

## Bundle Academic Partnership Committee Open 24 October 2023

### Agenda attachments

#### Item 00 APC Agenda – 24 October 2023

- 0 09:30 – OPENING ITEMS
- 1 Chair's welcome, apologies and confirmation of quorum
- 2 Declarations of Interest  
*Board Member Register of Interests–Updated 2023.10.06–Published.xlsx (nhs.wales)*
- 3 Minutes of last meeting – 15 August 2023  
ITEM 03 UNCONFIRMED APC MINUTES 15 AUGUST
- 4 Action Log & Matters Arising
- 4.1 Action Log  
ITEM 04.1 ACTION LOG APC FOR OCTOBER MEETING
- 4.2 Committee Highlight Report 15 August 2023  
ITEM 04.2 Academic Partnerships Committee Report August 2023
- 4.3 ITEMS FOR APPROVAL, ASSURANCE AND DISCUSSION
- 5 09:45 – Interprofessional Framework for Simulation Education – Presentation  
ITEM 05 Interprofessional Simulation Framework – Academic Partnership Committee
- 6 10:05 – University Trust Status Update – Verbal
- 7 10:15 – University Trust Status and other Committee related items in IMTP 2024–27 – Presentation
- 8 10:35 – Research and Governance Framework – Implementation Update  
ITEM 08 APC Submission Re RI Framework Oct 23  
ITEM 08a NHS RD Framework – Assessment Template – 2023 – WAST
- 9 10:50 – Academic Partnerships Committee Task & Finish Group Update Report  
ITEM 09 APC TFG Highlight Report for APC Aug– October 2023
- 9.1 CONSENT ITEMS  
*The items that follow are for information only. Should a member wish to discuss any of these items they are requested to notify the Chair so that time may be allocated*
- 10 Committee Priorities Q3 progress update and Cycle of Business Monitoring Report  
ITEM 10 Academic Partnership Committee Priorities and Cycle Monitoring Report  
ITEM 10a Monitoring Report
- 10.1 CLOSING ITEMS
- 11 11:05 – Key Messages for Board, Decisions and Actions
- 12 Reflections of the Meeting
- 13 Any Other Business
- 14 Date and Time of Next meeting – 16 January 2024



## MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE

Held in public on **24 October 2023 from 09:30 – 11:15**

Meeting held virtually via Microsoft Teams

**To break at approximately 10:30**

### AGENDA

No.	Agenda Item	Purpose	Lead	Format	Time
<b>OPENING ITEMS</b>					
1.	Chair's welcome, apologies, and confirmation of quorum	Information	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	15 mins
2.	Declarations of Interest	To State Conflicts	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting 15 August 2023	Approval	Hannah Rowan	Paper	
4.	Action Log & Matters Arising 4.1. Action Log 4.2. Committee Highlight Report 15 August 2023	Review	Hannah Rowan	Paper	
<b>ITEMS FOR APPROVAL, ASSURANCE AND DISCUSSION</b>					
5.	Interprofessional Framework for Simulation Education	Discussion	Jo Kelso	Presentation	20 mins
6.	University Trust Status Update	Assurance	Estelle Hitchon	Verbal	10 mins
7.	University Trust Status and other Committee related items in IMTP 2024-27	Discussion	Alex Crawford, Estelle Hitchon	Presentation	15 mins
8.	Research and Governance Framework Update	Discussion Assurance	Andy Swinburn	Paper	15 mins
9.	Academic Partnerships Committee Task & Finish Group Update Report	Assurance	Estelle Hitchon	Paper	15 mins



## CONSENT ITEMS

The items that follow are for information only. Should a member wish to discuss any of these items they are requested to notify the Chair so that time may be allocated to do so.

10.	Committee priorities Q3 progress update and Cycle of Business Monitoring Report	Approval	Trish Mills	Paper	
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## CLOSING ITEMS

11.	Key Messages for Board Decisions / Actions	Discussion	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	10 mins
12.	Reflections of the Meeting	Discussion	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	
13.	Any Other Business	Discussion	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	
14.	Date & Time of Next Meeting 16 January 2024, 09:30	Information	Hannah Rowan	Verbal	

## Lead Presenters

Name	Position
Alex Crawford	Assistant Director of Planning and Transformation
Hannah Rowan	Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Trish Mills	Board Secretary
Jo Kelso	Head of Workforce Education & Development
Andy Swinburn	Director of Paramedicine

## WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST

### UNCONFIRMED MINUTES OF THE OPEN MEETING OF THE ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE OF THE WELSH AMBULANCE SERVICES NHS TRUST HELD ON TUESDAY 15 AUGUST 2023 VIA TEAMS

#### MEMBERS:

Hannah Rowan	Non-Executive Director and Committee Chair
Kevin Davies	Non-Executive Director
Martin Turner	Non-Executive Director (in attendance for Part 1)

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

Chris Evans	Research Innovation and Improvement Lead
Catherine Goodwin	Assistant Director Inclusion, Culture and Wellbeing
Estelle Hitchon	Director of Partnerships and Engagement
Jon Hopkins	Head of Information
James Houston	Head of Strategy Development
Caroline Jones	Corporate Governance Officer
Fflur Jones	Audit Lead, Audit Wales
Jo Kelso	Head of Workforce Education & Development
Mark Marsden	Trade Union Partner
Sarah Mills	Head of Culture and OD
Trish Mills	Board Secretary
Nigel Rees	Assistant Director of Research and Innovation
Andy Swinburn	Director of Paramedicine
Gareth Taylor	Project Manager
Jonathan Turnbull-Ross	Assistant Director of Quality Governance

#### APOLOGIES:

Paul Hollard	Non-Executive Director
Angela Lewis	Director of People and Culture
Duncan Robertson	Assistant Director for Clinical Development
Keith Rogers	Trade Union Partner

## **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

**22/23**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting bilingually, especially those who were attending for the first time as either a deputy or observer.

## **23/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no additional declarations to those already recorded on the register.

## **24/23 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2023 were approved as a correct record.

## **25/23 ACTION LOG AND MATTERS ARISING**

The Action log was reviewed, and updates were given with actions 49/22, 04/23a, 16a/23, 16b/23 and 16c/23 being closed.

It was confirmed that there was no feedback from the Board relating to the alert in the Highlight report from the last meeting.

**RESOLVED: That the Action log was reviewed and updated.**

## **26/23 RESEARCH GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORK**

The Assistant Director of Research and Innovation thanked those staff members involved in the discussions in this arena over the past 12 months, in conjunction with Welsh Government Healthcare Research Wales and multiple stakeholders, which aims to embed research into organisations.

The Framework outlines what research excellence looks like for NHS organisations and the Trust is required to adopt it, supported by a Welsh Health Circular (WHC) to embed it across the Trust. The purpose is to provide guidance on research and innovation strategies and implementation plans. The intention is to grow our research and build our capacity to ultimately improve the care of patients.

There is a requirement for the Trust to report in the annual performance management meeting in Autumn against the ten pillars contained within the Framework, which cover things such as Communication and Engagement, Finance, Governance and Leadership in addition to the research elements, to name a few. It will be an opportunity for the Trust to celebrate all the great work currently going on across the Trust.

Members welcomed the Framework, appreciating that gaps would initially be identified from the self-assessment and provide an opportunity for the Trust to review how it could further support research. It was felt that some things could potentially be progressed quickly with Quality Improvement (QI), but also recognised that the more challenging aspects would need to be considered such as acknowledging the current financial climate, research was costly, and time consuming and this would be challenging.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1) the Framework be acknowledged and adopted; and**
- 2) all departments review and conduct a self-assessment against the Framework.**

**27/23 WAST 2022-2023 RESEARCH & INNOVATION (R&I) ANNUAL REPORT**

The Research and Innovation Annual Report 2022/23 was received by the Committee. The report included a range of policy developments, projects, and activities conducted and reported through the R&I department including the developments and challenges of the pandemic.

The R&I being conducted within the Trust is enabling improvements to the care provided and the publication of this work helps to benefit and influence practice in Wales and further afield. The Committee commended the team for the work they had done throughout 2022/23 and noted the reach of research across both clinical and non-clinical WAST colleagues in recent publications.

**RESOLVED: That**

- 1) the Committee received the Research and Innovations 2022/23 Annual Report; and**
- 2) the annual report be presented to Trust Board at its September meeting.**

**28/23 RESEARCH & INNOVATION DASHBOARD**

The innovation dashboard, presented by the Research Innovation and Improvement Lead showed extensive involvement in research, innovation, and commercial relationships from the clinical, quality, finance, fleet, estates, digital, and people and culture directorates. The dashboard housed five databases, collated the ideas, and provided a central place for the evaluation of ideas past, current and future to provide both transparency and accessibility to previous activity. This was a further iteration on a mapping exercise which commenced in 2022 and presented to this Committee, illustrating the breadth of partnerships and projects in which colleagues across WAST are involved.

It was clear that a small but dedicated community of individuals across the Trust continued to develop our research, innovation and commercial relationships with some interfaces across the organisation well established, and others embryonic.

