staff and patients. It is empowered to hold and administer funds for Charitable Health purposes within the scope for the National Health Service Act 2006.

Mission Statement

The Charity aims to use the charitable income it receives to enhance and improve the patient experience at our hospital, focusing on areas not covered or fully supported by NHS funds. The charity aims to generate income for general purposes and specific projects, and administers all donations in a manner that is both professional and sensitive to the needs of the donor.

The charity has NHS wide objectives as follows:

"The Trustees shall hold the Trust Fund upon trust to apply the income, and at their discretion, so far as may be permissible, the capital for charitable purposes relating to the general or any specific purposes of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or to purposes relating to the health service"

By raising new funds and careful management of our existing funds, the Countess Charity is able to make grants to the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and to the benefit of the wider health service.

Grants are made in accordance with charity law, our fund constitution and the wishes and directions of donors. In making grants, we endeavour to reflect the wishes of patients and staff in spending the funds where they feel the money would be best spent.

Objectives

The charity has income from three different areas

1. Donations received often as a result of care given
2. Active fundraising for a "smaller" appeal
3. Income generated for a "large or major appeal"

Unsolicited donations are targeted at an area of care at the wish of the donor. The fund holder for that area is informed and decisions are taken clinically as to the best way of using the donation. These are usually smaller donations.

The decisions on utilisation of a larger donation such as a legacy would also be the decision of the fund holder with Executive level support.

When seeking to solicit and proactively raise funds for a specific project, the agreed strategy is to consider the various methods of fundraising and then decide upon the most appropriate way of securing funding based on the requirements of each individual project. These methods include: community fundraising, event organisation, grant applications, trust fundraising, corporate fundraising, social media campaigns and direct donor mailings.

For larger or 'major' appeals, the charity sets up a Fundraising Committee incorporating members of the fundraising team, clinical staff, plus internal and external volunteers. The Committees are usually chaired by an external volunteer who is often a high profile member of the business community, whenever possible with a personal involvement in the cause. The committee monitors the fundraising progress and uses its contacts to support the work of the team and organises personal events.

The Countess Charity TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Highlights of 2024-25

April 2024 The first event of the financial year held for the new Retinal Scanner Appeal was the much loved Chester Duck Race in April 2024 which reached a record number of 101 Corporate ducks and a huge increase in attendance from the community, the lord Mayor Razia Daniels judged the competition, many schools were involved along with the local ladies Rock Choir, an amazing £31,000 was raised.

Our continued relationship with the Chester Lions enabled x 4 much coveted places for the 2024 London Marathon which resulted in over £10,000 being raised for the Blue Skies Balcony Appeal and the Retinal Scanner Appeal, the charity also had x 16 places in the Chester Half marathon, one of which was taken by our very own CEO Jane Tomkinson.

The Countess Charity was able to provide funding from Legacies left to the charity for a newly constructed Staff Wellbeing hub. The hub was opened by local celebrity Ian Puleston Davies. This new hub will provide an area for staff to access a variety of health benefits to assist in their wellbeing. Statistics show a higher than anticipated footfall to the hub which shows just how important this facility is for our staff.

As members of the NHS Charities together the charity was also able to further their relationship with Octopus Legacy, this enabled us to role out a Free Will making service to our staff and local community. Records show that over 100 staff and local community have now written their Free Will, seven of which have left a Legacy to the Countess Charity.

The Bereavement booklet that the trust provides to families experiencing loss was revised, the charity is now providing a reviewed and updated, more aesthetically improved booklet

During the first 6 months of 2024 the charitable committee invited a Consultancy in to evaluate and advise the charity on their future, (the cost for this was covered by a grant applied for to NHS Charities Together) The consultancy delivered an informative a structured report suggesting three options for the charity to move forward, the Charitable Funds Committee opted for a blend of options one and two, moderate to significant growth, (option 3 was Maximum growth) this was chosen due to the current cost of living crisis and the size of the fundraising team (4 people) . The charities aim for the forthcoming year is to complete the Optus Retinal Scanner appeal which will then lead to the launch of a 4-year plan, Year 1- completing the Retinal Scanner appeal target and gathering information for the next appeal, year 2 & Year 3- Launch of new appeal and Year 4 creation and launch of a new Million pound appeal, the 4 year plan will see further funds being raised to provide More for our patients.

During Summer 2024 the charity supported many Individual Fundraising events alongside the charity's own staple events of Raffles held in the main corridor, Boots VIP evenings and online auctions. We have facilitated x 10 successful Skydives, signed up x 3 Camino de Santiago Treks and x 5 Shark dives at Blue Planet Aquarium.

The Countess Charity TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

Achievements and Performance

Highlights of 2024-25 (cont.)

A charity walk was held by the Chester Business club where many NHS Staff teams signed up, walked and raised funds for their chosen area within the hospital. The retinal scanner appeal benefitted from Play write Gail Youngs production of Cheshire cats held at St Marys Creative space, The Eye unit staff took on a Snowden hike challenge were 7 staff scaled Snowden.

