

R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report

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Trust Board paper L

Purpose of report:

This paper is for:	Description	Select (X)
Decision	To formally receive a report and approve its recommendations OR a particular course of action	
Discussion	To discuss, in depth, a report noting its implications without formally approving a recommendation or action	X
Assurance	To assure the Board that systems and processes are in place, or to advise a gap along with treatment plan	X
Noting	For noting without the need for discussion	

Previous consideration:

Meeting	Date	Please clarify the purpose of the paper to that meeting using the categories above
CMG Board (specify which CMG)		
Executive Board		
Trust Board Committee		
Trust Board		

Executive Summary

Context

Research played a central role in the response to COVID-19. UHL R&I is now moving back towards business as usual and preparing important bids for research infrastructure funding. UHL continues to play a full role in LAHP. Many newsworthy events are reported.

Questions

1. Are the Board content with the level of information provided?
2. Do the Board have any comments about performance or suggestions for improvements?

Conclusion

1. Research has been very successful and high profile at UHL in the last 12 months and should be fully supported.
2. NIHR re-bids are of key importance.

Input Sought

We would welcome the Trust Board's input regarding ...

Reconfirming the importance of clinical research at UHL and UHL's commitment to future support, especially for infrastructure re-bids.

For Reference:

This report relates to the following UHL quality and supporting priorities:

1. Quality priorities

Safe, surgery and procedures	[Yes]
Improved Cancer pathways	[Yes]
Streamlined emergency care	[Yes]
Better care pathways	[Yes]
Ward accreditation	[No]

2. Supporting priorities:

People strategy implementation	[No]
Investment in sustainable Estate and reconfiguration	[No]
e-Hospital	[Yes]
Embedded research, training and education	[Yes]
Embed innovation in recovery and renewal	[Yes]
Sustainable finances	[Yes]

3. Equality Impact Assessment and Patient and Public Involvement considerations:

- What was the outcome of your Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)?
- Briefly describe the Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) activities undertaken in relation to this report, or confirm that none were required
- How did the outcome of the EIA influence your Patient and Public Involvement ?
- If an EIA was not carried out, what was the rationale for this decision?

4. Risk and Assurance

Risk Reference:

Does this paper reference a risk event?	Select (X)	Risk Description:
Strategic: Does this link to a Principal Risk on the BAF?		
Organisational: Does this link to an Operational/Corporate Risk on Datix Register		
New Risk identified in paper: What type and description ?		
None		

5. Scheduled date for the **next paper** on this topic: TBC

6. Executive Summaries should not exceed **5 sides** My paper does/~~does not~~ comply

UHL R&I Quarterly Trust Board Report

July 2021

1. Introduction

This report describes how UHL R&I has moved back towards business as usual following the second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2. Research Performance

2.1 Recruitment into CRN Portfolio Studies

Since the last R&I report in March 2021 much urgent Covid-19 public health research has ended or slowed significantly.

Current recruitment 2020/21 data is shown below.

Our performance

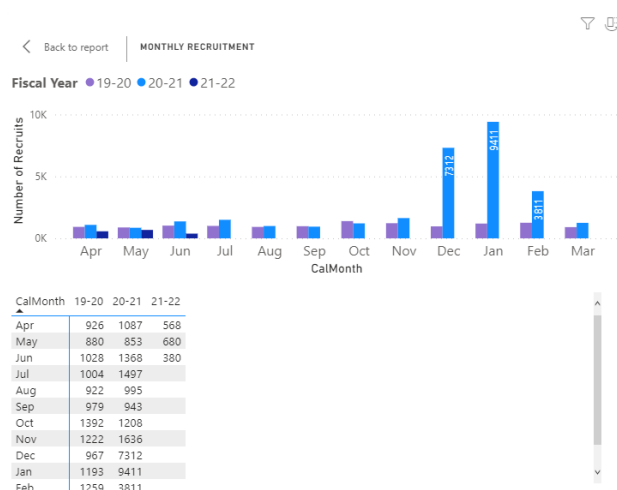


Figure 1: Comparative Annual Portfolio Recruitment for UHL 2020/21

Therefore, for comparison, the last 6yr annual recruitment into portfolio studies for UHL is:

2021/22	1,637
2020/21	31,479
2019/20	12,678
2018/19	13,204
2017/18	10,105
2016/17	11,462

Table 1. Portfolio Recruitment at UHL

2.2 Recovery, Resilience and Growth

In 2020/21 only 4878 participants were recruited into non-Covid-19 studies. The challenge now is ‘Recovery, Resilience and Growth’ through a locally and nationally managed process. Over the course of 2020/21 many studies at UHL paused. These are now being re-opened where possible and appropriate. An additional £200k has been provided to support this process. Currently there are fewer studies open at UHL than normal, although paused studies continue to be re-opened with a high rate of new study approvals (Table 2).

	Active Studies	Approved
19/20	1031	169
20/21	966	130
21/22	803	51

Table 2. Active and Approved Studies at UHL

3.0 Re-Bidding Process for NIHR Funded Infrastructure

Application portals have opened to re-bid for both BRC and CRF designations. It is important that UHL supports these bids and provides some matched support to underpin. Discussions are well advanced.

3.1 NIHR Leicester Biomedical Research Centre

A two-stage bidding process opened on 24th April 2021. Up to £790M is available for this round of BRC funding. The Leicester team has bid for a 6 Theme BRC in collaboration with the University of Leicester and Loughborough University.

Successful organisations will be invited to submit second round applications in early Aug 2021 with interviews in April 2022.

3.2 NIHR Leicester Clinical Research Facility

A one-stage bidding process opened on 23rd June 2021. Application deadline is 29th Sept 2020 with outcomes announced in Jan 2022. Up to £145M is available for this round of CRF funding. Internal discussions are underway to determine the structure of the bid.

4.0 Leicestershire Academic Health Partners

The LAHP Board meets quarterly, most recently in May 2021. The partners are supporting the following:

- Ethnicity and inequalities in health outcomes
- Health Data Access, Discovery and Sharing Through a Data Asset Platform
- Investigating Inequalities in Care and Patient Outcomes in NHS Provider Trusts
- Mass COVID-19 Screening – contract signed with DHSC
- Leading development of Integrated Care System Research Strategy in collaboration with ICS leadership

5.0 Other R&I News

- April 2021: Results of first 1,000 patients in Leicester led PHOSP-COVID study showed that 70% still exhibiting symptoms of 'Long COVID' 5 months post-infection, and it is predominantly affecting women in the 40-60 age bracket - widespread national and international media coverage
- Delivered first 'NIHR in Leicester' external newsletter to c.400 local interested members of the public
- May 2021 Launched Leicester's Research Registry on International Clinical Trials Day – now partnering with pilot GP practices to further develop the registry to engage with local population and offer opportunities to take part in research
- June 2021 - #Red4Research day, UHL was only Trust to be an official partner, supported through our research communications. Trended as Number 4 on Twitter. Hampers and card well-received by research teams at UHL
- Diabetes research in spotlight: £2.6M M3 project into programmes to support early onset t2d; SURPASS-CVOT promoted for patients with T2DM and cardiovascular disease, trialling a new medicine (both with media coverage 14-20 June as part of Diabetes Awareness Week)
- Cov-Boost vaccine study into third 'booster' COVID-19 vaccine recruitment campaign for over 70s through media partners and community groups