**RESOLVED: That the benefits of the dashboard be noted.**

**29/23 RESEARCH CHAMPION ROLE**

Hannah Rowan, Committee Chair, highlighted a renewed emphasis on research from a national perspective with the introduction of a Welsh Government mandated Non-Executive Director Research Champion. Hannah holds the Research Champion role for our Board and provided an overview of the group's aims, including promoting and raising the profile of research.

**RESOLVED: The Committee noted that Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Committee, Hannah Rowan was the mandated Research Champion, and as such the Trust is already acting in line with the Welsh Government requirement for there to be a Board Research Champion.**

**30/23 ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE TASK & FINISH GROUP REPORT (including academic NED role profile)**

The Director of Partnerships and Engagement provided some background for those who were deputising or observing, that a submission was made almost two years ago for the Trust to apply for University Trust Status (UTS). The Trust's application for UTS includes the requirement to have a Non-Executive Director (NED) from academia, noting that the position was a Welsh Government appointment and not a Trust one.

The Committee's Task and Finish Group have adapted the standard Welsh Government role profile and person specification to seek a candidate with a strong academic, commercial or innovation background who will bring that experience to the Board table in support of the Trust's ambitions. It is also important that they have broad corporate experience, in order to be able to contribute to the work of the Board more generally. The Committee recommended the role profile to the Trust Board Chair so that a recruitment campaign could be started as soon as possible with the Public Appointments Unit.

The Task and Finish Group established by the Committee in April 2023 reported on progress against its work plan. The Group developed the academic NED role profile as set out above and would continue with the other elements of its work plan over the course of quarter three, including an approach to garner interest in the NED role amongst academic contacts. Those elements include the proactive plan for management of conflicts of interest, and the logistics and timing of a change of name and brand related to University Trust Status.

**RESOLVED: That the work of the Task & Finish Group be noted.**

**31/23 CYCLE OF BUSINESS 2023-24 AND CYCLE OF BUSINESS MONITORING REPORT**

The Committee received its cycle of business for 2023/24 for discussion. Given the maturing nature of the areas in the remit of the Committee and the University Trust Status journey, the cycle of business will continue to evolve for this fairly new Committee. This is particularly pertinent as the approach of this Committee is a mixture of scrutiny (particularly with respect to refreshed UTS priorities, obtaining and maintaining UTS status), partnering (ensuring the right partners are on the Committee, that appropriate arrangements are in place with partners), connecting (existing and new partners to research/programmes of work in WAST), and inquisitorial (drilling down into elements of the priorities and other programmes where the Trust is partnering with academic and industry to foster and promote).

**RESOLVED: That the**

- 1) cycle of business for 2023/24 be approved; and**
- 2) the cycle of business monitoring document be noted.**

### **32/23 ENGAGEMENT MAPPING**

The Director of Partnerships and Engagement updated members on the initial ask which was to review “what the Trust was doing” and “who was involved in what”. The Trust was not fully sighted on the good work that was happening across the organisation.

Members recognised that the report showcased the interfacing with different organisations externally and it would evolve. The Director asked that members updated her with information that could be added to keep the document live.

The ongoing work complemented the other areas of work. It was recognised that the Board need sight of the high-level work together with the assurance that the detail and rigour exist below. Discussions were ongoing to ensure there was no duplication of effort.

The need for commitment of key people to drive forward a huge amount of work in addition to the service provided to patients, was recognised.

#### **RESOLVED: That**

- 1) the contents of the report be noted; and**
- 2) members keep the Director of Partnerships and Engagement apprised of any amendments to keep the document live.**

### **33/23 COMMITTEE PRIORITIES – Q2 PROGRESS/REFLECTION**

One of the Committee priorities this year was to focus on the adoption of the new NHS Wales research governance framework, which was presented in this meeting. Colleagues showcased the significant amount of research and innovation underway at the Trust and discussions during the meeting provided a launchpad to better connect these related elements.

The Committee’s priorities for 2023/24 are to scope out the next 12 months of University Trust Status, and to focus on the research governance framework. Both are on track with no escalations reported.

**RESOLVED: That the progress made be noted.**

### **34/23 DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

The date of the next Committee meeting is 24 October 2023.



Date	Agenda Item	Action Note	Responsible	Due Date	Progress/Comment	Status
15 August 2023	Action Log/ Matters Arising	To revisit the longstanding MOU with Life Sciences Hub	Nigel Rees	16 January 2024 24 October 2023	<b>Update for October meeting-</b> Request for this action to be rolled over to the next meeting	Open
15 August 2023	Engagement Mapping	Internal Trust person(s) to be identified as the link with various companies in place of the company's named person in the document.	Estelle Hitchon	24 October 2023	<b>Verbal update to be provided at October meeting.</b>	Open



## 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.

<b>Trust Board Meeting Date</b>	28 September 2023
<b>Committee Meeting Date</b>	15 August 2023 (moved from 18 July)
<b>Chair</b>	Hannah Rowan

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Board to areas of attention)

1. As previously reported to the Board, the Trust's application for University Trust Status includes the requirement to have a **Non-Executive Director (NED) from academia**. The Committee's Task and Finish Group have adapted the standard Welsh Government role profile and person specification to seek a candidate with a strong academic, commercial or innovation background who will bring that experience to the Board table in support of the Trust's ambitions. It is also important that they have broad corporate experience, in order to be able to contribute to the work of the Board more generally. The Committee recommended the role profile to the Trust Board Chair so that a recruitment campaign could be started as soon as possible with the Public Appointments Unit.

#### ADVISE

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

1. The reflections of the members and those in attendance at this meeting was that there was a **step change in the momentum and direction of the Committee**. One of the Committee priorities this year was to focus on the adoption of the new NHS Wales research governance framework, which was presented in this meeting. Colleagues showcased the significant amount of research and innovation underway at the Trust and discussions during the meeting provided a launchpad to better connect these related elements. There was a desire from members to proactively focus research and innovation efforts towards our strategic objectives, exploring how this approach might address some of the challenges being faced by the Trust and NHS bodies in Wales more widely.
2. The Committee welcomed the Welsh Government and Health and Care Research Wales national **NHS Research & Development Framework**. The involvement of WAST colleagues in the development of this framework nationally was recognised. A self-assessment will now be conducted against this



framework ahead of the Health and Care Research Wales annual review meeting in October. This Committee will monitor our progress against the new framework. Hannah Rowan, Committee Chair, highlighted a renewed emphasis on research from a national perspective with the introduction of a Welsh Government mandated Non-Executive Director **Research Champion**. Hannah holds the Research Champion role for our Board and provided an overview of the group's aims, including promoting and raising the profile of research.

3. The **Research and Innovation Annual Report 2022/23** was received by the Committee and is attached at **Annex 1** for the Board's review. The report includes a range of policy developments, projects, and activities conducted and reported through the R&I department. The R&I being conducted within the Trust is enabling improvements to the care provided and the publication of this work helps to benefit and influence practice in Wales and further afield. The Committee commended the team for the work they have done throughout 2022/23 and noted the reach of research across both clinical and non-clinical WAST colleagues in recent publications.
4. A further iteration on a **mapping exercise** that was commenced in 2022 was presented at this meeting, illustrating the breadth of partnerships and projects in which colleagues across WAST are involved. This, together with the **innovation dashboard**, showed extensive involvement in research, innovation and commercial relationships from the clinical, quality, finance, fleet, estates, digital, and people and culture directorates. It was clear that there is a small but dedicated community of individuals across the Trust who continue to develop our research, innovation and commercial relationships with some interfaces across the organisation well established, and others embryonic.
5. An update was provided on the **income generation** workstream under the financial sustainability programme in private session. It was noted that the Finance and Performance Committee have oversight of this area of work however this Committee will keep a close eye on a mindset shift towards embracing commercial opportunities where appropriate as part of this work.
6. The Committee approved its **cycle of business for 2022/23**. Given the maturing nature of the areas in the remit of the Committee and the University Trust Status journey, the cycle of business will continue to evolve for this fairly new Committee. This is particularly pertinent as the approach of this Committee is a mixture of scrutiny (particularly with respect to refreshed UTS priorities, obtaining and maintaining UTS status), partnering (ensuring the right partners are on the Committee, that we have appropriate arrangements in place with partners), connecting (existing and new partners to research/programmes of work in WAST), and inquisitorial (drilling down into elements of the priorities and other programmes where we are partnering with academic and industry to foster and promote).
7. Nigel Rees, Assistant Director of Research and Innovation, was **welcomed** to his first meeting of the Committee. Fflur Jones from Audit Wales, and Sara Mills Head of Culture and Organisational Development also joined our meeting. New attendees reflected that the Committee Chair took time to welcome them and explain wider context of items and the work of the Committee generally which was appreciated.

