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UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST

REPORT BY TRUST BOARD COMMITTEE TO TRUST BOARD

DATE OF TRUST BOARD MEETING: 5 May 2011

COMMITTEE: UHL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN: Mr M Hindle, Trust Chairman

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: 11 April 2011

RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE TRUST BOARD:

None

OTHER KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR CONSIDERATION/ RESOLUTION BY THE TRUST BOARD:

- External review of pharmacy services (Minute 45/11);
- Research & Development Strategy (Minute 46/11), and
- BRU applications (Minute 47/11).

DATE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING: 9 May 2011

**Mr M Hindle, Trust Chairman
26 April 2011**

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS OF LEICESTER NHS TRUST

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE UHL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE,
HELD ON MONDAY 11 APRIL 2011 AT 2.30PM IN THE BOARD ROOM, VICTORIA
BUILDING, LEICESTER ROYAL INFIRMARY**

Present:-

Mr M Hindle – Trust Chairman (Chair)
Professor C Brightling – Professor of Respiratory Medicine
Professor D Field – Professor of Neonatal Medicine
Dr K Harris - Medical Director
Dr D Hetmanski – Assistant Director of Research and Development
Mr M Lowe-Lauri – Chief Executive
Professor B Morgan - Professor of Cancer, Imaging and Radiology
Mr P Panchal - Non-Executive Director
Professor D Rowbotham – Director of Research and Development
Mrs J Wells – Patient Adviser
Mr M Wightman – Director of Communications and External Relations
Professor D Wynford-Thomas - UHL Non-Executive Director and Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School (for Minute 41/11 and 44/11 part)

In attendance:-

Mrs G Belton – Trust Administrator
Mrs S Khalid – Chief Pharmacist (for Minute 45/11 only)
Professor K Mellon – Professor of Urology (for Minute 44/11 only)

RESOLVED ITEMS

ACTION

41/11 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Professor R Baker, LNR CLAHRC Director, Professor N Samani, BRU Director, Mr S Sheppard, Assistant Director of Finance, Dr A Thomas, Reader and Consultant in Medical Oncology and Dr A Tierney, Director of Strategy.

42/11 MINUTES

Resolved – that (A) the Minutes of the Research and Development Committee meeting held on 7 March 2011 (paper A refers) be confirmed as a correct record, and

(B) the contents of the associated action plan (paper A1 refers) be confirmed as a correct record.

43/11 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

43/11/1 Matters Arising Report

Members reviewed the contents of the Matters Arising report (paper A2 refers), noting that Mrs Wells, Patient Adviser had been in communication with Dr Pandya, who was still awaiting notification regarding funding (Minute 30/11/4 of 7 March 2011 refers). Mrs Wells, Patient Adviser undertook to update the Committee as appropriate in respect of this issue.

JW,PA

In respect of Minute 17/11 (from the meeting held on 7 February 2011) regarding actions relating to the potential re-appointment to the post of Chair of Medical Physics, it was noted that the relevant issues discussed at this meeting were being taken forward by the Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School and the Clinical Support Services Division. It was considered that the post would be more attractive to a wider field of potential applicants if it was housed within, but was not specifically linked, to cardio-vascular.

Resolved – that (A) this additional verbal information be noted, and

(B) Mrs Wells, Patient Adviser, be requested to provide further updates to the Committee as appropriate.

JW,PA

44/11 UROLOGY RESEARCH IN UHL

Professor Mellon attended to give a presentation to the Committee regarding Urology Research at UHL (the details of which were included within a paper copy of the presentation tabled at the meeting) and concluded that the future research efforts of the Urology Group would focus primarily on new methods of diagnosis for prostate cancer.