The charity's 5th Lunch in the city event at the Old Palace Hotel was a great success in aid of the retinal scanner appeal with speakers from the Ophthalmology department.

The charity's annual Tress of Light ceremony was sadly cancelled in 2024 due to storm Darra, donations collected for this event benefitted the hospitals bereavement service by way of funding a book 'Oscars Story' which is aimed at answering the questions that siblings may have when there has been baby loss in a family, funding was also made available for the provision of new furniture for the counselling service offered to families experiencing loss.

The annual Sporting lunch held at Crowne Plaza was well attended with guest speaker footballer Sammy Lee along with a comedian, the proceeds from this event benefitted the Retinal Scanner appeal. The annual Santa Dash celebrated its 14th year and welcomed over 2200 participants dashing through the streets of Chester raising vital funds for the charity.

The charity also invested in contactless giving stations, funding was provided by a NHSCCT grant, keeping up with current giving trends will enable the charity to maintain donations as we move into a less cash motivated climate.

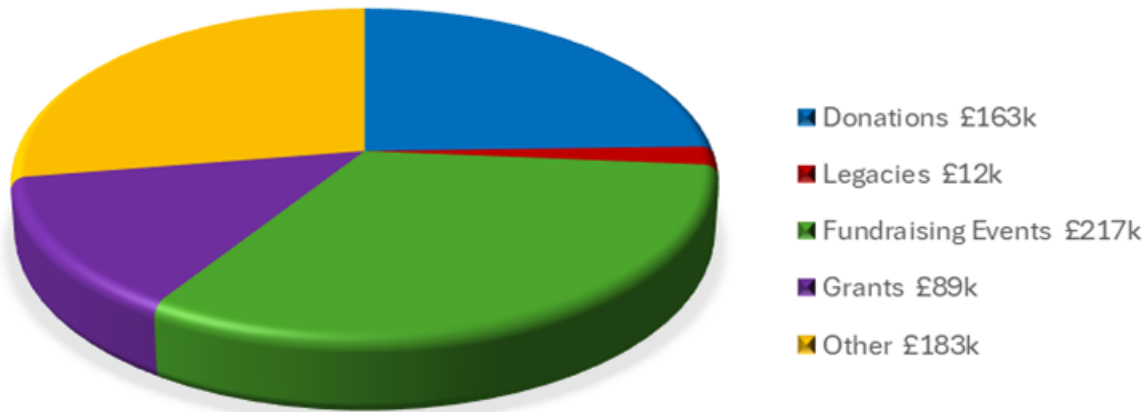
In March it was announced that the Charity had reached the set fundraising target of £200,000 for the Retinal Scanner, this state-of-the-art piece of equipment which is over and above NHS Core provision will benefit the 40,000 patients that are seen each year in the Westminster Eye Unit.

Blue Skies Balcony building began and we are hoping to move patients onto the balcony facility late 2025.

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT
FINANCIAL REVIEW

Money Received: Sources of Funds

The statement of financial activities shows the total income for the year was £664,000. This is split into five main sources of income:



During 2024-25, fundraising income was relatively stable and donations saw a boost from the launch of the new Retinal Eye Scanner Appeal. While the income from legacies was lower than the prior year, the charity received a higher level of income through grants. Increased interest rates during the year also generated higher levels of investment income (shown under the heading 'Other').

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL REVIEW

A Review of our Finances and Performance

The net assets of the Charitable Funds as at 31st March 2025 were £1,919,000 (2023/24 £1,676,000), an increase of £243,000 during the financial year.

Total incoming resources this year amounted to £664,000 (2023/24 £630,000). Donations and income from fundraising events were broadly in line with the previous year. The Retinal Eye Scanner Appeal was launched in 2023 and is raising funds to purchase an advanced retinal imaging scanner for the Westminster Eye Unit. The Appeal received income of £201,000 in 2024/25.

Of the total expenditure of £442,000 (2023/24 £730,000), expenditure on charitable activities was £234,000 (2023/24 £556,000) and expenditure on raising funds was £208,000 (2023/24 £174,000).

Performance of Investments

Since July 2003, The Countess Charity has invested with M&G's Charities Investment Managers Ltd in a unit trust fund called Charifund. This is designed to provide a high and growing income for charities, whilst at the same time protecting their capital from the erosive effect of inflation. The investment remains for the long term, and does not have a maturity date. Investment income received from M&G was £32,000 (2023/24 £32,000) before deducting management fees.

The gain in the valuation of our unrealised investments with M&G was £21,000 (2023/24 loss of £10,000).

In addition to the long term investments, short term deposits are invested with nominated Commercial Banks. The investment income received from this amounted to £108,000 (2023/24 £110,000).

Purchase of new equipment, new building and refurbishment

This year saw a number of pieces of equipment being purchased through the charitable funds. The total spent on additional medical equipment for the Trust was £84,000 (2023/24 £413,000) while spend on furniture and fittings was £14,000 (2023/24 £35,000). During the year, spend on computer equipment via the charity amounted to £7,000 (2023/24 nil).