## ASSURE

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



8. The Task and Finish Group established by the Committee in April 2023 reported on progress against its work plan. An update was provided on the current position of the Trust’s application for **University Trust Status**, with recent discussions with Welsh Government confirming that this will be recommended for approval to the Minister. The Group developed the academic NED role profile as set out in the alert section and will continue with the other elements of its work plan over the course of quarter 3 including an approach to garner interest in the NED role amongst academic contacts. Those elements include the proactive plan for management of conflicts of interest, and the logistic and timing of a change of name and brand related to University Trust Status.
9. The **Committee’s priorities for 2023/24** are to scope out the next 12 months of University Trust Status, and to focus on the research governance framework. Both are on track with no escalations reported.

## 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

1. Research Governance Framework	2. Research and Innovation Annual Report 2022/23	3. Research and Innovation Dashboard
4. Research Champion Role	5. Task and Finish Group – Academic NED role profile	6. Committee cycle of business
7. Engagement mapping	8. Committee priorities	

### COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	25 April 2023	15 August 2023	24 October 2023	16 January 2024
Hannah Rowan				
Prof Kevin Davies				
Paul Hollard				
Martin Turner				
Estelle Hitchon				
Angela Lewis		Catherine Goodwin		
Andy Swinburn				
Leanne Smith		Jon Hopkins		
Jonathan Turnbull-Ross				
Duncan Robertson				
Nigel Rees				
Chris Evans				
James Houston				
Jo Kelso		From item 5.4		
Trish Mills				



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwllans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
NHS Trust

### COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Mark Marsden				
Keith Rogers				
Academia Rep				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member

Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

# Inter-professional Simulation based Education & Training (IPSBET)

## Academic Partnership Committee



GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
NHS Trust

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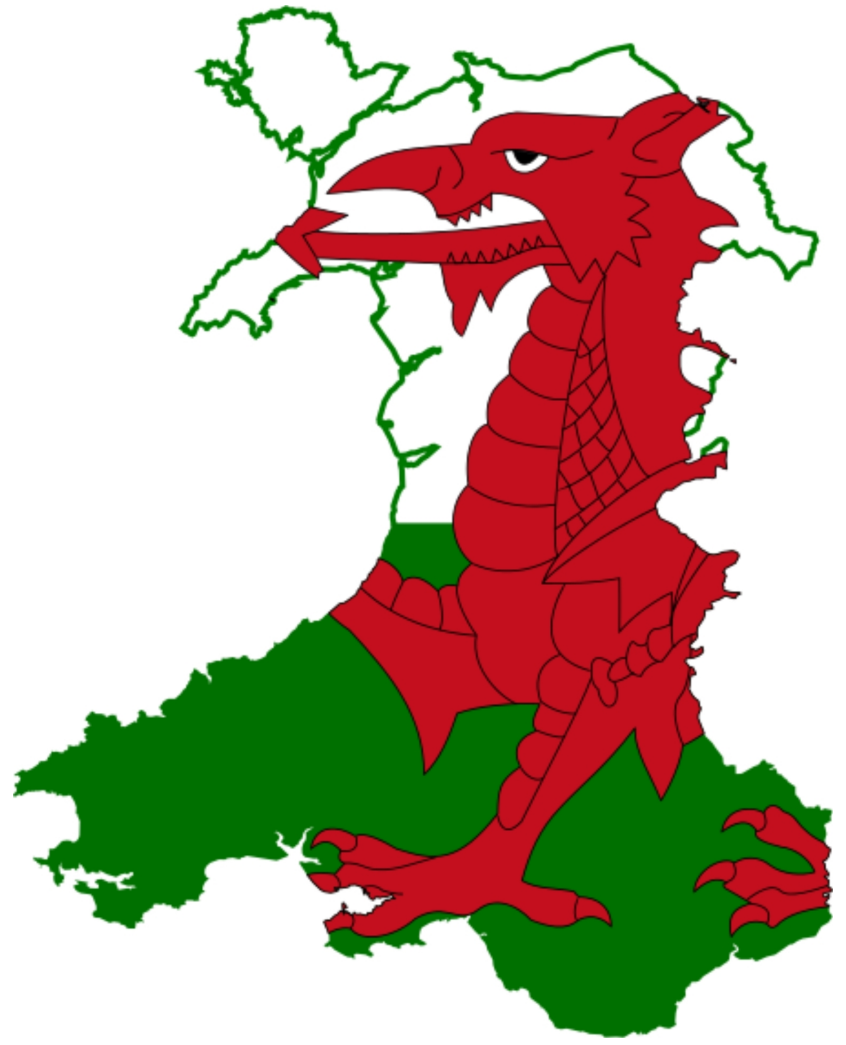
Version 1.0  
Released: 24<sup>th</sup> October 2023

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Jo Kelso, Workforce Education & Development

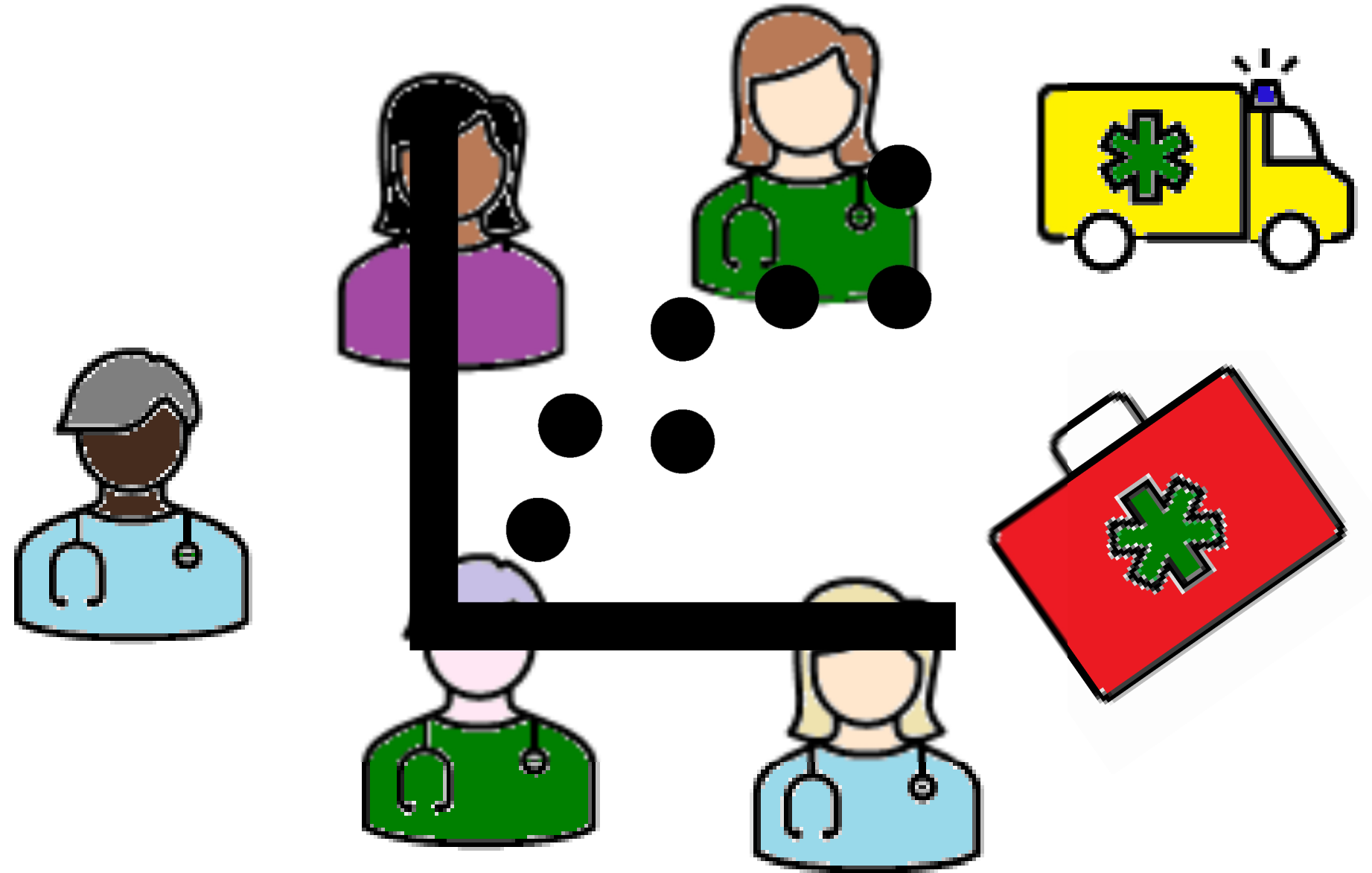


# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework





# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework









# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework





**AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework**

“a teaching and learning process that fosters collaborative work and improves quality of care between two or more professions. IPE occurs when students learn with, from, and about one another”

Centre for the Advancement of Interprofessional Education, 2016



# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework

## MIST 2023/24

Wednesday, 11 October 2023



**Welcome**  
Housekeeping

**Course Standards**  
What to expect ...

**Course Content**  
ABD  
V&A Module C  
Transporting patients  
Skills stations: Resus & Airway  
Major incidents

**Register**  
Please complete this – it will be used to create your MIST 23/24 certificate and competency sign off.

**Health Questionnaire**





# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework

When asked what delegates most enjoyed ...





# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework

When asked what improvements we could make ...

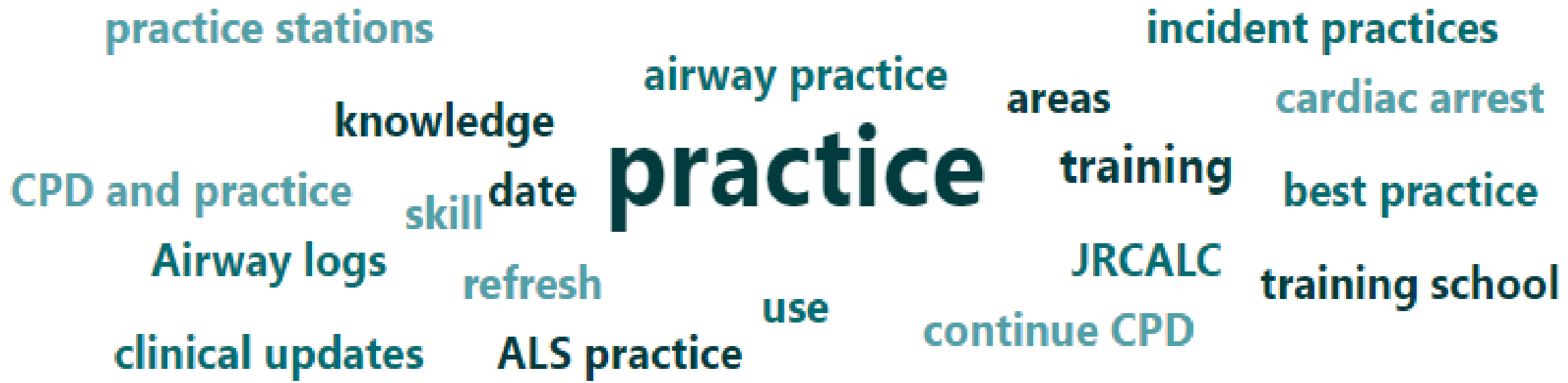






# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework

When asked what individuals would do to take ownership of their learning ...





# AKA: Principles for excellence in interprofessional simulated learning activity – a common proficiencies framework

Got a good insight into how ems do things

interesting interacting with colleagues with different skill sets.

I enjoy expanding my knowledge very gradually.

involving senior clinicians early to improve patient outcomes

Better practical knowledge working with a range of staff levels

Appreciation of other roles in organisation

learn from EMS.

The efficiency of EMS staff and how they were on scene

it was great to see how all disciplines work, it was good to show case that NEPTS did not just convey patients to clinic also that we have a fantastic rapport and person focus delivery to our patients from point of contact

Appreciate what assistance is available to my everyday duties

Has given me more confidence and understanding of other ems roles

The training consisted of all grades of skills ... trainer gave a spin on all scenarios and learning for scenarios and learning to be related to NEPTS

TO USE ALL STAFF AVAILABLE WHATEVER GRADE TO WITHIN THEIR SOP

Working more in partnership with ems



Help me to work better with other colleagues





GIG  
CYMRU  
NHS  
WALES  
Ymddiriedolaeth GIG  
Gwasanaethau Ambiwians Cymru  
Welsh Ambulance Services  
NHS Trust

<b>AGENDA ITEM No</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>OPEN or CLOSED</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>No of ANNEXES</b>	<b>1</b>

## Research and Governance Framework – Implementation Update

<b>MEETING</b>	Academic Partnerships Committee
<b>DATE</b>	24 October 2023
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	Andy Swinburn, Director of Paramedicine
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Dr Nigel Rees, Assistant Director of Research and Innovation
<b>CONTACT</b>	<a href="mailto:Nigel.Rees5@wales.nhs.uk">Nigel.Rees5@wales.nhs.uk</a>

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This paper presents developed submission on the NHS Research & Development Framework [Annex 1].
2. This submission is a core part of the organisation's intended development to encompass the intentions of embedding research into business as usual and annex 1 provides an open and transparent baseline assessment of our current position.
3. Significant work is now ahead of the organisation to move this agenda into day-to-day activity where R&I activity is integral to all we do, and not simply seen as an optional extra.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The Committee is asked to:

Note the contents of the submission and hopefully gain assurance of our organisational journey in delivery against the framework.

### KEY ISSUES/IMPLICATIONS

All departments should review this framework, consider how it can be embedded into their core activities.

<b>REPORT APPROVAL ROUTE</b>
N/A

<b>REPORT APPENDICIES</b>
Annex 1 – NHS R&D Framework – assessment template

<b>REPORT CHECKLIST</b>			
<b>Confirm that the issues below have been considered and addressed</b>		<b>Confirm that the issues below have been considered and addressed</b>	
EQIA (Inc. Welsh language)	NA	Financial Implications	NA
Environmental/Sustainability	NA	Legal Implications	NA
Estate	NA	Patient Safety/Safeguarding	NA
Ethical Matters	NA	Risks (Inc. Reputational)	NA
Health Improvement	NA	Socio Economic Duty	NA
Health and Safety	NA	TU Partner Consultation	NA

## **CYCLE OF BUSINESS 2023/24**

### **SITUATION**

4. This paper presents progress with the NHS Research & Development Framework [annex 1] which outlines what 'research excellence looks like' within NHS organisations in Wales where research is embraced, integrated into services, and is a core part of the organisation's culture.
5. WAST is required to adopt and conduct organisational wide assessment against this framework. Actions enacted thus far are presented.

### **BACKGROUND**

6. The NHS R&D Framework and the assessment document has been circulated and previously discussed at Clinical Directorate, ADLT and APC

### **ASSESSMENT**

7. Feedback received from across WAST has been included in a formal assessment returned to HCRW and WG.
8. A cross-directorate meeting was held on 12 Oct to initiate discussions on R&I Governance. This productive discussion allowed for free-flowing interactions and ultimately an agreement around next steps to address core requirements regarding the framework and how activities are developed within the organisation
9. WAST has an annual performance management review and assessment against the framework with HCRW and WG on 16<sup>th</sup> Oct.
10. An engagement activity is planned to actively canvass and work with all directorates through assessment across the pillars of research excellence outlined in the framework.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

11. The Committee is asked to:

Note the contents of the submission and hopeful gain assurance of our organisational journey in delivery against the framework.

# NHS R&D Framework – assessment template

## Current status 2023

The NHS R&D Framework was developed in 2023 to outline what research excellence looks like in NHS Wales. The Framework will be used for multiple purposes including to support broader strategic discussions between the Research and Development Division (RDD), Welsh Government (WG) and NHS organisations at performance meetings.

In preparation for the NHS organisation Annual Review meetings, please provide an assessment of current position and relevant activities undertaken this year against the 10 pillars within the NHS R&D Framework and outline future plans to support its implementation (*a maximum of one page per pillar*). This information will be used to support discussions at the annual review meetings and to inform the wider implementation of the framework across NHS Wales.

The framework can be accessed here -

[https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/NHS\\_RD\\_Framework-FINAL\\_eng.pdf](https://healthandcareresearchwales.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/NHS_RD_Framework-FINAL_eng.pdf)

**Name of organisation: Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust (WAST)**

### STRATEGY

WAST

- It was acknowledged in the last performance meeting that WAST had ceased producing a Research & Innovation (R&I) strategy in favour of the *WAST Clinical Strategy: Delivering Clinical Excellence in Wales Clinical Strategy 2020 – 2025*. This Strategy recognises R&I as being core to many roles and is integral to informing policies, guidelines, and practices to provide effective, efficient, and high-quality care. Whilst this was acknowledged in our last meeting and the strategy seeks to integrate R&I into the Trust's wider vision, we also accept your observations that it contains little by way of detailed and specific content on R&I. As a result, at the next refresh of this plan, further detailed elaboration will be brought forth.
- The WAST Clinical Strategy was informed by professional guidance and policy such as the College of Paramedics and NLHIA Advanced Practice Framework which also reflects the content of embedding research in clinical careers. Despite this, much of our vision for R&I still requires development and embedding, as R&I predominantly continues to be led and delivered by a small number of R&I active individuals and teams. External and organisational pressures, not least the pandemic, have also influenced this significant negative regression in the past six years. We believe this reflects real-world challenges of embedding research in practice in our setting where increased demand is most acutely felt, and ambulance services are more and more becoming a safety net for gaps in the wider health care system.
- Tensions between delivering the R&I agenda in emergency and non-emergency care alongside the provision of high-quality care and services for patients was also acknowledged in our last meeting and these pressures have

become worse since due to the global COVID-19 Pandemic, industrial disputes, the cost-of-living crises and growing demands for instance.

