

## Integrated Care Board

<b>Date of meeting</b>	13 September 2023
<b>Title of paper</b>	Research and Innovation
<b>Presented by</b>	Professor Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer
<b>Author</b>	Professor Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer
<b>Agenda item</b>	12
<b>Confidential</b>	No

### Executive summary

Research in the health and care system underpins and drives all advances in health and care and is the basis of evidence-base practice the implementation of which is essential for patient safety and effective care. The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is funded by the Department for Health and Social Care and its primary goal is to improve the health and wellbeing of the population through research.

The aim of this paper is to highlight to Board the generic benefits of good research practice; current strengths within the ICS; to alert Board to the requirements for ICBs and advise of the actions taken to date to meet the recent guidance and the ICB legal duties relating to research.

The Health and Care Act 2022 has set specific legal duties for ICBs pertaining to research and guidance issued by NHSE in March 2023 further outlines ways in which ICBs can deliver those duties. For example, it is proposed that ICBs establish a system research and innovation group, develop a research strategy and have a named executive lead.

The ICB has recently established a Research and Innovation Group and it is proposed that this forum will enable the ICB to discharge its legal duties and will be a forum for research collaboration across system partners. There is existing research capacity and capability within Lancashire and South Cumbria but further opportunities with the establishment of the ICB and ICS to build on this and embed a robust collaborative research culture and infrastructure with the ambition of attracting and retaining the workforce and driving better population outcomes.

### Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Support the establishment of the Research and Innovation Collaborative and approve this forum reporting through to Peoples Board
3. Receive a further report at its meeting in 6 months

Which Strategic Objective/s does the report relate to:		Tick
SO1	Improve quality, including safety, clinical outcomes, and patient experience	✓
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	✓
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	✓
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	✓

#### Implications

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks		✓		
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?			✓	
Financial Implications		✓		

#### Where paper has been discussed (list other committees/forums that have discussed this paper)

Meeting	Date	Outcomes
ICB Executive Meeting	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	

#### Conflicts of interest associated with this report

'not applicable'

#### Impact assessments

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Quality impact assessment completed			✓	
Equality impact assessment completed			✓	
Data privacy impact assessment completed			✓	

#### Report authorised by:

Professor Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer

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## Research and Innovation

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Having research embedded across the health and care system is essential for driving improvements in practice and better population outcomes.
- 1.2 The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) funds the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) whose ambition is to improve the health and wellbeing of the nation through research. They are committed to funding health, public health and social care research that leads to improved outcomes for patients and the public and aims to make the health and social care system more efficient, effective and safe.
- 1.3 The NIHR supports and co-ordinates the delivery of research through Clinical Research Networks (CRN), there are currently 15 CRNs nationally and Lancashire and South Cumbria is part of the North West Coast CRN with Cheshire and Merseyside. The CRNs are being reconfigured in 2024 into 12 Regional Research Delivery Networks.
- 1.4 In March 2023 NHSE published guidance outlining the roles and responsibilities of ICBs in relation to research across the ICS, 'Maximising the benefits of research: Guidance for integrated care systems.'
- 1.5 The aim of this paper is to highlight to Board the benefits of good research practice; current strengths within the ICS; to alert Board to the requirements for ICBs and advise of the actions taken to date to meet the recent guidance and the ICB legal duties relating to research.

### 2. Benefits of Research, National Priorities and Local Strengths

- 2.1 Research in the health and care system underpins and drives all advances in health and care and is the basis of evidence-base practice the implementation of which is essential for patient safety and effective care.
- 2.2 A prime example of the vital role of research to health and care was the rapid development of vaccines in response to covid and also research resulted in evidence-based treatments for covid such as Dexamethasone which significantly positively impacted on population outcomes (morbidity and mortality).
- 2.3 Other important benefits of research include:

- 2.3.1 Improved staff retention, evidence shows that staff involved in research have better job satisfaction and turnover is lower in research active organisations.
  - 2.3.2 Mortality rates are lower in research active trusts.
  - 2.3.3 Clinical academic research resulting in practice changes has been found to be associated with improved patient experience.
  - 2.3.4 Research evidence should underpin commissioning decisions and where research priorities are aligned with local priorities and involve collaboration between partners it should result in better outcomes and support delivery of ICB four strategic aims.
- 2.4 In recognition of the vital role of research for all NHS staff there are national research strategies for AHPs, nurses and midwives. All these strategies recognise the importance of having staff who understand research and can generate new research and disseminate and embed findings. Education and training of staff is pivotal to embedding a research culture that enables staff to develop research careers or to combine it with their clinical / care roles.
- 2.5 A key ambition of all these strategies and of the NIHR is to grow more research and to have more clinical-academic careers especially amongst the non-medical workforce. In 2017 4.67% of NHS medical consultants were in clinical academic posts but only 0.1% of nurses, midwives or AHPs were in such posts. The numbers are similarly very low for social workers.
- 2.6 Within Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC) there is already significant research capacity and capability. Each of the five NHS Trusts have dedicated Research & Innovation leads and teams who support the national agenda to develop a research infrastructure and capacity to recruit subjects to NIHR studies and to also develop and grow our own research. Patient recruitment is strong across all five trusts and there are a number of clinical-academic posts already in place, albeit not as many as the other ICBs in the North West. There are many other achievements and strengths within NHS Trusts which aren't listed here. Clinical research in primary care is typically more challenging but there is a strong track record with 21 active primary care sites in 2023. Additionally, all four Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in LSC are research active and working with different system partners to develop and deliver research studies.
- 2.7 Another important achievement for the ICS was the award to Blackpool Council of £5million funding from the NIHR to develop a health inequalities research collaboration. The funding is part of a £50m national investment by the Department of Health and Social Care which will see 13 local authorities set up innovative Health Determinants Research Collaborations (HDRCs) between experts and academics, to address knowledge gaps in local areas. The ICB has recently worked with voluntary sector (VCFSE) colleagues to bid for funding from NIHR REND (Research Engagement Network Development) programme which aims to grow the involvement and capacity of voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations, with a strong community relationships. If successful there will be a post funded to support greater involvement in research by VCFSE colleagues.

