

R&I Committee Chair's Report from 23 May 2023 Meeting

Trust Board
27 July 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. The presentation from the Ophthalmology research team showcased their diverse portfolio of research and illustrated some of the benefits to patients that comes from their research activities.	Information

2. The continued strong performance of the Trust in delivering its portfolio of research was highlighted with national performance measures showing the Trust ranking highly across a number of performance measures.	Information
3. The NIHR Clinical Research Facility provided an update on progress against key objectives and assurance that action plans are in place to address those that are behind progress.	Information
4. The continued progress of the Trust's Innovation support programme was highlighted along with the interest from other organisations in setting up similar initiatives.	Information
5. The favourable position against control total for R&I was highlighted and the alignment of the internal audit report to the overall direction of travel for financial management was discussed.	Information

1. Introduction

This is the fourth Chair's Report from the Research & Innovation (R&I) assurance Committee of the Board, which provides highlights of the meeting held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023. This meeting was held in person in the Research and Innovation Centre.

2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

Ophthalmology Research Team Presentation

The Committee received a presentation from the Ophthalmology research team which showcased the wide portfolio of research supported which included genetic studies, gene therapy studies and oculoplastics work. The vision of the team is to offer every patient the opportunity to participate in research and they try and ensure they have a balanced portfolio comprising commercial and non-commercial studies that will enable sustained growth. Research has significant benefits for the service as therapeutics evaluated in Phase 3 trials have gone on to be offered as part of clinical practice and equipment purchased using income from commercial trials being used to support care of patients both in clinical trials and in routine clinical service.

Risk Review

Chris Herbert presented risks scoring >12 on the R&I risk register. There was particular discussion around the risk associated with the potential disinvestment in commercially-sponsored research in the UK by pharmaceutical companies and the actual impact of the risk. The risk score had increased of late because a small number of trials that researchers in Leeds had expressed an interest in had not gone ahead because global companies had not selected the UK as a country to participate. It was noted that the LTHT pipeline of commercially-sponsored trials remains healthy and that this is not an LTHT-specific issue but an issue reflects wider challenges across the UK's clinical trials research infrastructure. The forthcoming publication of the O'Shaughnessy review was noted by the Committee.

Template Committee & Board papers – 1 April 2023 (Risk Appetite – second edition March 2023)

The Committee received the risk review, noting that none of the live risks with mitigation scored more than 12.

Research Portfolio and Performance

Ai Lyn Tan presented an overview of the research performance and portfolio, highlighting the overall performance statistics from 2022/23 which showed that the Trust was the 3rd highest recruiting Trust in the country to NIHR portfolio studies, recruiting over 20,000 participants. This was the 5th year in succession that the Trust had been in the top 5 NHS Trusts for participant recruitment to research. Other statistics showed that We are the highest recruiting NHS Trust to complex interventional studies (12,513 participants), the highest recruiting NHS Trust into cancer studies (8,069) and the second highest recruiting NHS Trust into medical device studies (3,363).

The Committee also received performance measures showing the improvement in study setup times across the Trust although it was noted that there was still work to do to improve these further. Evidence of the further improvement in recruitment to time and target performance measures were also shared with the Committee and assurance was provided of ongoing work to address these. There was a discussion about the emerging Integrated Care Board research strategy and associated work and the involvement of members of the Research and Innovation team in that.

NIHR Leeds Clinical Research Facility

Dr. Helen Radford and Sarah Kent presented a paper on the ongoing work of the NIHR Leeds Clinical Research Facility, covering activities since the new 5-year funding award started in September 2022. An overview of the infrastructure across the Trust supported by the award was given and the Committee were provided with assurance that the Equality Diversity and Inclusion strategy and Patient and Public Involvement, Engagement and Participation strategies required by NIHR had been developed within the required timeframes and done in collaboration with other local NIHR infrastructure. An update progress against the CRF objectives as submitted to NIHR as part of the funding application was provided for assurance; of these all bar three are currently rated green or amber and there are action plans in place to address the red-rated objectives.

Partnerships, Innovation and International

Chris Herbert presented an overview of ongoing work around research partnerships with commercial organisations and the innovation programme. The strong performance against KPI's in 22/23 was highlighted as were the ongoing activities that were delivering against the key objectives of the Innovation programme and innovation pop-up. The desire of other NHS organisations to set up "pop-up" like programmes and structures in their organisation was noted as was the mutually collaborative relationship with the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network.

Research Finances

Claire Gaunt presented the finance paper, highlighting the favourable position compared to the control target, the achievement of the all the milestones and deliverables in the R&I Financial plan and the delivery of the WRP target in 22/23. The findings of the recent Internal Audit report was discussed as the report validated the direction of travel in the R&I financial development plan. The key actions were discussed and project plans incorporating the recommendations are being developed.

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.

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
Director of Operations: Research and Innovation
15th June 2023