

**Meeting Assurance Report  
to the Board of Directors**

<b>Name of Committee / Group</b>	Research and Innovation Committee
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	17 June 2024
<b>Chair</b>	Dean Royles, Non-Executive Director
<b>Lead Officer</b>	David Black, Medical Director (Development)
<b>Meeting Administrator</b>	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.

<b>Agenda items covered at the meeting</b>
<p>The agenda included the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research and Innovation Finance</li> <li>• Research and Innovation Performance and Insights</li> <li>• Board Assurance Framework Deep Dive Review into Research, Education and Innovation Strategic Risk</li> </ul>

<b>Matters to highlight</b>
<p>Specific areas to highlight are as follows:</p> <p>Pending completion of the process we should be able to announce the appointment of a Managing Director of Research and Innovation expected to take up post on 1 July 2024.</p> <p>As part of orientation received a further finance update outlining principles of funding distribution. It was recognised that this was a confusing picture with a lack of clarity on the link to research performance and accountability. It was recognised the principles require updating and refreshing closely linking performance to receipt of funds.</p> <p>Received finance paper outlining increased risk and further reduction in funding and noted that bidding for grant funding and recruitment into trials was often based on directorate appetite and discretionary effort rather strategic intent.</p> <p>The committee welcomed the updated metrics and insights report with benchmarking information. This report demonstrated a declining position in respect of a number of aspects of research. There were also no metrics yet put forward relating to Innovation. However, there are plans to develop these over the coming months.</p> <p>In light of the above the committee agreed that the strategy implementation plan should now be a recovery and implementation plan to be reviewed by the committee at its next meeting. It was further agreed that the Innovation Executive Committee should review and suggest appropriate innovation metrics to be considered by the assurance committee. More financial information, risks and mitigation</p>

should also be included within the Insights reports with committee oversight on finance until the position stabilises and improves.

Considered the research and innovation risk deep dive and requested that the gaps and mitigations be reviewed to focus on recovery and turnaround. Also, that the Trust Executive ensure that turnaround plans include the most appropriate mechanisms for ensuring appropriate performance and review of R&I performance at directorate level.

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

Nil additional to the information reported above.

**Implications**

<b>Aim of the STHFT Corporate Strategy</b>		<b>✓ Tick as appropriate</b>
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 Board of Directors is asked to **NOTE** the update provided and respond to any specific points raised within the report.