



Annual Report and Accounts 2024/2025



NHS Lothian
Charity

Scottish Registered Charity Number SC007342

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Welcome from our Chair

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am very pleased to share this Trustees’ Report, showcasing the incredible impact of the support provided by NHS Lothian Charity over the past year. Working in strategic partnership with NHS Lothian, and with the support of generous donors, supporters and partners, we have all come together to make a real difference to the lives of patients, visitors, staff, and the wider community.

This report details how our support is creating positive change across a diverse range of services. The heartfelt words shared by those who’ve benefitted from our support is overwhelming – a parent’s joy at their child’s improved hospital stay, a staff member finding a moment of calm and reflection in a hospital garden, a patient finding comfort and relief from the gentle touch of massage during palliative care – beautifully illustrate the real impact enabled by the generosity and kindness of those who support our work.

Our Tonic Arts programme has once again brought the uplifting and healing power of arts to healthcare settings, bringing moments of comfort and joy to patients, staff, and visitors, and our Green Health programme has harnessed the revitalising power of nature, transforming NHS spaces into havens of wellbeing that benefit both people and the planet.

Our commitment extends to the invaluable contribution of volunteers, whose dedication provides such important support across NHS Lothian. The launch of the “Meaningful May” programme, which created opportunities for young people, and the revitalised volunteering efforts at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital are just two examples of how our support is enabling NHS Lothian’s Voluntary Services Team to empower individuals and strengthen our community.

Recognising that a healthy workforce is fundamental to delivering exceptional care, our support to NHS Lothian’s Work Well strategy continues to prioritise the wellbeing and development of NHS Lothian’s 26,000 staff members. From psychological support services to income maximisation advice and the creation of calming break spaces, we are investing in the individuals who dedicate themselves to caring for others.

We also believe passionately in tackling health inequalities. Our support of the Income Maximisation Service is proactively tackling the impact of poverty on patient health, providing crucial financial advice and support at a time when it is most needed. The figures highlighting the additional income secured for patients and their families underscore the profound difference this service makes.

Looking ahead, our strategic commitment to Research, Development and Innovation, through initiatives like the Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards and our support for pioneering simulation training, is helping to drive continuous improvement and ensure NHS Lothian remains a leader in healthcare. Our proactive, collaborative approach to aligning strategic capital investment to NHS Lothian’s capital pipeline has helped prioritise and identify projects that will have great impact on patient outcomes and experiences.

This year Trustees took time to undertake a review of our current strategy to ensure it remains fresh and relevant in light of the ever-challenging environment. As part of this process, we agreed to make some changes to invest additionally in the health prevention agenda and started thinking ahead to the development of our next strategy.

We also strengthened our focus on evaluating the impact of our support. The launch of our new Evaluation Framework reflects our commitment to learning, adapting and ensuring that every gift we receive, and every project we support, makes the biggest possible difference.

I extend my sincere gratitude to our generous donors, dedicated volunteers, and the committed staff of both NHS Lothian and NHS Lothian Charity for their unwavering support. Together, we are making a real and lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of Lothian.





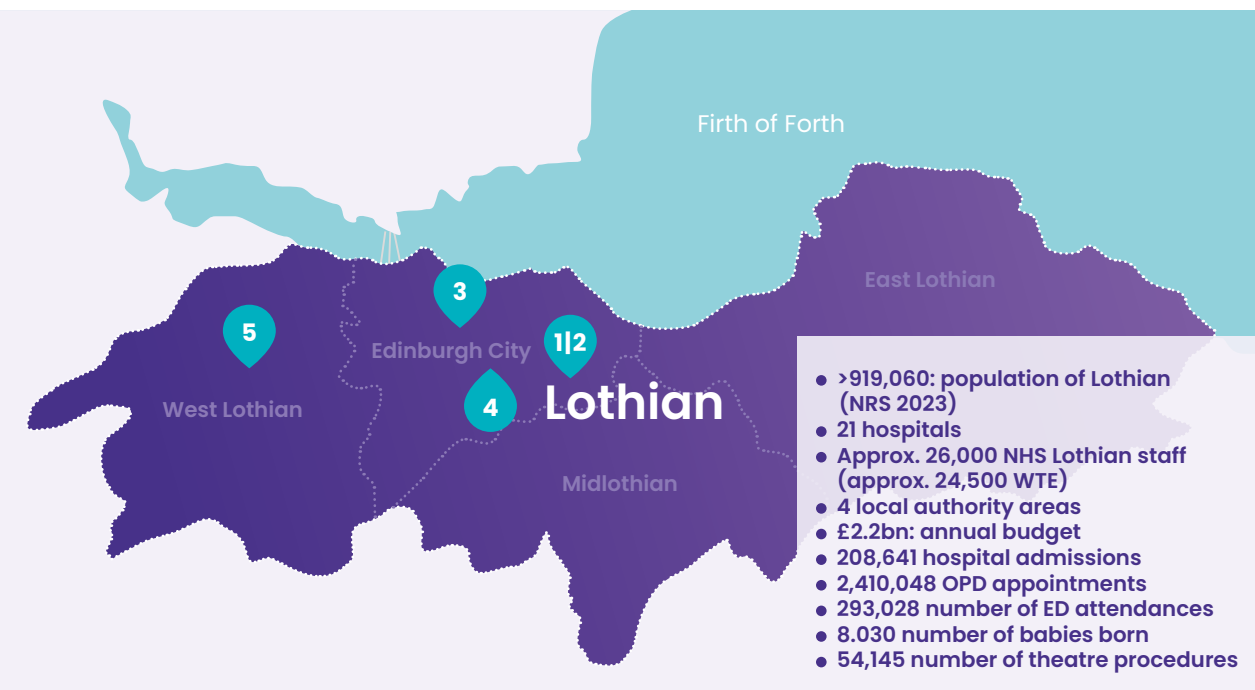
Trustees' Report



Our Vision

Making healthcare better, together.

We're proud to be the official charity of NHS Lothian. As a strategic asset of the board, we are here to help NHS Lothian provide outstanding care and support for everyone who uses or delivers its services; whether that's patients, their families, staff or communities. Working together, we help create opportunities, enable innovation, and transform healthcare for all our communities. Our expertise, experience and resources enable us to tap in directly to what is needed and target support that has a positive impact on health and wellbeing across Edinburgh and the Lothians.



Our Partner NHS Lothian

NHS Lothian provides a comprehensive range of primary, community-based and acute hospital services for the populations of Edinburgh, Midlothian, East Lothian and West Lothian. They also provide selected services for patients in the Borders and in Fife, and are a national centre of expertise for various specialties provided to people across Scotland.

The Lothian Region has the second largest residential population in Scotland, and its population is growing faster than anywhere else in Scotland. NHS Lothian is the second largest NHS Board in Scotland and one of the largest healthcare organisations in the UK.

The Lothian Health and Care System is a partnership between the five bodies with responsibility for the planning, commissioning, and delivery of health and care services in the Lothians: NHS Lothian, East Lothian Integration Joint Board, Edinburgh Integration Joint Board, Midlothian Integration Joint Board, and

West Lothian Integration Joint Board. The vision for the system is that:

- People live longer, healthier lives, with better outcomes for the care and treatment provided
- Health and social care services are connected seamlessly, wrapping around people in their home
- Performance is improved across the system, with better experiences for patients and the workforce

The Lothian Health and Care System refreshed its strategic direction in light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Lothian Strategic Development Framework 2022–2027 (LSDF) describes what NHS Lothian is trying to achieve, the current situation, the challenges it faces and the direction of travel it proposes to take. The LSDF was published in April 2022 and supersedes the previous NHS Lothian Strategic Plan, Our Health, Our Care, Our Future.

NHS Lothian has five main hospital sites that deliver acute hospital care as well as psychiatric and paediatric hospital services:

1. Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh is a major acute teaching hospital located on the Edinburgh BioQuarter site at Little France. With a 24-hour Accident and Emergency Department, it provides a full range of acute medical and surgical services for patients from across Lothian. Specialist services such as Transplant, Cardiothoracic and a Major Trauma Centre serve people from across the southeast of Scotland and beyond.

2. Royal Hospital for Children and Young People is a tertiary paediatric hospital with 242 beds which provides acute, general and specialist care to the children of Lothian and Southeast Scotland, including a paediatric Critical Care Unit, and day care and outpatient facilities. Some specialist services for children and young people across Scotland are also based here. Lothian’s Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and Melville Inpatient Unit are also based there. The new building, which opened in March 2021, is on the Little France campus.

3. Western General Hospital provides a comprehensive range of general and specialist services to the people of Edinburgh, the Lothians and beyond. The hospital has around 570 beds (including day

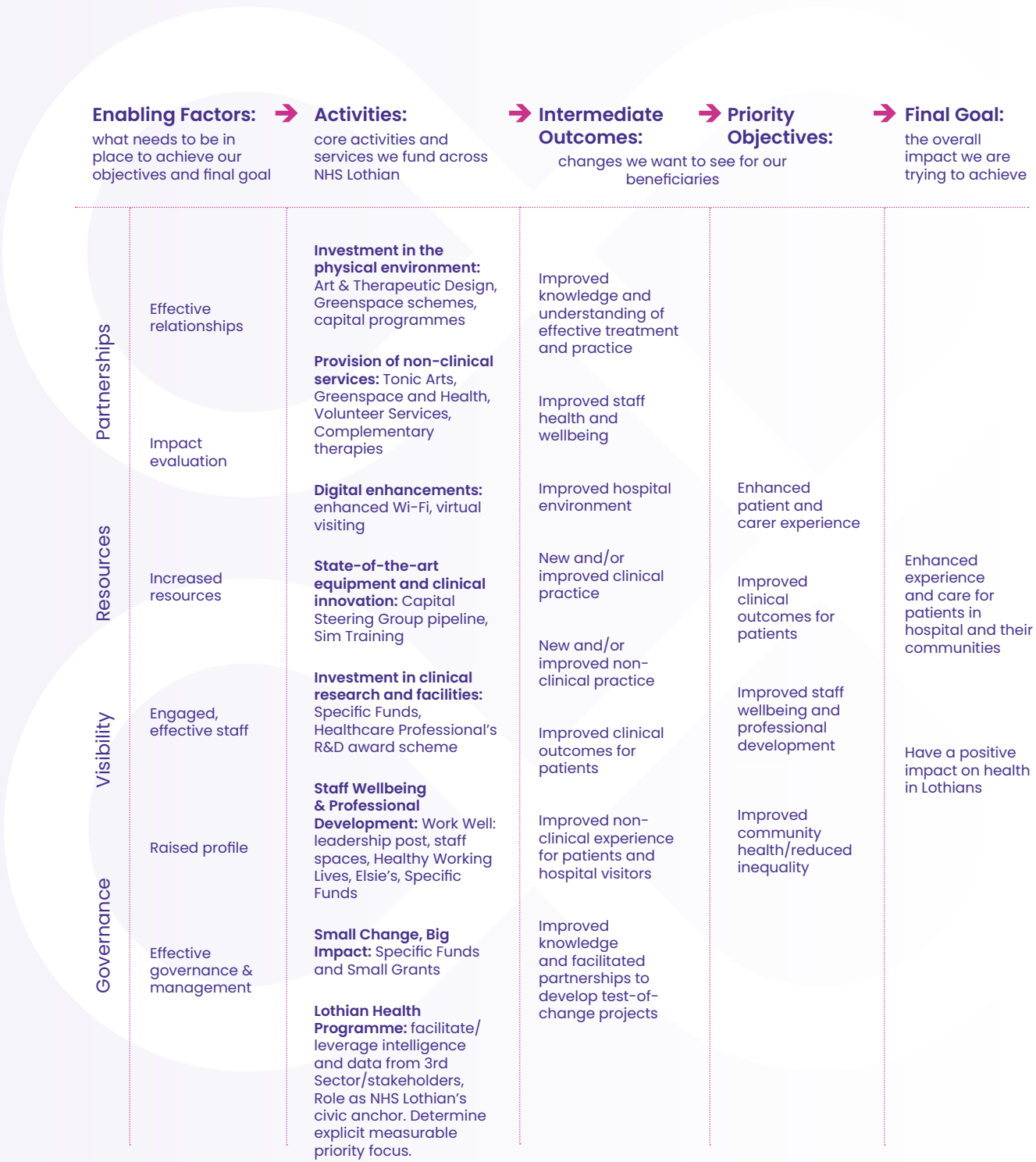
beds) and is home to the Edinburgh Cancer Centre, the Regional Infectious Diseases Unit, and the award-winning, nurse-led Minor Injuries Clinic. A state-of-the-art Renal Dialysis Unit and the Edinburgh Haematology Centre also occupy the site, both of which were enhanced by the funding of Art and Therapeutic Design project collaborations between NHS Lothian and NHS Lothian Charity.

4. Royal Edinburgh Hospital provides acute psychiatric and mental health services, including treatment for learning disabilities and dementia. Its specialist services include centres for the treatment of eating disorders, alcohol problems and young people’s mental health.

5. St John’s Hospital, Livingston is a modern teaching hospital that provides a comprehensive and expanding range of services, including a 24-hour Accident and Emergency Department, and specialist services including plastic surgery. There is a full paediatric service at the hospital, including an acute receiving unit, special baby unit, paediatric ward, and comprehensive range of outpatient services. It also has a reputation for excellence in maternity services. In addition, the hospital is home to the Short Stay Elective Surgical Centre, Lothian’s specialist head and neck unit and the Hooper Hand Unit.