Staff Education and Welfare

Each ward has its own staff amenities fund. Donations made specifically to these funds are then utilised for the benefit of the staff. During the year, £31,000 (2023/24 £21,000) was spent on direct staff amenities. These funds also enable consultants and staff to attend additional courses not funded by the NHS, which allows them to keep up to date on modern techniques and developments in their individual specialties. A total of £2,000 (2023/24 £9,000) was spent on staff attending external training courses. These figures are shown in the accounts within grant funded activity.

Patient Education and Welfare

The total spend on direct patient welfare amounted to £20,000 (2023/24 £9,000). This expenditure includes the purchase of flowmeters, patient monitors, weighing scales and small gifts for those patients who were with us at Christmas.

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Risk Management

The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the Corporate Trustee, have been reviewed and systems have been established to manage those risks. Due to the close relationship between the charity and the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust itself, the charity benefits from the risk and control framework in place at the Foundation Trust.

A specific Charitable Funds risk register categorises risks facing the charitable funds and considers the actions taken to mitigate the risk. The risk policy, and the risks and controls are reviewed by the Charitable Funds Committee every three years.

"Principal risks" are those risks which have a high likelihood of occurring and would, if they occurred, have a severe impact on operational performance, achievement of aims and objectives or could damage the reputation of the charity, changing the way the Trustee, supporters or beneficiaries might deal with the charity.

The Countess of Chester mitigates the principal risks by regularly engaging with the Fundraising Department to ensure a co-ordinated approach to raising funds.

Reserves Policy

The Trustee is under a legal duty to apply charity funds within a reasonable time of receiving them. In order to comply with this duty, the Trustee has developed a reserves policy to explain the level of reserves held and set out how they will be managed.

The reserves policy applies to unrestricted funds, and states that the level of reserves should be sufficient to:

- Ensure stability of grant funding;
Cover between one and three years administration, fund-raising and support costs; and
- Maintain the level of investments at its current level in order to mitigate against significant fluctuations in the levels of donations.

Therefore, the Trustee considers it prudent that the target range of unrestricted reserves is between £500,000 and £1,500,000 to ensure that the charity can run efficiently and meet the needs of its beneficiaries. The Balance Sheet shows that the unrestricted reserves of £820,000 at the end of the financial year are within the range required by the policy.

Restricted funds are excluded from this policy, in accordance with Charity Commission guidance, as they are subject to specific trusts and are not freely expendable at the discretion of the Trustee.

On an annual basis, the funds will be examined to ensure compliance with this reserves policy.

Investment powers and policy

The Trustee's investment powers are governed by the Trust Deed, which permits the charity's funds to be invested in any security listed on the Stock Exchange.

The Investment Policy's aim is to generate a steady income stream to maximise contribution towards the costs of central overheads, while protecting the real value of capital. The policy seeks to obtain the best financial return from the charity's investments, through investing consistently and with commercial prudence. The Trustee is duty bound to act with prudence, and shall not make speculative or hazardous investments. The Trustee should also ensure that there is adequate diversity of investment to minimise the risk of individual institutions performing poorly.

The Trustee should decline to invest in a particular company if its activities are directly contrary to the charitable purposes.

The charity's investments have continued to be managed in line with our Investment Policy and the Trust Deed. The Investment Policy is reviewed every three years.

The main aims of the Policy are:

- That the underlying level of funds available for investment should be split between long term and short term investments; and
- The net income from the investments are distributed over all the funds on an average fund balance basis.

The portfolio of Investments are monitored by the Charitable Funds Committee on a quarterly basis.

The Countess Charity
TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

**STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES IN RESPECT OF THE
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Under the trust deed of the charity and charity law, the Corporate Trustee is responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations. The trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with FRS 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland*.

The financial statements are required by law to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the excess of income over expenditure for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice entails that the trustee:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and the Statement of Recommended Practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- state whether the financial statements comply with the trust deed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The Trustee is required to act in accordance with the trust deed of the charity, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the charity at that time, and to enable the trustee to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 132(1) of the Charities Act 2011, those statements of accounts comply with the requirements of regulations under that provision. They have general responsibility for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the charity and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

By Order of the Corporate Trustee

Signed:



Chair

Neil Large



Chief Executive Officer

Jane Tomkinson OBE

The Countess Charity

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE COUNTESS CHARITY

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Countess Charity (Charity No: 1050015) for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 13 to 30.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe in, any material respect,:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Stephanie Baker ACA
Xeinadin North West Limited
Chartered Accountants
First Floor
The Foundation
Heronsway
Chester Business Park
CHESTER
CH4 9GB