- We do however have longstanding and emerging pockets of excellence with Allied Health Professional R&I leadership, with two successful Chief Investigators and our Consultant Clinician for 111 who is actively encouraging an R&I culture within the team, who we continue to support with evidence-informed decision-making, support for staff development and R&I grant submission.
- The areas of research we engage in are strategically important for the delivery of our vital service to the community and through R&I we are exploring addressing challenges which disproportionately effect some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged people in our community. For instance, the RAPID 2 study is exploring a procedure for paramedics to provide early advanced pain relief to people with hip fracture. We have also strategically invested our time and resources to develop and deliver small scale research into Violence & Aggression towards our staff which has led to a large grant application to the NIHR H&SDR program, led by WAST and involving a range of senior researchers and four UK nations ambulance services.
- We have faced challenges of seconding operational staff into the R&I department due to the pressures on the service, historical reluctance of managers to release clinical staff such as paramedics due to service pressures, and limited applications. We have sought to limit this impact on clinical services and have developed a new role of Research & Innovation Officer (non-clinical) which WAST has provided substantive funding for one post that is being utilised on studies that do not require clinical staff. We have appointed two Clinical (Nurse) Research Officers who were external to WAST and now have one paramedic Research Officer.
- Whilst this has allowed us to deliver current studies, it presents a risk to research within the Paramedic profession. WAST has historically been at the forefront of R&I and these recent challenges of recruiting Research Paramedics have coincided with numbers falling from thirteen in 2017 to one in 2023. Whilst researchers in WAST have collaborated and led complex studies, research paramedics across the UK have progressed to develop research skills including advanced fellowships. We have received informal feedback that better career opportunities exist in other areas.
- We successfully hosted the 999 EMS Research Forum conference in 2022 in collaboration with the National Ambulance Steering Group and supported staff attendance at the 2023 conference in Manchester. This is a great opportunity for the Trust to develop the culture of research across the organisation.
- WAST has for many years worked with Swansea University towards University Trust status through the WAST Swansea University Strategic Partnership Board. University Trust status is now being driven by the WAST Academic Partnership.
- We have continued to grow our strategic partnerships with Warwick and York Universities which have proven to be fruitful in developing and securing research funding in areas of Artificial Intelligence, and the HTA funded studies of PARAMEDIC 2 and 3.
- Our ongoing and positive relationship with PRIME Centre Wales and Swansea Trials Unit have resulted in opportunities to develop research questions and

secure funding in important areas such as the HEAR 2 study of translation services for asylum Seekers and Refugees and end of life care.

## **GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

- WAST Medical & Clinical Directorate has recently undergone another Organisational Change Process (OCP). The Executive leadership of Research & Innovation has moved from the Head of Research & Innovation and Executive Medical Director to the Executive Director of Paramedicine to whom the new post of Assistant Director of Research & Innovation reports. WAST R&I now, therefore, has representation at a very high level within our organisation including the Trust Board, Executive Management Team and Assistant Directors Leadership Group (ADLT). R&I is however becoming more embedded across the whole of our organisation and within other portfolios and job descriptions such as the Digital and Quality and Nursing directorates.
- The R&I Office is headed by the Assistant Director for Research & Innovation and formally represents WAST on many groups including:
  - The NHS R&D Leadership Group
  - NHS R&D Leadership Group
  - Wales Innovation Leads Network
  - The Research Management Operational Governance Group
  - National Ambulance Services Research Group
- The Trust Board has established an Academic Partnership Committee (APC) which is chaired by the Research Champion Non-Executive Director (NED), Hannah Rowan.
- Two further NEDs make up the membership along with the Director of Partnerships and Engagement (Committee Lead); Director of People and Culture; Director of Paramedicine; Director of Digital Services; Assistant Director for Quality and Nursing; Assistant Director of Clinical Development; Assistant Director of Research and Innovation; Research, Innovation, and Improvement Lead; Head of Strategy Development; Head of Workforce Education & Development; Board Secretary; two Trade Union Partners.
- The APC meets quarterly and is a public meeting with its papers on the Trust's website here.
- The terms of reference of the APC are approved by the Trust Board and are revised annually in line with a system of Board effectiveness reviews
- The APC has within its remit the approval of the research governance framework and oversight of its implementation in accordance with the Welsh Government Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care.
- The APC reports to the Trust Board following each meeting on an 'alert, advise, assure' report and provides copies of its minutes to the Trust Board.
- APC agenda is set from its cycle of business which was approved by the Committee. A formal agenda setting meeting takes place quarterly with the Committee Chair and Executive Lead for the APC.
- Research reporting both with respect to performance and impact to the APC is in its early days with the Health and Care Research Wales governance framework being presented to the August meeting. Research governance development and implementation is a priority for the Committee in 2023/24 and it will continue to monitor progress with the national framework and agree key metrics for this Committee and the Board to oversee.

A campaign is about to be launched with the Public Appointments Unit for an Academic NED to join the Trust Board and sit on the APC. This is expected to be in place by 1 April 2024.

- Our people are involved in wider research leadership and contribute to many groups such as the HCW Faculty, UK College of Paramedics R&D Committee, Associate Editors of the Australian College of Paramedics, Journal Paramedicine Editorial Board of Journal of Paramedic Practice, Grant committees such as NIHR HTA Clinical Trials funding panel, HCRW Faculty, RfPPB, Research time award.
- WAST R&I Office provides advice and support for research development including costings, linking up methodologists, and research groups, and preparing grants to funding bodies. With the support of HCRW, the R&I Office coordinates study setup, including contracting, finance, cost recovery and confirmation of Capacity and Capability (C&C). We follow Health Research Authority and HCRW guidance and adhere to the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research. Our activity is captured and reported through many mechanisms including our local R&I tracker which reflects the HCRW Local Portfolio Management System (LMPS) and Central Portfolio Management System.
- WAST has previously worked to remove unnecessary and bureaucratic processes which may have introduced significant delay, risk, and liabilities by duplicated assessments made by the HRA and HCRW for instance. Accepting such assurances has allowed for a streamlined and efficient approach to confirming C&C and study set-up. This does however rely on the appropriate design and resourcing of studies which is sometimes overlooked by researchers, and benefits from early engagement. WAST often has to engage in local repair work and amendments in areas such as study design issues which may not have fully considered the context or complexities of delivering studies within an ambulance service.
- Despite streamlined processes, support from HCRW and the use of template/model agreements, many of our projects have experienced significant delays during contracting stages. This has included delayed responses and contract amendments from external partners on projects such HCRW RfPPB funded study 9.9.9. RESPOND, HEAR 2 and the 3D Drone study funded by NIHR RfPPB. These studies along with the ASSIST study of AI have also experienced significant delays due to Information Governance (IG) which we have published our experience. Despite IG review as part of HRA approval, we have faced significant delays and the R&I Office has spent a large amount of time negotiating with researchers and others on issues of IG.
- WAST has contributed to the development of many R&I governance processes, policies, and decisions over the past year. We contributed to the joint review by HCRW, Social Care Wales and Health Education and Improvement Wales project developing career and training/development pathways for health and social care researchers to enable capacity and capability in health and social care research in Wales. This resulted in the publication of the [Making Research Careers Work](#) which set out recommendations to improve opportunities in research career pathways for health and social care researchers. We were also glad to be involved in the co-creation of the Framework for NHS R&D. We have shared this in many forum and formally presented at the Clinical Directorate meetings, Assistant Directors

Leadership Teams, and Academic Partnership Committee. We circulated this assessment tool and specifically asked for feedback and input for this review but received only one response. Despite this we view the framework as extremely positive and recognise the promise it holds for measuring our R&I journey. We will therefore continue to work on embracing and integrating the framework into services to ensure R&I becomes once again a core part of the organisation's culture.

## **PARTNERSHIP AND COLLABORATION**

- WAST has many ongoing partnerships and collaborations and we have included some examples below:
  - The Primary and Emergency Care Research Centre Prime Centre Wales
  - Bevan Commission
  - Rural health and Care Wales
  - Swansea Trials Unit
  - The Cross-Party Group on Medical Research
  - *REASON: Research and Innovation (UKRI) Trustworthy Autonomous Systems (TAS) program. York University*
  - *UK Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest Outcomes Registry*
  - *Save a Life Cymru*
- We have longstanding and impactful partnerships and collaborations with the UK resuscitation research community through Warwick University, and other ambulance services in the UK and internationally. Over several decades we have developed and delivered high-quality Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest research such as the PARAMEDIC1, 2 and 3 trials. WAST were co-applicants for these HTA-funded studies, and the current PARAMEDIC 3 Trial is now live across all of Wales (except C&V UHB). Despite significant resource and push from the local research team, unfortunately, Wales are significantly underperforming in this study; for instance, whereas its predecessor PARAMEDIC 2 was recruiting a rate of 60-70 participants per month, PARAMEDIC 3 has only recently passed the 100 mark despite being open for nearly two years. We have monitored missed enrolments, and gathered feedback, which ranges from lack of interest to low morale of clinical staff. We feel this is indicative of the wider industrial relations and not specifically this study.
- In response to rising violence and aggression directed towards our staff, the PEACE collaborators group was developed to explore Protecting Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Staff from Aggression and Violence in Conflict Encounters. We have conducted the PEACE 1 and PEACE 2 studies (IRAS ID 313346) and continue to disseminate these findings. The PEACE collaborators have grown in number to include a wide range of experienced researchers and EMS leaders. The proposed PEACE 3 study, led and sponsored by WAST has been submitted to an NIHR HSDR Workforce call to explore violence and aggression across the four nations EMS.
- **9.9.9. RESPOND** is a WAST led collaboration with Emergency Medical Retrieval & Transfer Service (EMRTS), and researchers from Bristol and Warwick Universities and was awarded 2022 HCRW RfPPB funding. This study is exploring when deploying specialist critical care resources, how are risk and severity indicators in 999 callers' utterances identified and brokered amongst those involved in the dispatch decision, and how might dispatch teams be supported to optimise clinically appropriate deployment to the



patients most in need of this scarce resource? Whilst we have faced challenges with contracts and IG, this study is being efficiently delivered and achieving much interest and impact. We have engaged with many groups including the National Helicopter Emergency Medicine Services Research Audit Forum, European Prehospital Research Alliance and others which has resulted in successful applications for further funding of PARSE999 and the CARE999 study currently in review. We have a great team, and when completed, we will be submitting a larger scale funding to explore this under-researched area from a UK and international perspective.