Our Strategy 2022-27

In September 2021, following a period of consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, including programme partners, charity staff and trustees, we were pleased to launch our five-year Strategic Plan. The theory of change model included in this strategy forms the basis for our planning, implementation and evaluation.



A key component of the strategy is our **four** priority objectives, which set the overall direction of the Charity, and the six enabling factors which facilitate the successful achievement of these objectives.

Priority Objectives:

specific changes we want to see for our beneficiaries.



Enhanced patient and carer experience

Enhancing the patient experience is in our DNA; historically the primary objective of all NHS charities. We support the patient throughout their entire healthcare journey: in primary care and the community setting, during a hospital stay or visit, and on their return home. Our non-clinical services include improvements to the physical environment, person-centred support and participation, and digital enhancement.



Improved staff wellbeing and professional development

Our NHS colleagues deliver outstanding care for their patients, and we believe that their wellbeing is critical for improving the health and care of their patients, our beneficiaries. It has also been demonstrated clearly to us that donors and supporters want to say thank you to the dedicated staff who cared for them or a loved one. Our commitment to the workforce is to their wellbeing, training and professional development.



Improved clinical outcomes for patients

Supporting patients' health and wellbeing also takes the form of investing in clinical facilities and research, staff training and development, state-of-the-art equipment and clinical innovation. Our support enhances what is available through core funding, strengthening NHS Lothian's ability to improve clinical outcomes for patients.



Improved community health and reduced health inequality

Our vision of making healthcare better for everyone is about supporting patients at every step in their healthcare journey and aligns with NHS Lothian's strategy of more care closer to home and healthier living. COVID shone a harsh spotlight on the health inequalities within our communities, forcing us to reconsider the way care is delivered, and prioritising community health needs and infrastructure.

Enabling Factors:

what needs to be in place to achieve our objectives and final goal.



Effective relationships

We work in strategic partnership with NHS Lothian, local Health and Social Care Partnerships and other partners to make a difference to people's health and wellbeing. Our relationships are most effective when they are underpinned by a commitment to a shared goal and a clear delivery framework.



Impact evaluation

We use evidence of what works to continuously improve our service delivery and grants. Qualitative and quantitative evaluation enables us to be reflective and agile, and review and revise our activities. By investing in evaluation systems, and by demonstrating our impact we motivate staff, raise our profile and secure more support.



Increased resources

We broaden our activities and reach our goal faster by increasing the resources available to us. Our strengthened fundraising capacity and responsibly managed investment portfolio provide both income and long-term capital to benefit present and future generations.



Engaged, effective staff

We are invested in our staff, and they in each other; we celebrate our successes. Our culture reflects our core values and behaviours, supports wellbeing, learning and personal and career development.



Raised profile

We are the recognised partner to NHS Lothian, and its entire workforce are our champions and advocates. Awareness of our work and our impact both internally and externally across multiple channels drives up support and income.



Effective governance & management

We are sector leaders in good governance and endowment management; we share with and learn from our stakeholders and peers to inform our work. Value-adding systems ensure a firm basis for future quality improvement.



Strategic Programmes

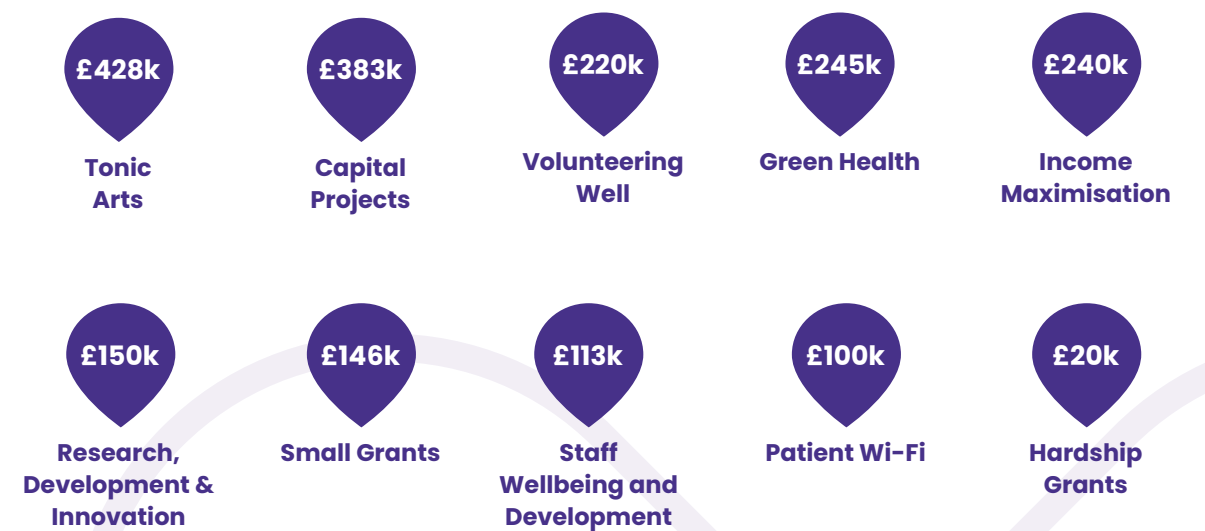
Working in collaboration with NHS Lothian, we have identified key areas for long term investment. These strategic initiatives are designed to complement and/or strengthen existing NHS Lothian services, directly supporting our shared goals of high-quality compassionate care for patients provided by a healthy, skilled and committed workforce.

A consistent, year on year investment in these areas fosters innovation, evaluation and continuous learning. This approach delivers benefits not only to our directly funded programmes, but also to the Charity and the wider NHS Lothian system.

Our strategic programmes are:

- Tonic Arts
- Green Health
- Volunteering
- Staff Wellbeing
- Health Inequalities (Income Maximisation)
- Research, Development and Innovation
- Strategic Capital Investment
- Patient Wi-Fi
- Equality and Human Rights

General Fund Spend in the Year:





Tonic Arts – Creatively enhancing environments and enriching experiences across NHS Lothian

There is a significant and growing body of research including the World Health Organisation's report 'What is the evidence on the role in the arts in improving health and wellbeing?' documenting the impact of the arts in improving health and wellbeing, spanning prevention, treatment, and care for various conditions.

Tonic Arts, our award-winning arts programme, works strategically to apply the learning and best practice from research within acute and rehabilitation hospital settings to maximise impact of both charity and NHS Lothian resources. Recognising the diverse ways art benefits health, Tonic Arts provides a comprehensive programme of art and therapeutic design enhancements, performances and participatory activities that create welcoming environments and enriching experiences to both soothe and stimulate appropriately, to reduce stress, build confidence, and support positive clinical outcomes and improved wellbeing for patients, staff, and visitors.

The programme places individuals at the centre of all work ensuring the varied and often complex needs of patients, staff and visitors are met.

Highlights in 2024/25 include:

- The continuation of the partnership with Edinburgh International Festival with 'Festival Fridays' bringing 24 performances by world class musicians to five NHS Lothian Hospitals. Performances were in both wards and public spaces to enable 2,500 patients, staff and visitors to benefit.
- Trauma informed art and therapeutic design enhancement at the Sycamore centre creating a calm, welcoming and non-triggering space for those affected by sexual assault.
- The enhancement of multiple staff wellbeing spaces and breakout rooms to encourage staff, especially those with patient-facing roles to take much needed breaks during their working day.

- NHS Lothian staff performing with the Scottish National Opera at the National Museum of Scotland resulting in the formation of a regular staff choir helping staff to build connections, confidence and share in the wellbeing benefits of singing.
- The utilisation of the Tonic Arts Collection at sites across NHS Lothian including the Memory Assessment and Treatment Service, Cullen Centre Eating Disorder Service, Midlothian Community Hospital, Leith Treatment Centre and many other sites. Works on display include new acquisitions purchased with a focus on building a collection that reflects the diversity of the community NHS Lothian service.

Impact in Action:

- "Best hospital visit ever!" – Parent, Festival Fridays at Royal Hospital for Children and Young People
- "I was feeling very low this morning. I feel much better now. The music was wonderful." – Patient, Festival Fridays Western General Hospital
- "This has been transformative for me. It helped me recognise how stressed I was, get some much needed balance back into my life...it's made me realise that I can challenge myself and achieve in work and home." – Staff choir participant
- "The colour scheme is very relaxing for patients and staff. I see this building every day and it cheers me up." – Staff feedback on mural at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital
- "I honestly have to thank you and your team for the amazing work that has been completed. Your effort/time and commitment is greatly appreciated. We've had great feedback to our staff regarding the artwork. It enhances the area for staff/visitors tenfold." – Staff feedback on St John's Hospital canteen

- "The design and artwork now in place at Sycamore is transformative, it has made the difference between a functional and fit for purpose clinical facility, into a Sexual Assault Response Coordination Service. The colours, images and visual texture are welcoming, warm and peaceful, and at the same time, not memorable, thus not triggering. It gives a vibe, a feeling rather than an impression not to be forgotten. People will always remember, above everything, how you made them feel and I think the trauma informed design reflects and melds with our purpose to provide recovery in a psychologically safe space." – Clinical Lead- Southeast Healthcare & Forensic Medical Services for People in Police Care





Green Health – Fully realising the potential of the NHS outdoor estate

A robust body of research increasingly confirms the positive impact of greenspaces and nature on health and wellbeing. Notably, evidence strongly links contact with greenspaces to improved mental health, stress reduction, and the easing of dementia symptoms among many other benefits. Furthermore, greenspaces and nature connectedness have been evidenced to help mitigate the health disparities caused by socio-economic inequality.

Our Green Health programme applies research, evidence and learning to drive sustainable change in greenspace use and management across Lothian. This enables enhanced patient care and experience and improved clinical outcomes and wellbeing while simultaneously promoting biodiversity and greenspaces to tackle climate change. The programme's person-centred approach prioritises the needs of individuals, whether patients, staff, or community members visiting NHS Lothian sites.

Highlights in 2024/25 include:

- The delivery of ongoing, regular green health activity on seven hospital sites and the Access Place, supporting 1,000 patients a year, many over multiple months.
- The appointment of Nature Rehabilitation Rangers supporting patients and staff at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Astley Ainslie Hospital while enhancing the greenspace on site to ensure accessibility and improving biodiversity.
- The culmination of several years' support (both expertise and funding) to Green Social Prescribing in the development of an online 'match making service' for both practitioners and the public, increasing access to green health activities across Lothian.
- The completion of a Biodiversity Action Plan for NHS Lothian. The plan will help NHS Lothian protect and enhance the biodiversity of its estate which in turn

will support the delivery of NHS Lothian Sustainable Development Framework and NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy.

- 800 Green Health activity bags given to patients at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital bringing nature and the benefits of green health into the wards.
- The continued growth of the Green Health Network which brings together NHS Lothian staff and Third Sector partners to share work and learning to maximise benefit for patients, staff and the wider community.
- Greenspace enhancements including the Chalmers Centre, the SMART Centre, Lauriston Buildings and several at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital including an accessible pathways project were completed creating usable, calming and biodiverse spaces for patients, staff and the public.
- Maintaining the Green Flag at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, continuing to be the only NHS Board to hold an award.

Impact in Action:

- "The workshop made me more relaxed and able to take on the afternoon." – Staff member, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, attending Green Health workshop
- "I loved being introduced to new ways of using nature to improve my mental and physical wellbeing when at work." – Staff member, Western General Hospital
- "Thank you, I really enjoyed that and really enjoyed the companionship. Much better than sitting in my room." – Patient, Western General Hospital, Green Health workshop
- "The practice has made me feel a bit less anxious, less occupied with unhelpful thoughts and less detached from myself; feeling more grounded." – Staff member, Western General Hospital, Green Health workshop
- "Yeah, it's almost like, you know, it's almost like a little mini allotment and there's always somebody here doing something. You could take a walk through the park yourself or go down... but then you're by yourself, you're not having that social interaction." – Service user, The Access Place
- "I just feel better and calmer when I'm here in the garden." – Patient, Royal Edinburgh Hospital



Reception



Volunteering

Our support enables NHS Lothian's Voluntary Services Team to run a thriving programme that equally benefits patients, visitors, staff, and volunteers. This mutual benefit is crucial for attracting committed volunteers from all age groups, to provide valuable practical assistance across NHS Lothian's acute and community hospitals, as well as within the community while the volunteers themselves gain skills, experience and confidence.

Committed volunteers make a weekly contribution as Welcome Guides, Befrienders, Drivers, Trolley Volunteers and Emergency Department Volunteers with the biggest cohort of volunteers taking on the role of Ward Helper combining socialisation with patients with practical support for staff.

Highlights in 2024/25 include:

- Over 1,000 volunteer placements filled for the whole year, providing over 150,000 hours of volunteer support to NHS Lothian's patients, staff and visitors.
- The launch of the Meaningful May programme for young people aged 16-25 who face barriers to volunteering, employment and making connections through which 20 volunteers contributed 725 hours of support to NHS Lothian.
- A reinvigorated volunteering programme at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital has brought significant benefit to the hospital community. Hospital patients contributed approximately 1,000 volunteer hours to support the hospital and their fellow patients aiding their recovery through confidence building, communication and interpersonal skill development, and meaningful activity. Public volunteers supported patients one to one to explore personal interests such as gardening, studying or board games and also provided practical support in the wards or supporting the services regular gardening and craft groups for patients.
- Across Lothian, the Voluntary Services Team worked closely with Canine Concern to increase the provision of Therapets and facilitate engagement by patients and staff.

