

Strategic Research & Innovation Committee

minutes

Minutes of the Strategic Research & Innovation meeting held on 18th July 2023

Present:	Bob Burgoyne	Non-Executive Director (Chair)
	Louise Robson	Non-Executive Director
	Jane Tomkinson	Chief Executive Officer
	Prof Jay Wright	Clinical Lead for Research and Director of Research & Innovation
	Karen Edge	Chief Finance Officer
	Prof Reecha Sofat	Head of Department Pharmacology and Therapeutics, University of Liverpool
	Keith Wilson	Patient Research Ambassador
	Catarina Teige	Interim Deputy Director of Research & Innovation
	Carole Spencer	Director of System Partnerships at the Innovation Agency
	Jonathan Develing	Director of Strategic Partnerships
In Attendance:	Ellis Hayes	Director of Operations, Medicine
	Prof Mark Bellis	Director of Research & Innovation for Health
Apologies for Absence:	Jennifer Ohlsson	Senior Executive Assistant (Minutes)
	Prof Raphaela Kane	Pro Vice Chancellor, Faculty of Health, LJMU
	Jonathan Mathews	Chief Operating Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies noted above.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of Interest noted at this meeting.

Action

3. Minutes of the previous meeting on 16th May 2023

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Action log

Action 1: Implementation plan on agenda for discussion. Action closed.

Action 2: ToR for the Operational Research and Innovation Committee on the agenda for discussion. Action closed.

5. Research Strategy - Implementation plan review

Strategic R&I Committee colleagues were asked to note the implementation plan circulated prior to the meeting and it was noted that nine main objectives have been identified including the timelines, responsible people and comments on what stage these objectives are at. The nine main objectives include; university accreditation, clinical research facility, increased grant and industry income, increased income, chief principle investigators, new partnerships, a preventative research programme, research process and governance and team development.

It was noted that there is a lot of work to be done but it is good to see that this is underway. Comments and questions were welcomed and the capacity issues associated with expanding the research portfolio were noted and a query raised on whether anything has been pulled together for review. It was confirmed that two papers have gone through the Strategic Accommodation Group. One relating to the Hawthorne Suite and one relating to the Research Unit. It was noted that there have been a number of long-term absences and new starters to the department that require desk space. CEO informed colleagues that there is a lot more work being done with the Broadgreen site and offering different types of mutual aid that could potentially open up some opportunities for repatriating staff out of the Research department.

A query was raised on whether there were any other barriers in terms of delivering the implementation plan. It was noted that there is a lot of work to be done and research isn't stand alone and there are cultural and governance issues to consider. It was added that these are considered at the Operational R&I Committee and monitored via an action log.

R&D income was noted and Chair suggested not ruling out possible income from Charitable Funds Committee and added that Mary Liley, Head of Fundraising would be able to support with any applications. It was also added that there is a very good relationship with the University of Liverpool Philanthropy Team, who have already supported in gaining a grant from the Wolverson Charitable Trust.

It was agreed that the implementation plan will come back later in the year for an update and review.

JW/CT

6. LCCS review update

An update was provided an LCCS review update and noted that there

was a data collection of all the LCCS chief performers in terms of publications, higher degrees registered and grant income and then there was a stakeholder event with people who engaged with LCCS and that resulted in a presentation that was presented back to the partners. It was noted that a further meeting will need to take place with the partners to discuss the governance and the key areas for moving forward.

There were no further comments or questions.

7. NIHR capital Bids

Strategic R&I Committee colleagues were informed that there have been two capital bids through the NIHR, the first of which came through a newly acquired membership of the CRF. It was noted that the Trust applied for £300,000 of capital and were approved for £60,000, much of which is for strengthening laboratory facilities, which will help support many studies.

The CRF funding is coming in the CRN funding, which was to support increased recruitment, has also been successful in several areas, most important of which is a whole time Band 8 pharmacist to support studies. Discussions with Danny Forrest and his team have started on how the team will manage this both later in the year and into the next financial year.

Funding was also awarded for a new minus 80 freezer but clarity was needed on the funding of the depreciation fees. It was noted that this would be done via Capital and would be done as a Trust wide piece of work.

8. Ongoing and Planned Research Projects report

An update was provided on ongoing and planned research projects and it was noted that in addition to these open studies which the Research nurse teams are supporting, there are a number of studies being supported by other teams within the research department. Research IT, Statistics and Labs all support other studies which do not require nurses to deliver and are currently in high demand, their capacity is also stretched.

