

**Research and Innovation Committee Chair's Report  
23 June 2020**

**Public Board Meeting  
30 July**

<b>Presented for:</b>	Assurance
<b>Presented by:</b>	Dr Phil Wood, Chief Medical Officer (Chair)
<b>Author</b>	Donna Johnstone, Research & Innovation Manager
<b>Previous Committees</b>	

<b>Trust</b>	
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	√

## 1. Introduction

This is the second Chair's Report from the newly established Research & Innovation (R&I) Committee, which provides an overview from the draft minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 highlighting issues, risks discussed, and key actions agreed. This meeting was held via Zoom.

## 2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

### **R&I Committee Terms of Reference (ToR)**

The R&I Committee ToR were agreed by the attending Committee members. The Chair of the Leeds Cares Research and Innovation Committee will attend as an observer.

### **Development of a joint Trust and University of Leeds (UoL) R&I Strategy.**

Following the news that the Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) bid was unsuccessful there has been a time of reflection and discussions between the Trust and UoL culminating in a short paper being presented to Sir Alan Langlands and Julian Hartley. The paper set out what needs to be considered at a higher level and with a request to establish a small steering group who will draw up a joint R&I strategy proposal for wide consultation across both organisations. The joint R&I strategy will consider the Biomedical Research Centre/Clinical Research Facility renewal bid and a further AHSC call in five years' time and will be presented to the Trust Board.

### **R&I Strategy**

The R&I Strategy is about to be published and launched (Appendix 1 – Blue Box Item). This strategy focusses on the operational aspects of research; engaging with the patient population so they can participate in research when they come into the hospital and making research part of every-day business.

### **Research Delivery Staff Integration Project**

The integration project plan is now being fast-tracked because of COVID 19, which highlighted the devolved model made it difficult to keep track of who was working where and who could be deployed to COVID 19 work. The integration of the research delivery teams will bring line management and financial oversight into the R&I CSU, although it will not alter the day to day business within the CSUs where the research will continue to take place.

During COVID 19 there were about 73 members of staff all working together in the rapid set-up and delivery of COVID 19 research studies approved as Urgent Public Health priorities, which contributed to LTHT recruiting the first global patient and first national patient on two Novartis sponsored studies.

### **Research Academy**

The Research Academy was re-purposed for COVID 19 training and preparing staff who potentially would have been deployed to the Nightingale Hospital from across the Region. This work was delivered in collaboration with the Clinical Research Network, Yorkshire and Humber.

## 3. Key Risks Discussed

### **Finance**

At the current time the greatest risk relates to the impact of pausing research during COVID 19 on the research income and how the funding received to support research from the National Institute for Health Research will be managed going forwards.

## 4. Key Decisions Taken

### **Innovation**

An operational working group will be established to take forward opportunities available in the Hospitals of the Future plans for the Innovation District; a physical space on the LGI site in which the Clinical

Innovation System can be developed. The Trust will be working closely with the UoL and partners across the City and progress updates will be discussed at the R&I Committee and presented to the Trust Board.

### **Capital Funding Call**

A briefing document will be produced for discussion at the next R&I Committee meeting regarding a potential capital funding call to be potentially released in November, through the NIHR in direct response to COVID 19. The funding could be used for extra lab space or CRF space and is a real opportunity for Leeds to expand some of its facilities.

### **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  
June 2020