

**Research and Innovation Committee Chair's Report from
17th August 2021**

**Public Board Meeting
30th September 2021**

Presented for:	Information
Presented by:	Dr Phil Wood, Chief Medical Officer
Author	Dr. Christopher Herbert, Director of Operations: Research and Innovation
Previous Committees	

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	√

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 17th August 2021.	For information

1. Introduction

This is the seventh 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 17th August 2021 highlighting issues, risks discussed, and key actions agreed. This meeting was held via TEAMS.

2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

Using Artificial Intelligence in Breast Cancer Imaging Diagnosis

Dr. Nisha Sharma gave a presentation introducing a range of collaborations that she has with commercial organisations (Densitas, Kheiron, Lunit, Pinpoint and Micirma) developing the use of Artificial Intelligence in Breast Cancer Diagnostic services. The presentation set out how the collaborations are directly based on the needs of the clinical service and how they cover all aspects of the service - from quality assessment of radiographers to supporting radiologists. It was recognised that this needs-based model of partnership and co-development was one that could be replicated for other services and that through Nisha's work and the collaborations she has built that Leeds has a potentially leading position in this area.

Research Report and Key Performance Indicators

The research support highlighted the completion of the integration programme and the work that is now going on following that to modernise the research workforce, finance and business management processes and the opportunities this creates. Performance statistics showed a solid start to recruitment in 2021/22 with a very large portfolio of research projects both live and in the setup phase. Plans for COVID vaccine booster trials in the autumn were also shared with the committee. The performance against KPI's for 2020/21 was also presented with data showing that many targets had been met despite the pandemic.

NIHR Biomedical Research Centre

The NIHR Biomedical Research Centre highlighted the extension of the current programme to the end of November 2022 and the good progress that is being made against the deliverables, particularly the large volume of grants that are currently being won. It was reported that the stage 1 application for the BRC December 2022-27 programme had been approved by NIHR and a stage 2 application for up to £28.5m of funding is currently being prepared, with significant work going on across the Northern BRC's to join up programmes of work where possible to show cohesiveness and working together.

NIHR Clinical Research Facility

The NIHR Clinical Research Facility team highlighted the current focus they have on preparing a bid for continued funding from NIHR between December 2022-27. A first draft of the bid is currently in review with plans then to further iterate and develop this before submission at the end of September. The aim is to increase the level of funding that comes into Leeds to support the CRF following the major expansion in both facilities and staffing over the last 5 years.

NPIC (National Pathology Imaging Co-operative)

NPIC (National Pathology Imaging Co-operative) is progressing well with a technology partner now appointed for the "Vendor Neutral Archive" which will store images from all sites. Other procurement activity is progressing well with the remaining procurement work to be completed during the Autumn. Ongoing challenges due to COVID associated with the roll-out to sites were noted, but the 9 month extension (taking the programme to December 2022) is mitigating this and allowing more time to be spent with partner Trusts.

Health Professional Research Careers

A new agenda item, this provided the committee with oversight of the work going on in the Trust to support the development of research careers amongst nurses, AHP's, Pharmacists and healthcare scientists. This is an area where the Trust has had considerable success over the years (35 externally funded fellowships secured) and the paper outlined the new leadership model that was being brought in to build further on this.

Innovation

Considerable progress has been made in the last quarter with the Innovation team and the Innovation pop-up. The pop-up has been formally launched and is receiving significant attention both within the Trust and

externally. Plans for scaling the current development are being developed and progress is being made with the wider innovation district. The Innovation team is supporting a large number of projects as well as implementing a programme of events and innovation training aimed at Trust staff.

Real World Data

2 papers were presented on partnerships; one an update on the progress being made to develop a partnership with Flatiron and the other a paper highlighting the outputs of a partnership with IQVIA, both around cancer data. All outputs from the last 5 years of working with IQVIA have been published or presented at conferences and the work done curating datasets for projects is fed back into PPM+ so that clinical staff also get the benefits from the work done. The partnership with Flatiron is still developing with work around staff engagement and an understanding of the clinical process benefits still required.

NIHR Leeds MIC

Gordon Cook presented an update on the NIHR Leeds MIC, an NIHR programme focused on creating partnerships around the evaluation of in vitro diagnostics. The programme is in its 4th year and delivers a large amount of activity through working with UK SME's and other international businesses. The programme has recently been extended for 6 months due to COVID and the annual report received positive feedback.

R&I Finances

Claire Gaunt updated on R&I Finance activities and the action plan that is in place to support further development of financial support for R&I activities over the next 12 months. The continuous improvement agenda was highlighted along with the work being undertaken with the R&I Business manager team to help modernise systems and processes. The team are also doing a piece of work to learn from other research finance teams about their processes so we can adopt good practice from elsewhere.

3. Key Decisions Taken

Publication under the Freedom of Information Act

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

4. 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
August 2021