

Integrated Care Board

Date of meeting	15 May 2024
Title of paper	Research and Innovation
Presented by	Professor Sarah O'Brien
Author	Sarah O'Brien, Chief Nursing Officer
Agenda item	13
Confidential	No

Executive summary

The Health & Care Act 2022 set out the legal duties and roles of ICBs to facilitate, co-ordinate and promote research across the Integrated Care System (ICS). Lancashire and South Cumbria (LSC) ICB has been undertaking this duty through the Research and Innovation Collaborative that was approved at its September 2023 meeting.

The Research and Innovation Collaborative meets monthly and brings together a wide range of stakeholders from across the ICS including all four HEIs (Higher Education Institutes), all five NHS Trusts, primary care, local authority representation and VCFSE colleagues. It is a vibrant forum and over the last six months has worked to identify a small number of system research and innovation priorities and to present these as a Plan on a Page. The development of the Plan on a Page has fostered collaborative system working and it is intended that a focus on four key priorities will support LSC to deliver on the aim of key national research strategies to develop a culture of research and improve population health and outcomes. Board asked to approve this Plan on a Page.

The ICB does not have a dedicated resource to support delivery of the research agenda and has developed a MOU with East Lancashire Hospitals Trust to provide support and capacity. Over the last six months staff within the ICB have supported a number of research bids and are increasingly being asked to contribute to regional and national meetings pertaining to research and to support colleagues from across the system including our HEIs with the development of research and innovation proposals and with other work in this area. There is significant potential for LSC to significantly grow its research and innovation capacity and capability over the next few years.

Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- Note the research and innovation activity across the system.
- Approve the Research Plan on a Page
- 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	x
SO2	To equalise opportunities and clinical outcomes across the area	x
SO3	Make working in Lancashire and South Cumbria an attractive and desirable option for existing and potential employees	x
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	x

Implications

	Yes	No	N/A	Comments
Associated risks	x			<i>Lack of research infrastructure to support delivery in ICB</i>
Are associated risks detailed on the ICB Risk Register?		x		Mitigated with MOU with ELHT
Financial Implications		x		

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

Meeting	Date	Outcomes
Quality Committee	20 th March 2024	Plan on a Page supported
ICB Executive Meeting	7 th May 2024	

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

Integrated Care Board – 15 May 2024

Research and Innovation

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 Board supported the establishment of an ICB Research and Innovation Collaborative and requested an update in six months.
- 1.3 The aim of this paper is to highlight to Board some of the key system wide research activity since the last report and to present the Plan on a Page of system priorities that has been developed by the Research and Innovation Collaborative and endorsed by Quality Committee.

2. System Priorities – Plan on a Page

- 2.1 The NHSE guidance published in March 2023 suggested ICBs may want to consider developing an ICS Research Strategy. The Research and Innovation Collaborative concluded that given there are a plethora of national research strategies it would be more valuable to determine a small number of system priorities to drive forward the research and innovation agenda across LSC.
- 2.2 The collaborative identified four research and innovation priorities for LSC ICS that it is proposed will support delivery of the national strategies and further embed research and innovation across the system to drive better population outcomes.
- 2.3 The priorities have been presented as Plan on a Page and were endorsed by Quality Committee in March. Following further discussions with voluntary sector (VCFSE) colleagues a couple of outputs have been added and discussions are ongoing with social work representatives to strengthen the social care / work elements. The Plan on a Page in Appendix 1 is the latest version and Board are asked to approve this.
- 2.4 There is already a vibrant NMAHP (non medical, AHP) forum that will take forward the priorities to embed R&I and to develop career pathways and the ICB Medical Director is establishing a medical sub group to support these priorities across the medical workforce. An Innovation subgroup has been established to lead on the innovation work of the collaborative and a dedicated group to lead on focusing system research on Health creation is being established. The provider collaborative will lead on commercial research and innovation. Collectively these subgroups will support the Research and

Innovation Collaborative to progress the Plan on a Page priorities over the next three years and to foster a thriving research and innovation community and culture in LSC.

3. Other Key research Activities

3.1 As outlined in the September Board paper, the ICB has a specific legal duty regarding research and a very clear system leadership role. The work to date of the Research and Innovation Collaboration is evidence of the commitment and determination regarding this agenda across the system. However, there is no dedicated research infrastructure within the ICB to support delivery and at present it relies on a small number of committed individuals as part of their wider role.

3.2 To mitigate the capacity and infrastructure risk, the ICB have signed a MOU with East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust whereby their R&D department will provide some support / capacity to the ICB and the effectiveness of this arrangement for both organisations will be reviewed after twelve months.

3.3 The ICB has also established a Research Approvals Panel to ensure that any ICB requests for research and development approval can be scrutinised beforehand by a panel of research experts from within the ICB. This is particularly relevant for primary care and was something that many CCGs will have undertaken previously.

3.4 Over the last 12 months the ICB has seen an increase in the number of research bids to NIHR and other funding bodies that it is being asked to support either through a letter of support or by appropriate colleagues being asked to join research steering groups overseeing bids. It is important that the ICB is involved in such activity and also indicates that the ICBs role and legal duties in relation to research are being recognised with partners across the system. Currently, the ICB is working with all four Lancashire Higher Education Institutes across this agenda and there is significant potential through the work of the research collaborative to partner on funding bids to increase research income across the patch.

3.5 Some success has already been achieved, for example:

3.5.1 Through our Chief AHP, we partnered on a bid with Edgehill University and they were recently awarded their largest ever research grant by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). This funding of £2.5 million is the largest single project funding that Edge Hill University has received to date. **Arts4Us** - will scale up place-based arts initiatives that support the mental health of children and young people (CYP) aged 9-13.

3.5.2 The REN (Research Engagement Network) programme has been very successful. NHSE have made funding available aimed at increasing diversity in research with those communities who are typically underrepresented. We have worked collaboratively with Cheshire and Merseyside ICB on the REN programmes and ARC North West Coast,

VCFSE alliance, Community futures and Voluntary Sector North West. The work has enabled us to create two VCFSE research coordinator roles across North West coast and support a number of important community based projects, for example, one aiming to understand the barriers to involvement in research with primary school aged children with disabilities attending specialist schools.

- 3.6 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) has been recognised with our CNO team contributing to regional and national forums on this agenda.
- 3.7 There has been success in the system in the latest round of NIHR SRL (Senior Research Leader) awards and recently the NIHR Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award. The successful applicants will further contribute to research capability and capacity within the system.
- 3.8 NHSE recently published the SORT (self-assessment of organisational readiness) Tool, this has been developed as part of the delivery of the CNO research strategy and it will be important for our organisations to benchmark using the tool and develop action plans pertaining to the embedding of research. The collaborative will oversee roll out of the SORT tool across 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 has been undertaking this through the Research and Innovation Collaborative. The development of a Research Plan on a Page has fostered collaborative system working and a focus on four key priorities will support LSC to deliver on the aim of key national research strategies to develop a culture of research and improve population health and outcomes.

5. Recommendations

The Board is requested to:

- 5.1 Note the research and innovation activity across the system.
- 5.2 Approve the Research Plan on a Page
- 5.3 Receive a further report at its meeting in 6 months

Professor Sarah O'Brien

29th April 2024

Appendix 1 – Plan on a Page