

# PAPER

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# Report to the Meeting of the

# Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust

# Board of Directors

**30 July 2014**

**Research & Development Report**

**For: Information**

**Executive Summary**

This is the third 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.

There are widespread benefits for any Trust that participates in Research, including improving the quality of patient care. Due in part to our academic standing, the trust is able to continue to recruit the most highly trained staff in a very competitive and economically challenging environment. As we continue to innovate, our research profile assists with our overall organisations reputation, financial position and staff retention.

At a time when collaboration is so key to the sustainability of high quality care, the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Network (AHSN), Oxford Health’s Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) centre and the Oxford Academic Health Sciences Centre (AHSC) are all key collaborations within which Oxford Health either leads or have a key partnership role.

Since the last report there have been improvements in the R&D governance arrangements with the introduction of an R&D Governance Committee, which reports to the Clinical Effectiveness Committee (QuIC) and also an R&D Strategy Forum. The new arrangements for National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Networks (CRN) are now operational.

The number of research studies that the Trust is involved with has increased to 112 with several thousand participants and participation increasing. The Trust is currently the top recruiter nationally for mental health portfolio studies. However, the Trust must continue to develop its base of studies if it is to maintain this momentum.

Regarding our NIHR metrics, although the number of studies that recruit the first participant into a clinical trial within 70 days of the organisation receiving a valid research application is improving, there is scope for further improvement. The number of studies recruiting the expected number of participants (‘time to target’) requires further improvement.

The Clinical Research Facility’s activity is increasing compared to last year with 4567 outpatient visits, 147 day patient visits, 51 outpatient and 2943 telephone visits. There is capacity for further utilisation of this facility.

Funding of R&D activity is highly complex, but the Trust has developed a sophisticated system to monitor this and reporting suggests no significant difficulties. However, contribution to overheads, financial flow and competitiveness require regular monitoring.

After a period of some turbulence, the staffing situation in R&D department has improved.

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

**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*