

Name of Sub-Committee:	Research & Innovation Sub-Committee
Chair of Sub-Committee:	Professor Philip Kloer, Medical Director/Deputy Chief Executive
Reporting Period:	Meeting held on 8 th November 2021
Key Decisions and Matters Considered by the Sub-Committee:	
<p>The Research & Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) last met on 8th November 2021. The purpose of this report is to provide the People, Organisational Development and Culture Committee (PODCC) with a summary of the key points against the agenda items.</p> <p>Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy Work Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An update on progress against the Strategy highlighted that a number of the actions have begun to fall behind schedule in terms of the planned time-line. However, assurance was provided that the majority of the actions should be back on track by the next R&ISC meeting in January 2022. The exception was the introduction of commercial studies into Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), Aberystwyth, and Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Carmarthen. The issue in both sites relates to the lack of research facilities to see patients. It is anticipated that the matter should be addressed in GGH by the end of December 2021, however it will be considerably longer in BGH (see escalation issue below). The action has been transferred to Quarter 1 in 2022. • Team Report - noted and accepted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The performance against Welsh Government's Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (reporting period end of October 2021) evidences that 68% of the open portfolio studies are meeting the KPI for the pace of recruitment. Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) remains the highest performing Health Board in Wales for this indicator. ○ Three of the eight applications made under the Moondance Innovation Time Awards had been successful, generating £210k in grant funding. • Department Risk Register - report noted and accepted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Progress continues to be made against Risk 1160 which is the only directorate risk. ○ Risk 1035 relating to research space in BGH is being escalated to PODCC (see below). ○ Risk 1036 relating to research space in Withybush General Hospital (WGH) is being escalated to PODCC (see below). • Governance Report from Research Quality Management Group (RQMG) - noted and accepted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The RQMG report included an update on a breach of Good Clinical Practice (GCP). The breach involved missing research logs and failure to record trial participant identifications. Whilst these are considered serious breaches of GCP, it was emphasised that no participants in the trial came to any harm. ○ The Quality Assurance team have ensured that a Corrective and Preventative Action (CAPA) plan is in place. 	

- UPDATE: as of 22nd November 2021, all the missing paperwork has now been located. The study will be formally closed on 2nd December 2021. The CAPA will be reviewed at the next RQMG meeting on 16th December 2021.
- **Financial Report - noted and accepted**
 - The financial position at the end of 2021 remains set to breakeven.
 - Financial plans for 2022-23 had been submitted to Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW).
 - HCRW have announced that they will not be continuing to provide funding for the R&D Clinical Director post, therefore the two weekly sessions will need to be funded by HDdUHB.
- **National Developments – verbal report**
 - There are no new developments to report since the last R&ISC meeting.
- **Local Performance Framework**
 - A draft performance framework was presented and discussed. HCRW have supported this by capturing delivery team performance figures on a power BI slide set. A final framework will be presented at the next R&ISC meeting in January 2022.
- **Research Facilities**
 - GGH - contractors are continuing work on the new research facility at GGH, with an expected completion date of mid-January 2022.
 - WGH – awaiting management team decision on the most appropriate space. The inadequacy of space is inhibiting the number and types of studies that can be undertaken at the hospital.
 - BGH - space has been allocated in Aberystwyth University for a joint clinical research facility and progress is being made to progress this. The lack of clinical space on the hospital site however, has resulted in the team being unable to recruit patients into a clinical trial. This issue is being escalated to PODCC (see below).

Development & Innovation

- **Bringing Innovation to Life**
 - Dianne Burnett, National Medicines Information Lead for Wales, provided a presentation on the 'Smart Pumps' project that she had been a part of whilst working in HDdUHB.
- **TriTech Report - noted and accepted**
 - The TriTech team have the skills and experience to provide research, evaluation and advisory services.
 - There is no core research taking place currently, however a number of evaluations are in progress.
 - TriTech has been successful in terms of prostate cancer innovation in the field of AI through Moondance Cancer Initiative (Innovation Time Awards), which achieved funding of £100k.
 - The finance report was currently forecasting an overspend of £36k, however this does not take into account the Moondance funding highlighted above.
- **University Partnerships**
 - Plans have been proposed for two virtual meetings per year between the HDdUHB and all University partners. The inaugural meeting will be held in February/March 2022.
 - A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Aberystwyth University and HDdUHB was signed on 11th November 2021 at Aberystwyth University.

