

Research and Innovation Committee Chair's Report from 10th May 2022

Public Board Meeting May 2022

Presented for:	Information
Presented by:	Dr. Phil Wood
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Previous Committees:	NONE

Trust Goals	
The best for patient safety, quality and experience	✓
The best place to work	✓
A centre for excellence for research, education and innovation	✓
Seamless integrated care across organisational boundaries	✓
Financial sustainability	✓

Trust Risks (Type & Category)				
Level 1 Risk	(✓)	Level 2 Risks	(Risk Appetite Scale)	Risk
Workforce Risk		Workforce deployment risk: We will deliver safe and effective care through the deployment of resources with the right mix of skills and capacity to do what is right	Cautious	↔ (same)
Operational Risk		Business Continuity Risk: We will develop and maintain stable and resilient services operating to consistently high levels of performance	Cautious	↔ (same)
Clinical Risk		Research, Innovation and Development risk: We will deliver agreed minimum research and innovation priorities with health, social care, voluntary, education and private sectors	Cautious	↔ (same)
Financial Risk		We will deliver sound financial management and reporting for the Trust with no material misstatements or variances to forecast	Minimal	↔ (same)
External Risk		Partnership working: we will maintain well-established stakeholder partnerships which will mitigate the threats to the achievement of the Trust's strategic goals.	Open	↔ (same)

Key points	
1. To provide an overview of significant issues of interest to the Board, highlight key risks discussed, key decisions taken, and key actions agreed from Research and Innovation Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1st February 2022.	Information

1. Introduction

This is the tenth Chair's Report from the Research & Innovation (R&I) Committee, which provides an overview from the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 10th May 2022 highlighting issues, risks discussed, and key actions agreed. This meeting was held via TEAMS.

2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

Study setup improvement project

The process of getting clinical studies live in the Trust is a key element of our research governance process as it ensures that there is capacity and capability in the organisation for delivering a project. The process can be complex involving multiple services and decision-makers - but each project is slightly different with its own requirements. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the pressures on the process with approval times now longer in the organisation than pre-pandemic and over 200 projects in the process at any one time (vs c.130 pre-pandemic). Whilst a number of actions have been taken over the past 12 months to work through the backlog caused by COVID and additional resource secured to support it for the next 12 months, a project has been initiated with a dedicated project manager to identify how the process can be streamlined and improved using Leeds Improvement Method tools so that we shorten the overall setup times and reduce the overall number of studies in the setup process.

Research Operations

Research delivery performance over the last 12 months has been strong with nearly 23,000 patients recruited into research at the Trust. This places the Trust at or very close to the top of a number of NIHR national metrics. The research academy continues to be a success, delivering training to a number of NHS Trusts across the Yorkshire and Humber region. 17 of its courses have now received accreditation from the National CPD centre, adding further credibility to the offer. Marketing and communications activity has been significant with strong coverage of activities in Leeds in local, regional and national media.

NIHR Biomedical Research Centre

The interviews for the next round of funding for the BRC went well and the outcome is expected in June 2022. The interview process highlighted the strong partnership between the Trust and the University.

NIHR Clinical Research Facility

The committee was formally informed of the award of £8.7m from NIHR for the next 5 years which will commence in September 2022. The award will allow 14 new posts to be created, including a specific education role, an expanded QA team and PPIE support. The CRF is supporting 490 studies, of which 138 are reportable to the NIHR. Of these 116 are currently classed as "early phase" and it is hoped that over the next 5 years the number of these early phase studies will increase. The CRF at Chapel Allerton Hospital will open in the summer and new governance structures are being embedded.

National Pathology Imaging Co-operative (NPIC)

A new collaboration with Genomics England has been announced that will combined digital pathology and genomics data to provide a unique dataset as a resource for cancer research. The deployment programme is continuing and work to secure longer-term funding to support the NPIC infrastructure is underway. This includes a business case to WYAAT and ongoing dialogue with NHS England around national infrastructure support.

Leeds Cancer Research Centre

The committee received a report from the Leeds Cancer Research Centre for the first time. This is a joint initiative with the University which brings together over 250 academics and grant investments totalling £125m. Its main research pillars are:

1. Understanding cancer biology
2. Preventing and early detection and diagnosis
3. Intelligent technology
4. Precise and stratified treatment
5. Living with and beyond cancer

Health Professional Research Careers

Interviews for the new Head of Healthcare Professionals Academic Development will take place on 18th May. This role will substantively replace Heather Iles-Smith's work supporting career development amongst our healthcare professionals. A range of pre-doctoral and doctoral fellowships have recently been submitted and the breadth of staff groups submitting applications was commented on.

LTHT Clinical Innovation Programme

The programme of work is continuing at pace with a number of projects in development. The Trust is now part of the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Test and Evaluation programme which is bringing resource to support additional skills in supporting adoption. The Leeds-Israel Gateway for Healthtech Innovation has now been launched; this initiative was led by the Business Development and Innovation team at the Trust and will support Israeli companies looking to internationalise in the UK by providing soft-landing support and connections to LTHT for product development. This links to the wider ambitions to create a Health Innovation Village on the LGI site.

Real World Data

A wide range of work that continues to support data access for researchers is continuing. Of note, Leeds has been approached by IQVIA to be part of a new international initiative called Digicore which will support federated analysis of data amongst leading cancer centres across Europe.

NIHR Surgical MIC

The annual report is in development and will be submitted during May. Of note, the £200k invested into proof-of-concept projects has yielded a further £3.3m in follow-on funding and the team have taken part in the recent AI Tech North Summit 2022.

Finance

A deep dive into research finances will take place at the next committee meeting. The finance team have been supporting the NPIC team with hitting their target of spending £13m in the last 12 months and have supported wider development of the R&I financial forecasts for 22/23. Work is going on to further develop the longer-term financial plan and resource allocation across R&I now it is one "integrated" function.

3. Key Decisions Taken

None

4. Publication under the Freedom of Information Act

This paper has been made available under the Freedom of Information Act 2000

5. Recommendation

The Board is asked to receive and note the Research and Innovation Committee Chair's Report.

Dr Phil Wood

Chief Medical Officer,

Research & Innovation Committee May 2022