In discussion on this item, members:

- (i) noted the international competition in this field of research and debated the Trust's particular niche in this area. Particular note was made of the Trust's on-going collaboration with Professor Colin Cooper who was a world leader on urinary markers for prostate cancer, and of the Trust's strong links with the University of Guildford;
- (ii) queried any potential improvements to the research environment which would prove beneficial – Professor Mellon confirmed that additional facilities were required to store more samples from patients being investigated for prostate cancer, and advised of his wish to apply for funding from the NIHR for the provision of such additional storage space and also more personnel;
- (iii) noted the wish of Professor Mellon and colleagues to significantly increase the number of patients they studied which could be achieved through the Cancer Research Network;
- (iv) queried any potential overlap with another application of which members were aware (led by Tony Brooks) – Professor Mellon confirmed that there was some overlap but that the relevant staff members were involved in, and aware of both applications;
- (v) in response to a query, noted that relatively little of the funding for this research was provided by the Trust;
- (vi) queried whether, if the department achieved its aims in terms of its diagnostic research for prostate cancer, it could cope with any subsequent demand – it was noted that this would be incorporated into clinical practice;
- (vii) queried whether the research described was ultimately about effective diagnosis for prostate cancer or the provision of a first line treatment – Professor Mellon confirmed that the research was primarily around diagnosis;
- (viii) debated the funding options for research trials (with specific regard to the two potential trials referenced by Professor Mellon) and how these might be conducted, including the involvement of other centres in the collection of data. It was agreed that the Director of Research and Development would liaise with Professor Mellon outside the meeting with regard to the exploration of potential funding opportunities;
- (ix) with regard to imaging techniques, queried whether there was any intellectual property invested in this area / activity – Professor Mellon confirmed that there was the potential for the production of the nano-technology to be patented. It was noted that work was already underway with regard to intellectual property in this respect between relevant staff within the Urology Department and the Assistant Director of Research and Development which would continue to be progressed;
- (x) queried the application of this research to other sites (e.g. liver), in response to which Professor Mellon noted that they would be willing to collaborate with other academic surgeons across the NHS as appropriate. Particular note was made of the advantages that could be gained from the establishment of an appropriate and meaningful forum for surgical research, and it was agreed that the Director of Research and Development would look to convene a session specifically regarding surgical research (and the application of the urology research to the

DRD

**ADRD
/DRD**

- diagnosis and treatment of other cancers), inviting Professor Colin Cooper and relevant others, as appropriate;
- (xi) made note of the Trust's large patient base, in terms of the population it served, which was ethnically diverse, and
 - (xii) debated the IT structure in place to support this research, and the need for the data to be available for the benefit of patients in the trial.

The Chairman thanked Professor Mellon for attending to give this presentation to the Committee.

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this presentation be noted,

(B) the Director and Assistant Director of Research and Development be requested to undertake the following actions:

- (i) **to continue to progress the issue of intellectual property (with specific regard to the production of nano-technology as raised by Professor Mellon in his presentation);**
- (ii) **to liaise with Professor Mellon (Professor of Urology) in respect of exploring potential funding opportunities, and**
- (iii) **to run a session specifically regarding surgical research (and the application of the Urology Research to the diagnosis and treatment of other cancers), inviting Professor Colin Cooper and relevant others, as appropriate.**

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45/11 EXTERNAL REVIEW OF PHARMACY SERVICES

The Chief Pharmacist attended to present paper 'C', which detailed the findings and recommendations from an external review of Clinical Trials (CT) Pharmacy Services as recommended by the R & D Committee in September 2010 (73/10/1 of 13 September 2010 refers). The recommendations from the review were detailed within appendix one to the report, and the associated action plan was presented in appendix two.

Overall the feedback from the review was positive and the reviewers considered that the service was fit for purpose. The key issues noted were the need to review staff capacity, in particular pharmacist resource, in order to adequately support the forecasted growth in CT activity, and also the facilities for storage and dispensing of IMPs. The Pharmacy Team considered that the review had been a positive experience as they had been able to learn from the team conducting the review and also share their best practice with them.

In discussion on this item, members:

- (i) thanked the Chief Pharmacist and her team for the work they had undertaken in this respect, noting the vote of confidence conferred by the outcome of the review;
- (ii) noted that a recent MHRA Inspection had not identified any particular areas relating to Pharmacy;
- (iii) queried how this work related to that in connection with aseptic services – the Chief Pharmacist confirmed that the review under discussion at today's meeting broadly related to all clinical trials. The work concerning aseptic services represented a separate, but related, workstream;
- (iv) noted the progress currently being made by the Pharmacy Department in terms of moving work out of the Windsor Pharmacy which currently undertook half of the Trust's dispensing whilst being the smallest unit, and
- (v) queried any possible synergies with electronic prescribing – further work would be required in terms of understanding how clinical trials could be co-ordinated with electronic prescribing.

