

ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT REPORT TO BOARD

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

Trust Board Meeting Date	27 November 2025
Committee Meeting Date	07 October 2025
Chair	Hannah Rowan

KEY ESCALATION AND DISCUSSION POINTS

ALERT

(Alert the Board to areas of attention)

1. The **2025/26 Quality Governance Review** was considered, and the proposed redistribution of the committee’s responsibilities was endorsed with the caveat that any potential risks to the depth of discussion on research and its visibility, cross functional collaboration and effective scheduling are actively managed.

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**. Hayley shared that she is engaged with Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) via the independent members’ committee. Hayley highlighted the recent publication of the Strategic Action Plan for Building Research Capability for Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Healthcare Professionals in Wales, and noted the Trust’s involvement in this activity. Hayley summarised the key priorities of HCRW for NHS organisations, which included embedding a research culture, aligning education and workforce with research goals, and valuing research impact. Additionally, Hayley recently attended a Trust research and innovation workshop organised by Prof. Nigel Rees and his team in Baglan and described it as a positive event that showcased ongoing research within the Trust.
3. Members **reflected** that the meeting shone a light on the significant research and innovation activities within the Trust. Members acknowledged the importance of integrating research into strategic planning, maintaining visibility of research activities, and not losing the committee’s positive legacy as the board committee framework evolves. The Chair stated that she values bringing together people who don’t often interact, ensuring the committee balances assurance with meaningful discussion, and that it continues to highlight research achievements, whilst having honest conversations regarding associated barriers



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services
University NHS Trust

ASSURE

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

4. Members received the **Annual Research and Innovation Report 2024/25** and commended the work undertaken within the Trust. The significant progress and national recognition of research output was noted; including publication in the New England Journal of Medicine, and leadership of major National Institute of Health and Care Research funded studies. Members praised the breadth and impact of research activities, the team's increased visibility and engagement across Wales, and the strong return on investment through grant income. The Committee noted the importance of tracking and communicating the real-world impact of research on patient outcomes and service improvement and agreed that it could be helpful to complete a focused evaluation of research impact for a future meeting.
5. Members recognised the progress highlighted by the **Health Care Research Wales review** and the ongoing efforts to embed research as a core function within the Trust noting that significant strides had been made including the appointment of a dedicated Research Lead. A stronger integration with priorities and performance frameworks is needed; however, to support planning and innovation. Staff participation and external partnerships were highlighted as areas for improvement.
6. Alignment against the **NHS Research and Development Framework** demonstrated substantial progress against all ten pillars of the framework. Members were assured on the development of a five-year strategic plan to strengthen research excellence, collaboration, and impact across the Trust as well as participation in national and international collaborative research. The importance of an effective reporting mechanism from a directorate level was highlighted.

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

Annual Research and Innovation Report	Health Care Research Wales Review	NHS Research and Development Framework
Update from Research NED	2025/26 Quality Governance Review	

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Name	07 October 2025			
Hannah Rowan				
Prof Hayley Hutchings				
Jayne Beeslee				
Estelle Hitchon				
Carl Kneeshaw				



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth Brifysgol GIG
Gwasanaethau Ambiwylans Cymru
Welsh Ambulance Services
University NHS Trust

COMMITTEE ATTENDANCE

Andy Swinburn				
Jonny Sammut	Keith Dorrington			
Jonathan Chippendale				
Prof Nigel Rees				
James Houston				
Jo Kelso				
Trish Mills	Julie Boalch			
Mark Marsden				
Keith Rogers				

	Attended
	Deputy attended
	Apologies received
	No longer member