- Emergency Department Volunteers got a special mention in the department's external inspection with their thoughtful support and warm welcome being praised.

Impact in Action:

- "The extra time with patients is beneficial to their mental/emotional health." – Volunteer
- "I developed new goals for my future career." – Meaningful May Volunteer
- "Allows staff members to fully concentrate with patients without having interruptions." – Volunteer
- "My language is better since volunteering. I am more confident. Also, I liked the work and it meant I was very organised. I think it helped me get my job now." – Volunteer
- "Volunteering gives me a purpose and some focus to my day. It makes a change to do something, rather than just sit and watch tv in your room. It's good, I enjoy it." – Royal Edinburgh Hospital, Inpatient Volunteer

- "Made me feel welcome. I felt I could start speaking again. It was gorgeous. The feeling stays with me." – Patient supported by volunteers and Therapets

Volunteering gives me a purpose and some focus to my day."

I developed new goals for my future career."



Staff Wellbeing

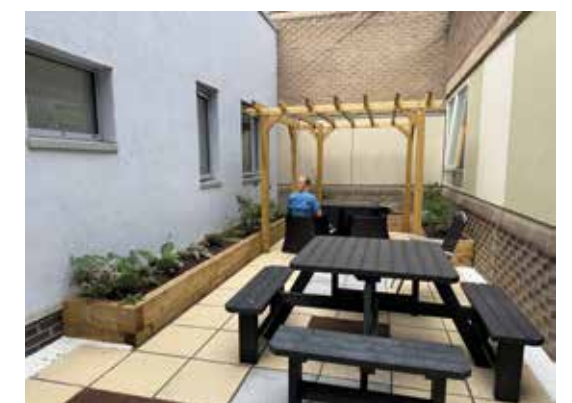
The ability of NHS Lothian staff to deliver high-quality, compassionate care to patients, visitors, and each other depends on their own wellbeing. With 26,000 employees across 147 sites, including hospitals and GP practices, NHS Lothian and NHS Lothian Charity recognise that every staff member plays a crucial role in achieving its objectives, acknowledging the vital contributions of both frontline staff, like doctors and nurses, and essential support staff, such as administrators and managers.

Our support allows NHS Lothian to implement its ambitious Work Well strategy that aims to proactively raise awareness of and support staff to address the increasingly well understood impact of health care work and wellbeing for both individuals and services. In addition, we support a number of other initiatives in response to staff needs through both grants as well as our Green Health and Tonic Arts programmes.

Highlights in 2024/25 include:

- Continued support to NHS Lothian's Staff Psychological Support Service which supported over 500 staff experiencing psychological distress or trauma through therapy.
- Provision of a dedicated staff income maximisation service. 29 staff were supported to address financial concerns through this service and a further 79 through the generic provision.
- Support for NHS Lothian's Celebrating Success Awards which recognise staff and volunteers who embrace and exemplify NHS Lothian's values of care and compassion, dignity and respect, quality, teamwork and openness, honesty and responsibility.
- Supporting the implementation of the Work Well strategy including 200 managers participating in a Leading Well for Staff Wellbeing course, supporting women's health through education and awareness sessions for managers and the pilot of M-boxes which provide emergency items for female staff coping

 I have a coffee or lunch in the courtyard, especially if sunny. It's a lovely space to relax."



with menstruation or menopause and a cup of kindness campaign promoting gratitude in the workplace.

- Enhancement of both indoor and outdoor spaces supported by our Tonic Arts and Green Health programmes to improve staff wellbeing and encourage the taking of vital breaks.

Impact in Action:

- "I have a coffee or lunch in the courtyard, especially if sunny. It's a lovely space to relax." – Staff member, Staff wellbeing courtyard led by the Green Health programme team.
- "We used to sit by the lifts for our breaks and we got no down time as visitors or patients would ask us questions." – Staff member, Staff wellbeing space supported by the Tonic arts programme team
- "It's a lot more comfy... Nice colour scheme so I take a lot more breaks here than before. Nice to sit down and chat to colleagues." – Staff member, staff breakroom supported by the Tonic Arts programme team



Health Inequalities (Income Maximisation)

Health inequities are rooted in social inequalities”

World Health Organisation

Our support of the income maximisation programme enables NHS Lothian to proactively mitigate poverty’s impact on patient health.

The hospital-based service sees expert advisors meet with patients and families, offering bedside consultations at the Western General Hospital, St John’s Hospital, Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, Royal Hospital for Children and Young People and East Lothian and Midlothian Community Hospitals. Consultations are used to assess financial situations and prevent future hardship through timely submissions for welfare benefit support. In cases of immediate need, our funded Hardship Grants of up to £200 are available for essential costs.

In addition to the financial benefit and the resulting longer-term impact on health, the service reduces stress and anxiety for both patients and carers, helps them feel heard, valued and supported at what is often a time of great change and is always a time of concern.

Impact in Action:

- *This year, the Service has supported over 1,000 patients and over 500 carers gaining approximately £100,000 additional income for individuals. In addition to income maximisation support, the expert advisors also provided information and advice about Powers of Attorney/guardianship, housing, debt, community care and utilities. Referrals were made to multiple sources of support including Local Authorities, food banks, fuel banks and carers support services.*

Research, Development and Innovation

Beyond the funding of research, innovation, and development through grants, we have made a five-year strategic commitment to Simulation and Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards.

Simulation

Simulation allows for safe, realistic training of essential skills and procedures, benefitting both patients and NHS Lothian staff of all disciplines. Our investment supports NHS Lothian’s goal of integrating simulation-based education into all acute departments, ultimately improving patient care across the region.

Clinical Academic Research Gateway Awards

This innovative programme, offered in partnership with six of Scotland’s leading universities, offers Nurses, Midwives, Pharmacy Professions, Psychologists and Allied Health Professionals employed by NHS Lothian five different funded research opportunities.

Eight new NHS Lothian staff benefitted from support from the Research Gateway Awards this year, while 11 participants of the previous cohort finished their awards with several securing external funding to further their research careers.

Strategic Capital Investment

We have traditionally supported improvements to buildings and equipment responsively through the specific funds. 2023/24 saw a shift to a more strategic and proactive approach, allocating a significant annual budget from the General Fund.

This year, we continued to work closely with NHS Lothian. Through this collaborative process, NHS Lothian Charity provided support to Trolley Storage at the Western General Hospital, Spirometer for children’s respiratory services, an ultrasound machine for the Regional Infectious Diseases Unit (RIDU), additional consultation rooms to facilitate cancer research trials and a wayfinding project.

Guest Wi-Fi

We invest £100,000 to support enhanced free guest Wi-Fi. This investment allows patients, visitors and staff to access free Wi-Fi on their personal devices. This enhances patient and carer experience by allowing individuals to stay in contact with family members or work, allows for easier coordination of arrangements e.g. transport to appointments or items required for discharge, and provides distraction which can soothe and calm e.g. eBooks, videos, or puzzles. Staff also frequently access the Wi-Fi and this supports wellbeing allowing them to manage domestic affairs or access entertainment while on their breaks.

“I was admitted to hospital unexpectedly for the first time in 40 years and have made extensive use of the free Wi-Fi over the weekend. I just wanted to say thanks for providing such a good service and being able to keep in touch with friends and family was really helpful to my well-being and theirs. The quality of service was excellent too.” – Patient

Equality and Human Rights

We have made a commitment to support NHS Lothian to implement its Equality and Human Rights strategy over the next 5 years. In 2024/25 we made a grant of £23k towards this work. The strategy supports NHS Lothian to improve the health of everyone in Lothian so that;

- **Everyone** lives a longer, healthier life, with better outcomes from our care and treatment.
- **Everyone** has access to health and social care services that are connected seamlessly, wrapping around them in their home or homely setting.
- **Everyone** experiences better support and care as we improve our performance across our system, including people who work for and with us.

Our investment supports vital engagement with those communities that face the most health inequalities, who find it most difficult to engage with services or who are least likely to have a voice to ensure they are heard and their needs addressed.

Grants and Funds

Beyond our strategic programmes, we provide financial grants (£50–£250k) to enable NHS Lothian colleagues at all levels to realise projects that enhance patient care and experience, improve patient clinical outcomes and wellbeing, support staff professional development and wellbeing, reduce health inequalities and improve community health.

To respect the wishes of donors who are often motivated by personal experiences or the memory of loved ones, we maintain designated and restricted funds. At the end of 2024/25, we were managing 369 funds. These funds support a range of initiatives, including equipment acquisition, patient amenities, facility improvements, and staff development.

In 2024/25, we sought to increase spend from the specific funds to ensure that donors wishes were promptly addressed. We implemented a significant promotional campaign to raise awareness of the opportunities, proactively sought proposals and matched ideas with funds, while streamlining application and approval processes to facilitate quick turnaround.

In 2024/25, £2,272k was received to the restricted and designated funds in voluntary income with £3,584k being spent from these funds. 74 grant applications over £1k were assessed and approved this was complemented by direct purchasing and education spend valued at under £1k authorised by fund stewards.

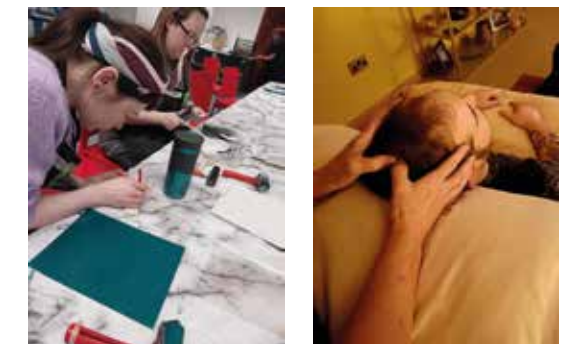
Examples of activities funded include:

- £50k to support a Pleural Nurse Specialist at St John's Hospital
- £130k to develop a roadmap to address the unmet psychosocial needs of breast cancer patients
- £5k for a VERA Machine to support the information and advice needs in Midlothian
- £9k for the development of an app to support patients with brain fog/cognitive symptoms
- £85k to support a Renal Young Adult Worker for two years
- £16.5k for point of care testing in family planning services

- £12k for a chargebox to facilitate mobile phone charging in ICU
- £3.2k for playroom renovation at St John's Hospital

Impact in Action:

- *"I feel I now allow more pauses in communication which parents often fill with greater detailed responses. This allows for me to build quicker rapport and provide a better, more efficient service."* – Clinical staff member who attended group training funded by a specific fund
- *"The therapist massaged my neck, arms, head and feet, for the first time in a long time I felt less pain"* – Patient who received complementary therapy
- *"A useful day to connect with peers and counterparts from across unscheduled care landscape, as well as the opportunity to hear a variety of speakers and discuss solutions and shared issues."* – Staff participant in a group training day funded by a specific fund
- *"I can't explain how much the bunnies have helped out family through this difficult time."* – Bereaved family member who received a pair of 'grief bunnies'





Grants

In recognition that some areas of NHS Lothian's Services and staff team attract more donations than others, our grants programme is designed to complement the designated and restricted funds, providing opportunities for patients and staff where funds are not available.

Work began in 2024/25 to ensure a better dovetailing of the multiple funding streams to simplify the application process and maximise impact for all patients and staff.

Small Grants

Grants of up to £5,000 for items or activities that will directly benefit patients, improving clinical outcomes or enhancing experience either in hospital or accessing community-based health care services. 55 grants totalling £117,000 were awarded. Examples of items funded include:

- £1.6k recliner chair for oncology patients
- £500 for a digital information screen for a GP practice
- £120 for board games for mental health patients
- £5k for a RITA Machine for Midlothian Community Hospital

- £5k for community pain management sessions
- £2.3k for Wi-Fi infrastructure allow service users at Spital Street Clinic to access free Wi-Fi

Impact in Action: Staff Feedback

- *"I predict this will benefit hundreds of patients in our department over the next few years."*
- *"The parents wouldn't have been able to attend without the crèche facility so I'm massively grateful as they are in much need of support."*
- *"Using this equipment as early as possible enabled my patients to promote symmetrical posture and comfort and reduce pain. It also prevented secondary issues such as hip dislocation, reduced lung function and reduced pressure on the skin."*
- *"We can see how happy children are when they come here and how they now have a positive experience and that in turn makes our jobs easier."*
- *"Staff are more motivated as they feel like they can better engage with patients who are in distress, as they now have a variety of tools to use."*

Patient Hardship Grants

Hospital visits can create significant financial burdens for patients and their families, often coinciding with sudden changes in their life situation and long-term financial prospects. While challenging in any circumstance, the current cost-of-living crisis has exacerbated this, leading to extreme hardship for even more people. To provide support, in collaboration with Public Health, we have provided 69 emergency hardship grants totalling £8,635 to alleviate immediate financial crises, while the Income Maximisation Service addresses longer-term issues.

Christmas Grants

Despite the tireless efforts of hospital staff, the holiday season can be particularly difficult for patients and their families. To ease this burden, especially during the heightened pressures of Christmas, Christmas Grants aim to bring festive cheer to wards and departments. This year, we distributed almost £93,000 across 201 wards and departments benefitting over 20,500 patients through decorations, gifts, and festive treats organised by dedicated NHS Lothian staff.