- **RAPID 1 & 2** Trial of Fascia Iliac Compartment Block for hip fracture was conceived and led by a WAST Chief Investigator, supported by pathway to portfolio funding, sponsored by WAST and funded by Health & Care Research Wales Research for Patient & Public Benefit (RfPPB). Swansea University kindly chose to lead the follow-on RAPID 2 trial and secured HTA funding for which WAST were co-applicants. This study is now in set up and is being positively received by staff who are interested in learning this new skill and are self-selecting for RAPID 2. The study is also benefits from adequate R&I delivery staffing and being an almost replica of RAPID 1, where many of the issues of study design and delivery were identified and addressed. RAPID will have taken over ten years from idea to results.
- **Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre:** We worked with the Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre conducting rapid evidence syntheses in areas such as the use of Personal Protective Equipment in General Practice and Ambulance settings and exploring what innovations help with the recruitment and retention of ambulance staff. Despite conducting significant engagement on topic selection and encouraging our staff to contribute to these studies, we shared our disappointment with the evidence centre that these staff did not have an opportunity to contribute to publications.
- **Swansea Trials Unit:** We continue to collaborate with Swansea Trials Unit on many studies and have found links with the RDCS beneficial. We are continuing to explore how this relationship will be affected by recent changes and where to signpost our people for research development outside of the support and wider networks we can provide. Our collaboration with PRIME Centre Wales continues to be important and after their completion, we continue to publish outputs from a range of studies such as STRETCHED exploring care for frequent callers, and the HEAR 2 study of translation services for asylum seekers and refugees.
- **ASSIST:** WAST recently led the Assuring safe artificial intelligence in critical ambulance service response (ASSIST) project (IRAS ID:294134). This study secured open competitive funding and was a collaboration between WAST, the University of York Industry partners, senior researchers, clinicians, and ambulance leaders. This project is now completed, and we continue to disseminate and publish our findings. ASSIST revealed significant safety assurance issues with AI, and while many of these are now unfolding through media reports, we continue to disseminate our findings through peer-reviewed publications and presentations. We have continued to build on this collaboration through joint grant applications including EPSRC AI Hub proposal, Attendance of user workshops, Co-defining use cases for AI,



Advisory board membership of the REASON program and co leadership of the Assuring Autonomy International Program.

- **Technology:** We recognise that research and responsible innovation are inextricably linked and lay on a continuum. This is especially the case with new technologies in our sector and Artificial Intelligence and Autonomous Drones in Healthcare. We collaborated on a Snowdonia Aerospace UK Space Agency and WG-funded simulation study of drone delivery of Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Out of Hospital Cardiac Arrest (OHCA) in the UK. We successfully deployed an AED beyond line of visual sight (BVLOS) and have published this work. We secured follow-on funding with Welsh Blood Service and delivered a foundation study of drone-based delivery services to support the Welsh NHS. The 3D Project was another drone collaboration between WAST and Warwick University, funded by the Resuscitation Council UK [RC (UK)] again exploring drone delivery of defibrillators. These studies informed the development of a successful funding bid in 2022 by Warwick University and WAST to the NIHR (England) RfPPB scheme for drone delivery of AEDs in clinical trials which is now in set up.

## **RESEARCH SUPPORT**

- As highlighted previously, in many of our studies, support and delivery are inextricably linked to the development of projects in order for them to be feasible and deliverable in our context. This often requires significant engagement and knowledge from within WAST and other ambulance services and ensuring that they are adequately resourced.
- We have supported many studies in recent years but have also turned some away due to a range of issues from lack of PI to inability to release research paramedics to support them.
- We recognise the favourable position we are in with centrally held NHS excess treatment and service support costs which we have always been able to access. This model however is somewhat limited by the appetite for WAST to go at risk in offering substantive posts to support research.
- Support research at all levels by raising awareness among NHS directors, executives, deputies, senior and operational managers to secure commitment and by promoting research through existing committee structures.
- The APC has a significant part to play in raising awareness at Trust Board level and externally.
- There are established Clinical Directorate structures for reporting and promoting research internally.

## **RESEARCH DELIVERY**

- We continue with our attempts to build our capacity to deliver research across the organisation, embedding it within everyday practices, and growing a skilled workforce within the R&I office of research officers, administration, and finance support.
- Early plans are in train to develop a new role within the team, specifically to support the work of the Assistant Director of Research and Innovation, ensuring greater capacity to undertake studies and develop organisational succession plans for the organisation and importantly the paramedic profession.
- People across all of the organisation are utilising and developing a broad range of R&I skills and knowledge, including those delivering R&I, trials and

supervising or receiving training at all levels from undergraduate to post-doctoral and beyond.

- Recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, industrial disputes, the cost of living crisis and unprecedented demand for our services have all had a negative impact on our staff and their morale. This presents an extremely challenging context within which to deliver research and these issues have been cited as reasons for significant under-recruitment to studies.
- We have previously highlighted the challenges with lack of engaged and appropriate Principal Investigators. The PRINCIPLE Trial was another example of this challenge as we worked extensively with the central research team and HCRW on a One Wales approach to setting this trial up. Despite these efforts, we could not recruit patients into this study which was further compounded by the subsequent retirement of the PI and a replacement could not be identified. NHS 111 Wales have since appointed a research active consultant clinician/leader who took on the Wales Principal Investigator role for the NIHR funded TRIM study led by Swansea University exploring what triage model is safest and most effective for the Management of 999 callers with suspected COVID-19. As noted above, we continue to support this individual who is leading and inspiring a research culture within NHS 111.
- The world-class R&I being developed and delivered here in Wales is helping us address the complex challenges we face and making a positive impact on care we provide and the lives of many people across Wales and beyond.
- Have a dedicated Executive Lead for research and a dedicated R&D Director, who have dedicated time to oversee the R&D strategy and provide strategic leadership.
- Research sits in the Clinical Directorate with the Director of Paramedicine. Together with the Assistant Director of Research and Innovation he oversees research and innovation and provides strategy director.
- We have a dedicated committee wired into the NHS organisation's governance where research is frequently discussed, with representatives from across the organisation and public members, to plan, oversee and report on research.

## **FINANCE**

- Working with other ambulance services and research partners has resulted in significant grant capture which has positive economic benefits in terms of high value jobs and activities for Wales and the UK. We have however faced queries from procurement on the approach to co-producing grant applications
- We believe in the efficient and effective use of funding and resource and the recent funding model reflected this position and has enabled us to deliver our research portfolio. The centralised NHS Service Support and Excess Treatment costs have worked well along with cost recovery of research activities through grant funding. This however relies on early engagement with WAST R&I in the grant development stages in order to accurately attribute costs and populate documents such as SOECAT and grant applications. We continue to value the support and flexibility of our partners such as HCRW and researchers.
- We are working to adopt the newly developed R&I finance policy. We welcome this with some caution and recognise that the support and delivery element

could disproportionately affect smaller organisations such as WAST and are somewhat assured by the acknowledgment of this and mitigations suggested.

