

Community Hospitals Association Annual General Meeting

14th January 2026 at 7.00pm - 7.30pm

MEETING NOTES

Present: Sue Greenwood, Chair; Helen Tucker, Committee Member; Richard Hallet, CHA Treasurer & Director; Alistair Noble, Lead for Scotland; Tom Brooks, Associate Committee Member; Jo Posnette, Conference Lead & Committee Member; David Seamark, CHA President & Director; Ines De Abreu, Committee Member.

Apologies: Julia Fairhall, IBPA Lead & Committee Member; Nikki Woodland, Committee Member; David Farnsworth, Lead for Wales; Kirsty Protherough, Outgoing Chair and CHA Director.

1. Opening

The Community Hospitals Association AGM was opened by Sue Greenwood, Interim CHA Chair who welcomed members.

2. President's welcome + report

David Seamark updated on his ongoing treatment following a cancer diagnosis in September 2025 to which he is responding well. He is feeling well and is looking forward to attending the 2026 CHA National Conference in May. David thanked CHA colleagues for their support.

From an organisational perspective, David reflected on the breadth of CHA activity outlined in Kirsty's Outgoing Chair's report. He highlighted the following:

- The growing reach and value of CHA's leadership, education and advocacy work
- Increased engagement of the wider membership in responding to queries and sharing learning
- The success of CHA's Q Special Interest Group activity
- Strengthened international links, including engagement with colleagues in Europe, Scandinavia and Japan

David also reflected on the need to consider longer-term financial resilience for the CHA, noting the importance of maintaining core capacity and support.

3. Matters Arising from previous AGM - none [11th September 2024 CHA AGM 2023/2024 Notes](#)

4. Chair's Report 2024-2025 (Outgoing Chair Dr Kirsty Protherough) [CHA Outgoing Chair's report 24/25 Dr Kirsten Protherough](#)

The Chair's Annual Report, prepared by Outgoing CHA Chair Dr Kirsty Protherough, was presented by Sue Greenwood.

Key highlights from the report included:

- Continued strengthening of CHA as a UK-wide network
- Delivery of the CHA National Conference 2024, attended by 140 delegates from across the UK and overseas
- Delivery of 15 online leadership, improvement and networking sessions through the Q Special Interest Group, engaging over 300 participants
- Co-hosting of international webinars with IFIC and IFIC Scotland
- Delivery of the Innovation and Best Practice Awards
- Development of leadership resource packs on integrated care, staff wellbeing and safer staffing
- Expanded communications through newsletters, blogs and digital content such as the YouTube channel.
- Ongoing advocacy for community hospitals nationally

The report highlighted the scale and impact of CHA's work, noting that there are over 500 community hospitals across the UK and that CHA continues to play a vital role in connecting and supporting this sector.

Members were encouraged to read [the full report](#), which is available on the CHA website. Sue thanked Kirsty for preparing the report.

5. Welcome and confirmation of new committee members

Sue confirmed and welcomed new committee member Ines de Abreu to the CHA, noting the value of the experience and expertise they bring to CHA's work.

6. Treasurer's Report 2024-2025 - [CHA Treasurer's Report 2024/2025](#)

Richard Hallett, CHA Treasurer, presented the financial report for the year ending March 2024/2025.

Key points included:

- The organisation finished the year close to break even, which was considered a positive outcome
- A grant from the Health Foundation via Q enabled delivery of the 2024 conference and allowed some funding to be carried forward into the current year
- This carry-forward has helped stabilise finances in a year without a conference
- Significant upfront costs have already been incurred for the 2026 conference, with income now beginning to come in as bookings open
- Early income levels were encouraging

Richard noted that CHA does not have a regular, reliable income stream and that securing funding from NHS organisations is increasingly difficult. He highlighted the CHA individual membership and suggested that the committee will need to develop a longer-term funding strategy. This may include exploring voluntary contributions from members and seeking external funding or sponsorship, subject to member views and agreement.

Richard also suggested the committee and membership put forward suggestions of grant bodies the CHA can apply for to support its fundraising.

There was a short discussion about future financial sustainability. Members reflected positively on exploring voluntary contributions, potentially linked to the national conference, while being clear that CHA is a not-for-profit social enterprise rather than a registered charity.

It was agreed that any future approach would be developed carefully and in consultation with the membership.

7. **Members Questions** – none.

8. **Reminder of CHA National Conference 7th & 8th May 2026**

Members were reminded that the CHA National Conference will take place on 7 and 8 May 2026. Members were encouraged to visit the CHA website for programme details and booking information.

9. **Close of AGM**

Sue Greenwood thanked everyone for attending and for their continued support of CHA. The meeting was formally closed.