

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

Trust Board Meeting Date	26 November 2026
Committee Meeting Date	18 September 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. An update was received from the Trust's **Research Non-Executive Director, Prof. Hayley Hutchings** for her involvement as the board's research champion.
3. Members **reflected** on the quality of the papers, particularly the sharing of outcomes and impact. Members felt that research and innovation should be highlighted more in the IMTP which would allow for accountability on deliverables of the five year plan.

ASSURE

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

4. The Committee received an update on the ongoing review of the **Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) Governance Framework self-assessment**. Members noted that feedback from HCRW was ultimately positive, recognising the Trust's research activity and identifying two areas for further development: strengthening the integration of academic input within governance and decision-making structures, and undertaking a targeted benchmarking exercise. Discussion highlighted the challenges of benchmarking research performance across ambulance services due to differences in organisational size, geography, service models and research portfolios. Work is progressing to develop meaningful comparators, including consideration of research recruitment activity and grant capture, whilst avoiding overly simplistic comparisons. The Committee noted that the exercise is expected to



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provide useful insight into the Trust's research contribution and further demonstrate that the organisation continues to perform strongly relative to its size and remit.

5. The committee received the **2025/26 Research, Development and Innovation (RD&I) Annual Report** (which is attached at **annex 1**) and welcomed the continued evolution of the report, noting improvements in accessibility, readability and the demonstration of research impact. Members recognised the breadth of research activity being undertaken and the importance of increasing visibility of this work across the organisation, including sharing outcomes with staff, stakeholders and the board to promote engagement and demonstrate the benefits derived from research activity.

Discussion also focused on the development of the RD&I measurement framework, with recognition that further work is required to strengthen performance monitoring and provide greater assurance regarding progress against strategic objectives, including milestones and deliverables. The committee noted wider organisational discussions regarding future governance arrangements for research and innovation, including how best to maintain strategic oversight, align research activity with organisational priorities and ensure appropriate visibility within the emerging governance and delivery framework.

RISKS

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

New Risks Identified: No risks raised.

COMMITTEE AGENDA FOR MEETING

Health Care Research Wales Research Governance Framework Self-Assessment	Research Development and Innovation Annual Report 2025/26	Update from Research NED
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COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	18 September 2026	9 March 2027
Hannah Rowan (chair)		
Jayne Beeslee		
Prof Hayley Hutchings		
Jonathan Chippendale		
Ceri Griffiths		
Estelle Hitchon		
Jo Kelso		
Mark Marsden		
Trish Mills		
Prof Nigel Rees		
Keith Rogers		
Liz Rogers		
Jonny Sammut		
Andy Swinburn		



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	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member