7th October 2025

The Countess Charity

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds 2024-25 £000	Restricted Funds 2024-25 £000	Total Funds 2024-25 £000	Total Funds 2023-24 £000
Incoming Resources	2				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and Legacies	2.1	137	127	264	244
Income from trading activities	2.2	24	235	259	244
Investment income	2.5	80	61	141	142
Total incoming resources		<u>241</u>	<u>423</u>	<u>664</u>	<u>630</u>
Resources Expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	3.1	(45)	(163)	(208)	(174)
Charitable Activities: Grant Funded Activity	3.2	(148)	(86)	(234)	(556)
Total expenditure		<u>(193)</u>	<u>(249)</u>	<u>(442)</u>	<u>(730)</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources		48	174	222	(100)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		10	11	21	(10)
Net income/(expenditure)		<u>58</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>(110)</u>
Transfers between funds	2.3	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>58</u>	<u>185</u>	<u>243</u>	<u>(110)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds					
Total Funds brought forward		762	914	1,676	1,786
Fund balances carried forward		<u>820</u>	<u>1,099</u>	<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,676</u>

The notes on pages 16 to 30 form part of these financial statements. All income and expenditure is derived from continuing operations.

The Countess Charity


Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	Total Funds at 31 March 2025 £000	Total Funds at 31 March 2024 £000
Fixed Assets			
Investments	6.2	<u>519</u>	<u>497</u>
Total Fixed Assets		519	497
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	<u>30</u>	<u>54</u>
Cash and cash equivalents		<u>1,462</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Total Current Assets		1,492	1,254
Liabilities			
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>92</u>	<u>75</u>
Net Current Assets		<u>1,400</u>	<u>1,179</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,676</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted Income Funds		<u>1,099</u>	<u>914</u>
Unrestricted Income Funds		<u>820</u>	<u>762</u>
Total Charity Funds		<u>1,919</u>	<u>1,676</u>

The notes at pages 16 to 30 form part of this account.

Approved by the Chair of the Board on 27th January 2026

Signed:



Neil Large

The Countess Charity

Cashflow	Note	Total Funds 2024-25 £000	Total Funds 2023-24 £000
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net Cash provided by (used in) operating activities	9	<u>121</u>	<u>(215)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Interest from investments		141	142
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities		<u>141</u>	<u>142</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		262	(73)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,200	1,273
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u>1,462</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The Countess Charity

Notes to the Account

Accounting Policies

1.1

Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements have been prepared under the historic cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value at the Balance Sheet date. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)

The trust constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The Trustee considers that there are no material uncertainties about the Countess Charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

In future years, the key risks to the Countess Charity are a fall in income from donations or investment income, but the Trustee has arrangements in place to mitigate those risks (see the risk management and reserves sections of the annual report for more information).

The financial statements are prepared in pound sterling (£).

The Countess Charity

1.3 Incoming Resources

- a) All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Donations are recognised when the Charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

- b) **Legacies**

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources on a case by case basis once the receipt of the legacy is probable.

Receipt is probable when:

- i) Confirmation has been received from the representatives of the estate(s) that probate has been granted;
 - ii) The executors have established that there are sufficient assets in the estate to pay the legacy; and
 - iii) All conditions attached to the legacy have been fulfilled or are within the charity's control.
- c) Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the bank. Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due. This is normally upon notification by our investment advisor of the dividend yield of the investment portfolio.

- c) **Gifts in Kind**

Gifts in kind, such as food and care packages are not accounted for when they are accepted and immediately distributed unless a donation is material. A donation is considered material if the individual items are valued at more than £20 each.

Gifts of tangible assets such as microwaves and coffee machines are recognised as a donation at fair value (market price) on receipt and charitable expenditure when they are distributed

Where gifts in kind are held before being distributed to beneficiaries, they are recognised at fair value as stock until they are distributed.

The Countess Charity

1.4 a) Expenditure Recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All expenses including support costs and governance costs are allocated or apportioned to the applicable expenditure headings. For more information on this attribution, refer to note (b) below.

Grants payable are payments made to the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust which is classed as a related party, in furtherance of the charitable objectives of the funds held on trust. In the case of an unconditional grant offer this is accrued once the recipient has been notified of the grant award. The notification gives the recipient a reasonable expectation that they will receive the one-year or multi-year grant. Grant awards that are subject to the recipient fulfilling performance conditions are only accrued when the recipient has been notified of the grant and any remaining unfulfilled condition attaching to that grant is outside of the control of the Charity.

Provisions for grants are made when the intention to make a grant has been communicated to the recipient but there is uncertainty as to the timing of the grant or the amount of grant payable.

b) Allocation of Support and Governance Costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support costs. Governance costs comprise all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These costs include costs related to statutory audit and legal fees.

Governance costs and support costs relating to charitable activities have been apportioned between costs of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a proportional basis. The allocation of support and governance costs is analysed in note 3.3

c) Expenditure on Raising Funds

The costs of generating funds includes the direct costs associated with running fundraising events, staff salaries and office costs, investment management fees, and the support and governance costs associated with these activities. Further details are shown in note 3.1

d) Expenditure on Charitable Activities

Costs of charitable activities include grants made to the Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust to support the purchase of equipment, training and other activities as well as the support and governance costs associated with these activities. Further details are shown in note 3.2

The Countess Charity

1.5 Irrecoverable VAT

Irrecoverable VAT is charged against the category of resources expended for which it was incurred.

