

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO BOARD

This report provides the Board with key escalation and discussion points at the last Committee meeting. A full list of items discussed appears at the end of the report to enable members to raise any questions to the Chair which have not been drawn out in the report.

Trust Board Meeting Date	26 March 2026
Committee Meeting Date	06 March 2026
Chair	Hannah Rowan

KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

ALERT

(Alert the Board to areas of attention)

1. There were no alerts raised in this meeting.

ADVISE

(Detail any areas of on-going monitoring, approvals, or new developments to be communicated)

2. The Chair welcomed Ceri Griffiths, Assistant Director of Remote Clinical Care to her first meeting.
3. Committee endorsed the **decisions made via Chair's Action** which included the changes to the Terms of Reference for 2026/27, and the Responsible Research Development Annual Plan 2025-2030. Members noted that both documents were approved by the Trust Board in January 2026.
4. Members approved the **2025/26 Committee Annual Report** and **2026/27 Cycle of Business**.
5. An update was received from the Trust's **Research Non-Executive Director, Prof. Hayley Hutchings**. Hayley shared that she wrote the foreword to the five year Responsible Research & Innovation Plan and noted ongoing engagement with Welsh Government, including an upcoming meeting where R&D performance and priorities will be considered. Hayley confirmed her role as an independent member on the Championing Research group, supporting the national research agenda and alignment with organisational priorities.
6. Members congratulated the Trust which has been recognised as **Apprentice Employer of the Year** by Skills Academy Wales, announced during Apprenticeship Week. This as a significant achievement for work-based learning and the positive recognition of its commitment to apprenticeships.
7. Members **reflected** on the importance of increasing visibility of research and development activity and clearly communicating its impact across the organisation; shining a light on good work already underway, reinforcing that research is inclusive and relevant across both clinical and corporate



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functions, as well as supporting engagement and understanding of practice change. The Committee noted the Trust’s apprenticeship success as a positive example of learning, innovation and organisational improvement.

ASSURE

(Detail here any areas of assurance the Committee has received)

- 8. Committee received the **Responsible Research Development Five Year Plan 2025 – 2030** and welcomed the quality and ambition of the plan, noting the strong and increasingly visible research profile. Members were assured that the plan aligns to the wider Integrated Medium-Term Plan. The importance of a research led approach to innovation and future commercial opportunities was emphasised and the importance of clear, proportionate and consistent metrics to enable effective delivery and impact of the plan. Progress will be tracked through the Research Development and Innovation reports, the IMTPs, directorate plans and national returns.
- 9. An update was provided on the **NHS Research and Development Framework 2026**, and members were assured that it provides a structured and proportionate approach to monitoring research activity and impact. A spotlight approach on specific directorates will be implemented to ensure the framework becomes meaningful, accessible and inclusive of research activity across both clinical and corporate functions. The impact slides are attached at Annex 1

RISKS

Risks Discussed: There are no formal risks on the corporate risk register for this Committee.

New Risks Identified: No risks raised.

The papers for this meeting can be found by following this [link](#) to the Committee page on our website.

COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING		
Ratification of Chairs Action	Responsible Research Development Plan 2025-2030	NHS Research and Development Framework Assessment 2026
2025/26 Quality Governance Review – Annual Report and CoB	Update from Research NED	



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COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	07 October 2025	06 March 2026		
Hannah Rowan				
Prof Hayley Hutchings				
Jayne Beeslee				
Estelle Hitchon				
Carl Kneeshaw				
Andy Swinburn				
Jonny Sammut	Keith Dorrington	Keith Dorrington		
Jonathan Chippendale				
Prof Nigel Rees				
James Houston				
Jo Kelso				
Trish Mills	Julie Boalch	Julie Boalch		
Mark Marsden				
Keith Rogers				
Ceri Griffiths				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member