

## Research and Innovation Committee Chair's Report

**Trust Board**  
**30th January 2025**

<b>Presented for:</b>	Information
<b>Presented by:</b>	Chris Schofield
<b>Author:</b>	Christopher Herbert: Director of Operations – Research and Innovation
<b>Previous Committees:</b>	NONE

<b>Our Annual Commitments for 2024/25 are:</b>	
Reduce wait for patients	
Reduce Healthcare Acquired Infections by 15%	
Reduce our carbon footprint through greener care	
Use our existing digital systems to their full potential	
Strengthen participation and growth in research and innovation	✓
Deliver the financial plan	✓
Be in the top 25% performing Trusts for staff retention	

<b>Risk Appetite Framework</b>				
<b>Level 1 Risk</b>	<b>(✓)</b>	<b>Level 2 Risks</b>	<b>(Risk Appetite Scale)</b>	<b>Impact</b>
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

<b>Key points</b>	
1. A summary of the research and innovation work being undertaken in the field of Artificial Intelligence in Radiology imaging was presented by Professor Andy Scarsbrook.	Information
2. Research delivery performance at the Trust in 24/25 continues to be strong with progress being made towards the achievement of the performance objectives in-year,	Assurance

3. 21/23 of the Key Performance Indicators set out in the 2020-25 research and innovation strategy are on track to be met with data showing the Trust featuring as a leading performer in participant recruitment into research against peers.	Assurance
4. A close working relationship with Scarborough Group is being developed to support the development of the innovation ecosystem and the innovation pop-up membership model is being redeveloped to reflect this.	Assurance
5. 36 pieces of media coverage about research and innovation at the Trust have been featured across local, national and international channels since August with further increases in social media engagement.	Assurance

## 1. Introduction

This is the eighth Chair's Report from the Research & Innovation (R&I) Committee, which provides highlights of the meeting held on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2024. This meeting was held in person at the Research and Innovation Centre.

## 2. Significant Issues of Interest to the Board

### Staff Story

The Committee received a presentation from Professor Andy Scarsbrook, a consultant radiologist at the Trust and Professor of Radiology within the University of Leeds about the research and innovation work being undertaken at the Trust in Radiology Artificial Intelligence (AI). He outlined the opportunities for AI to support the significant workforce challenges that exist currently in NHS radiology services and the processes and infrastructure that have been developed to support multiple collaborations with academic and industry partners.

Professor Scarsbrook described the approach to overseeing which AI development projects should be supported at the Trust. A multi-professional AI board which included patient representation has been set up within the Radiology CSU which meets bi-monthly to oversee and evaluate interest in collaborating with partners to support the development, evaluation and deployment of imaging-related AI technologies within LTHT. A structured framework for assessment has been developed to support consistent decision-making. This approach was awarded a prestigious "cum laude" award at the European Congress of Radiology in March 2024 where it was presented as a poster.

Alongside the ability to extract, deidentify and release large scale imaging datasets from LTHT for training AI algorithms, an important development in the last 12 months has been the deployment of the Newton's Tree AI orchestrator platform. This platform will enable rapid deployment of radiology AI algorithms within the Trust for evaluation purposes and the Trust are collaborating with Newton's Tree to support the further development of the platform which in the future will provide data on the real-world performance of AI algorithms which will be important for clinical governance purposes.

The growing number of industry collaborations across different disease areas and imaging modalities were highlighted to the Committee. A key barrier to routine deployment of AI algorithms is the poor level of evidence associated with their real-world effectiveness and an example of an evaluation of an AI-assisted lung cancer prediction tool was presented to the Committee as a case study of a live project which is assessing the clinical and cost-effectiveness in a real-world study across multiple centres. Professor Scarsbrook concluded by highlighting the benefits of the comprehensive approach being taken at the Trust which he believes is unmatched by other NHS organisations and which could bring significant benefits to our clinical service and patients, whilst also generating income from an area of intense research activity in the commercial sector and bolstering LTHT's reputation as a leader in innovation and safe AI implementation.

### **Research Delivery Performance**

Performance metrics associated with R&I delivery performance were presented which showed that R&I remained on target to achieve its annual target of recruiting 20,000 participants into research. Data was presented showing an increase in the number of participants recruited into commercially-sponsored research against the same period in 23/24. Assurance was provided that study setup times are continuing to improve.

Data on recruitment by ethnicity and age was also presented which showed recruitment into all ethnic groups with a marginal over-representation of individuals who are from a "white" background and marginal under-representation of individuals who are from an Asian background against the population of Leeds. Work is being undertaken by the R&I Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team to work with underserved groups and encourage greater participation in all facets of the research lifecycle.

An update was also provided to the Committee on the project with Flatiron. 35,104 patients had now been contacted with regards to their data being shared with Flatiron with an opt-out rate of 4%. The first tranche of data has now been processed by Flatiron and returned to the Trust. The quality of the data is now being assessed.

### **Performance against 2020-25 Strategy KPI's**

Assurance was provided to the Committee of the delivery against the targets set out in the 2020-25 Research and Innovation strategy with 21/23 targets set within the strategy either delivered or on target to be delivered. Data presented showed that over the period since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020, LTHT was the third largest recruiter into NIHR portfolio studies versus peer organisations and the top recruiter into NIHR commercial portfolio research. The report also highlighted the increases in income associated with research and innovation activities over the period. Data presented also showed that >500 staff are recorded as being principal investigators (project leads) on research studies across the Trust. The growth of the involvement of patients and members of the public in shaping research activities through patient and public involvement activities was also highlighted.

### **Innovation Activity**

Staff engagement activities such as "innovation clubs" and "innovation training" run between September and November were highlighted to the committee with data showing that more than 40 staff have participated in innovation training in 2024 and an average of 76 staff are attending the monthly innovation clubs. A particularly successful event was the Innovation

Showcase event held on 27<sup>th</sup> November which was run in conjunction with Leeds Hospitals Charity. Work to redevelop the innovation pop-up membership model was also shared with the Committee and it was noted that this is being redeveloped to better align with the innovation ecosystem that will support the Old Medical School Innovation Centre. The development of a close working relationship with Scarborough Group to support the development of this ecosystem and a pipeline of potential tenants was also noted.

### **Communications**

Assurance was provided on the communications work undertaken to promote the research and innovation work being undertaken at the Trust. Since the last report to the Committee, there had been 36 pieces of media coverage about research and innovation at the Trust that were featured across local, national and international channels. There had been increased engagement through social media channels of 7.8% and since July 2024 over 97,000 impressions. There had been a total of 17,254 visits to the redesigned R&I website pages and staff engagement had significantly increased with the introduction of the new format R&I newsletter.

## **3. Publication under the Freedom of Information Act**

This paper is 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.

Christopher Herbert  
Director of Operations: Research and Innovation  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2025