1.6 Funds Structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor.

Funds where the capital is held to generate income for charitable purposes and cannot itself be spent are accounted for as endowment funds. The Countess Charity has four funds which are classed as restricted, with a further eighteen funds having an element of their balance classed as restricted. This is due to funds receiving grants and legacies with associated restrictions. The charity has no endowment funds.

Unrestricted income funds comprise those funds which the Trustee is free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects. Unrestricted funds include designated funds earmarked by Trustees, where the donor has made known their non-binding wishes, as outlined explicitly on the donation receipt form.

Transfers between funds are approved by the Charitable Funds Committee in line with agreed expenditure procedures and in accordance with the Standing Financial Instructions.

Details of the funds are shown on page 30.

1.7 Fixed Asset Investments

Investments are a form of basic financial instrument. They are initially recognised at their transaction value and are subsequently measured at their fair value (market value). The Statement of Financial Activities includes the net gains and losses arising on revaluation during the year.

The Investment Fund Units are included in the Balance Sheet at the closing valuation at 31 March 2025.

The main form of financial risk faced by the charity is that of volatility in equity markets and investment markets due to wider economic conditions, the attitude of investors to investment risk, and changes in sentiment concerning equities and within particular sectors or sub sectors.

1.8 Realised Gains and losses

All realised gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and opening market value (or date of purchase if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between market value at the year end and opening market value (or date of purchase if later).

The Countess Charity

1.9 Tax

The Countess Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010, and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable trust for UK income tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Part 10 income Tax Act 2007 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.10 Debtors

Debtors are amounts owed to the charity. They are measured on the basis of their recoverable amount.

1.11 Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash at bank and in hand is held to meet the day to day running costs of the charity as they fall due. Cash equivalents are short term, highly liquid investments, usually in 90 day notice interest bearing savings accounts.

1.12 Creditors

Creditors are amounts owed by the charity. They are measured at the amount that the charity expects to have to pay to settle the debt.

Amounts which are owed in more than a year are shown as long term creditors.

1.13 Prior year comparatives by type of fund

The primary statements provide prior year comparatives in total, pages 21 and 22 provides prior period comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities and the Balance Sheet for each of the two types of fund that the Countess Charity manages.

1.14 Related Party Transactions

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust body is the Corporate Trustee of the Countess Charity. The patients of which are the main beneficiaries of the charity.

The charity has made revenue and capital grant payments to the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

In 2023/24, the expenditure on charitable activities was £234,000 (2023/24: £556,000) of which £148,000 (2023/24: £279,000) was expenditure from unrestricted funds and £86,000 (2023/24: £277,000) was expenditure from restricted funds to the Corporate Trustee, the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

None of the Corporate Trustee members has undertaken any transactions with the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or received any benefit from the charity in payment or kind.

The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust makes a number of clerical transaction services available to the charity.

These include:

Fundraising services and office costs of £153,000 (£150,000 in 2023/24) - see note 3.1

Administrative services at a cost of £25,000 (£28,000 in 2023/24) in support of the charity's grant making activities which are included within support costs - see note 3.3

The charity is able to utilise the finance system in place within the Trust to facilitate payments to suppliers and to record other amounts owing between the two organisations. The payments to suppliers are made by the Trust on behalf of the charity and they are subsequently reimbursed. The outstanding balance of £1,000 at 31st March 2025 is included on the balance sheet as a debtor - see note 7.

The Countess Charity

Prior year comparatives by type of Fund

Unrestricted Funds - Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted Funds 2024-25 £000	Unrestricted Funds 2023-24 £000
Incoming Resources		
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	137	162
Other trading activities	24	49
Investments	80	86
Total Incoming resources	<u>241</u>	<u>297</u>
Resources Expended		
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	(45)	(60)
Charitable activities:		
Grant Funded Activities	(148)	(279)
Total expenditure	<u>(193)</u>	<u>(339)</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	48	(42)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	10	(5)
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>58</u>	<u>(47)</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net Movement in funds	<u>58</u>	<u>(47)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds		
Total funds brought forward	762	809
Total funds carried forward	<u>820</u>	<u>762</u>
Unrestricted Funds - Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025		
	2024-25 £000	2023-24 £000
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	222	219
Total Fixed Assets	<u>222</u>	<u>219</u>
Current Assets:		
Debtors	21	19
Cash and cash equivalents	626	529
Total Current Assets	<u>647</u>	<u>548</u>
Liabilities:		
Creditors falling due within one year	49	5
Net Current asset/(liabilities)	<u>598</u>	<u>543</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	820	762
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>820</u>	<u>762</u>