In conclusion, the Chairman thanked the Chief Pharmacist for attending today's meeting to present the report and requested that she returned to the Committee in August 2011 to report

on progress in terms of implementation of the action plan.

CP/TA

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this report be received and noted, and

(B) the Chief Pharmacist be requested to return to the Research and Development Committee meeting in August 2011 to report on progress against the action plan.

CP/TA

46/11 RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Director of Research and Development presented the latest iteration of the Research and Development Strategy (paper D refers), in response to which members:

- (i) in respect of page 10, noted the Chief Executive's request that the strategy went further in terms of exploring upcoming themes for the pharmaceutical industry in order that the Trust could make any pre-emptive approaches to relevant companies regarding potential research themes, as appropriate;
- (ii) queried the timescale for the establishment of an agreed R & D Strategy with the Trust's main academic partner (page 11 refers), noting the need for convergence of the Trust's strategy with the University strategy, and the potential need for the creation of a summary document regarding the partnership and direction of travel;
- (iii) discussed the audience for this document. It was noted that one audience would be Monitor, as part of the Trust's FT application. There was also an internal audience for the document, and an external audience in terms of the wider public. The work undertaken represented good progress to-date, but further inclusions were required in terms of (1) links with the University Strategy (2) achieving appropriate co-sponsorship of the document and (3) making reference to other relevant partnerships. Following discussion, it was agreed appropriate to add in references, as appropriate, to the University and wider East Midlands links, possibly within the opening statement to the document, and it was agreed that the Director of Communications and External Relations would assist the Director of Research and Development with regard to this specific element;
- (iv) suggested the need to look at Leicester's Unique Selling Point (USP) as part of taking forward this work, and
- (v) specifically discussed the wording on page 13 of the strategy in relation to increasing the amount of external research income, in terms of whether the Trust ought to be more ambitious than was currently stated within the document.

DCER/
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In conclusion, it was agreed that it would be beneficial for the Director of Research and Development to meet with the Chief Executive, Medical Director, Director of Communications and External Relations and Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School to discuss the strategy further, to include appropriate synergy with the University Strategy and to agree the inclusion of the additional elements required within the Research and Development Strategy (points i to v above refer).

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/MD/
DCER/
DULMS

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this report be received and noted, and

(B) the Director of Research and Development be requested to meet with the Chief Executive, Medical Director, Director of Communications and External Relations and Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School to discuss the strategy further, to include appropriate synergy with the University Strategy and to agree the inclusion of the additional elements required within the Research and Development Strategy (points i to v above refer).

CE/DRD
/MD/
DCER/
DULMS

47/11 BRU APPLICATIONS

47/11/1 Application for Respiratory BRU

The Professor of Respiratory Medicine presented paper 'E', which detailed the draft

application for a Respiratory BRU, and had to be submitted by 20 April 2011. Should the Trust prove successful in its preliminary application, it would be invited to submit a full application for submission in June 2011.

In discussion on the contents of this draft application, members:

- (i) considered that the wording within the citation should be re-structured so that the points made in the discussion section of the appendix were referenced earlier within the document; PRM
- (ii) considered that the application should also emphasise the Trust's ability to recruit patients within the 'Strategy' element of the document (section 3 of the application refers) as well as the fact that the East Midlands catchment area had a population that was stable, ethnically diverse and socio-economically diverse; PRM
- (iii) agreed that it would be useful for the Chief Executive to forward a copy of the draft application to NIHR board members for their information; CE
- (iv) noted the support expressed to the Chairman by the Dean of the University of Leicester Medical School in respect of the draft application, and
- (v) noted the intention of the Professor of Respiratory Medicine and relevant colleagues to submit the application earlier than the stated deadline due to the fact that one of its authors was due to be out of the country shortly, and supported this.

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this document be received and noted,

(B) the Professor of Respiratory Medicine be requested to make changes to the draft application (points i and ii above refer), and PRM

(C) the Chief Executive be requested to forward the draft application to NIHR Board members for information. CE

47/11/2 Progress on other BRU Applications

The Director of Research and Development reported verbally, advising that the Trust's application for a Well-Being and Exercise BRU was progressing well with three specific themes having been identified as follows: (1) exercise applied to chronic diseases (2) sedentary lifestyle and (3) appetite. It was considered that the joint work that would be undertaken between the Trust and Loughborough University in this respect would be beneficial to both parties and facilitate a good working partnership.