Impact in Action: Staff Feedback

- *"Some of the patients are a bit depressed and disappointed by being in hospital over the Christmas period, they are so surprised and cheered up by decorations and presents."*
- *"One patient cried when we gave him his gift he was so grateful. He appreciated that we took the time to buy him something. It opens up the opportunity for patients to chat with staff and other patients."*
- *"This Christmas was especially difficult with very poorly patients from the flu outbreak being able to give them gifts made them feel valued."*

Climate Challenge Grants

In line with NHS Lothian Charity's commitment to climate action and, as signatories of the Association of Charities' Funder Commitment on Climate Change, we are actively supporting NHS Lothian in tackling environmental challenges. Our Climate Challenge Grants, up to £5,000, are designed to fund projects that reduce

carbon emissions, increase recycling, minimise waste, or enhance biodiversity. These projects all support NHS Lothian to deliver its Sustainable Development Framework and Action Plan, moving towards sustainable healthcare. In addition, the grants are supporting improved patient experience, staff wellbeing and professional development as well as saving money. We have awarded 11 grants totalling £55,000. Examples of items funded include:

- £2.5k for sustainable tourniquets
- £4k towards a reusable cup deposit scheme
- £4.5k to create an accessible outdoor space for patients of the Ritson Clinic
- £5k for a recovery garden for substance users

Impact in Action: Staff Feedback

- *"We have reduced the number of disposable theatre drapes on standard sterile packs from six to four."*
- *"When a clinician returns from a visit on the ebike they are always in a happy, positive mood and give positive feedback about the bike."*
- *"The change provides an overall improvement for patients, a significant reduction in single use plastic and even a slight reduction in cost."*

Elsie Inglis Grants

Recognising that staff development is vital to improving health and patient care in the Lothians, we support the Elsie Inglis Grants. Administered by NHS Lothian's Workforce Development Team, these grants empower individuals and teams to enhance their skills and knowledge. This year, £8,353 was awarded, supporting two teams and 14 individuals.

Staff Wellbeing Microgrants

We provide microgrants to NHS Lothian teams, enabling them to directly support staff wellbeing through practical items and activities, aligning with the Work Well strategy. Administered by the Human Resources & Organisational Development Team, £9,588 funded 23 grants for things like wellbeing resources, improved staff spaces, and a relaxation programme.



Evaluating Impact

As a service provider and a funder, we have a responsibility to ensure that we understand the difference that the donors' contributions, and the time and energy of colleagues makes, and to apply that understanding as we move forward ourselves and to share with our strategic partner, NHS Lothian, so they too can apply it.

In 2024, to improve our evaluation work, our newly appointed Evaluation Manager developed and published an Evaluation Framework that details our approach and commitment to insightful and thorough evaluation.

Our Approach to Evaluation

Our approach is one of person-centred, impact focussed evaluation that is appropriate and proportionate to the intervention and funding provided. We seek to put patients, families and staff experience, and the difference intervention makes for them, at the heart of our evaluation.

Additionally, our approach is project specific and tailored to the outcomes that a specific intervention set out to achieve while allowing space to capture unintended outcomes wherever possible.

Impact Against Priority Objectives

Measuring impact against our objectives helps us understand if the interventions funded, and programmes directly delivered, are supporting our goals of enhancing experience and care for patients in hospital and in their communities and have a positive impact on health in Lothian.

We recognise that interventions can significantly impact more than one of our priority objectives:

- Improved clinical outcomes for patients
- Enhanced patient and carer experience
- Improved staff wellbeing and professional development
- Improved community health/reduced inequality

We have developed tools to capture qualitative and quantitative data about outcome indicators as well as outputs.

Learning

The Impact Reports produced this year tell us that:

- Crèche facilities, funded by Small Grants to enable parents to attend a therapeutic group in Midlothian, played a vital role in improving community health and reducing inequality. For many families, this essential childcare was the only way they could participate, leading to better clinical outcomes for patients and a more positive experience for both patients and their carers.
- Improvements to the Oncology Registrars workspace and to staff rooms across the Western General Hospital supported by specific funds resulted in significant improvement to staff wellbeing and improved team morale.
- The enhancement of two outdoor courtyard spaces at Woodlands House (Astley Ainslie Hospital) and Lauriston Buildings, made possible by Small Grants and the collaborative efforts of our Green Health programme and the NHS Lothian Work Well team, has had a significant positive impact on staff wellbeing by providing valuable spaces for staff to rest and recharge during breaks. Importantly, because these spaces are also accessible to patients and their families, the project has equally enhanced the patient and carer experience.
- Specific funds supported 'Sharing The News' training which improved staff professional development and wellbeing and improved patient and carer experience.
- Our Tonic Arts programme of Festival Fridays significantly enhanced the experience of patients and carers. The positive impact extended to staff who were also in attendance, demonstrably improving their feeling of wellbeing. For many in the audience, these performances marked their first experience with such art forms, thereby playing a role in reducing inequalities in access to the arts.

Additionally, Impact Reports on Christmas Grants funding 2024, Small Grants 2022-2024 and Climate Challenge Grants 2022-2024 told us of significant impact across all four Priority Objectives.

We learned of additional impacts from some reports:- the RITA Impact Report provided evidence of decreased patient stress and distress, reduced the use of medications and increased nutritional intake and the Point of Care Device introduced in the Same Day Emergency Care (SDEC) unit reduced waiting times for patients and reduced the need for some medications, resulting in a significant reduction in spend for the department.


Volunteer Development

We deliver and fund hundreds of interventions a year supporting thousands of patients and families and tens of thousands of NHS Lothian staff. While we cannot capture the impact for everyone, we are eager to understand the impact for as many people as possible. To support us with this, we are delighted to have recruited and trained a team of nine volunteers who have generously given their time throughout the year to gather data through guided conversations with patients, staff and visitors.

Thank you very much to them all for their dedication and commitment.

Impact in Action

- 86% of staff awarded a Climate Challenge Grant reported their behaviours relating to sustainability/ mitigating climate crisis changed as a result of their project
- 100% of staff reported an improvement in their physical wellbeing after attending a course of online Scottish Ballet sessions delivered as part of NHS Lothian Charity's Tonic Arts programme

 **My mind is usually thinking about my illness. This massage eased that and helped me relax."**

Palliative care patient in East Lothian on receiving complimentary therapy funded by specific funds



Plans for 2025/26

During 2025/26 we will be continuing to deliver on our five-year Strategic Plan

Priority Objectives:

specific changes we want to see for our beneficiaries

- Enhanced patient and carer experience**
 We will continue to support the patient throughout their entire journey arc through investing in the physical environment, the provision of non-clinical services and digital enhancements.
- Improved clinical outcomes for patients**
 Supporting patients' health and wellbeing also takes the form of investing in state-of-the-art equipment and clinical innovation, and clinical research and facilities, and we will continue to invest in those areas.
- Improved staff wellbeing and professional development**
 We believe that the wellbeing of our NHS colleagues, who deliver outstanding care for their patients, is critical: a well cared for staff cares well. We remain committed to investing in staff wellbeing, training and professional development.
- Improved community health and reduced health inequality**
 Our vision of making healthcare better, together supports patients through their healthcare journey, and our continued investment in the hospital-based Income Maximisation Service and NHS Lothian's Equality and Human Rights Strategy will underpin our work in this area. We also plan to invest additionally in the health prevention agenda.

Enabling factors:

What needs to be in place to achieve our objectives and final goal

- Effective Relationships**
 We will continue to engage with our strategic partners NHS Lothian, the wider health and care system and other local and national sector leaders to ensure we are able to support and deliver key projects that enhance the patient experience.
- Impact Evaluation**
 Our published evaluation framework provides the basis for an increasing number of impact reports which will continue to provide learning and evidence of what works, inform decision making, and drive positive change.
- Increased Resources**
 Continued diversification of our fundraised income, and stability in the management of our endowment will increase our capacity to positively impact and enhance the patient experience.
- Engaged, effective staff**
 We will continue to invest in our staff, to support their wellbeing, learning and personal development. Maintaining engagement and staff satisfaction levels (iMatter) and appraisal and training levels (TURAS) are just two indicators of our commitment to the team.
- Raised profile**
 Charity hubs at all major acute hospital sites, 'touchpoints' where our funding impacts the patient experience, and an expanding presence across all digital and social platforms.
- Effective governance & management**
 Continued development of our governance structures will enhance Trustee understanding and engagement and prepare the ground for future strategic planning.



Fundraising



Every single person who donates, fundraises or leaves a legacy in their Will has a personal reason or connection to the people and services of the NHS. It is our absolute honour to work alongside our donors and supporters and help them say #ThankYouNHS in a way that is meaningful to them. Our NHS colleagues are grateful for the thoughts and support they receive.

Our NHS colleagues have really got behind their official charity and have taken part in fundraising events, helped raise awareness and become ambassadors across NHS Lothian sites and services. We are always grateful for their support, guidance and expertise. This year we launched a Staff Lottery for NHS Lothian staff and are delighted by its popularity. We are pleased that we could offer this across all NHS Lothian staff and sites; it is a pleasure to make the calls to the winners each month. Our particular thanks to Unison Lothian Health for their support of the Staff Lottery and our other fundraising events, helping to make them the success that they are. We would also like to give thanks to the Voluntary Services Team for placing our posters, banners and other materials across the sites. These have been key to our

increase in event place sign ups and brand awareness over the year.

We have further increased our on-site presence to better connect with patients, families, visitors and staff. Charity vinyls have been installed in the Anne Ferguson Building at the Western General Hospital and cashless donation points have been introduced in several sites, making it easier for patients, families, visitors and staff to connect and engage with us at a time when our support is most relevant. We will roll these out to further sites over the coming year, with the next focus being the Edinburgh Cancer Centre.

The launch of The Kelpies Experience event caused much excitement to our supporters and fundraisers. This is a brand-new event in Scotland and we were honoured to be one of the first charities to be able to offer this to our supporters.

We are forever grateful for our dedicated fundraisers including our fundraising groups Eyecare, BCI (Breast Cancer Institute) and FACE (Fighting Against Cancer Edinburgh) for devoting their time and enthusiasm to raise money and make

a difference to NHS Lothian patients, visitors and staff. Their activities have inspired many donations and support and we would like to specifically thank Mrs Carolyn Wilson and Mr Richard Middlemass for their individual support of BCI.

We would also like to say thank you to the many businesses, trusts and groups who made financial and non-financial donations to support our patients, their families and staff. We were delighted that so many companies and organisations partnered with us. With special thanks to:

- Action on Asbestos
- Amey
- Berwickshire Charity Truck Run
- Caledonian Horticulture
- CDA Group
- Creative Scotland
- Dentons
- Diligenta
- Enterprise Mobility
- FreeAgent
- GI Cancer Care
- Kennedy Wilson/CBRE/Waverley Gate Tenants
- Mariner Bar
- Medtronic
- Motability Operations

- NHS Charities Together
- RMF Health
- Robertson Group
- Starbucks
- The Blackford Trust
- The Blythe Family Trust
- Unison Lothian Health
- William Dawson Trust
- William Purves Funeral Director

The NHS has been there for me in treating my cancer. I am supporting them so they can be there for others"

Secret Santa Appeal Donor 2024.

Financial Review

Overview

The Charity's fund balances at 31 March 2025 were £85.806m (2023/24 £89.585m). The investment portfolio struggled in the latter part of 2024/25 with losses of £1.542m affecting the closing funds balance at the end of the year.

The Charity's income in 2024/25 was £4.849m (2023/24 £4.581m), and expenditure was £7.131m (2023/24 £6.923m).

Income

Income in 2024/25 showed an increase overall on 2023/24 income levels. Income from donations and legacies as well as the new staff lottery introduced during the year totalled £2.600m (2023/24 £2.298m) for the year. Income specifically from major donors this year increased by £201k thanks in part to an anonymous donation of £100k. Community and Events income has also increased on last year at £207k (2023/24 £168k). We have seen a greater number of sign ups this year to various fundraising events we offer, for example The Edinburgh Marathon Festival.

The Charity's net outgoing resources, after investment losses of £1.542m were £3.824m (2023/24 net incoming resources were £3.902m).

Expenditure

In 2024/25 Trustees approved £5.491m in charitable grants. Some highlights are described across pages 12–27 with further examples on nhslothiancharity.org

Costs of Raising Funds

Investment management costs of £0.460m were slightly lower than in the prior year due the lower portfolio value at the year end. (2023/24 £0.498m).

Fundraising costs of £0.561m (2023/24 £0.526m) as a percentage of income were 21.6% (2023/24 22.9%). We continue to develop fundraising capacity in order to create sustainable income levels and maintain charitable expenditure over the long term; while the percentage is lower than prior year, fluctuations in income and expenditure will mean this figure will vary however the percentage is comparable to other NHS Charities.

Balance Sheet

The Charity's net assets decreased to £85.806m (2023/24: £89.585m) mainly as a result of the losses on the investment portfolio.

Performance Going Forward

We will continue to build on the progress the Fundraising team has already made in order to expand our reach to further donors. The introduction of the staff lottery in the year has proved very successful to date and has helped replace some of our on-site cash donations.

The Investment Committee will continue to work with Cazenove to ensure we receive the best return on our money.

