

Name of Sub-Committee:	Research & Innovation Sub-Committee
Chair of Sub-Committee:	Dr Philip Kloer, Medical Director/Deputy Chief Executive
Reporting Period:	Meeting held on Monday, 13 th September 2021

Key Decisions and Matters Considered by the Sub-Committee:

The Research & Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) last met on 13th September 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.

Research

- **Strategy Work Plan**
 - An update on progress against the Strategy will be presented to Public Board on 30th September 2021.
- **Team Report - noted and accepted**
 - The performance against Welsh Government's Key Performance Indicators (KPI) (reporting period end 2nd September 2021) evidences that 71% of the open portfolio studies are meeting the KPI for the pace of recruitment. The percentage achieved by Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) in terms of recruitment indicated that it is the highest performing Health Board in Wales, however the number of studies open is currently the lowest in Wales. It should be noted that since the figures were published, HDdUHB has opened several more studies.
 - R&I will consider setting its own KPIs against the Strategy.
 - A meeting has been arranged with Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) to discuss HDdUHB's performance and seek suggestions for improvement.
- **Department Risk Register - report noted and accepted**
 - Risk 1160 is the only directorate risk and is related to the requirement for additional Principal Investigators. Further information is detailed below.
 - Highlights from the discussion included noting that the Moondance activity is the first time in HDdUHB that a general surgeon has been funded to undertake research. It is also the first time an agreement has been made for the protected research time to continue after the study.
- **Governance Report from Research Quality Management Group (RQMG) - noted and accepted**
 - The RQMG are developing a dashboard in order to understand month on month the number of protocol deviations/triggered audits, etc.
- **Financial Report - noted and accepted**
 - The financial position at the end of 2021 is set to breakeven.
 - HCRW have confirmed funding for 2021/22 in excess of £1m.
- **National Developments – verbal report**
 - R&I continue to meet with HCRW. There are no new developments to report since the last Sub-Committee meeting.
- **Peer Review Report - noted and accepted**
 - A peer review was undertaken on 10th and 11th August 2021. A number of documents were submitted to the peer review team by R&I prior to the visit, and 3 interviewers attended HDdUHB to meet with a variety of staff members. This was a voluntary review with a focus on ensuring the Research & Innovation team was sufficiently organised to deliver their strategy.

- A full report of the review is anticipated during October 2021.
- **Research Facilities**
 - Glangwili General Hospital (GGH), Carmarthen - contractors have commenced work on the new research facility at GGH.
 - Withybush General Hospital (WGH), Haverfordwest - potential sites have been identified on the WGH site.
 - Bronglais General Hospital (BGH), Aberystwyth - space has been allocated in Aberystwyth University. A meeting with the University Facilities team will take place during September 2021 to progress matters.
- **Clinical Trial Collaborations**
 - Clinical Trial Units (CTU) – The three clinical trial units currently supported by HCRW are being reviewed. HDdUHB has been invited to participate in the review. The R&ISC were notified in advance of them receiving a report describing the implications for HDdUHB when the review concludes in October 2021.
 - Joint Clinical Research Facility (JCRF) – separately the R&I Department is working with Swansea Bay University Health Board and Swansea University to explore how the JCRF might extend its reach further West in Wales.
- **City Deal Campus Update**
 - The R&ISC received a presentation from Tony Harris, an Independent Project Manager and Procurement Specialist at Castletone Ltd and Project Manager for the Swansea Bay City Deal Life Science, Well-being and Sport Campuses. Mr Harris provided an overview of the campuses scheme and explained that he was seeking endorsement for the scheme by the R&ISC.
 - Mr Harris was informed that the R&ISC could only note the scheme and that sign off/ratification, if required, would need to be via the Executive Team or the Health Board planning function.
 - It was noted that the proposals were finalised and the Chief Executive of HDdUHB had already 'signed-off' the scheme. The status of the sign off would be confirmed.

Development & Innovation

- **TriTech Report - noted and accepted.**
 - All staff are now in place and the TriTech website is live in both English and Welsh.
 - The initial scoping and decision-making paper was presented and assurance was taken.
 - Research on devices and technologies that have not received regulatory approval will not take place until the new quality management system (ISO 13485) is in place next spring.
 - The R&ISC agreed that assurance and, where relevant, decision making should be in one space, at R&ISC, however an accountability line should also link to the Medical Devices Group.
 - The R&ISC agreed that the TriTech paper should be considered by the Medical Devices Group.
 - The initial TriTech Business Case will be reviewed at a future R&ISC for information, and to form the basis of further work to develop the case into a more detailed plan moving forward into the second year of the initiative.
 - The TriTech official launch will take place in the autumn.
- **University Partnerships**

- R&D has previously committed to bring all three universities together on an annual basis to celebrate progress in university partnership activity. R&ISC members agreed it might be more beneficial to have informal networking throughout the year on particular themes, rather than waiting until the annual meeting for discussions. Proposals for this would be considered.
- It was agreed that university partnerships in the arena of health informatics/AI/robotics, could be very fruitful and worth pursuing further. Digital Health in Wales are very interested in the work being undertaken within the region.
- Aberystwyth University has a system in place once a year for honorary appointments. Each university partner would consider how best to identify and award honorary appointments in respect of the healthcare system.

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

None

Risks / Matters of Concern:

RISK 1160 (Directorate Risk)

TOPIC	CAUSE	SCORE	ACTIONS	BY WHOM	DATE FOR COMPLETION
There is a risk of a decreasing research portfolio, both in amount as well as diversity	This is caused by a lack of research leadership across the UHB (staff able to act as Principal Investigators)	12	Clinical Director will engage with the executive medical director to influence the case for protected research time for PIs.	SR	September 2021
			Clinical director will engage with speciality leads to encourage them to add a section to their meeting to discuss R&I (as well as audit and QI)	SR	October 2021
			Increase University posts and regionalised working.	LP	November 2021
			The Board to help drive the R&I agenda as set out in new strategy	PK	August 2021

Planned Sub-Committee Business for the Next Reporting Period:

Future Reporting:

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

- A draft KPI framework, with both Health Board and national measures.
- RQMG dashboard.
- Outcomes from the Peer Review.
- Updates on progress surrounding the research facilities on three sites.
- Paper on Clinical Trials facilities.
- Further information on the TriTech Business Case.

Date of Next Meeting:

Monday, 8th November 2021