

UHL Research & Innovation: Quarterly Report October 2016

Author: Director of Research & Innovation Sponsor: Medical Director Trust Board paper M

Executive Summary

Context

UHL is a Trust active in Research and Innovation (R&I). This report describes current R&I performance against metrics, projects under development, new challenges and potential threats.

Questions

1. Is UHL performing well in the delivery of quality research at expected volume?
2. Are large projects planned with appropriate partners and managed appropriately?
3. Are upcoming challenges understood?

Conclusion

1. UHL performs well in delivering high quality research as judged by NIHR and LCRN data.
2. A larger number of large projects are in development, some being close to start date. There is a wide range of NHS and Academic partner engagement.
3. A number of challenges are recognised and planning is in place to mitigate risks.

Input Sought

Report is presented for information.

For Reference

Edit as appropriate:

1. The following objectives were considered when preparing this report:

Safe, high quality, patient centred healthcare	[Yes]
Effective, integrated emergency care	[Yes]
Consistently meeting national access standards	[Not applicable]
Integrated care in partnership with others	[Yes]
Enhanced delivery in research, innovation & ed'	[Yes]
A caring, professional, engaged workforce	[Yes]
Clinically sustainable services with excellent facilities	[Yes]
Financially sustainable NHS organisation	[Yes]
Enabled by excellent IM&T	[Yes]

2. This matter relates to the following governance initiatives:

Organisational Risk Register	[Yes]
Board Assurance Framework	[Yes]

3. Related Patient and Public Involvement actions taken, or to be taken: [Insert here]

4. Results of any Equality Impact Assessment, relating to this matter: n/a

5. Scheduled date for the next paper on this topic: [January 2017]

6. Executive Summaries should not exceed 1 page. [My paper does / does not comply]

7. Papers should not exceed 7 pages. [My paper does comply]

UHL R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report October 2016

1. Introduction

This report describes current R&I performance against metrics, projects under development, new challenges and potential threats.

2. Research Performance

The activity of UHL in initiating and delivering clinical research is performance monitored by both the NIHR Central Commissioning Facility (NIHR CCF) and the East Midlands Clinical Research Network (EM CRN). In turn the UHL R&I Office reports research CMG level activity and performance to each CMG via the R&I Executive Committee.

2.1 NIHR CCF.

In Q1 16/17 UHL initiated 104 clinical trials. These figures confirm a stable level of activity.

Table 1: UHL Performance in initiating clinical research trials

	Number of Trials Initiated		
	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Q1	91	107	104
Q2	79	107	
Q3	82	116	
Q4	95	99	

UHL is also judged by its performance in recruiting patients into initiated trials within 70 days. In Q1 2016/17 this figure was >90% and represents a sustained improvement. Overall in terms of both initiating and delivering research UHL remains ranked in League 1 (of 7) by NIHR.

2.2. EM CRN.

Recruitment into portfolio clinical trials so far for 16/17 is approximately 23% lower than the same period in 15/16. This is a whole network phenomenon – all recruiting trusts are recruiting lower numbers and all but one show a greater reduction than UHL. UHL is still recruiting nearly twice as many patients as any other Trust in the EM CRN.

There may be some inaccuracies in the data following migration to a new local portfolio management system – these are being checked. There have also been changes to the portfolio and completion of some larger studies. EM CRN have strategy to mitigate.

Table 2: Cumulative Recruitment Numbers of Patients into UHL Studies 2015/16 and 16/17

	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
Cumulative Recruitment 15/16	1078	1946	3112	4112	4972	5961	7477	9327	10112	10923	12546	13479
Cumulative Recruitment 16/17	<i>585</i>	<i>1131</i>	<i>1671</i>	<i>2041</i>	<i>3838</i>							

Figures in italics may be updated

3. New Awards

3.1 Designation as Biomedical Research Centre

Along with academic partners University of Leicester and Loughborough University has been awarded £11.6M by NIHR to become an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre from April 2017. The research will focus on Cardiovascular Medicine, Respiratory Medicine and Lifestyle to develop new, ground-breaking treatments, diagnostics, prevention and care for patients in a wide range of diseases.

3.2 The DISC Project

An NIHR HTA Award for £2M for Prof Joe Dias and team from MSK to study treatment options in Dupuytren's Contracture.

4. Projects in Development

4.1 New Projects under Development.

4.1.1 NHIR Renew and Refresh Call for Clinical Research Facility (CRF) Funding

UHL has submitted an application for funding from NIHR to meet the necessary recurrent NHS infrastructure costs and NHS support costs of funded, world-class, early translational research undertaken in existing CRF facilities at UHL. The application requests £5.7M over 5 years to support this activity. Outcome is expected in October 2016.

4.1.2 Renewal of Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Centre

UHL is working with the University of Leicester to support the renewal of the CRUK Centre and the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre. Interviews in mid October with outcome known by end 2016.

4.1.3 Early Life Centre

Discussions have begun between W&C CMG senior management team, University of Leicester and UHL R&I to establish an Early Life Centre in order to enhance academic activities in obstetrics and paediatrics alongside plans for the Children's Hospital. New senior clinical academic appointments are planned.

4.2. Existing Projects.

4.2.1. The 100,000 Genome Project.

Although already underway this project is still under development. UHL is now delivering recruitment to the rare diseases component of this project above agreed trajectory. Cancer recruitment has now also begun. Recruitment rates are subject to continuous scrutiny and UHL is making changes to clinical pathways to facilitate.

5. Innovation/Enterprise Activities

We are working with Leicester Precision Medicine Institute and the Healthcare Innovation Hub Medipex to commercialise the Stent Project and NeedleGuide – a device for safe placement of needles and cannulae.

6. New/Existing Challenges

6.1. Shortfall in Funding for BRC (*see above*)

6.2. Uncertainty about renewal of CRUK renewal

6.3. UHL Research and Innovation Strategy Refresh. UHL's R&I strategy is due to be updated in 2016. This will be developed in close collaboration with Academic partners and will depend on outcome of major funding bids.

6.4. Delivery of 100,000 Genome Project. Recruitment remains under close scrutiny. Genomics team working with clinical specialities to facilitate recruitment.

6.5. Hope Unit at Glenfield. Efforts continue to identify suitable space for Hope Unit at Glenfield Hospital

Nigel Brunskill
Director of Research & Innovation
September 2016