

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT

Date of last meeting: 9 December 2024

Quoracy: Met

Report by: Mark Henwood, Chair

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND MATTERS TO BE ESCALATED FROM THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING:

Alert¹ (may require discussion)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee have no items of which to alert the People, Organisational Development and Culture Committee (PODCC) on.

Advise² (to monitor)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wish to advise members of the PODCC of the ongoing regional oncology work with Swansea Bay University Health Board (SBUHB). Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) have provided funding to pursue one of three options. The meeting scheduled for 6 January 2025 with SBUHB will decide the final way forward. The report was noted and accepted by R&ISC members.

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) wish to advise members of the PODCC on the positive progress being made with the Pentre Awel project, in light of the Board signing the lease agreement, and the intention to locate research and innovation activities at the scheme. However, the R&ISC noted that the Department does not have the funds to off-set the costs of the scheme, should it be asked to contribute to the lease costs.

Assure³ (to note)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wish to assure members of the PODCC on:

- Research and Development (R&D) site activity performance, noting a challenging position, but a focussed approach to recovery.
- Progress on developing the next strategy (2025-2030) and an aim to publish this around April/May 2025.
- Activities of the Research Quality and Sponsorship Group (RQSG).
- An update on the Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) scheme that is a five-year investment agreed by the Government, NHS England and the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI). HCRW have opened stage 1 and 2 funding calls for costs incurred to support the delivery of commercial pharmaceutical interventional

¹ There is a lack of confidence that any action in place is sufficient to address the issue satisfactorily and/or within the scope of the operational team or executive to resolve. Engagement, action or intervention required.

² There are areas of concern where assurance has been taken on actions in place but requires close monitoring. An early warning of an emerging and potentially serious concern.

³ There is confidence that actions are robust and will be sufficient to address the issue or generally operating effectively. Routine monitoring.

research, the deadline of which is 31 January and 7 February 2025, respectively.

- University partnership activities. Representatives from University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD), and Aberystwyth University were unable to attend. A representative from Swansea University provided an update on activities, including the move to Pentre Awel which will be a positive step in developing collaborations with Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDUHB) colleagues. University partners will now report to R&ISC one at a time on an annual cycle. Swansea University will begin the first 12 months.
- The financial position of the TriTech and Innovation division.
- Progress against the Board approved TriTech Business Plan.
- National Innovation developments and increasing interest in understanding the wider potential of the TriTech model.
- Proposals to support the Health Board's capability and capacity to support social innovation.
- A partnership project with the National Botanic Gardens to create spaces for rest and recuperation across hospital sites. The project is now complete and an evaluation is taking place.
- Progress against the R&D Strategy (2021-2024). With the exception of two, all objectives have been met. Those outstanding are being monitored regularly through R&D Leadership Group and the R&ISC and will be rolled over to the next Strategy until completion.

Review of Risks

The R&ISC reviewed the three Research & Development risks (two service level, one directorate level) that are aligned to it. The outcome of the discussions is below:

- Risk 1036 – Research space in Withybush General Hospital (WGH): The team have now moved into the dedicated research space. As such, risk 1036 has now been closed
- Risk 1492 – Research Delivery Funding: The Organisational Change Process (OCP) continues to progress to mitigate this risk of reduced funding from that of 2023/24 and, as such, the risk score remains the same,
- Risk 1160 – Lack of research leads: The agreed engagement plan will be incorporated into the next R&I Strategy (2025-30) to develop support that can be offered to encourage staff to undertake research.

The R&ISC also reviewed the two TriTech and Innovation risks (service level) that are aligned to it. The outcome of the discussions is below:

- No changes to the scores for risk 1511 (regulatory climate) and risk 1508 (lack of clinical leadership).

R&ISC members took assurance from the reports and consequent discussions and decisions.

Sharing of learning

Not Applicable

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to:

- Note the items the Committee is advising them of
- Be assured on the items that the Committee is providing assurance on.

Agenda, papers and minutes are available on request.