The Countess Charity

Prior year comparatives by type of Fund

Restricted Funds - Statement of Financial Activity for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Restricted Funds 2024-25 £000	Restricted Funds 2023-24 £000
Incoming Resources		
Income from:		
Donations and legacies	127	82
Other trading activities	235	195
Investments	61	56
Total Incoming resources	<u>423</u>	<u>333</u>
Resources Expended		
Expenditure on:		
Raising funds	(163)	(114)
Charitable activities:		
Grant Funded Activities	(86)	(277)
Total expenditure	<u>(249)</u>	<u>(391)</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	174	(58)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	11	(5)
Net income/(expenditure)	<u>185</u>	<u>(63)</u>
Transfers between funds	-	-
Net Movement in funds	<u>185</u>	<u>(63)</u>
Reconciliation of Funds		
Total funds brought forward	914	977
Total funds carried forward	<u>1,099</u>	<u>914</u>
Restricted Funds - Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025		
	2024-25 £000	2023-24 £000
Fixed Assets:		
Investments	297	278
Total Fixed Assets	<u>297</u>	<u>278</u>
Current Assets:		
Debtors	9	35
Cash and cash equivalents	836	671
Total Current Assets	<u>845</u>	<u>706</u>
Liabilities:		
Creditors falling due within one year	43	70
Net Current asset/(liabilities)	<u>802</u>	<u>636</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	1,099	914
Total Unrestricted Funds	<u>1,099</u>	<u>914</u>

The Countess Charity

2 Incoming Resources

2.1 Income from Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024-25 £000	Total 2023-24 £000
Donations	125	38	163	92
Grants Received	-	89	89	29
Legacies	12	-	12	123
	<u>137</u>	<u>127</u>	<u>264</u>	<u>244</u>

Donations from individuals are gifts from members of the public, relatives of patients and staff.

2.2 Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024-25 £000	Total 2023-24 £000
Fundraising events	24	193	217	234
Corporate Sponsorship	-	42	42	10
Total	<u>24</u>	<u>235</u>	<u>259</u>	<u>244</u>

2.3 Transfers between Funds

A number of low value transfers occurred during the year and were the result of closing or merging small funds with other similar funds. All transfers related to unrestricted funds.

The Countess Charity

2.4 Role of Volunteers

Fund advisors - there are over 100 Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust staff who manage how the charity's designated funds should be spent. These funds are designated (or earmarked) by the Trustee to be spent for a particular purpose or in a particular ward or department. Each fund advisor has delegated powers to spend the designated funds that they manage in accordance with the Trustee wishes and in accordance with the fund purpose. All expenditure is approved by the Trust's finance department prior to commitment to ensure that the spend is in accordance with the governing documents and that the money is available in the fund.

Due to the varied nature of our work, we are able to incorporate the skills of many different volunteers into the fundraising department. We have recruited retired professionals as well as working with companies who allow staff volunteer days. This brings a wide mix of skills to the team and allows the core team to focus on fundraising activities.

We have volunteers who help enter donations on to the database and produce personalised thank you letters for the Head of Fundraising to check and sign. Volunteers also assist with administrative tasks such as processing Gift Aid claims and updating notice boards.

Other volunteer roles include selling raffle tickets and running tombolas both at the hospital and at external venues. Volunteers also help extensively with the annual Duck Race and Santa Dash.

All volunteers have a staff member as a point of contact and are aware of their responsibilities.

In accordance with the SORP, due to the absence of any reliable measurement basis, the contribution of these volunteers is not recognised in the accounts.

2.5 Investment Income

	Unrestricted Funds £000	Restricted Funds £000	Total 2024-25 £000	Total 2023-24 £000
Short term investments and deposits	61	46	107	110
and cash on deposit	19	15	34	32
Unit Trust Fund Income	80	61	141	142

The Countess Charity

3 Resources Expended

3.1 Analysis of expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	Direct Costs £000	Direct Costs £000	£000	£000
Fundraising Office	42	111	153	150
Fundraising events	1	47	48	21
Investment Management	2	1	3	2
Support costs	0	4	4	1
Total	<u>45</u>	<u>163</u>	<u>208</u>	<u>174</u>

3.2 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds		Total 2024-25	Total 2023-24
	Grant Funded Activity £000	Support Costs £000	Grant Funded Activity £000	Support Costs £000	£000	£000
Training	2	0	0	0	2	9
Equipment	53	5	53	5	116	470
Building	14	2	1	0	17	17
Other	65	7	25	2	99	60
Total	<u>134</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>79</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>234</u>	<u>556</u>

The Charity does not make grants to individuals. All grants are made to the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to provide for the care of NHS patients in furtherance of our charitable aims. The total cost of making grants including support costs, is disclosed on the face of the statement of financial activities and the actual funds spent on each category is disclosed in note 3.2.

All support costs are initially apportioned between restricted and unrestricted funds on an average balance basis, reflecting the charges allocated against the funds during the year. Support costs are subsequently apportioned to categories of expenditure based on the levels of expenditure for each category as a percentage of the overall expenditure.