- Much of our current portfolio has benefitted from WAST resources, input and pathway to portfolio funding

## **NHS WORKFORCE CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY**

- We continue to face challenges of seconding operational staff into the R&I department due to the pressures on the service, historical reluctance of managers to release clinical staff such as paramedics due to service pressures, and lack of applications. We have sought to limit this impact on clinical services and have developed a new role of Research & Innovation Officer (non-clinical) which WAST has provided substantive funding for one post and is being utilised on studies that do not require clinical staff. We have appointed two Clinical (Nurse) Research Officers who were external to WAST and now have one Paramedic Research Officer. Whilst this has limited the impact on clinical services and broadened this opportunity to wider clinical groups, this is a significant regression for the paramedic profession in WAST.
- The Paramedic Research Officer position in WAST has served as an excellent development opportunity with candidates progressing on to senior roles. In 2017 there were twelve paramedic research officers and Wales now only has one. Other home nations have continued to grow this role and many have become independent researchers undertaking PhD's and Advanced Fellowships.
- We are very proud that in 2022 two of our Advanced Paramedic Practitioners secured RCBC Wales PhD fellowships and joined the HCRW Faculty. Unfortunately, they could not take advantage of the stipend as neither the funding nor their manager could support release from operational duties.
- Most (if not all) WAST studies have historically been led by a very small number (two) of active researchers. We have made some progress on developing new Principal Investigators, but continue to face challenges around the appetite, capacity, and skills of individuals to take on this role. This has been most acutely felt in Clinical Trials of Medicinal Products where we are no longer able to deliver such trials due to suitable people such as medical staff not having the capacity.
- The HCRW Research Time Award, has proved to be a good opportunity for a member of our staff who has continued support funding panels, study steering committees, lead and collaborate on important Research such as the successfully funded RfPPB End of Life Care study.
- We actively support a wide range of educational programs from undergraduate to post-Doctoral level. WAST staff have supervised Cardiff University EPIC program, Doctoral candidates with strategic partners such as Save a Life Cymru, Bath University and The Alpha Academy in Bangor University. Our staff have also been supervisory team members for HCRW Post Doctoral Fellowship candidates pursuing important research questions for WAST. Such candidates have become rising stars and continuing to make a significant impact within our research community through roles on research grants such as HEAR 2 and the NHS Faculty.

## **PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION**

- WAST research has patient and public involvement from initial design through to funding and final dissemination as per the requirements of funders and policy.
- We actively contribute to the Success PPI group through PRIME Centre Wales which has supported many ambulance services studies.
- We have explored PPI involvement through established WAST networks such as Partners in Healthcare which provides many opportunities, especially with studies we sponsor.
- WAST contributed to the recent INCLUDE Impaired Capacity to Consent Framework

## **COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT**

- We recognise the opportunities for communications and engagement to contribute to the delivery and dissemination of R&I and building a responsible R&I culture.
- We are glad of the support with communications from within WAST, WG, HCRW Academic partners and others. We told you in our last review our plans to re-energise the use of SIREN and the organisation's intranet to increase the visibility of research amongst the workforce and frontline staff. Whilst we have done this, given the volume of information, there have sometimes been challenges with this communication route, especially during times of extreme pressure where its use is sometimes reserved for business-critical information. We have employed other mechanisms such as email, our newly formed clinical structures and a quarterly clinical bulletin.
- We also recognise the importance of communication in the delivery of R&I and the emerging opportunities to build the body of knowledge and evidence based of communications and engagement.
- We recognise the power of communication to convey accurate health information amongst the rapidly growing an international infodemic of misinformation. The COVID -19 pandemic was the starkest example of this and our staff valued trusted information sources and communications by our organisation.
- Communication and engagement also have a role in responsible R&I in areas of technology development and we have examples of proactively countering high profile and sensationalist media reports and rhetoric in areas from artificial intelligence to drones in pre hospital and emergency care. Alongside the ASSIST study of AI, we strategically communicated our progress through many forms; preparing and publishing media content. We proactively work with journalists to prepare accurate stories sharing our insights on the use of drones for good in healthcare which communicated the opportunities for this technology, but also how it needed to be underpinned by high quality research where we highlighted how we had applied for further research funding to explore the practicalities of how a drone rescue service might work. This funding has now been successfully achieved through the 3D resuscitation council and others.
- WAST also support HCRW communications were possible showcasing our portfolio at events such as the recent Green Man festival.
- We present at many workshops and conference. Our ADR&I organised and Chaired an Emergency Care session for the MediWales Connects conference; this involved speakers from four of our current projects. Our ADR&I also contributed to an expert discussion panel on Ethics of Artificial Intelligence



based on experiences of the ASSIST study. We also hosted of our 999 RESPOND study through a Session at the Bevan commission Annual conference. NHS R&D Forum Conference in Newcastle.

- WAST is increasingly engaging in the communication of health matters through the media and so it is important that both the content and methodology is underpinned by accurate evidence.
- A research annual report is developed and was presented to APC on 15 August. That report will form part of the Trust Board papers for the September meeting and will be placed on the website.

## **RESEARCH IMPACT**

- WAST both contributes to the production of high-quality research and is the beneficiary of the evidence it produces. Whilst we request updates from researchers and attempt to track publications and impact this is sometimes challenging to achieve. We have therefore included below some of the impact we are aware of.
- Since our last annual review our studies and their outputs have continued to make significant and international impact. For instance, two of WAST staff co-authored the PARAMEDIC 2 results paper that was published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The Paramedic 2 study has influenced national and international resuscitation guidelines. WAST staff have also co-authored the results paper of the RIGHT-2 study published in the *Lancet* which is again informing guidelines and practice in the early care of stroke and we continue to work on publications arising from PARAMEDIC 2 and the RIGHT 2 studies.
- ASSIST, has contributed significantly to raising awareness of human factors and ergonomics of healthcare AI in a domain that was previously focused (too) narrowly on technological issues. It was used as a case study in a White Paper on "*Human Factors and Ergonomics in Healthcare AI*" published by the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (developed collaboratively between the AAIP demonstrator HF/AI and several national and international partners). Subsequently, the ASSIST case study featured in presentations of the White Paper. We have continued to publish and present in many forums. NHS R&D Forum Conference, expert panel Medi Wales Connect Conference
- HEAR2 was a collaborative study with two aims: to investigate demand, experiences, and quality of interpretation services in primary and emergency care in Wales; and to assess the feasibility of a comprehensive evaluation of interpretation services in these settings across the UK, including a description of currently commissioned interpretation services The HEAR 2 study is guiding policy recommendations for the commissioning and delivery of interpretation services in Wales, benefiting patients, the public, and the NHS

### **Please outline ways in which Health and Care Research Wales and R&D Division in WG can support your organisation with the implementation of the framework**

- Much of our portfolio has emerged from WAST ideas and topics developed through collaboration by research partners and supported by WAST funding, resources, and input in areas such as end-of-life and the RAPID Trial. As with other NHS organisations, WAST does not receive an allocation for Research

Development. Despite this, all our research has required significant input into their development. HCRW and the R&D could help by acknowledging this and providing resource to support.

- We have a very small number of staff dedicated to R&I office and in order to meet the growing demands and opportunities we would like to appoint a deputy for the AD R&I. We would like HCRW to consider if any additional resources could be made available to support this.
- We continue to face challenges with student-led research with variations in approaches across university partners. Our approach reflects guidance within the HRA toolkit for student research, but few universities appear to be aware of this, and we have spent much time in discussion with students, their supervisors, ethics committees and others navigating these issues. Other UK ambulance services have experienced such challenges and we have discussed these issues at the National Ambulance Steering Group. We cannot be sure that the R&I Office is sighted on all student research, but this issue may benefit from further engagement with Universities and clarity for the NHS.
- As noted earlier, our two HCRW Funded PhD Paramedics could not take advantage of the stipend as it did not sufficiently cover their costs. Our R&I office disseminated the funding opportunity and actively facilitated development of the applications by providing advice and linking up supervisors. We do not however believe that we were formally part of the applications process yet engaged in significant discussions after the application over the mismatch in funding. We welcome the adjustments made to new funding schemes which have addressed the funding mismatch, but would like HCRW to consider if the R&I office should be sighted or formally involved in the process.
- Despite the growing number of studies, outside of honorary appointments, few senior academic opportunities exist for ambulance service researchers in the NHS; especially within Nursing and AHP professions such as paramedicine. We are aware of only one professor of paramedicine in the UK who we understand was a professor before becoming a paramedic and has less experience than our two paramedic Chief Investigators. We
- HCRW and the R&I community could help by influencing University partners to recognise the academic knowledge within the NHS by collaborating on joint appointments/senior research roles and creating visible research leaders from these professions and within the NHS. This may foster greater aspiration and inspire these staff to invest in an R&I future.
- We value the support we receive from HCRW, especially in areas of contracting and financing of research. We hope HCRW and R&D Division in WG will continue to acknowledge whilst our research activity may be less than other organisations, it is in a high-impact area which is of great importance to the population of Wales. We have a small yet very efficient R&I Office, with staff covering a broad range of activities in R&I development and delivery. As such we continue to value standardised and consistent approaches such as the Non-Commercial Model Agreements and SOECAT, but also the training support in applying them.
- We have mentioned our challenges with information Governance which are acutely felt in our setting which often involves vulnerable people where consent and data access is a challenge. We have discussed with HCRW and members of the Data for Research group the challenges we face and would like clarity and clear timelines on statutory instruments and processes in areas such as

Information Governance. This includes Confidential Advisory Group (CAG) 251 approval which is a power discharged to the secretary of state for Health in England and the national data opt-out in England, the principles of which we have been advised will be enshrined in a National Data Promise for Wales.

