

## Integrated Care Board

<b>Date of meeting</b>	13 November 2024
<b>Title of paper</b>	Research & Innovation Bi-annual Update
<b>Presented by</b>	Professor Sarah O'Brien
<b>Author</b>	Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer
<b>Agenda item</b>	14
<b>Confidential</b>	No

### Executive summary

Board have received two previous papers on Research and Innovation and at the May 2024 meeting approved the TOR for the Research and Innovation Collaborative and the Research and Innovation Plan on a Page.

The aim of this paper is to update Board on key system wide research activity since the last report and to highlight some of the regional and national work being supported by ICB colleagues.

Two new subgroups have been established in the last six months, a medical sub-group and a Health Creation sub-group both will support delivery of the Plan on a Page.

REN (Research Engagement Networks) have been funded nationally to support improving health inequalities through research by bridging the gap and building trust with communities that are underrepresented by research. It is widely recognised that communities with health inequalities are often excluded from participating in research and have less opportunity to contribute their lived experience to the studies created. There a number of REN projects outlined in the paper and this programme has supported some key partnership working between the ICB and VCFSE.

There have been two successful system meetings relating to developing an Innovation ecosystem across LSC and this fits with a national programme of work which is expected to report imminently and recommend the establishment of a 'Locality Partnership' led by the ICB and supported by the local Health Innovation Network, Board asked to support this opportunity.

Ongoing work to grow research capacity and capability across non-medical colleagues is highlighted in the paper and LSC continue to lead a number of initiatives on this agenda regionally and nationally.

Board are alerted to the potential risks to research and innovation of the current financial challenges across the system.

Recommendations				
The Board is requested to:				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note some of the research and innovation activity across the system.</li> <li>• Note the imminent report on Innovation Ecosystem Programme and support discussions with Health Innovation North West regarding this opportunity.</li> <li>• Note the risks to research and innovation of the current financial challenges.</li> <li>• Agree future frequency of reporting to board on research and innovation.</li> </ul>				
Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:				Tick
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience			<b>x</b>
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area			<b>x</b>
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees			<b>x</b>
SO4	Meet financial targets and deliver improved productivity			
SO5	Meet national and locally determined performance standards and targets			
SO6	To develop and implement ambitious, deliverable strategies			<b>x</b>
Implications				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks	X			System Financial position
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?	X			Risks associated with system financial challenges are detailed within the Board Assurance Framework (BAF-005).
Financial Implications		x		
Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)				
Meeting	Date		Outcomes	
<b>Research and Innovation Collaborative</b>	3/10/24		Update from sub groups	
Conflicts of interest associated with this report				
'not applicable'				
Impact assessments				
	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed		x		
Equality impact assessment completed		x		
Data privacy impact assessment completed		x		
Report authorised by:	Professor Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer			

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## Research and Innovation Bi-annual Update

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In September 2023 Board received a paper outlining: the benefits of good research practice; current strengths within the ICS; the legal duties for ICBs relating to research and recent NHSE guidance regarding ICBs and research.
- 1.2 In May 2024 Board received a further paper outlining how the ICB was implementing NHSE guidance and Board approved the Terms of Reference for the Research and Innovation Collaborative and approved the Plan on a Page detailing the ICS key aims for research and innovation over the next three years.
- 1.3 The aim of this paper is to update Board on key system wide research activity since the last report and to highlight some of the regional and national work being supported by ICB colleagues.

### 2. Examples of Key Research and Innovation Activity

- 2.1 One of the aims outlined in the Plan on a Page relates to Health Creation and a dedicated sub-group led by the ICB Chief AHP has now been established to lead this area.
- 2.2 The Health Creation sub-group focuses on the creation of a USP (Unique Selling Point) for our approach to health improvement with a focus on Inequalities, Mental health, Children and Young People, Population health and Core 20+, Community engagement and work in partnership with the VCFSE (Voluntary Community Faith and Social enterprise sectors). In September the group had a soft-launch engagement event with VCSFE partners as part of the VCFSE Health Inequalities Research Capacity and Capability Programme Celebration event in collaboration with NIHR North West Coast, Blackpool Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Blackpool Council and Lancaster University. The network will progress to scope themes of research that align with VSCFE sector development support across the ICS in collaboration with supporting Research and Engagement Networks.
- 2.3 We have continued to support the national agenda regarding Research Engagement Networks (REN). Research Engagement Networks have been developed with funding from NHSE and there are three partners: the ICB, VCFSE and research infrastructure (such as the National Institute for health and care research – NIHR). The remit of REN is to support improving health inequalities through research by bridging the gap and building trust with communities that are underrepresented by research. It is widely recognised that

communities with health inequalities are often excluded from participating in research and have less opportunity to contribute their lived experience to the studies created. The REN projects aim to build trust with communities and educate health and care staff around cultural competency with communities and working with them as opposed to research being done to them.