Pharmacy support for CTIMP studies is at critical capacity and a bid has been submitted to CRN Life Sciences Funding call and was successful in acquiring funds to increase B8a pharmacist from .5 to 1 WTE to Research. This only alleviates pressures in current financial year. Pharmacy requesting increased investment from Research to alleviate increased demands.

There continues to be long term sickness in Team 2 which is affecting the ongoing capacity of the nurse team. The B7 nurse in Team 4 is to cover CRF studies as they open, therefore is supporting only in the interim, therefore need to be mindful of long-term capacity.

X2 SRN's are becoming more clinical from July which should support capacity and training within the nurse teams

Currently there are 32 studies on the pipeline tracker. 21 of which will require research nurse support.

Comments and questions were welcomed, and a query was raised on whether there are any problems or barriers to patient recruitment. It was confirmed that the Trust are recruiting rapidly and beyond what was predicted. It was added that one of the issues experienced is with the system called Edge. Training has been arranged with the Edge team in Southampton to try to improve this.

9. Partnership working and updated from partners

Updated were provided from the partners and colleagues were informed that there has been discussions around applications for BHF Research Excellence Centre and it was agreed that this would be discussed further outside of this meeting in terms of whether there is a sufficient scale in Liverpool for this and whether it would require bringing people in from the outside.

It was noted that there are a couple of big pieces with NIHR at the moment around the prevention evidence centres and also with the Liverpool City Council. It was noted that it would be interesting to see how these pieces are joined up. It was added the LJMU are increasing the capacity in nursing staff at the moment and there is real interest in linking this into nurse research, which could potentially provide opportunities.

10. Research news and key successes

Strategic R&I colleagues were given the opportunity to share any research news and key successes and colleagues were informed that LCCS was voted partnership of the year in the University Liverpool Staff Awards, it was noted that it is useful that the recognition was there.

Colleagues were also informed that Professor Rod Stables won an award at the regional CRN award ceremony for the implementation of the ARCH study, which has led to a change in clinical practice, both at LHCH and many other centres.

It was noted that great feedback had been received on the research nursing staff from patients finishing their studies and it was noted that this is good news that should be publicised.

11. Report on Innovation Agenda

Caroline Spencer, Director of System Partnership attended the Strategic R&I Committee to present an update on the innovation agenda.

The project Objectives include; to establish current understanding of innovation across all senior leadership and the rationale for prioritising Innovation and why it is important. To establish the ambition levels for innovation. To understand where the Trusts sits with current systems, processes, capacity, capability and culture for innovation. To identify innovation strategy objectives and to identify the key initiatives required over the next few years to drive success.

CS informed colleagues that two workshops are planned on 27th July and 21st August. The aims of the workshop is to draft and agree the draft strategic objectives for the strategy, to identify the cross cutting support required from other strategies and to start to identify and prioritise the initiatives that need developing in each objective theme.

Comments and questions were welcomed and a digital innovation portal was noted to bring all ideas together and have oversight of all of the different ideas that people are having and all the different potential schemes.

It was noted that it was good to see that this is an all-encompassing innovation strategy and it was agreed that a further update will be brought back to the September meeting.

CS/JD

12.1 Minutes from the last operational R&I Committee

Strategic R&I Colleagues were asked to note the minutes from the Operational R&I Committee from 14th April and 12th May.

There were no further comments or questions.

12.2 Operational Research & Innovation Committee Terms of Reference

A overview was provided of the changes to the Operational Research and Innovation Committee Terms of Reference and it was noted that the it was recently agreed that each study would be reviewed by two Lead reviewers in advance of the Operational Committee. It was also agreed to include details of the feedback letter that is provided to PI's including a timeline of 5 days.

Comments and questions were welcomed and it was noted that there's very variable Consultant attendance at the Operational Committee and this has been brought up many times. It was added that it is important that this is addressed to ensure a robust governance process.

13. Draft workplan for approval

Colleagues were asked to note the draft work plan circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that implementation plan, would be brought back in February for an update.

JW/CT

It was agreed by the Strategic Research and Innovation Committee to approve the committee workplan.

14. AoB

Keith Wilson, Patient Research Ambassador thanked colleagues for listening to concerns over the Research Unit being used for purposes other than research and appreciates the positive response from the Chief Executive and Chair. It was added that focus should not just be on getting grants and research but the type of research that the Trust does for the benefit of the patients. It was agreed that it is important to

publicise Research across LHCH and the North West.

Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 12th September 2023, 9am – 10.30am, MS Teams