- We would like guidance and support with the increase in linked and trusted research environments research such as SAIL. Whilst we have delivered many linked data studies with SAIL which have received for instance CAG 251 and HRA approval, we are increasing receiving requests to use WAST data for non-HRA approved research and would like HCRW and WG to consider if the R&I office should be involved in this process and how we gain the assurance in the absence of such review.
- High-quality research is time-consuming and costly. Many innovations, clinical procedures and technologies have been rapidly introduced within a fraction of the time and resources that our trials have taken. For instance: following a research path for FICB through the RAPID Trials will have resulted in a journey of over a decade before the results will be available to decision-makers. Conversely, Adrenaline is drug that was introduced into resuscitation practices more than fifty years before the PARAMEDIC 2 Trial produced definitive evidence of effectiveness. We appreciate that others face similar challenges with this, but HCRW and R&D Division in WG can support by continuing to highlight across other WG divisions and the NHS, the need for high-quality research and trials whilst exploring ways of improving the efficiency and timeliness of such research.
- We have faced queries from procurement on the co-producing grant applications and would welcome any advice, guidance and support in this area.
- We are aware that significant there has been significantly more organisation and clarity around innovation in recent years in Wales which we welcome. We would however like to see better alignment between Welsh Government and HCRW across areas such as Innovation, Digital, Improvement and Value Based Healthcare which sometimes seem to compete. One example of this is the Research Improvement and Innovation Hubs HCRW/Research & Development.





## ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS TASK & FINISH GROUP HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO COMMITTEE

<b>Academic Partnerships Committee Meeting Date</b>	24 October 2023
<b>T&amp;F Group Meeting Date</b>	17 August and 6 October 2023
<b>Chair</b>	Estelle Hitchon, Director of Partnerships and Engagement

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Committee to areas for their attention)

1. There were not alerts from this meeting.

#### ADVISE

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

2. The Group reviewed it's work plan at both meetings and updates the Committee as follows:
  - Develop a work plan: This is in place across the areas below and reviewed at each meeting.
  - Develop a strategic approach to attract candidates to align to WAST's long term strategy, for consideration by the Committee:
    - The approved Welsh Government role profile and person specification for the Non-Executive Director (Academic) has been finalized and the campaign pack approved by Welsh Government. The vacancy is now advertised and is linked [here in English](#) and [here in Welsh](#).
    - Members of the Group have shared the link and candidate packs with their relevant contacts, as have members of the Board. Members of the Academic Partnerships Committee are requested to do likewise to attract as much interest as possible.
    - The links have also been communicated more widely on social media channels through the WAST account and shared by others.
  - Proactively plan for management of conflicts of interest:
    - Will be developed once potential candidate profiles more readily known.
  - Consider logistics related to change of name and brand; and
  - Alignment the work to the legislative docket in Welsh Government to change the Trust's Establishment Order:
    - Details of the timeline for an establishment order change of name have been requested from the Welsh Government Policy lead.



## ASSURE

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

3. The Group does not have issues of assurance before it at this stage.

## RISKS

**Risks Discussed:** N/A

**New Risks Identified:** N/A

## COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING

Terms of Reference and Work Plan	Strategic approach to attract candidates	
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## COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	3 April 2023	11 May 2023	14 June 2023	10 July 2023	17 August 2023	6 October 2023
Estelle Hitchon						
Andy Swinburn						
Trish Mills						
Duncan Robertson						
Liz Rogers						
Jo Kelso						

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member



<b>AGENDA ITEM No</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>OPEN or CLOSED</b>	<b>Open</b>
<b>No of ANNEXES</b>	<b>1</b>

## Committee Priorities and Cycle Monitoring Report

<b>MEETING</b>	Academic Partnerships Committee
<b>DATE</b>	24 October 2023
<b>EXECUTIVE</b>	Trish Mills, Board Secretary
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Trish Mills, Board Secretary
<b>CONTACT</b>	<a href="mailto:Trish.mills@wales.nhs.uk">Trish.mills@wales.nhs.uk</a>

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report updates the Committee on progress against the priorities it set for 2023/24 and progress against the agreed cycle of business for the Committee. There are no matters to escalate with respect to the Priorities.

**RECOMMENDATION: -**

2. **The Committee is asked to note the update.**

### KEY ISSUES/IMPLICATIONS

No issues to raise.

### REPORT APPROVAL ROUTE

Not applicable.

### REPORT APPENDICES

Annex 1 – Charity Committee Cycle of Business Monitoring Report

<b>REPORT CHECKLIST</b>			
<b>Confirm that the issues below have been considered and addressed</b>		<b>Confirm that the issues below have been considered and addressed</b>	
EQIA (Inc. Welsh language)	Yes	Financial Implications	N/A
Environmental/Sustainability	N/A	Legal Implications	N/A
Estate	N/A	Patient Safety/Safeguarding	N/A
Ethical Matters	N/A	Risks (Inc. Reputational)	N/A
Health Improvement	N/A	Socio Economic Duty	N/A
Health and Safety	N/A	TU Partner Consultation	N/A

## COMMITTEE PRIORITIES FOR 2023/24 AND CYCLE MONITORING REPORT

### SITUATION

3. This report updates the Committee on progress against the priorities it set for 2023/24 and progress against the agreed cycles of business. There are no matters to escalate with respect to the Priorities.

### BACKGROUND

4. During the course of the effectiveness reviews, it was agreed that it is good practice for Committees to set priorities for the forthcoming year. The Committee's priorities, which are set out below, were agreed by the Trust Board in May 2023 and will be tracked quarterly.
5. The Committee's cycle of business was approved by the Committee in August 2023. The agenda is set with reference to that cycle, together with the forward planner, action log and highest rated principal risks.
6. The monitoring report is at Annex 1. Items in green show they are cycled for a particular meeting. Items in beige indicate they are a prompt at agenda setting as they may be *ad hoc* items such as business cases or external reports. The blue indicates that the item is either on the agenda as scheduled or is an ad hoc item which was discussed in agenda setting.

### ASSESSMENT

7. The Committee priorities, and progress against them is as follows:

Priority	Progress
Task and Finish Group to scope out the next 12 months to UTS (including partners, any reciprocal arrangements, conflicts, name change, legislative docket).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Group has held five meetings and reported to the Committee on a AAA report. An update on UTS progress was provided to the October meeting.</li><li>• The academic NED role profile was endorsed by the Committee in August and the non-executive director recruitment activity has begun. The academic role is out to advert with a closing date of the 29 October 2023.</li></ul>

Focus on the research governance framework, which is a new area of oversight for the committee.

- A paper was received by the Committee on the Research Governance Framework at their August meeting. The Framework was adopted, and it was asked that all departments within the Trust conduct a self-assessment against the Framework.
- An update on the Framework return to the Health Council Research Wales is before the Committee at this meeting. Future research governance activity / business will be considered within the agenda setting for the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION: -**

**8. The Committee is asked to note the update.**

PAPER	PRE or POST-C'EE				LEAD	PURPOSE	COMMENT
	FORUM	FREQUENCY	Q1	Q2			
<b>ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE - CYCLE OF BUSINESS 2023/24</b>							
<b>See full cycle of business for reference to the duties in the terms of reference as they relate to Committee reports below</b>							
Draw details of any member visits in cycle	N/A	Ad Hoc				All members	N/A
Spotlight on Partnerships	N/A	Ad Hoc				Relevant Director	Assurance
Review partnership agreements	TBC	Ad Hoc				Relevant Director	Assurance
Initial UTS application and any renewals	EMT and Board	Ad Hoc				DPE	Endorsement
Review compliance reporting	EMT and Board	Annually			→	DPE	Assurance
UTS Priorities in IMTP	STB and Board	Annually				Relevant Director	Endorsement
Exception reporting on UTS priorities	TBC	Ad Hoc				Relevant Director	Assurance
Deep dive on priority (and other) elements		Ad Hoc				Relevant Director	Assurance/Information
Initial and ongoing review of research gov framework	CQGG	Ad Hoc				ADR&I	Approval
Research KPIs	CQGG	Ad Hoc				ADR&I	Approval
Spotlight On Research	CQGG	Ad Hoc				ADR&I	Approval
Board Assurance Framework	EMT	Each meeting				BS	Assurance
Corporate Risk Register	EMT	Each meeting				BS	Assurance
Audit Recommendation Tracker		Each meeting				BS	Assurance
Audits within purview of Committee		Ad Hoc				BS	Assurance
<b>GOVERNANCE</b>							
Committee effectiveness review annual report	Audit/Board	Annually				BS	Approval
Review of Terms of Reference	Audit/Board	Annually				BS	Approval
Committee Cycle of Business review	N/A	Annually				BS	Approval
Committee Cycle of Business monitor	N/A	Each meeting				BS	Assurance
Committee Review of Annual Priorities	N/A	Quarterly				Chair	Review
<b>SUB-GROUPS</b>							
Sub-groups or task and finish group AAA	N/A	Ad Hoc				Relevant Director	Assurance
<b>PROMPTS</b>							
External Reports	N/A	Ad Hoc				TBC	TBC

DPE = Director of Partnerships and Engagement  
ADR&I = Assistant Director of Research and Innovation  
BS = Board Secretary

- Cycled for each meeting
- Ad hoc item - prompt for agenda setting
- Reporting developing
- Presented as cycled/ad hoc item considered at agenda setting
- Deferred