3.3 Allocation of Governance and Support Costs

Allocated to:

	Raising Funds £000	Charitable Activities £000	Total 2024-25 £000	Total 2023-24 £000
Governance Costs:				
Independent Examiners Fee	0	2	2	2
Management charge	0	0	0	0
Support Costs:				
Financial Services	4	19	23	26
Total	<u>4</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>28</u>

The Countess Charity

4 Analysis of Staff Costs

	Total	Total
	2024-25	2023-24
	£000	£000
Salaries and wages	106	112
Social security costs	10	10
Employers pension contribution	15	15
	131	137
<hr/>		
Average monthly number of staff in the year:	3	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>

No employees had emoluments in excess of £60,000 (2023/24 none)

Staff costs relate to employees of the related party - the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

The Directors of the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust do not receive any remuneration or reimbursement of expenses from the Charity.

5 Independent Examiner

The independent examiner's fee of £2,400 (2023/24 £2,220) related solely to the examination with no other additional work undertaken.

The Countess Charity

6 Analysis of Fixed Asset Investments

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	Total	Total
6.1 Movement in Fixed Asset Investments:	£000	£000
Market value at 1 April	497	507
Unrealised gain/(loss) on revaluation	21	(10)
Market value at 31 March	<u>518</u>	<u>497</u>
Historic cost at 31 March	<u>353</u>	<u>353</u>

6.2 Market value:

		31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	Held in UK	Total	Total
	£000	£000	£000
Investments in a Common Investment Fund	519	519	497
	<u>519</u>	<u>519</u>	<u>497</u>

All investments are held at fair value.

All the Fixed Assets investments are held in a Common Investment Fund with M&G Investments. The main risk from these financial instruments lies in the combination of uncertain investment markets and volatility in yield. The main principle of the investment policy is to protect the real value of capital and generate a steady income stream to maximise contribution towards the costs of central overheads. The investments continue to grow at a steady rate whilst maintaining an increase in investment income year on year.

The investment is benchmarked on a regular basis and the impact of any economic uncertainty is monitored and reported to the Charitable Funds Committee.

6.3 Investment Management Costs

The investments in the M&G unit trust fund incurs an annual charge of 0.47% of the average balance of the funds held by them.

6.4 Analysis of Cash and Cash Equivalents

	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
	£000	£000
Cash in hand	1,462	1,200
Notice deposits (less than 3 months)	0	0
Total Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>1,462</u>	<u>1,200</u>

The notice deposits are sums held on interest bearing deposit fixed term deposits with the National Loans Fund.
No cash or cash equivalents or current asset investments were held in non-cash investments or outside of the UK.

All of the amounts held on interest bearing deposits are available to spend on charitable activities.

The Countess Charity

7 Analysis of Debtors

	31 March 2025 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Other Debtors	1	14
Accrued income	29	40
Total debtors falling due within one year	30	54

Other debtors represent sums owed at the year end to the charity by a related party, the Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

8 Cash at Bank and in Hand

	31 March 2025 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Bank balances at 1 April	1,200	1,273
Net change in year	262	(73)
Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows at 31 March	1,462	1,200

9 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	31 March 2025 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Net income/(expenditure) as per the Statement of Financial Activities	243	(110)
Gains/losses on investments	(21)	10
Dividends and interest from investments	(141)	(142)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	23	(20)
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	17	47
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	121	(215)

10 Analysis of Creditors

	31 March 2025 £000	31 March 2024 £000
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Accruals	57	75
Deferred Income	35	-
Total creditors falling due within one year	92	75

11 Contingent Asset

The charity had been notified of entitlement at the year-end to one bequest through a legacy. The value of the legacy cannot accurately be measured as the charity's interest is residuary and has not been recognised yet in the financial statements.

The Countess Charity

FUND STATEMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

TYPE OF FUND	31 Mar 2025 £	31 Mar 2024 £	DETAILS ON PAGE
General Purpose Fund	339,660	330,476	29
Restricted Funds	1,040,775	866,774	29
Designated Funds	520,991	481,827	30
Cumulative Unrealised (Loss)/Gain on investments	17,870	(3,391)	
	<u>1,919,296</u>	<u>1,675,686</u>	

The unrealised loss on investments has been allocated between restricted and unrestricted funds on a percentage of the total balance at the 31st March 2024 as shown on the Balance Sheet in Total Funds.

UNRESTRICTED GENERAL PURPOSE FUNDS

Held by the Countess of Chester NHS Charitable Funds

The General Purpose Fund income is generally available for the benefit of patients, their families and staff.

