

**Meeting Assurance Report to the
Council of Governors
held on 13 June 2024**

Name of Committee / Group	Research and Innovation Committee
Date of Meeting	19 February 2024
Chair	Dean Royles, Non-Executive Director
Lead Officer	David Black, Medical Director (Development)
Meeting Administrator	Rachael Winterbottom, Corporate Governance Manager

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide in summary an update on the key discussions and outcomes of the above meeting.

Agenda items covered at the meeting

The agenda included the following items:

- Overview of Research and Innovation at STH
- Research and Innovation Strategy
- Research and Innovation Committee - Terms of Reference
- Research and Innovation – Tier 2 Executive Committees Draft Terms of Reference

Matters to highlight

Specific areas to highlight are as follows:

The committee received

- An overview of the current position in relation to research and innovation at the Trust including activity, infrastructure, and income.
- A summary of the main challenges for the Trust in relation to research and innovation which included capacity, capability, and engagement across the Trust including within key support services (Pharmacy, Pathology, and Imaging) and current structures to performance manage directorates in relation to their research activity.
- A description of actions, next steps and that further investment may be required to improve the Trust's position and deliver the strategic aim of excellent research and innovation.
- A summary of the potential key performance indicators (KPIs) that could be used to monitor progress.
- An overview of the new research and innovation governance structure which would feed into the Research and Innovation Committee.

The Committee confirmed its support of the Research and Innovation Strategy and the development of the implementation plan. Discussion focused on information required by the Committee to enable it to provide assurance to the Board that the Trust's Research and Innovation Strategy was being implemented with appropriate results.

The Committee requested the following information:

- 1) A proposed suite of key performance indicators for the Trust to monitor research and innovation performance.
- 2) A finance paper detailing the key issues in relation to research and innovation.
- 3) Suggested areas for further consideration in respect of the two Tier Two sub-Committees

Documents approved were:

- Research and Innovation Committee - Terms of Reference

New significant issues / concerns escalated including proposals on the next steps to address this

Nothing to escalate.

Implications

Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy		✓ Tick as appropriate
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

Recommendations

The Council of Governors is asked to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the update provided and respond to any specific points raised within the report.

**Meeting Assurance Report to the
Council of Governors
held on 13 June 2024**

Name of Committee / Group	Research and Innovation Committee
Date of Meeting	15 April 2024
Chair	Dean Royles, Non-Executive Director
Lead Officer	David Black, Medical Director (Development)
Meeting Administrator	Beth Jones, Business Manager

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide in summary an update on the key discussions and outcomes of the above meeting.

Agenda items covered at the meeting
<p>The agenda included the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and Innovation Finance • Research and Innovation Key Performance Indicators • Tier 2 Executive Committees Terms of Reference • Committee Objectives and Workplan for 2024/25 • Research and Innovation Risks - Escalation and Reporting

Matters to highlight
<p>Specific areas to highlight are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further work was required to understand the financial flows and how these lead to the ‘bottom-line’ surplus / deficit position. There is complexity in identifying the true cost of research. • The notification from the NIHR CRN of a 10% reduction in Trust funding may not represent the full funding reductions that could arise from implementation of a new formula. • The Finance Team were launching a series of training for Directorates to aid understanding of research finance. • A recovery plan was being developed for the reductions in Cancer Clinical Trials Centre (CCTC) income. • An indicative timescale scale for delivery of the Research and Innovation Strategy Implementation Plan was requested • That the Metrics paper is reframed from a metrics to an insights paper which reflects the suggestions shared by the Committee. • Narrative is included to describe the Trust’s recent research activity that has been undertaken by the central team. • That progress related to development of the Implementation Plan is described which incorporates decision-making related to adopting new studies.

- That metrics are timebound and consideration is given to if maintaining rather than increasing metrics is sufficient to aid performance.
- The Committee agreed the revised Terms of Reference which would be approved at the first meeting of each Executive Committee.

New significant issues / concerns escalated including proposals on the next steps to address this

Nil to raise.

Implications

Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy		✓ Tick as appropriate
1	Deliver the Best Clinical Outcomes	✓
2	Provide Patient Centred Services	✓
3	Employ Caring and Cared for Staff	✓
4	Spend Public Money Wisely	✓
5	Create a Sustainable Organisation	✓
6	Deliver Excellent Research, Education and Innovation	✓

Recommendations

The Council of Governors is asked to **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** the update provided and respond to any specific points raised within the report.