2.8 Whilst there is established research capability within LSC and some areas of strong collaboration, we can do more and there is an opportunity with the establishment and duties of the ICB to build further on this capability and establish a system approach to research, fostering increased collaboration across all partners. Bringing existing research capacity and capability together to collaborate presents significant opportunities to embed a research culture across the ICS that supports delivery of the Integrated Care Strategy and drives improved population outcomes.

### 3. ICB Duties, Progress and Next Steps

3.1 ICBs have legal duties and other requirements relating to research that are additional to the duties and responsibilities of individual providers within the ICS. NHSE guidance (March 2023) 'Maximising the benefits of research: Guidance for integrated care systems' summarises these legal duties.

3.2 The Health and Care Act 2022 included specific legal duties for ICBs and NHSE regarding research. Some of these duties are new (additional to CCG duties) and relate to the facilitation and promotion of research, by bringing partners in the health and care system together to combine expertise and resources to enable and embed research and innovation. NHSE has a new legal duty to annually assess ICBs on delivery of these research duties.

3.3 The legal duties for ICBs relating to research are:

- Duty to facilitate or otherwise promote research
- Duty to facilitate or otherwise promote the use in the health service of evidence obtained from research
- Duty for ICSs to include research in their joint forward plans and annual reports (the plans must include how the ICB will discharge its duties around research and the ICB must report on the discharge of research duties in its annual report)

3.4 Both the explanatory notes to the 2022 Act and the guidance published in March 2023 outlined suggestions of actions ICBs should take to help them discharge these duties and other requirements and these include:

- **Development of a research strategy** aligned to the Integrated Care Strategy. It is suggested that a research strategy will enable ICSs to bring all key partners together to understand and co-ordinate local research capability, workforce and activity and set system ambitions for research and to co-ordinate through one plan.
- **Named Executive lead for research** responsible for ensuring ICB have a clear understanding of research across the system. The 2022 Act notes suggested regular ICB board-level discussions on research activity. Both of the national job descriptions for ICB Chief Nurse and Medical director had research responsibilities and competencies highlighted as a requirement and in LSC research leadership is shared across CNO and MD portfolios.

- **Research steering group, board or forum.** The guidance recommends establishing a group and embedding it in the governance structure. The group would bring a range of stakeholders together, take a system (ICS) approach to research and develop strategy / plans and keep board updated.
- **Map research activity and infrastructure** to establish a clear picture and understand how to best support research across the ICS.
- **Consider a dedicated research office or team.**
- **Set out approach to public and patient involvement in research**

3.5 Work has commenced to implement the NHSE guidance and ensure the ICB is able to discharge its duties. Progress includes:

3.5.1 North West Coast CRN have funded and appointed a Senior Research Programme Manger to support the ICB to drive forward the research agenda, she is working with the CNO.

3.5.2 A Research and Innovation Collaborative has been established and is inclusive of a wide range of partners and stakeholders. It is chaired by the ICB Chief Nurse. Terms of Reference are included at appendix 1. This group will start to develop the ICS Research Strategy and aims to co-ordinate and support system wide collaboration for research and to utilise capacity and capability within the system

3.5.3 A dedicated group for non-medical and allied health professionals researchers is in place, led by the CNO and is facilitating networking and has a focus on the NIHR goals around growing non-medical researchers and embedding a research culture across trusts. ICB CNO is part of national CNO research advisory group and is taking a lead for NHSE across NW in relation to nursing research.

3.5.4 An increasing number of new research bids are being supported by the ICB in collaboration with partners

3.5.5 ICB executive leads are working closely with colleagues at CRN, ARC (NIHR Applied Research Collaborative), HEIs and peers from neighbouring ICBs

3.6 Key next steps are to agree which ICB committee the Research & Innovation Collaborative will report to (Peoples Board has been proposed by the collaborative) develop the strategy with a clear delivery plan, explore how best to support the ICB with a research delivery office, continue to build a collaborative research culture including engagement and co-production with residents and to raise the profile of research across LSC ICS.

## 4. Conclusion

4.1 The UK is a world leader for research and innovation and it is essential for continued improvements in health, wellbeing and health and care delivery that ICBs ensure research and a research active workforce continue to thrive and grow across their ICS. Lancashire and South Cumbria has well established research capacity and capability but this is predominantly NHS trust focused and there remains opportunities to improve this further and achieve more collaboration and co-ordination of research and innovations across the whole

system. The Health & Care Act 2022 sets out the legal duties and roles of ICBs to facilitate, co-ordinate and promote research across the ICS, the ICB will facilitate this in LSC through the newly established Research and Innovation Collaborative.

## **5. Recommendations**

5.1 The Board is requested to:

4. Note the contents of the report.
5. Support the establishment of the Research and Innovation Collaborative and approve this forum reporting through to Peoples Board
6. Receive a further report at its meeting in 6 months

**Professor Sarah O'Brien**

**25<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

**Appendix 1**