Our internal audit reviews in 24/25 gave Trustees assurance in their governance framework and activities going forward.

Reserves Policy

Our policy is to hold investment reserves of 20% of the valuation of the investment portfolio to manage the impact of valuation changes on the capacity of the Charity to support expenditure on grants.

During the year total reserves reached a peak of 34.3%, which was at 31 July 2024. The value of the portfolio remained steady for the following months and a distribution of £8.087m was paid out to the funds in December 2024. Markets have of course been volatile in the final few months of the financial year however reserves remain above the 20% threshold as noted below.

The balance of investment reserves (realised and unrealised) at 31 March 2025 was £18.295m (31 March 2024: £27.923m), at 21.28% above the Charity's acceptable risk threshold of 20% of the valuation of the portfolio. We will continue to review the situation in the markets with Cazenove Investment Managers and the Investment Committee.

The Charity commits to spending 5% of the general fund every year, based on a rolling average of the last 3 years general fund balance. This ensures that the general fund will not be fully spent down and allows the Charity to continue in operation including supporting major redevelopments at NHS Lothian that may extend over a number of years. These large commitments can create significant variations in expenditure

from one year to the next, with some years requiring large amounts to be held in redevelopment funds/reserves in anticipation of large scale upcoming projects.

Investment Performance

Investment valuations saw a decline at the end of the year due to heightened volatility in global market as a result of global policy announcements around trade tariffs. In contrast to most of the year, technology-orientated names at the fore-front of artificial intelligence were amongst the top detractors from our portfolio. Similar to last year, the healthcare sector investments featured amongst the portfolio’s top contributors.

The portfolio generated a return of 0.1%, below the benchmark of 3.9% for the year; and is 6.4% below the benchmark over 3 years. Since inception, the portfolio is below the benchmark by 9.0%. As noted previously the portfolio suffered at the end of the financial year due to global policy.

The Sustainable Multi-Asset Fund (SMAF) has returned 51.5% since inception which contrasts with the inflation plus 4% target per annum. As well as achieving the financial objectives the Fund invests in companies that create a measurable positive impact for people and planet, generating four times the social benefit and 71% lower carbon footprint than global equities.

Table 1: NHS Lothian Charity Investment Performance Summary FY2024/25

	Benchmark asset allocation (%)	Allocation as at 31 March 2025 (%)	Performance as at 31 March 2025 (%)	Allocation as at 31 March 2024 (%)	Performance as at 31 March 2024 (%)
Portfolio	100	100	0.1	100	10
CPI + 4%	-	-	6.7	-	7.4
Benchmark*	-	-	3.9	-	13.2
Equities	75	69.0	0.2	69.9	20.0
Composite Equity Benchmark***	-	-	4.9	-	15.6
Bonds	10	9.8	-0.2	10.1	3.0
FTA Gov All Stocks	-	-	-1.2	-	0.0
Multi-Asset Funds	-	-	-	-	-
Alternatives (exc. Multi-Asset)	13	19.1	3.4	18.6	-10.6
UK 3-month LIBOR	-	-	5.1	-	5.1
Cash	2	2.1	-	1.4	-

All performance figures are net of Investment Management costs. Benchmark asset allocation are set within our Investment Policy and mandate.

*Composite Benchmark from 1st July 2021: 60% MSCI AC World, 20% FTA Govt All Stocks, 20% SONIA

Between 1st April 2014 – 30th June 2021: 45% MSCI World, 15% MSCI Emerging Markets, 20% FTA Govt All Stocks, 20% UK interbank rate 3M (LIBOR to SONIA on 1st Jan 20), ***Composite equity benchmark from 1st July 2021: 100% MSCI AC World

Between 1st April 2014 – 30th June 2021: 75% MSCI World, 25% MSCI EM

Common Investment Scheme

The Trustees participate, under a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the Trustees of Lanarkshire Health Board Endowment Fund, in a Common Investment Scheme. The objects of Lanarkshire Health Board Endowment Fund are the advancement of health which is aligned with those of NHS Lothian Charity. Only the Charity’s share of the Common Investment Scheme assets is included in the balance sheet under investments. A separate balance sheet is maintained for Lanarkshire Health Board Endowment Fund’s share of the portfolio. Safe custody of the investment assets is provided through the use of Investment Managers.

The Common Investment Scheme portfolio was valued at £89.752m at 31 March 2025 (2023/24: £92.693m) of which £84.853m related to the Charity (2023/24: £87.791m).

Investment Policy

The investment objective is to maximise the “total return” (i.e. aiming to achieve an investment return through both income and capital growth) within moderate parameters of risk, and to maintain the real capital value of the portfolio over the long term.

The investment target is to achieve an annual rate of return (i.e. incorporating an allowance for inflation) of CPI +4%. The Trustees have agreed not to set a specific annual income target.

The Trustees have agreed to a moderate tolerance of risk, accepting that at times this will mean accepting short or medium-term declines in capital values.

Trustees have considered the cost and risk implications of constructing a portfolio from a blend of directly held securities and pooled funds, and have concluded that this route is appropriate given the Charity’s specific requirements, particularly with respect to ethical and responsible investment, which cannot be met with sufficient proximity by pooled funds alone.

Ethical and Responsible Investment

During 2024/25 Trustees continued to review their policy with regard to their duties and guidance on ethical and responsible investment, and believe that responsible investment can enhance long-term portfolio performance. In particular, capturing investment opportunities driven by environmental, social and governance (ESG) integration and active ownership may have a material positive impact on investment returns and risks. The Charity has a published Ethos statement in relation to ESG including a target of 2050 to achieve net zero in our investment portfolio.

The Investment Manager is encouraged to take an active approach to engagement in these areas when considering both existing and prospective investments.

Trustees also encourage their investment manager to discharge their responsibilities in accordance with current best practice including the UK Stewardship Code, and the UN Principles of Responsible Investment.

The Trustees maintain the following investment restrictions, which would be in direct conflict with the Charity’s objectives:

- No direct investments in companies involved in tobacco production, distillers of alcoholic beverages, armaments, fossil fuels or gambling related companies. Screened at 10% of revenue.
- Underlying securities of pooled funds are screened prior to acquisition for exposure to tobacco, alcohol, armaments, fossil fuels and gambling at 10% of revenue and will only be invested in if these represent less than 5% of the overall assets of the relevant fund.

The Charity also has an investment in a Sustainable Multi-Asset Fund, which mirrors the portfolio’s target return objective, risk tolerance and asset allocation strategic weightings and tactical ranges. The fund builds on Trustees’ response to responsible and ethical investment by excluding exposure to coal and tar sands, alcohol, pornography, armaments, tobacco, gambling, high interest lending and human embryonic cloning. During the year the Investment Managers attended all meetings of the Investment Committee.

Policies

The Charity is a sector leader in good governance and transparency and has developed an extensive framework of policies and procedures which are published on our website.

The **Trustee Code of Conduct** sets out the Charity's expectations of its Trustees, providing them with clear guidance as to the expected standards of behaviour, responsibilities and best practice in fulfilling their obligations to NHS Lothian Charity, and ensures consistent application of the values and ethos of the Charity by all Trustees.

Complaints Policy and Procedure

The Charity is committed to continuously improving its service to donors, supporters and members of the public, working in an open and accountable way that builds trust and respect and adheres to best practice. We always aim to treat our donors, supporters and other stakeholders with the highest level of care and respect. However, we recognise that on occasion we may not meet their expectations or our own high standards. An effective complaints management system is a proven way of maintaining and building relationships with the people on whom the Charity depends.

During 2024/25 we received one complaint which was satisfactorily addressed. (2023/24 one complaint).

The **Conflict of Interest Policy** helps the Charity identify and manage actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interest which might arise where an individual's personal or familial interests conflict with those of the Charity. Such conflicts can result in decisions or actions which are not in the best interests of the Charity, thereby damaging its reputation. A Register of Interests is updated annually, and declarations of interest are recorded at all Trustee and Committee meetings.

During 24/25 there were no material Conflicts of interest.

The **Ethical Fundraising Policy** gives stakeholders confidence in our decision-making when deciding when to accept or refuse a donation that could be deemed as potentially detrimental to the Charity or be contrary to our charitable objectives. Potential detrimental impacts to the Charity could include reputational damage that

may lead to a loss of support both in the short or long term that is outweighed by the benefit that the donation could provide. We are committed to good fundraising and the Code of Fundraising Practice.

Freedom of Information Statement

The Charity is exempt under the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 (FOISA). NHS Endowment Charities are not listed within the FOISA: Schedule 1, Part 4: The National Health Service Charities by themselves are not bound by FOISA unless they are carrying out a public function. The Charity does not fund core functions which the NHS is obliged to provide to the public, and the board of NHS Lothian does not direct the Charity's activities (i.e. what Trustees fund).

Privacy Policy

We are committed to ensuring the privacy of our donors, supporters and other stakeholders is protected. When we collect personal information, we commit to keeping this information safe. In accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018, our privacy statement sets out how we collect and use personal information, and why this is important in enabling us to fulfil our charitable objectives.

Records Management Policy (internal) Incorporating Retention and Destruction of Records Procedure

NHS Lothian is the data controller for the Charity, and we adhere to NHS Lothian's Records Management Policy. However, as a charity some of the information we receive, process and store is not covered under that policy. The purpose of this additional policy is to ensure that the records management of the Charity is in line with current legislation, regulation and guidance.

The **Policy for Treating Supporters in Vulnerable Circumstances Fairly** outlines our principles and approach for staff, Trustees and representatives to follow when engaging with supporters who may be experiencing vulnerable circumstances, treating supporters fairly and with respect, adapting our approach to meet supporters' needs and being accountable for our actions.

Whistleblowing Statement

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1988 provides protection for individuals (employees) who raise legitimate concerns about specified matters, known as qualifying disclosures. New National Whistleblowing Standards for the NHS in Scotland came into force from April 1st 2021 and cover all NHS providers. NHS Lothian is the employer of all staff who are engaged in activities relating to the operation of the Charity; the Charity is not an employer in its own right.

Use of Animals in Research Statement

Very occasionally, the Charity funds clinical studies which require the use of animals. This research is largely under the jurisdiction of academic partners, but our statement on the use of animals in research ensure that this research is aligned with best practice. That is, the principle of using animals in research, when necessary, to advance understanding and treatment of serious health conditions, where there is no alternative that can be used, and stipulating high standards of animal welfare.

The **Investment and Reserves Policies** are summarised within the Financial Review section on page 36, and the **Risk Management Policy** is described in the Principal Risks and their Management section on page 42.

The Charity's full suite of governance documents are reviewed every two years, and were last reviewed by Trustees in December 2024.

Principal Risks and their Management

To support our vision of **making healthcare better, together** we proactively work to manage and reduce risks which would impact our ability to invest in enhanced experience and care for patients in hospitals and their communities, and having a positive impact on health in Lothians.

The Charity Trustees acknowledge that efficient and effective management of risk is important in achieving its business objectives. Our Risk Management Policy reflects our commitment to sound risk management policies and practice.

Systems in place to identify and mitigate risks include:

- The redrafted Risk Management Policy was approved by Trustees in December 2024.
- Trustees set the culture of risk management and have ultimate responsibility for risk management including major decisions affecting the risk profile or exposure to risk.
- The Charitable Funds Committee acts under delegated authority of Trustees to provide an independent and objective view of the arrangements for the management of risk. The Risk Register is reviewed as a standing quarterly agenda item by the Charitable Funds Committee.
- Risk Management is delegated to the Charity Director and Senior Management Team, who are responsible for supporting the Trustees and Committees in the identification and assessment of major risks.
- The Senior Management Team oversees operational risks and are responsible for their management and evaluation in conjunction with regular review of corporate-level risks.
- Trustees' approach to risk appetite is currently to score 'target risk' as the level of risk they deem acceptable; additional controls and actions are considered in order to move residual risk closer to target risk, i.e. within agreed appetite.
- Internal audit activity (what we audit) is linked to the Charity's risk universe. Risk management processes and controls were audited in 2024 and received a moderate assurance rating.

The principal risks and management strategies are summarised below:

The Corporate Risk Register, approved in March 2024, considers risk in four categories: Governance & Management, Economic & Financial, Operational & External, and Compliance & Regulatory, across the six enablers that support the successful delivery of the corporate strategy. These are: effective relationships, impact evaluation, increased resources, engaged and

effective staff, raised profile, and effective governance and management.

The risk register considers residual risk scoring NET after controls using a 5x5 Likelihood x Impact matrix, and Trustees' level of assurance anchors assurance to the controls and risk scoring and tracking. The Corporate Risk Register currently contains ten risks; four highest scoring risks and management strategies are summarised below:

- **Risk Description: Corporate Strategy 2022-27**
We launched our ambitious five-year Strategic Plan back in 2021 and we recognise the importance of both building on our existing strengths and achievements, and at the same time keeping the strategic focus fresh and relevant. We also recognise that failure to deliver the activities outlined would present a significant risk to achieving our objectives or final goal. We raised our risk scoring during the year as we took time to review the strategy, and will continue to work to evaluate strategic progress, and review and identify any adaptations that may be required going forward.
Trustee Assurance: Low
Residual Risk: High
- **Risk Description: Engaged, Effective Staff**
Our Corporate Strategy balances Strategic Programmes and Grant making, with specialist expert staff delivering key activities and objectives. Breaks in delivery, contracting or loss of key staff to our five-year plans pose a risk to achieving our objectives. We have adopted an approach to contracting and staffing and developed a greater understanding of fixed points which will ensure the continuity of our programmes and service delivery to achieve our final goal.
Trustee Assurance: Medium
Residual Risk: High
- **Risk Description: Strategic Partnerships**
We're proud to be the official charity of NHS Lothian and also work with other partners in support of our charitable purpose. The failure of our strategic partnerships would present a significant risk to both delivery and our reputation. When we initiated a review of our current strategy, we prudently raised our risk score given that this could lead to decisions which could impact upon our partners. The strategic review is ongoing.
Trustee Assurance: Medium
Residual Risk: Medium

Structure, governance and management

Objects

NHS Lothian Charity is registered as a charity in Scotland SC007342. Our registered office is Mainpoint, 102 West Port, Edinburgh EH3 9DN.

