

UHL Research and Innovation: Quarterly Trust Board Report March 2019

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Trust Board paper J

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, recruitment remains under continuous scrutiny.
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 and assurance.

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: [TBC]

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

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

UHL R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report March 2019

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

UHL is also judged by its performance in initiating and delivering clinical trials to time and target. In Q2 2018/19 this figure has been excellent and represents a sustained performance. In terms of initiating research, UHL is in 16th place (out of 204 Trusts) in League 1 (of 7). In terms of delivery UHL is in 15th place, also League 1.

2.2. EM CRN

Cumulative recruitment into portfolio clinical trials for 18/19 significantly exceeds that observed at a corresponding stage in 17/18.



Figure 2. Cumulative UHL recruitment into NIHR portfolio studies 2018/19 vs 2017/18.

3.0 Research Finance

UHL has been asked by EM CRN to find savings of ~10.5% for 19/20. This includes a worst case scenario reduction in anticipation of a possible of 5% reduction in central funding to CRN. The remainder reflects reduced recruitment to portfolio studies at UHL in previous years. This budget has been extensively modelled and a detailed plan produced. In some areas the research workforce will be restructured to improve delivery.

3.0 Ongoing Projects and Recent Awards

3.1 Leicestershire Academic Health Partners (LAHP)

Following 2 years discussion an agreement has been reached to establish LAHP with UHL, UoL and LPT as founding partners (see previous agenda item and paper this meeting).

3.2 Appointment of Lead Nurse for Research at UHL

3.3 New appointment of LCFC Professor of Child Health (first Professorship in country to be sponsored by a football club)

3.4 Award of British Heart Foundation Accelerator Award
£1M awarded to Academic Dept of Cardiovascular Sciences at Glenfield Hospital to support development towards a BHF Centre of Excellence in 5 years.

3.5 NIHR Leicester BRC and NIHR Leicester CRF

The CRF has submitted a 2 year progress report to NIHR upon which continued funding will be dependent. Both CRF and BRC are currently preparing their annual reports to NIHR. Planning is underway to establish the thematic structure of BRC for future application round (approximately 18 months).

4.0 Inclusion of Research and Innovation in CQC Inspections

In 2018 National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) announced a new partnership between NIHR, the Health Research Authority (HRA), the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), to develop new research indicators for use as part of CQC's monitoring and inspection programme.

The CQC's focus will be on how well integrated research is within organisations, and will not concentrate on academic credibility, publications and grant income as these impacts are captured elsewhere.

The following will be inspected by CQC:

- *Research Awareness* - how does the organisation make research opportunities known to patients, the public and healthcare professionals?
- *Research Facilitation* - how does the organisation proactively support the delivery of research from board level to the clinical setting(s)?
- *Research Equity* - how does the organisation support the research programme across the breadth of its services?

CQC will address the following key questions:

- Does the vision and strategy incorporate plans for supporting clinical research activity as a key contributor to best patient care?
- Does the Trust have clear internal reporting systems for its research range, volume, activity, safety and performance?
- Are divisional staff aware of research undertaken in and through the Trust, how it contributes to improvement and the service level needed across departments to support it?
- How are patients and carers given the opportunity to participate in or become actively involved in clinical research studies in the trust?

A UHL action plan has been developed including the following elements:

- Appoint a UHL Lead Nurse for Research
- Revised job descriptions for CMG Leads to include support to CQC inspections
- A regular R&I performance report at CMG Board Meetings
- R&I information to be included in Trust inductions for all staff
- Research information posted in prominent areas around the Trust
- Research Champions in all wards and clinical speciality areas

- Bespoke research activity dashboards for all wards and clinical areas
- Standard UHL letters to encompass a reference to UHL as a research active trust
- Add question(s) about research to the UHL staff survey and patient experience survey
- New Trust-wide PPI panel to scrutinise progress against these goals
- A refreshed digital R&I presence across UHL