- A HDdUHB delegation visited the Assisted Technologies Innovation Centre and CBM Medical (Wales centre for advanced batch manufacture) at the University of Wales Trinity St David on 10th November 2021.
- Work is ongoing to finalise the MoU between HDdUHB and Swansea University. Similar agreements will be developed with Cardiff and Bangor Universities.

Matters Requiring People, Organisational Development & Culture Committee Level Consideration or Approval:

Clinical Research Facilities on the BGH and WGH sites.

The R&ISC wish to raise the issue of a lack of clinical facilities on both the BGH and WGH sites. These issues have been a part of the risk register since 2016, however, whilst recognising the challenges in the hospitals at present, the R&ISC are highlighting the consequences of this lack of space. It is important to understand that the research teams in the acute hospital sites are clinical teams, and will be recruiting patients from wards, out-patients and the community, and have remained in the hospital sites throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

BGH

The research team in BGH previously had a dedicated clinical room within the hospital, however this was handed over during the first wave of COVID-19 and has not been returned. The team have received no support from hospital management in terms of getting their room back or finding an alternative. This is now having an impact on the amount of research that can be undertaken in BGH, and out-patients eligible to be recruited into studies are not being given the opportunity as there is not a facility where the team can liaise with the patients and receive informed consent. When the new facility is operational, there will still be a requirement for a clinical space within the hospital.

WGH

The research team in WGH are currently using a waiting room, following the requirement to move out of their office due to COVID-19. The office is confined and restricted, and there is inadequate space for the whole team. The team does also have a small lab in another part of the hospital and is able to access some clinical space in the Pembrokeshire Haematology & Oncology Day Unit (PHODU) for patients in oncology trials, and has a weekly afternoon session booked in outpatients. The lack of suitable space is having a detrimental effect on the ability to open commercial studies.

Risks / Matters of Concern:

RISK 1035 & 1036

1035	There is a risk that R&D in BGH is not able to deliver work aligned to the overall strategic objectives of the Health Board, Health & Care	This is caused by a lack of clinical space in which to see patients coming in from outside the hospital, and a lack of lab facilities to undertake	16	20.10.21 - HDdUHB estates staff met with central services to formerly plan and cost the work on the joint facility in Aberystwyth University.	Gareth Higgins	End September 2021
				A paper has been produced for the R&ISC recommending that	PK	End October 2021
						End November 2021

	Research Wales and the R&D strategy	relevant sample processing and storage		this risk be escalated to PODCC at the next meeting. This is due to no clinical space in the hospital being allocated for research resulting in an inability to recruit.		
1036	There is a risk that R&D in WGH is not able to deliver work aligned to the overall strategic objectives of the Health Board, Health & Care Research Wales and the R&D strategy	This is caused by an inadequate clinical space in which to see patients coming in from outside the hospital, and remote lab facilities to undertake relevant sample processing.	9	Hospital General manager to discuss with the hospital team to identify which site of two would be the most suitable.	JCW	End October 2021
Identify a funding source to enable the facility to be developed.				LP	End December 2021	

Planned Sub-Committee Business for the Next Reporting Period:

Future Reporting:

In addition to routine business, the R&ISC will receive:

- A final proposal for a local performance indicator framework.
- A management response to the Peer Review.
- Updates on progress surrounding the research facilities on three sites.
- A plan for starting / increasing commercial research activity on the four acute sites.
- The Corrective and Preventative Action (CAPA) undertaken following the GCP breach.
- The compliance standard operating procedure setting out the consequences for breaches / repeated breaches of research governance

Date of Next Meeting:

10th January 2022