The Charity, by virtue of its governing document the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, is constituted as a corporate Trustee, i.e. Lothian Health Board, as a corporate body, has been appointed Trustee of the Charity.

The Charity's objective is the advancement of health, through the improvement of the physical and mental health of the people of Edinburgh and the Lothians, the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of illness, the provision of services and facilities in connection with the above, and the research into any matters relating to the causation, prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness, or into such other matters relating to the health service as the Trustees see fit.

The Trustees shall observe the principle of not granting charitable funds as a substitute for a core provision, or to cover a responsibility of Lothian NHS Board which is a requirement of health and safety, employment law or a ministerial policy direction. This is in order to reduce the risk of conflict of interest between the role of Lothian Health Board and the Charity Trustees.

Trustee Appointment

All members of Lothian Health Board are appointed by Scottish Ministers. Board members become Trustees of the Charity ex officio, which leads to a consolidation requirement. Trustees collectively are an unincorporated body distinct from Lothian Health Board which indemnifies Trustees (collectively and individually) against allegations of neglect or breach in respect of their duties as Trustees.

The appointment as Trustee is legally distinct from the appointment as board members and individual board members, in their capacity as Charity Trustees, are required to meet the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005. No other individuals are permitted to be appointed to act as Trustees. Trustees who served throughout the year to 31 March 2025, except where otherwise disclosed, are listed on page 47.

Trustees receive a comprehensive induction to the Charity when they join the Board, including an induction pack which includes the Charity's Charter, Trustee Role Description and Code of Conduct, and Conflict of Interest Policy. Trustees are also invited to seminars and other development opportunities throughout the year on governance, investment and charitable funding.

Powers of Investment

The Lothian Health Board's powers of investment in its capacity as corporate Trustee of NHS Lothian Charity are principally derived from the Charity's Charter and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005:

Trustees are entitled to make any kind of investment of the endowment including a wider power to acquire stocks and shares, or heritable property. Trustees' duties before making an investment are to consider the need for diversification of investments, consider the suitability of the proposed investments, and to consider obtaining appropriate advice.

Trustees also have powers to appoint nominees (i.e. an investment manager) for the purpose of investment.

Remuneration

Trustees are responsible for the appointment of the senior officers (Higher than Agenda for Change Band 7) in accordance with NHS Scotland Agenda for Change policy framework.

Networks and Affiliations

The Charity is a member of NHS Charities Together and a founding member of the NHS Scotland Endowments Network Group, both of which promote the effective working of NHS Charities.

We are also registered with the Scottish Fundraising Standards Panel.

Trustees’ responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees’ Report and the Financial Statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). The law applicable to charities in Scotland requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which show a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the Charity for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, generally accepted accounting practice requires that the Trustees:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether the recommendations of 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 applicable accounting standards and the requirements of the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978, 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 its activities.

The Trustees are required to act in accordance with the *National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978*, within the framework of trust law. They are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records, sufficient to disclose at any time, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Charity at that time, and to enable the Trustees to ensure that, where any statements of accounts are prepared by them under section 44 of the *Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)*, 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.

Approved by the NHS Lothian Charity Trustees at their meeting held on 25 June 2025.

DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION TO AUDITORS

To the knowledge and belief of each of the persons who are Trustees at the time the report is approved:

- a) So far as the Trustee is aware, there is no relevant information of which the organisation’s auditor is unaware; and,
- b) He/she/they has taken all steps that he/she/they ought to have taken as a Trustee to make himself/herself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

A. Fleming

Andrew Fleming
25 June 2025

Craig Marriot

Craig Marriott
25 June 2025

Organisation

Trustee Board

Andrew Fleming (Chair)
Shamin Akhtar
Nadin Akta (until 19/04/24)
Philip Allenby
Eddie Balfour (from 01/05/24)
Jonathan Blazeby
Calum Campbell (until 31/05/24)
Dr Patricia Cantley
Harry Cartmill
Andrew Cogan
Prof John Connaghan CBE
Martin Connor
Jim Crombie (from 01/06/24 to 31/07/24)
Tracey Gillies
Elizabeth Gordon
George Gordon
Margaret Graham (from 01/11/24 to 13/05/25)
Prof Caroline Hiscox (from 01/08/24)
Prof John Innes
Fiona Ireland (to 06/10/24)
Stephen Jenkinson (to 31/10/24)
Katharina Kasper
Prof Amjad Khan
Peter Knight
Alison MacDonald
Kirsty MacDonald (to 31/03/25)
Craig Marriot
Prof Lorna Marson (from 16/05/24)
Angus McCann (to 31/08/24)
Tracy Anne Miller
Derek Milligan
Dona Milne
Val de Souza

Decision Making and Committees

Trustees are responsible for the general control and management of the administration of the Charity, agreeing the strategy, any policies pertinent to governance and control, annual budgets, and internal and external audit. Trustees approve the Annual Report and Financial Statements, the establishment, membership and Terms of Reference of any committee, and consider any proposal for expenditure out with the strategy and annual budget over £500k. There were four full Trustee meetings during 2024/25.

Trustees are usually served by two standing committees and three advisory groups. Both committees are chaired by a Trustee but include non-Trustee members. Both report to the full Trustee Board:

The **Charitable Funds Committee** is appointed to develop the Charity’s strategy and objectives, oversee the implementation of an infrastructure appropriate to its efficient and effective running, oversee the expenditure and investment plans, and monitor the performance of the Charity’s activities ensuring it adheres to the principles of good governance and complies with all relevant legal requirements.

The **Investment Committee** is established to oversee the Charity’s Investment Policy, the setting of appropriate benchmarks for investment performance, and the monitoring of performance against those benchmarks.

The **Ethical Fundraising Review Group** is established to oversee the acceptance and refusal of donations, gifts and partnerships in line with the Ethical Fundraising Policy.

The **Arts Advisory Group** is appointed to support delivery of the Arts in Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the ongoing programme activity.

The **Greenspace and Health Advisory Group** is appointed to support the delivery of the Greenspace and Health Strategy and the development of programmes and activities.

Senior Management Team

The senior management team is responsible for the day-to-day leadership of the Charity, the management of staff, contractors and volunteers, the delivery of our strategy and adherence to agreed policies and procedures.

Advisors

Auditors (Statutory)

CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

Auditors (Internal)

NHS Lothian
Mainpoint
102 West Port
Edinburgh EH3 9DN

Investment Managers

Schroder & Co Ltd
t/a Cazenove Capital Management
1 London Wall Place
London EC2Y 5AU

Bankers

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc
Commercial Banking
1st Floor, Gemini Building
24-25 St Andrew Square
Edinburgh EH2 1AF

Solicitors

Turcan Connell
Princes Exchange
1 Earl Grey Street
Edinburgh EH3 9EE

Senior Management Team

Jane Ferguson Director
Jane Greenacre Head of Programmes
Patricia Irving Head of Finance
Nicola Sinclair Head of Engagement

Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of NHS Lothian Charity for the year ended 31 March 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of NHS Lothian Charity (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and regulation 8 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's (FRC's) Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees’ report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees’ report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- proper accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of the Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees’ responsibilities statement set out on page 46, the trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor’s responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 44(1)(c) of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor’s Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the charity and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the charity which were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. These included but were not limited to the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their financial statements in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

We focussed on laws and regulations that could give rise to a material misstatement in the charity’s financial statements. Our tests included, but were not limited to:

- agreement of the financial statement disclosures to underlying supporting documentation;
- enquiries of management and the trustees;
- review of minutes of trustee meetings throughout the period;
- specific consideration was given to transactions with related parties; and
- obtaining an understanding of the control environment in monitoring compliance with laws and regulations

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council’s website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor’s report.

Use of our report

This report is made exclusively to the charity’s trustees, as a body, in accordance with regulation 10 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) and the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978.

Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity’s trustees, as a body, those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor’s report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



CT Audit Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditor
61 Dublin Street
Edinburgh
EH3 6NL

CT Audit Limited is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of Section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006

Financial statements
Statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	NOTE	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Income and endowments from:							
Donations and legacies	2	2,234	269	2,503	1,716	582	2,298
Other trading activities	3	97	-	97	-	-	-
Investments	4	2,249	-	2,249	2,283	-	2,283
Total		4,580	269	4,849	3,999	582	4,581
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	5	998	23	1,021	997	27	1,024
Charitable activities	6	5,320	790	6,110	4,410	1,489	5,899
Total		6,318	813	7,131	5,407	1,516	6,923
Net expenditure		(1,738)	(544)	(2,282)	(1,408)	(934)	(2,342)
Net (loss)/gain on investments		(1,542)	-	(1,542)	6,244	-	6,244
Net (expenditure)/income		(3,280)	(544)	(3,824)	4,836	(934)	3,902
Transfers between funds		288	(288)	-	211	(211)	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):							
Revaluation of investment properties		45	-	45	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,947)	(832)	(3,779)	5,047	(1,145)	3,902
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward	15	85,405	4,180	89,585	80,358	5,325	85,683
Total funds carried forward		82,458	3,348	85,806	85,405	4,180	89,585

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All results relate to continuing activities.

Notes 1 – 19 on pages 55–69 form part of these financial statements.

Financial statements
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2025

		Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
	NOTE	£000	£000
Fixed assets			
Investments			
Securities	9	84,853	87,791
Cash awaiting investment	12	1,104	207
Investment property	9	1,260	1,215
Total fixed assets		87,217	89,213
Current assets			
Debtors	11	597	175
Investments – cash on deposit	12	518	-
Cash at bank and in hand	12	546	3,123
Total current assets		1,661	3,298
Current liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,072)	(2,926)
Net current (liabilities)/assets		(1,411)	372
Total assets less current liabilities		85,806	89,585
Financed by – charity fund total			
	18	85,806	89,585
Represented By:			
Unrestricted – General Funds		51,427	53,446
Unrestricted – Designated Funds		31,031	31,959
Restricted Funds		3,348	4,180
Charity fund total	15	85,806	89,585

Notes 1 – 19 on pages 55–69 form part of these financial statements.
NHS Lothian Charity Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 were approved by the Trustees at their meeting held on 25 June 2025.

Craig Marriot

Mr Craig Marriott
Trustee

A. Fleming

Mr Andrew Fleming
Chairman of Trustees

Financial statements

Statement of cash flows for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Total funds 2025	Total funds 2024
NOTE	£000	£000
Cashflows from operating activities		
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(4,143)	(3,948)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	2,249	2,283
Proceeds from sale of property	-	-
Proceeds from sale of investments	11,747	8,719
Purchase of investments	(11,015)	(10,327)
Net cash provided by investing activities	2,981	675
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	(1,162)	(3,273)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	3,330	6,603
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	12	3,330

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

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Net (expenditure)/ income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	(3,779)	3,902
Adjustments for:		
Revaluation (gain)/loss on fixed assets	(45)	-
Revaluation loss/(gain) on investments	2,206	(6,346)
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,249)	(2,283)
(Increase)/Decrease in debtors	(422)	43
Increase in creditors	146	736
Net cash (used in) operating activities	(4,143)	(3,948)

Notes to the financial statements

Principal Accounting Policies

General Information

1.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements are presented in pounds sterling (GBP) as that is the currency in which the Charity’s transactions are denominated. They comprise the financial statements of NHS Lothian Charity. The objective of NHS Lothian Charity is the advancement of health and the promotion of physical and mental health and wellbeing of the people of Scotland. NHS Lothian Charity is an unincorporated charity, recognised as a charity for tax purposes by HMRC and registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) under charity number SC007342. Details of the principal address can be found on page 45 of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention unless otherwise specified within these accounting policies and in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 ‘The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland’ (FRS102), the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) ‘Accounting and Reporting by Charities, applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)’, published in October 2019, the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005, the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended), the National Health Service (Scotland) Act 1978 and the charity’s constitution.

NHS Lothian Charity meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires Trustees to exercise their judgement in the process of applying the accounting policies. Use of available information and application of judgement are inherent in the formation of estimates. Actual outcomes in the future could differ from such estimates. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements are disclosed in note 1.14.

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are noted below. These policies have been applied consistently to all the years presented in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the Charity’s financial statements unless otherwise stated.

Going concern

The Trustees are of the opinion that the Charity can continue to meet its obligations as they fall due for the foreseeable future. The financial position and cash-flow forecasting is reviewed on a regular basis by the Charitable Funds Committee and reported to Trustees. As a consequence, the Trustees have prepared the financial statements on a going concern basis.

