

R&I Committee Chair's Report

Trust Board
25th May 2023

Presented for:	Information
Presented by:	Dame Linda Pollard
Author:	Christopher Herbert: Director of Operations – Research and Innovation
Previous Committees:	NONE

Our Annual Commitments for 2023/24 are:	
Effectively develop and deploy new assets (buildings, equipment, IT)	
Reduce healthcare associated infections	
Improve staff retention	
Deliver the financial plan	
Reduce average length of stay by 0.5 days per patient	
Achieve the Access Targets for Patients	
Support a culture of research	✓

Risk Appetite Framework				
Level 1 Risk	(✓)	Level 2 Risks	(Risk Appetite Scale)	Impact
Clinical Risk	✓	Research, Innovation & Development Risk - We will deliver agreed minimum research and innovation priorities with health, social care, voluntary, education and private sectors	Open	Moving Towards

Key points	
1. Presentations were received from 3 research teams at LTHT, all of whom highlighted the benefits to patients from the portfolio of research that they delivered.	Information
2. The continued strong performance of the Trust in delivering its portfolio of research was highlighted	Information

3. Marketing and communications activities associated with research and innovation continue to reach a broad audience with activities being featured in high profile sections of the media including national newspapers and the BBC	Information
4. The overall financial position associated with research has improved during 2022/23 and will continue to improve in 23/24.	Information

1. Introduction

This is the third Chair's Report from the newly established Research & Innovation (R&I) assurance Committee of the Board, which provides highlights of the meeting held on Tuesday 21st March 2023. This meeting was held in person.

2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

Research Team Presentations

The Committee received presentations from three research teams (Cardiovascular, Adult Critical Care, Dentistry) on their work. The purpose of the presentations was to provide the Committee with an overview of some of the research undertaken in the organisation and to provide assurance that research is benefitting patients.

i. Cardiovascular

The Cardiovascular research team presented on work that they undertake. The dedicated research facilities available to them were highlighted and the team highlighted the diverse portfolio of research that they support the delivery of. Particularly noteworthy was that the team were the first in the UK to implant a new pacing device developed by Boston Scientific, they are leading recruitment to a trial of a new device developed by Medtronic and that every patient undergoing TAVI procedure is considered for inclusion in research. A patient who had been involved in research told his story of how being involved in research had not just been beneficial for his health; it had also given him a sense of purpose and wellbeing because as well as being a patient in a trial he now also supported researchers with the design of their own research and was part of a number of patient groups that supports research.

ii. Adult Critical Care

The Adult Critical Care research team presented on their journey from undertaking very little research in 2017 to now delivering nine trials. They provide a seven day/week research service and their capacity is only limited by the funding available to them; with very little opportunity for commercially-funded research in critical care that would generate additional income. The creation of a research strategy and the support of their CSU leadership team has been essential to enable the increase in activity and they were now recognised nationally for the research they are delivering.

iii. Dentistry

Sue Pavitt from University of Leeds gave an overview of diverse range of Dental research being undertaken in Leeds. A strong feature was not just the research delivered in the dental hospital research facility but also the work in underserved communities and the work with Batley High School in particular was highlighted.

Research Portfolio and Performance

Ai Lyn Tan presented an overview of the current research portfolio and performance measures. It was noted that the Trust continued to perform strongly in its performance in delivering research having recruited 19,462 participants into research between April 2022 and the end of February 2023 with research activity across all our hospital sites. 17,782 of these participants had been recruited into National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) portfolio studies, ranking LTHT 3rd amongst Acute Trusts nationally for recruitment into research. Evidence of the further improvement in recruitment to time and target performance measures and the impact of the ongoing work to improve study setup performance were shared with the Committee.

NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)

Professor Hemant Pandit attended the meeting on behalf of the new BRC programme, a £19.8m investment in research across LTHT, the University of Leeds and the University of York from the NIHR. The new BRC was a significant expansion on the previous programme with six clinical themes as opposed to one previously. The new themes reflect Leeds strengths across Musculoskeletal, Cardiovascular, Anti-microbial Resistance, Surgery, Pathology and Haematology research. A recent visit from senior members of NIHR had been well received and current work was focused on ensuring that staff were in post to facilitate the activity planned for the next five years. A risk to the delivery of the BRC programme associated with the planned work at the Chapel Allerton site to increase clinical capacity and the relocation of research facilities was highlighted to the Committee.

Partnerships, Innovation and International

Chris Herbert presented an overview of ongoing work around research partnerships with commercial organisations and the innovation programme. It was noted that the work to improve the Innovation pop-up estate had commenced, but that the work was now having to be phased as the funding required for the expansion phase was not ultimately secured. Two recent grant successes were highlighted to the Committee; one was an award to an individual to develop a piece of technology that he has invented to improve tracking of cancer samples in pathology (and which a patent was currently being filed on). The individual has benefitted from training, coaching and mentoring offered through the Innovation team / Innovation pop-up and this had directly resulted in that award. The other award was around developing AI collaborations for Radiology and the commercial use of clinical images to facilitate those and generate income for the awards.

Marketing and Communications

Rachel Beasley presented the marketing and communications report, highlighting that work was ongoing to create a long-term marketing and communications strategy for R&I which would be presented at the May 2023 meeting. Communications activity since the previous assurance Committee meeting had included an article about Nisha Sharma and LIBRA trial / Kheiron Medical Technologies which had featured in the Times and the BBC and that there had been positive feedback from editor of the Yorkshire Post and extensive coverage of the Norway visit on social media. It was highlighted that there were now >500 external subscribers to the R&I newsletter from a range of organisations including commercial partners.

Research Finances

Claire Gaunt presented the finance paper, highlighting that R&I was currently rated as “green” on the Trust’s financial performance framework. The overall financial position for R&I was significantly improved on 12 months ago due to the ongoing work to open more studies and improve the processes around financial management and timely invoicing. The work in Oncology research to address historic financial challenges was particularly highlighted as an exemplar of how the contribution the Trust makes to research was being reduced. There was a discussion about capacity building and the Chair noted that an investment by the Trust in research and innovation was an investment in the future and staffing.

Risk Review

Chris Herbert presented risks scoring >12 on the R&I risk register and also those risks that were outside of the Trust’s risk tolerance but which scored below 12. The committee received the risk review, noting that none of the live risks with mitigation scored more than 12.

Standing Agenda Items

There were no new issues to escalate to the CRR, no issues required legal advice, or escalated to NHS England/Improvement, CQC or to the Board.

The information received within the meeting reported the Trust remained within its defined risk appetite.

5. Key Decisions Taken

6. Publication under the Freedom of Information Act

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

7. Recommendation

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

Christopher Herbert
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4th May 2023