2.4 REN projects are progressing well and starting to build capacity and capability for research within the VCFSE sector to build relationships and develop opportunities. These include:

- Citizen's advice bureau employed a VCFSE Research coordinator (VRC) to oversee projects in this sector across LSC
- We have worked with the ICB population health team on a NIHR Rapid Conversion of Evidence Summaries (RaCES) project for the Respiratory Health and Wellbeing Champions Service. The team have published a summary of systematic reviews which highlights research evidence supporting the benefits of the health and wellbeing coaches service.
- The lead research social worker at LSCFT and Professor Aidan Worsley of the University of Central Lancashire have completed their research skills training with the organisation Early Break (which supports families who have experienced substance or alcohol abuse). They have presented a toolkit together nationally around how to work with these communities and are now planning to develop their own research study soon. Building on this work, three new social workers are being trained in a similar model to work with three new VCFSE's across Lancashire and South Cumbria; The Foxton Centre, The Deaf Village and East meet West.
- We are setting up an online service for VCFSE colleagues to access further support and mentorship in research with Voluntary Sector North West.
- Within secondary care, we will also use the learning to help bridge the gap between VCFSEs and health. Assessing how secondary care can work better with the community so that they can get access to health research.

2.5 It is essential that the ICB and ICS have an effective and embedded approach to innovation. There is a vibrant innovation sub-group to the Research and Innovation Collaborative led by the Director of Public Health at Lancashire County Council in collaboration with Health Innovation North West Coast.

2.6 There have been two strategic co-design events since the last Board update exploring with system partners how we establish an Innovation Ecosystem across the ICS and with the aim of agreeing our innovation ambitions for LSC. Further events are planned and discussions are ongoing with our HEIs regarding joining up expertise within their departments to health and social care to support innovation.

2.7 Nationally, The Innovation Ecosystem Programme (IEP), led by Roland Sinker, has been conducting a review of the current research and innovation landscape

supporting England's health and care system and shortly recommendations from some of the work will be published. It is expected that it will include an ask to establish 'Locality Partnerships', led by ICBs and supported by their Health Innovation Network (HiN), to describe how a collaboration of organisations within the geography can operate as 'innovation ready' system. Board are asked to note this opportunity and support early discussions with Health Innovation North West as to how we can work on this together.

- 2.8 LSC has been successful with funding for 10 primary care research hubs across the patch. The capital funding call is a collaboration between the NIHR Applied research collaborative (ARC North West Coast) and the previous NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) which has now transitioned to the Research delivery network North West. (RRDN). These practices now have facilities to be able to see research patients out in the community and this will support an increase in research activity across primary care.
- 2.9 A medical sub-group to the research and innovation collaborative has been established and as with the NMAHP (Nursing, Midwifery and AHP) sub-group they will support the priorities relating to career pathways and embedding research and innovation across the ICS.
- 2.10 The Research and Innovation Collaborative and sub-groups comprise a wide range of system partners committed to making progress on research and innovation across the ICS. However, the current significant financial challenges across the system are inhibiting some research activity even when funding is national, risks are being mitigated but Board should be alerted that if the squeeze on capacity persists for a prolonged period it will potentially curb research and innovation across LSC.

### **3. Regional & national work**

- 3.1 The work in LSC to promote and support non-medical colleagues to participate in research and to pursue clinical academic careers (in line with NIHR ambition) continues to be recognised with the ICB CNO team contributing to regional and national forums on this agenda since the last board report. The team are also leading on a couple of key initiatives:
  - 3.1.1 One of the five aims in the Chief Nursing Officer for England Research Strategy is to enable digitally led research. The Chief Nursing Information Officer (CNIO) for the ICB has worked with regional and national colleagues to secure funding to enable some dedicated resource for the region to support and lead this agenda. The ICB will host a secondee who will lead this work and LSC CNO will chair the regional group overseeing this agenda, she is supported by the ICB CNIO and Research Nurse Manager at LSCFT.
  - 3.1.2 The national CNO team are aiming to develop a handbook for Directors of Nursing to support them in leading and embedding research in their

organisations. LSC CNO is chairing the working group developing this document.

3.2 The ICB along with C&M ICB contributed to a recent Research Institute showcase event at Edge Hill University and continues to work with all academic partners across the patch including supporting research bids and exploring ways to collaborate.

3.3 The NIHR Senior Research Leader (SRL) programme is a pivotal nationally funded programme to support growing research capacity and capability in the NMAHP workforce, current SRL's are supporting the plan on a page and we have had at least four applicants for this years round (closed 31<sup>st</sup> October) if successful, they will further contribute to the capacity and capability in the system.

#### **4. Conclusion**

4.1 The Health & Care Act 2022 set out the legal duties and roles of ICBs to facilitate, co-ordinate and promote research across the ICS and the ICB continues to undertake this through the Research and Innovation Collaborative. This report highlights to Board the ongoing system wide activity relating to research and innovation, the potential opportunities for further partnership working relating to innovation and the risks to research and innovation due to the current financial challenges.

#### **5. Recommendations**

The Board is requested to:

- 5.1 Note some of the research and innovation activity across the system.
- 5.2 Note the imminent report on Innovation Ecosystem Programme and support discussions with Health Innovation North West regarding this opportunity.
- 5.3 Note the risks to research and innovation of the current financial challenges.
- 5.4 Agree future frequency of reporting to board on research and innovation.

**Professor Sarah O'Brien**

**25<sup>th</sup> October 2024**