Controlling entity

The financial statements are consolidated into the Lothian Health Board (operating as NHS Lothian). The basis of the consolidation is merger accounting. The financial statements are available on the website of NHS Lothian.

1.2 Income

Donations and grants are recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the resources, it is probable that the resources will be received and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is recognised when right to receipt is established.

Incoming resources are included gross of any tax recoverable.

Income that is restricted by the donor is included in an existing restricted fund that most closely matches the nature of the restriction unless it is not possible to match the donation to a fund in which case a new fund will be established. Income which has no restrictions attached is included in the general funds of the Charity.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable; this will be once confirmation has been received from the representatives of the estate(s) that payment of the legacy will be made or property transferred once all conditions attached to the legacy have been fulfilled.

Where legacies have been notified to the Charity and the criteria for income recognition haven’t been met, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material. Legacy income

is measured at fair value, generally the cash amount receivable, and is discounted if deferred for more than 12 months. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as interest receivable.

Gifts in kind are not accounted for where they will be accepted and immediately distributed as they have no realisable value.

1.3 Resources expended and recognition of liabilities

All expenditure is recognised when there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the Charity to the expenditure. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings of raising funds and charitable activities, which aggregate all costs related to the category.

The costs of generating funds are the direct costs associated with raising funds and include fundraising costs and investment management fees. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and include direct costs such as publicity and direct mailing material. Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of charitable activities.

Costs of charitable activities comprise all costs identified as wholly or mainly incurred in the pursuit of the charitable objects of the Charity. These costs, where not wholly attributable, are apportioned between the categories of charitable expenditure in addition to direct costs. The total costs of each category of charitable expenditure therefore include support costs and the apportionment of overheads, as shown in note 6.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity. These costs include costs related to statutory audit together with an apportionment of overhead and support costs.

Any irrecoverable VAT is charged to the statement of financial activities, or capitalised as part of the cost of the related asset, where appropriate. Most items of medical or scientific equipment and aids for the disabled may be zero-rated for VAT purposes when purchased wholly from charitable funds.

The Charity is not separately registered for VAT. As permitted by HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) under the NHS Contracted Out Services Regulations, VAT on relevant invoices paid from Endowment Funds is reclaimed using Lothian Health Board's own VAT registration reference. Amounts reclaimed are credited to the endowment funds which bore the costs initially.

1.4 Investments

Investments and properties are stated at fair value at the balance sheet date. The investment properties are valued on an open market basis every few years by professional surveyors, in accordance with RICS guidelines, and reviewed during interim years by the Trustees.

Quoted stocks and shares are included in the balance sheet at mid-market price, excluding dividends as this is not materially different from bid value.

Any realised gains and losses on revaluation or disposals are disclosed in the Statement of Financial Activities.

1.5 Realised and unrealised gains and losses

All 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 the carrying value (purchase date if later). Unrealised gains and losses are calculated as the difference between the fair value at the year-end and the carrying value (or purchase date if later).

1.6 Heritage assets

The Charity holds some artworks and other minor collectables. These Heritage assets are not included in the balance sheet as the cost in time and resources to obtain a full and accurate valuation would be prohibitive and wouldn't provide the reader of the financial statements with any additional information. Acquisitions and gifts of historical or other heritage value to the Charity are not generally made. The Trustees do not have any plans to dispose of heritage assets. The management of the heritage assets of the Charity are overseen by its Board of Trustees. Further details of heritage assets are in note 10.

1.7 Pensions

The Charity is a grant making charity and has no employees (Charity staff are employees of NHS Lothian); any pension contribution or taxation liabilities that may arise are solely the responsibility of the grant recipient.

1.8 Taxation

The Charity has charitable status and is exempt from income tax under Section 505 of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 and capital gains tax under Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 and the Charity is entitled to describe itself as a Scottish charity.

1.9 Funds

Unrestricted funds are income sources which are receivable for the objectives of the Charity without further specified purposes and are available as general funds.

Designated funds are unrestricted income sources which have been earmarked for a specific future purpose.

Restricted funds are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund, together with a fair allocation of management and support costs.

1.10 Accrued income

Accrued income relates to legacies and dividend income to which the Charity is entitled which has not been received at the year end.

1.11 Creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired. They are recognised at the undiscounted amount owed to the supplier, which is normally the invoice price.

1.12 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, cash balances held within the investment portfolio, balances held in commercial banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

1.13 Financial assets and financial liabilities

Financial instruments are recognised in the financial statements when the Charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial instruments are initially measured at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction which includes transaction costs for financial instruments not subsequently measured at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, they are accounted for as set out below. A financing transaction is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at the market rate of interest for similar debt instrument.

Financial instruments are classified as either 'basic' or 'other' in accordance with Chapter 11 of FRS 102.

At the end of each reporting period, basic financial instruments are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. All financial instruments not classified as basic are measured at fair value at the end of the reporting

period with the resulting changes recognised in income or expenditure. Where the fair value cannot be reliably measured, they are recognised at cost less impairment.

Financial assets are derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire, or when the Charity has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised only once the liability has been extinguished through discharge, cancellation or expiry.

Current assets and current liabilities are measured at the cash value expected to be paid or received.

1.14 Significant estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Charity makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The Charity makes judgements in applying accounting policies.

2. Donations & Legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Donations	975	39	1,014	541	545	1,086
Legacies	1,173	23	1,196	1,147	37	1,184
Grants	86	207	293	28	-	28
Total donations and legacies	2,234	269	2,503	1,716	582	2,298

3. Other Trading Activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Staff Lottery	97	-	97	-	-	-
Total other trading activities	97	-	97	-	-	-

In 2024/25 the Charity introduced a staff lottery for employees of the NHS Lothian.

4. Investment Income

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Listed equity investments	2,179	-	2,179	2,188	-	2,188
Schroder	10	-	10	9	-	9
Bank interest	25	-	25	51	-	51
Rental property	35	-	35	35	-	35
Total investment income	2,249	-	2,249	2,283	-	2,283

5. Raising Funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investment management	460	-	460	498	-	498
Fundraising costs	538	23	561	499	27	526
Total raising funds	998	23	1,021	997	27	1,024

6. Charitable Activities

The Charity did not undertake any direct charitable activities on its own account during the year. Grants were approved in favour of beneficiaries and the Charity incurred expenditure with third parties in pursuance of those grants or reimbursed expenditure incurred by beneficiaries. Support costs have been apportioned across the categories of charitable expenditure based upon the level of expenditure on grant funded activity.

An initial allocation of overhead and support costs has been made to unrestricted funds and restricted funds based on the balances on these funds at the end of the financial year, exclusive of investment properties. From this allocation, balances are then identified for governance related costs leaving a residue to be allocated and/or apportioned across all other activities, namely charitable expenditure and costs of generating funds.

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Grant Making						
Grant funding of activities (note 7)	4,727	764	5,491	3,847	1,458	5,305
Support costs (Note 8)	456	20	476	435	24	459
Governance (Note 8)	137	6	143	128	7	135
Total charitable activities	5,320	790	6,110	4,410	1,489	5,899

7. Analysis of Grants Expenditure

The Charity does not make grants to individuals. The total cost of making grants is disclosed on the face of the Statement of Financial Activities. Restricted and Designated Funds are operated on Trustees' behalf by Stewards, who may disburse grants to a designated limit of £5,000 based on the purposes of that fund.

Total grant making expenditure was £5,491k of this the following institutions received grant funding above £100,000:

	£000
Institutional Grants	
NHS Lothian	3,535
University of Edinburgh	310
Other Organisations	1,646
Total	5,491

Note 16 contains more detail on the grant making expenditure with NHS Lothian.

8. Analysis of Support & Governance Costs

	Charitable Activities	Governance costs	2025	Charitable Activities	Governance costs	2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Salaries and related costs	389	69	458	399	70	469
External Audit	-	19	19	-	19	19
Property/post/phone/other	87	55	142	60	46	106
Total	476	143	619	459	135	594

The Charity Office costs in 2024/25 totalled £619,000 (2023/24: £594,000). The majority of costs are salary related. Staff are employed by NHS Lothian and costs recharged to the Charity. The Charity does not employ anyone directly. In addition no Trustee received any remuneration or expenses from the Charity during the year (2023/24 – none).

CT Audit Services received £nil for fees for non-audit activities in 2024/25 (2023/24: £nil).

Other key expenditure items during the year relate to a SLA with NHS Lothian for financial services provision, operational website costs, legal and property costs and other office expenditure.

9. Investments

	Investment Property 2025	Market Investments 2025	Total 2025	Investment Property 2024	Market Investments 2024	Total 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cost or valuation at 31 March 2024	1,215	87,791	89,006	1,215	79,837	81,052
Acquisitions	-	11,015	11,015	-	10,327	10,327
Disposals	-	(11,747)	(11,747)	-	(8,719)	(8,719)
Revaluation gain/(loss)	45	(2,206)	(2,161)	-	6,346	6,346
Valuation at 31 March 2025	1,260	84,853	86,113	1,215	87,791	89,006

The historic cost of market investments is £75,664k (2023/24 £73,389k).

The investment properties at Hatton Place and Caledonian Road were revalued by DVS chartered surveyors in March 2025 in accordance with RICC guidelines, on an open market value basis. The properties are due to be revalued again in March 2028.

10. Heritage Assets

The Charity possesses an inventory of historical and contemporary artworks and other minor collectables which are not held for the purposes of conservation but to promote the use of arts and heritage as a therapeutic component of improving health and wellbeing for patients and visitors to NHS premises. These Heritage assets are not included in the balance sheet as the cost in time and resources to obtain a full and accurate valuation would be prohibitive and wouldn't provide the reader of the financial statements with any additional information.

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Tax recoverable	-	2
Prepayment & accrued income	597	173
Total	597	175

12. Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Cash at bank	546	3,123
Cash at investment manager	1,104	207
Notice deposits < 3 months	518	-
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,168	3,330

13. Creditors

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Creditors due within 1 year		
Accruals for grants payable	1,869	1,866
Amounts owed to group and associated undertakings (note 17)	110	379
Accruals	1,093	691
Total	3,072	2,926

14. Financial Assets and Liabilities at Fair Value Through Net (Expenditure)/Income

	2025	2024
	£000	£000
Investments at fair value (note 9)	84,853	87,791

15. Analysis of Restricted Funds

Hospital Restricted Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
St John's Hospital at Howden:						
Martha Ritchie Cancer Care Fund	248	18	(6)	-	116	376
Western General Hospital:						
WGH Neurological Surgery Fund	572	-	(227)	-	181	526
Edinburgh GI Unit Fund	85	26	(14)	-	34	131
Astley Ainslie Hospital:						
Edinburgh Physio Rehab Service Fund	117	-	(7)	-	51	161
M. M. Harkness Young Chronic Sickness Unit Fund	89	-	(2)	-	39	126
AAH LoF Rehab Services Fund	71	-	(2)	-	31	100
Roodlands Hospital:						
Harriet Connolly Fund	122	-	(11)	-	51	162
Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health:						
Gill Mitchell Wellbeing Fund	89	-	(14)	-	35	110
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh:						
CEG Wright Renal Scanner Fund	340	-	(98)	-	148	390
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People:						
Cancer Treatment Fund	93	(11)	(7)	-	41	116
Total Hospital Restricted Funds >£100k	1,826	33	(388)	-	727	2,198

Division-wide Restricted Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Share of Undistributed Investment Reserves	1,634	-	-	-	(954)	680
Total Division-wide Restricted Funds >£100,000	1,634	-	-	-	(954)	680
Other Restricted Funds less than £100,000	720	236	(425)	(288)	227	470
Total Hospital & Division-wide Restricted Funds	4,180	269	(813)	(288)	-	3,348