Resolved – that this verbal information be noted.

48/11 ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ONCOLOGY CLINICAL TRIALS FACILITY

The Director of Research and Development reported verbally to advise that a Project Board had been convened, whose aim it was to open the Oncology Clinical Trials Facility in February 2012, and they were undertaking all the required preparatory work to work towards this deadline. Particular discussion took place in relation to the Cancer UK application.

Resolved – that this verbal information be noted.

49/11 BUSINESS PLAN FOR THE BENNION CENTRE

The Professor of Respiratory Medicine presented paper 'F', which detailed a report originally presented to the Forest Grange BRU Board relating to issues concerning the capital works and lease for the Forest Grange BRU (to be located in the Forest Grange Day Unit of the Bennion Centre). The Trust's Facilities Department had been requested to determine the costs for making the Day Centre fit for purpose and to agree a lease with the Leicestershire Partnership Trust (LPT) as owner of this accommodation, and this report updated the Committee on progress with both workstreams.

In discussion on this item, members:

- (i) noted that there was now less funding available for this purpose than that originally identified. Whilst it was possible that the unit could be operational by September 2011, any identified shortfalls in funding would need to be met by relevant parties. There would be a need to present to the Commercial Executive to discuss how the Trust could off-set on-going costs, and the possibility of bidding against restricted cardio-vascular charitable funds as well as unrestricted charitable funds for the purpose of refurbishment of the unit was noted; CE
- (ii) debated specific areas within the proposed lease agreement for further negotiation – it was agreed that the Chief Executive would discuss these further with his counterpart at LPT;
- (iii) debated other possible options for the location of the BRU, and
- (iv) agreed that the Chief Executive would seek the input of Mr Sheppard, Assistant Director of Finance in the business case for the Bennion Centre, as appropriate. CE

In conclusion, it was agreed that the Chief Executive would progress the actions outlined under points ii and iv above within the next month, and would keep the Professor of Respiratory Medicine informed of progress. CE

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this report be received and noted, and

(B) the Chief Executive be requested to progress the actions outlined under points ii and iv above within the next month, keeping the Professor of Respiratory Medicine informed of progress. CE

50/11 MHRA INSPECTION

The Director of Research and Development reported verbally, advising that the Trust had recently undergone an inspection by the MHRA. The report detailing the outcome of the inspection was currently awaited, and would be presented at the Research and Development Committee meeting when received. DRD/TA

Resolved – that (A) this verbal information be noted, and

(B) the report detailing the outcome of the MHRA Inspection be presented at the Research and Development Committee when available. DRD/TA

51/11 MINUTES FOR INFORMATION

51/11/1 Biomedical Research Unit Board

Resolved – that the Minutes of the BRU Board meeting held on 11 February 2011 (paper G refers) be received and noted.

51/11/2 CLAHRC

Resolved – that the Minutes of the CLAHRC Committee meeting held on 23 February 2011 (paper H refers) be received and noted.

52/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

52/11 FSF Allocation Comparison

The Assistant Director of Research and Development tabled a report regarding the Trust's FSF Allocation for members' information. It was noted that this item would constitute an agenda item at the next meeting of the Research and Development Committee. ADRD/TA

Resolved – that (A) the contents of this tabled paper be received and noted, and

(B) this item constitute an agenda item at the next meeting of the Research and Development Committee.

ADRD/
TA

53/11 IDENTIFICATION OF KEY ISSUES THAT THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO DRAW TO THE ATTENTION OF THE TRUST BOARD

Resolved – that the following items be brought to the attention of the Trust Board at its meeting on 5 May 2011:

- External Review of Pharmacy Services (Minute 45/11);
- Research and Development Strategy (Minute 46/11), and
- BRU Applications (Minute 47/11).

54/11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved – that the next meeting of the UHL R & D Committee be held on Monday 9 May 2011 from 2.30pm until 4.30pm in the Board Room, Victoria Building, Leicester Royal Infirmary.

The meeting closed at 4.46pm.

Gill Belton
Trust Administrator