

# PAPER

BOD 13/2015

(Agenda Item: 16)

# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**28 January 2015**

**Research & Development Report**

**For: Information**

**Executive Summary**

This is the fourth 6 monthly Research and Development (R&D) Report being presented to the Board of Directors. Its primary aim is to provide, for information, an overview of current R&D activity within the Trust.

Key Networks and Collaborations that the Trust is involved with continue to progress and provide key partnerships with external organisations. The three themes (Early Intervention, Anxiety and Depression and Dementia) of the AHSN are working and progressing well. The CLAHRC is working well after a few initial delays in two of the themes due to recruitment of suitable staff. The first annual Stakeholder Symposium held in December 2014 was a real success, with overwhelming positive feedback. The DEC is making good progress against the short, mid and long term objectives. More detailed information regarding these objectives is described in the report. The new Clinical Research Network (CRN) structure is evolving with opportunities for collaborations within the different divisions developing to help support a wider range of research activity.

Research Governance processes continue to strengthen with the development of more robust and streamlined mechanisms for data capture and reporting. New meeting groups have been established to support a wider range of research projects and activity, including support for financial aspects of grant applications, assessing the research portfolio pipeline and feasibility, and setting up a new system for monitoring adverse events occurring during the conduct of studies.

The number of studies ongoing within the organisation is transiently consistent, with around 100 studies open at any given time. Discrepancies have been identified between external national figures and actual figures for industry lead studies, a mechanism is in place to resolve this. The Trust is continuing to do well against the 70 day target for initiating research, however improvements are required to increase the ability to recruit within the time to target for delivering research and R&D are working hard with research teams to help achieve this.

The Clinical Records Interactive Search (CRIS), an application that will enable structured and unstructured electronic health records to be searched in a secure manner for research and audit purposes is now under the control of R&D and is progressing well with an ethics application submission expected in the first quarter of 2015.

R&D Finances are managed well internally, although there is a potential overspend due to NIHR withholding final grant payments until studies have produced final reports and published the data. The worst case may result in a £200k overspend with a potential best case being a £34k underspend.

After a turbulent time of unsuccessful recruitment to various posts, currently all staff positions are currently filled, with the last new employees starting in January 2015.

The Trust’s R&D activity, capability and successes are very positive for the Trust over the past 6 months.

**Recommendation**

The Board is asked to note the report.

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**Lead Executive Director: Dr Clive Meux, Medical Director**

1. *A risk assessment has been undertaken around the legal issues that this paper presents and there are no issues that need to be referred to the Trust Solicitors.*
2. *This paper (including all appendices) has been assessed against the Freedom of Information Act and the following applies:*
* *THIS PAPER MAY BE PUBLISHED UNDER FOI*