15. Analysis of Unrestricted Funds

Hospital Designated Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
St John's Hospital at Howden:						
Critical Care Unit (CCU) Endowment Fund	114	-	(4)	-	17	127
Oncology & Haematology Day Unit Fund	235	11	(26)	-	33	253
W. Lothian Palliative Care Fund	191	1	(14)	-	27	205
Breast Cancer Fund	170	-	(4)	-	25	191
Laser Fund	366	-	(11)	-	54	409
Western General Hospital:						
Edinburgh Cancer Centre Fund	357	22	(208)	-	45	216
Stroke Research and Amenities Fund	120	-	(3)	-	18	135
Rheumatic Diseases Unit Fund	222	-	(21)	-	33	234
Respiratory Medicine Unit Fund	165	-	(4)	-	24	185
Edinburgh Centre For Neuro-Oncology	177	1	(16)	-	24	186
Microbiological Research Fund	112	-	(9)	-	16	119
J. King Urological Cancers Research	146	1	(54)	-	15	108
Head & Neck Cancer Research Fund	219	10	(6)	-	34	257
General Oncology Department Fund	676	11	(61)	-	99	725
Diabetes Unit Fund	101	-	(6)	-	15	110
Fighting Cancer In Edinburgh	163	78	(79)	-	18	180
Colorectal Research Fund	186	1	(67)	-	28	148
Haematology Research Fund	570	-	(35)	-	84	619
Paul Abraham Molecular Laboratory Fund	257	-	(5)	-	38	290
Edinburgh Neurology Fund	436	-	(30)	-	63	469
Breast Cancer Institute Fund	214	302	(16)	-	31	531
Haematology Ward Fund	214	14	(15)	-	33	246
WGH (General Purposes) Site Fund	14	363	(97)	-	51	331
Oncology Ward Funds	159	11	(5)	-	25	190
Edinburgh Breast Unit Fund	168	10	(4)	-	26	200
Colorectal & Urology Wards	146	2	(6)	-	21	163
Royal Victoria Building:						
The Edinburgh Parkinson's Service Fund	151	-	(10)	-	22	163
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People:						
Calderwood Paediatric Cardiology Fund	223	-	(6)	-	33	250
Trastevere Fellowship Paediatric Pathology	120	-	(7)	-	18	131
Endocrine and Diabetes Fund	103	-	(8)	-	15	110
Leukaemia & Cancer Fund	535	14	(28)	-	78	599
RHCYP (Gen Purposes) Site Fund	333	2	(60)	(10)	46	311
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh:						
Kidney Transplant	313	4	(26)	-	45	336
Coronary Care Unit Fund	405	100	(10)	-	60	555
Scottish Liver Transplant Unit	337	18	(23)	-	50	382
Edinburgh Vascular Research Fund	175	(2)	(16)	-	25	182
Medical Renal Unit Fund	1,438	-	(89)	-	205	1,554
Renal Research Fund	260	-	(18)	-	39	281
Edinburgh Orthopaedics Funds	459	-	(126)	-	65	398
Cardiology Wards Fund	94	1	(5)	-	14	104
East Lothian Community Hospital:						
ELCH (General Purposes) Site Fund	18	2	(3)	95	17	129
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion:						
Treatment of Blindness & Research Fund	150	13	(6)	-	22	179
Eye Research Fund	307	190	(187)	-	67	377
Friends Eye Care Fund	260	10	(26)	-	38	282
Total Hospital Designated Funds >£100k	11,579	1,190	(1,460)	85	1,756	13,150

Division-wide Designated Funds >£100K	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Camhs Eat Diso, Rsrc & Self help	340	8	(99)	-	51	300
Edin Cancer Centre Research Fund	847	27	(135)	-	119	858
Edinburgh Heart Centre Fund	1,054	3	(95)	-	146	1,108
Edinburgh Spiritual Care Services Fund	135	-	(20)	-	17	132
Share of Undistributed Investment Reserves	12,177	-	-	-	(2,907)	9,270
Total Division-wide Designated Funds >£100,000	14,553	38	(349)	-	(2,574)	11,668
Other Designated Funds less than £100,000	5,827	778	(1,428)	218	818	6,213
Total Hospital & Division-wide Designated Funds	31,959	2,006	(3,237)	303	-	31,031

Unrestricted Funds – General Fund	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2025
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund	53,446	2,574	(3,081)	(15)	(1,497)	51,427
Total Unrestricted Funds	85,405	4,580	(6,318)	288	(1,497)	82,458

The Trustees set a closing balance of £100,000 or above as the threshold for separate reporting of material funds.

The titles of the individual unrestricted (designated) funds are indicative of the particular speciality, department, hospital or research activity that they support. They fall into two broad categories – funds received by way of legacies or substantive donations to support particular specialities/developments/ research activities. Alternatively, they are funds of a custodial nature established at the request of designated Fund Stewards and controlled by them on an operational basis, but subject to the general oversight of the Trustees.

Unrestricted (designated) funds exist for many different wards and hospitals within Lothian as well as for various diseases and illnesses. Where a donor leaves money to the Charity with a non-legally binding ‘expression of wishes’ in respect to putting the monies to a particular ward or cause and if there is already a similar designated fund in place then the donation is paid straight into that fund.

Although Investment Reserves are held for the benefit of individual General and Designated (Unrestricted) and Specific (Restricted) Funds, they are held in separate Reserve Accounts until such time as the Trustees may deem it appropriate for part or all of the reserves to be distributed to individual Funds.

There are also individual Restricted Funds where the donor’s intention was to create a separate trust that amounts to an obligation as to how the donation is to be used. Typical uses are research, patient amenities and equipment.

Transfers

There were two transactions in the year in relation to transfers between Restricted and General (Designated funds), mainly in relation to closure of funds.

15. Analysis of Restricted Funds – Year Ended 31 March 2024

Hospital Restricted Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
St John’s Hospital at Howden:						
Martha Ritchie Cancer Care Fund	204	19	(5)	-	30	248
Western General Hospital:						
WGH Neurological Surgery Fund	528	-	(34)	-	78	572
Astley Ainslie Hospital:						
Edinburgh Physio Rehab Service Fund	118	-	(18)	-	17	117
Roodlands Hospital:						
Harriet Connolly Fund	128	-	(25)	-	19	122
Simpson Centre for Reproductive Health:						
G & J Bassett Legacy Fund	272	-	(70)	-	40	242
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh:						
CEG Wright Renal Scanner Fund	302	-	(7)	-	45	340
Total Hospital Restricted Funds >£100k	1,552	19	(159)	-	229	1,641

Division-wide Restricted Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Share of Undistributed Investment Reserves	2,003	-	-	-	(369)	1,634
Total Division-wide Restricted Funds >£100,000	2,003	-	-	-	(369)	1,634
Other Restricted Funds less than £100,000	1,770	563	(1,357)	(211)	140	905
Total Hospital & Division-wide Restricted Funds	5,325	582	(1,516)	(211)	-	4,180

15. Analysis of Unrestricted Funds – Year Ended 31 March 2024

Hospital Designated Funds >£100k	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
St John's Hospital at Howden:						
Critical Care Unit (CCU) Endowment Fund	113	-	(8)	-	9	114
Oncology & Haematology Day Unit Fund	206	18	(6)	-	17	235
W. Lothian Palliative Care Fund	59	128	(1)	-	5	191
Breast Cancer Fund	149	13	(4)	-	12	170
Laser Fund	346	-	(9)	-	29	366
Western General Hospital:						
Edinburgh Cancer Centre Fund	447	12	(139)	-	37	357
Stroke Research and Amenities Fund	112	3	(4)	-	9	120
Rheumatic Diseases Unit Fund	221	-	(17)	-	18	222
Respiratory Medicine Unit Fund	157	-	(5)	-	13	165
Edinburgh Centre For Neuro-Oncology	166	2	(5)	-	14	177
Margaret Lee Oncology Fund	97	16	(3)	-	8	118
Microbiological Research Fund	107	-	(4)	-	9	112
J. King Urological Cancers Research	160	3	(30)	-	13	146
Head & Neck Cancer Research Fund	204	6	(8)	-	17	219
General Oncology Department Fund	665	21	(65)	-	55	676
Diabetes Unit Fund	96	2	(5)	-	8	101
Fighting Cancer In Edinburgh	137	90	(75)	-	11	163
Colorectal Research Fund	176	1	(5)	-	14	186
Haematology Research Fund	618	4	(103)	-	51	570
Paul Abraham Molecular Laboratory Fund	243	-	(6)	-	20	257
Edinburgh Neurology Fund	424	2	(25)	-	35	436
Breast Cancer Institute Fund	337	16	(167)	-	28	214
Haematology Ward Fund	237	8	(51)	-	20	214
Oncology Ward Funds	148	3	(4)	-	12	159
Edinburgh Breast Unit Fund	168	2	(16)	-	14	168
Colorectal & Urology Wards	133	1	1	-	11	146
Royal Victoria Building:						
The Edinburgh Parkinson's Service Fund	150	-	(11)	-	12	151
Royal Hospital for Children and Young People:						
Calderwood Paediatric Cardiology Fund	213	-	(8)	-	18	223
Trastevere Fellowship Paediatric Pathology	114	-	(3)	-	9	120
Endocrine and Diabetes Fund	101	-	(6)	-	8	103
Leukaemia & Cancer Fund	520	1	(29)	-	43	535
RHCYP (Gen Purposes) Site Fund	309	72	(74)	1	25	333
Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh:						
Critical Care Areas Fund	-	4	(10)	127	-	121
Kidney Transplant	296	11	(18)	-	24	313
Coronary Care Unit Fund	386	1	(14)	-	32	405
Scottish Liver Transplant Unit	318	4	(11)	-	26	337
Dermatology	106	-	(2)	-	9	113
Edinburgh Vascular Research Fund	170	9	(18)	-	14	175
Medical Renal Unit Fund	1,230	122	(15)	-	101	1,438
Renal Research Fund	209	48	(14)	-	17	260
Edinburgh Orthopaedics Funds	299	7	(41)	169	25	459
Princess Alexandra Eye Pavilion:						
Treatment of Blindness & Research Fund	134	13	(8)	-	11	150
Eye Research Fund	318	-	(37)	-	26	307
Friends Eye Care Fund	77	187	(10)	-	6	260
Total Hospital Designated Funds >£100k	10,876	830	(1,093)	297	895	11,805

Division-wide Designated Funds >£100K	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Dorothy Melville Bequest – Edi	133	-	(3)	-	11	141
Camhs Eat Diso, Rsrc & Selfhelp	346	8	(43)	-	29	340
Edin Cancer Centre Rsrch Fund	867	7	(99)	-	72	847
Edinburgh Heart Centre Fund	748	249	(5)	-	62	1,054
Edinburgh Spiritual Care Services Fund	128	1	(5)	-	11	135
Share of Undistributed Investment Reserves	13,738	-	-	-	(1,561)	12,177
Total Division-wide Designated Funds >£100,000	15,960	265	(155)	-	(1,376)	14,694
Other Designated Funds less than £100,000	5,817	196	(941)	(93)	481	5,460

Total Hospital & Division-wide Designated Funds	32,653	1,291	(2,189)	204	-	31,959
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Unrestricted Funds – General Fund	Balance B/fwd	Income	Expenditure	Transfer In/(Out)	Gains/ (Losses)	Balance at 31/03/2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
General Fund	47,705	2,708	(3,218)	7	6,244	53,446
Total Unrestricted Funds	80,358	3,999	(5,407)	211	6,244	85,405

16. Material Donations, Legacies or Grants

Details of all individual donations, legacies or grants of over £50,000 are listed below:

Donation/Grant to:	Donor/Legator/Grantor	Purpose	Amount
			£000
Lothian Health Board	Ian McLauchlin, deceased	WGH (General Purposes) Fund	339
Lothian Health Board	Constance Drysdale, deceased	Eye Research Fund	190
Lothian Health Board	Robert Stuart Barrie	General Fund	171
Lothian Health Board	Agnes Manning, deceased	Coronary Care Unit Fund	100
Lothian Health Board	John Sime Andrews, deceased	RHCYP (General Purposes) Site Fund	90
Lothian Health Board	Christina Mason Fyfe, deceased	Edington Cottage Wards Fund	77
Lothian Health Board	Isabella Campbell	General Fund	57
Lothian Health Board	William Hornsby, deceased	Cardio Thoracic Wards Fund	52
Total			1,076

17. Related Party Transactions

The Trustees are all executive or non-executive members of Lothian Health Board. There were no transactions with the Trustees or their related organisations during the year other than with Lothian Health Board. The Charity’s grant making transactions remitted to Lothian Health Board during the financial year amounted to £3,535,000 (2023/24 £3,270,000) (breakdown shown below). Included within income is rental income of £30,000 (2023/24 £30,000) from Lothian Health Board. As stated in note 8 the Charity does not directly employ any staff. All staff are employed by NHS Lothian on Lothian NHS Board employment contracts with a cost of £1,117,981 (2023/24 £1,097,653) charged by the Health Board to the Charity. At 31 March 2025 there was a balance outstanding of £110,047(2023/24 £379,082) payable to NHS Lothian.

Expenditure with NHS Lothian:	Amount £000
General Funds	
Capital Projects	383
Work Well	113
Volunteering	250
Research, Development and Innovation	150
Small Grants	146
Patient Wi-Fi	100
Other NHSL – small projects	41
Designated Funds	
Wigs – cancer services	130
Psychological Needs – Breast Cancer	100
Specialist dental chairs	90
Orthopaedic Research	87
Peer Support Worker	81
EVH – Cardiac Surgery	78
MAU – Buzzer System	68
Cardiac Research Nurse	62
Two Lumen eye machines	60
Other designated fund expenditure	846
Restricted Funds	
Brain lab Nodetm Server Planner	177
East Linton Modular Unit Refit	132
Additional ultrasound scanner – Renal Services	90
Best Start Community Midwifery Hubs	37
Other specific fund expenditure	314
Total grant making expenditure with NHSL	3,535

18. Analysis of Net Assets Across Funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Investment property	1,260	-	1,260	1,215	-	1,215
Investments	81,049	4,908	85,957	83,023	4,975	87,998
Net current assets	149	(1,560)	(1,411)	1,167	(795)	372
Net assets	82,458	3,348	85,806	85,405	4,180	89,585

19. Analysis of Changes in Net Debt

	At Start of Year	Cash-Flows	Foreign Exchange Mvt	Other Non-Cash Changes	Other	At End of Year
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Cash and cash equivalents	3,330	(1,162)	-	-	-	2,168
Total	3,330	(1,162)	-	-	-	2,168



“I was admitted to hospital unexpectedly for the first time in 40 years and have made extensive use of the free wifi over the weekend. I just wanted to say thanks for providing such a good service and being able to keep in touch with friends and family was really helpful to my wellbeing and theirs. The quality of service was excellent too.”

NHS Lothian Patient



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nhslothiancharity.org



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