

## 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>	30 May 2024
<b>Committee Meeting Date</b>	23 April 2024
<b>Chair</b>	Hannah Rowan

### KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

#### ALERT

(Alert the Board to areas of attention)

1. As the Board will be aware, the appointed **Academic Non-Executive Director** who was due to start on 1 April 2024 was not able to join the Trust. A fresh campaign has commenced with a closing date of 10 May.

#### ADVISE

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

2. As was announced at the March Board meeting, the Trust's application for **University Trust Status** has now been approved and the Trust's name has changed to the Welsh Ambulance Services University NHS Trust.
3. Hannah Rowan, the **Research Champion Non-Executive Director** and Chair, recently attended a research workshop in Wrexham hosted by WAST. The morning session was enriching, offering diverse viewpoints from attendees. The previous evening, discussions at the Emergency Department at Wrexham Maelor Hospital revolved around the insights of various colleagues on ongoing projects and potential improvements. Key discussions at the workshop emphasised the need to elevate our research visibility within the organisation. There was also a focus on identifying and addressing barriers to participation, e.g. discussing the reasons behind the discrepancy between the number of colleagues signed up and trained to participate in the PARAMEDIC-3 trial and the much lower number of patients recruited to it. The workshop was marked by a strong sense of enthusiasm and highlighted the opportunities available for involvement at all levels in research initiatives.
4. **Reflections** from members on the meeting were positive, highlighting the effective sharing and celebration of research within the Trust. Members appreciated the maturity and collegial atmosphere



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of the committee, noting the open and supportive environment that encourages dialogue. There was an acknowledgment that more efforts are needed to ensure colleagues are given the necessary time and support for their research endeavours, particularly noting the challenge of releasing PhD students to pursue their studies. The meeting was characterised by a curious and dynamic atmosphere. The achievement of University Trust Status was celebrated, recognising the significant contributions of many colleagues. Members expressed pride in working for an organisation that has attained such a prestigious status and extended thanks to those who have guided this achievement.

## ASSURE

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

5. A **research update** was provided with highlights including:

- The committee was informed that the drone project had received a prestigious award from the UKRI Future Flight SBRI funding call, highlighting its potential to enhance the supply chain in Wales. The project has garnered significant media attention, and a paper has been submitted to the Journal of Paramedicine.
- The organisation has begun participating in the HCRW Communications Alliance. This involvement is seen as a positive step towards promoting and sharing research and innovation initiatives across Wales, enhancing our collaborative efforts and visibility in the field.
- Three regional WAST research and innovation workshops have been completed.
- A secondment appointment has been made for the Research & Innovation Officer (Clinical) and the job description for new Head of Research and Innovation is in the evaluation stage.

The update on the Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) Research and Development Framework showed an increased focus on this and the Committee noted a group has been established, reporting to the Executive Leadership Team, that will ensure buy-in for research and innovation across the Trust. The committee noted the need to ensure that our resourcing decisions keep up with our broadening ambitions, and that these are aligned with the IMTP.

6. The original University Trust Status priorities i.e. digitisation to enable better outcomes, advanced practice, and decarbonisation, remain central to the **Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) 2024-27**. However, it was noted that they are primarily monitored by other Committees, with the IMTP oversight overall coming under the Finance and Performance Committee, which will escalate issues to this Committee where necessary. The IMTP focus therefore for this Committee for 2024-25 will be those related to reporting and assurance in relation to the NHS Wales Research Governance Framework and those linked to the embedding and realisation of the benefits of University Trust Status. Our relationship with stakeholders was seen as key to linking these initiatives to the wider NHS system.

7. The **Academic Partnerships Committee Task and Finish Group closure report** was received and the Committee was assured that it completed its work plan which included developing an approach to attract Academic Non-Executive Director candidates; proactively plan for the management of conflicts of interest; consider logistics for the change of name once University Trust Status was conferred; and align the work to the legislative docket at Welsh Government for a change to the



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Trust’s establishment order. The Chair thanked the members of the group for their contributions and recommendations.

8. The Committee approved its **cycle of business** which aligns with its revised terms of reference.

**RISKS**

**Risks Discussed:** There are no formal risks on the corporate risk register for this Committee. However, risks related to resourcing were discussed as well as broadening access to research and innovation.

**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**

Research Governance Framework (update and approach to assurance on framework implementation)	Research champion update	IMTP 2024-27 priorities
APC Task and Finish Group closure report	Cycle of business and monitoring report	

**COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE**

Name	23 April 2024	July 2024	22 October 2024	23 January 2025
Hannah Rowan				
Prof Kevin Davies				
Academic NED				
Estelle Hitchon				
Angela Lewis				
Andy Swinburn				
Jonny Sammut	Aled Williams			
Jonathan Turnbull-Ross				
Duncan Robertson				
Prof Nigel Rees				
James Houston				
Jo Kelso				
Trish Mills				
Mark Marsden				
Keith Rogers				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member