Name of Fund	Purpose	Fund Balance Bfwd 31 Mar 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Interfund transfers £	Cumulative Unrealised Gains & Losses £	Fund Balance Cfwd 31 Mar 2025 £
Hospital Fund	General Purposes	330,476	73,596	(66,200)	1,788	(15,966)	323,694
Total Unrestricted General Purpose Funds		<u>330,476</u>				<u>(15,966)</u>	<u>323,694</u>

RESTRICTED FUNDS

Held by the Countess of Chester NHS Charitable Funds

Name of Fund	Purpose	Fund Balance Bfwd 31 Mar 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Interfund transfers £	Cumulative Unrealised Gains & Losses £	Fund Balance Cfwd 31 Mar 2025 £
Critical Care Unit	To benefit Critical Care including Staff & Patient Amenities	21,260				1,191	22,451
The Babygrow Appeal	To build and equip a new neonatal unit - surplus to 9091	107,763	8,978	(9,676)		6,000	113,065
Trees Of Life	To improve bereavement care	29,863	12,757	(12,766)		1,673	31,527
Small Appeal - Breast Scanner	Purchase of ultrasound scanner for the Breast Care Unit	6,657	243	(258)		372	7,014
Small Appeal - Memory Lane	Enhance Wards 50 & 51, which specialise in elderly care	14,670	527	(3,319)		665	12,543
Small Appeal - Cardiac Equipment	Fund purchase of cardiac equipment	2,615	341	889		215	4,060
Charities Together Fund	To utilise monies granted from Charities Together	14,696	595	(15,291)		-	-
Blue Skies Balcony Appeal	To fund the construction of a balcony for Intensive Care patients to access	517,732	55,938	(50,643)		29,311	552,338
Grant Fund	Receive legacies and administer grants from external grant-making bodies	70,492		(437)		3,926	73,981
Hospital Fund	General Purposes	1,044	50,000			2,861	53,905
Retinal Eye Scanner Appeal	Fund purchasing a retinal eye scanner. Residual balance to Ophthalmology	26,816	206,909	(87,898)		8,172	153,999
Patients Amenities	Benefit of patients at Countess of Chester Hospital	14,195	-	(14,195)		-	-
Women & Children Build Fund	Support the new Women & Children's building	-	81,765	(50,927)		1,728	32,566
Other restricted funds		38,970	5,249	(4,780)		2,212	41,651
Total Restricted Funds		<u>866,774</u>				<u>58,326</u>	<u>1,099,101</u>

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds have arisen as they are appeals funds and therefore the donors have an expectation that the funds will be spent in the way advertised in the fundraising literature. Once the appeal targets have been reached the remaining funds will be unrestricted to enable the Trustees to utilise the funds in accordance with the objects of the charitable funds.

Restricted funds also arise when a legacy bequest is received, and the legator bequeaths the funds for a specific purpose. These funds are held as restricted funds until the legacy is fully expended.

In addition, the charity applies to grant making bodies for funding to purchase equipment or to support ongoing appeals. These grants are often restricted in nature and only allow us to use the funding in line with the application submitted to the grant making body. These grants are held as restricted until the funding is fully utilised.

The Trustee set an opening or closing balance of £10,000 or above as the threshold for the separate reporting of material restricted funds.

The Countess Charity

DESIGNATED FUNDS

Held by the Countess of Chester NHS Charitable Funds

Name of Fund	Purpose	Fund Balance Bfwd 31 Mar 2024	Income	Expenditure	Interfund transfers	Cumulative Unrealised Gains & Losses	Fund Balance Cfwd 31 Mar 2025
		£		£		£	£
Chester Cardiac Fund	Support and improve cardio respiratory services. Staff amenities	54,470	4,906	(4,935)		(2,559)	51,882
Coronary Care Unit	Equipment & staff training	40,607	14,230	(4,321)		(2,375)	48,141
Breast Care Unit Fund	To benefit the unit including staff and patient amenities	22,801	13,778	(6,443)		(1,417)	28,719
Haematology and Oncology Fund	Benefit the haematology and oncology suite and staff & patient amenities	32,997	24,996	(4,003)		(2,523)	51,467
Neonatal Fund	Funds for the purpose of the neonatal unit. Staff amenities	54,706	7,017	(6,929)		(2,576)	52,218
Palliative Care	For the ongoing improvement including education and research	10,583	3,540	(7,880)		(293)	5,950
Patients Amenities	Benefit of patients at Countess of Chester Hospital	93,932	26,265	(13,539)		(4,953)	101,705
Renal Dialysis Unit Fund	Purchase of equipment for Dialysis Unit, Staff and Patient amenities	11,251	12,126	(16,828)		(308)	6,241
Staff Amenities	Benefit of staff at Countess of Chester Hospital	31,192	8,923	(5,446)		(1,634)	33,035
Chester Eye Fund	To benefit ophthalmic patients.	11,928	1,062	(8,030)		(233)	4,727
Stroke Area Fund	To upgrade ASAA e.g. purchase of equipment. To support staff training.	16,622	2,549	(14,879)		(202)	4,090
EPH General Fund	For the benefit of patients & staff amenities	9,954	2,465	(1,973)		(499)	9,947
Critical Care Fund	To benefit Critical Care including Staff & Patient Amenities	2,433	18,277	(3,143)		(826)	16,741
Other unrestricted funds		88,351	27,211	(28,044)	(1,788)	(4,092)	81,638
Total Unrestricted Funds		481,827				(24,490)	496,501