

**Trust Board Meeting in Public: Wednesday 9 September 2015**  
**TB2015.117**

<b>Title</b>	<b>NIHR Clinical Research Network [CRN]: Thames Valley and South Midlands Quarterly Report</b>
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<b>Status</b>	For approval
<b>History</b>	<p>The OUH Trust hosts the NIHR CRN: Thames Valley and South Midlands (LCRN).</p> <p>The Draft Annual Plan 2015/16 was approved by the OUH Trust Board in May 2015.</p> <p>This report is to provide an update to the OUH Trust Board on progress against the Annual Plan for 2015/16, as revised to incorporate minor changes, consistent with updated national guidance</p>

<b>Board Lead(s)</b>	<b>Dr Tony Berendt, Medical Director</b>			
<b>Key purpose</b>	Strategy	<b>Assurance</b>	Policy	Performance

## Executive Summary

1. This paper provides an update to the Board as host of the LCRN on progress against the Annual Plan 2015-16.
2. Some minor changes were made to the plan that was previously approved by the Board to reflect updated national guidance. The Board of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is therefore asked to approve the revised Annual Plan 2015-16 which is attached as Appendix 1
3. The LCRN produces a monthly performance review which is used by its Executive Group to monitor progress against the High Level Objectives in the plan. The latest review is attached as Appendix 2
4. The LCRN is currently on track to meet its recruitment objectives for 2015-16. Recruitment to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies remains strong (YTD recruitment of 13,700 participants) making the LCRN the 5th highest recruiter to NIHR Portfolio studies in 2015-16 YTD and the highest on a population adjusted basis. We also expect to meet target for recruitment to Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies. The new Join Dementia Research (JDR) programme has now been fully launched and is generating significant interest from across the region with over 500 new contacts already added to the database.
5. Increasing participating in commercial Portfolio studies (HLO5) across the region remains a priority with activity levels tracking at similar levels to the prior year. We have achieved 2 'global firsts' (cancer and non-malignant haematology) in the last 6 months (both in OUH).
6. Performance against time to target objectives (HLOs 2,4,5) cannot be accurately measured at present due to delays in the implementation of national systems (CPMS). Several of these metrics are also expected to be revised with the introduction of the Health Services Research (HRA) changes to governance processes over the coming months.

**7. Other recent activities include**

- Development of small direct nursing task force which can be targeted to support specific studies and help to build the surgery Portfolio
- Work with Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) charity in Milton Keynes to support new Portfolio research on the use of dogs in cancer diagnosis which has received considerable local and national press coverage
- Supporting trusts in Berkshire and Reading University in their bid to open a new Clinical Trials Unit
- Developing a short training video for Mental Health clinicians in partnership with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Training and awareness raising events across most Specialty areas
- Planning for our annual engagement event in November entitled 'No Research No Progress' which will be PPI led

**Recommendation**

The Trust Board is asked

- to note this progress report; and
- to approve the revised NIHR Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands Annual Plan 2015-16, incorporating minor changes, consistent with updated national guidance

**Dr Tony Berendt**  
**Medical Director**  
**September 2015**

Report prepared by:

Val Woods

Chief Operating Officer, NIHR Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands (LCRN)

**Appendix 1**

NIHR Clinical Research Network [CRN]: Thames Valley and South Midlands Annual Plan 2015-16

**Appendix 2**

NIHR Clinical Research Network [CRN]: Thames Valley and South Midlands Performance Review July 2015

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**NIHR Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands (LCRN)****Quarterly Progress Report September 2015****1. Introduction**

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is the clinical research delivery arm of the NHS. Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust was appointed to host the local branch (Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands) for a fixed term period of 5 years from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. This paper provides an update to the Board as Host of the LCRN on progress against the Annual Plan 2015-16.

**2. Approval of Annual Plan 2015-16**

The annual plan has now been formally approved by the CRN Co-ordinating Centre. Some relatively minor changes were requested to the draft plan which was approved by the OUH Board in May 2015. These included-

- a revised PPI plan with more clearly identifiable actions for delivery during the year that aligns with the new national CRN PPI strategy which was issued in June 2015
- final confirmation of recruitment target of 40,000 participants to Portfolio studies for 2015/16
- final confirmation of recruitment target of 1,600 participants for Dementia Portfolio studies for 2015/16
- clarification on the categorisation of various items of spend within the financial planning schedules

The Board of the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust is therefore asked to approve the revised Annual Plan 2015-16 which is attached as Appendix 1

**3. Progress Report**

The LCRN produces a monthly performance review which is used by its Executive Group to monitor progress against the High Level Objectives in the plan. The latest review is attached as Appendix 2. The LCRN is currently on track to meet its recruitment objectives for 2015-16. In particular

- Overall recruitment to NIHR CRN Portfolio studies remains strong
- YTD recruitment of 13,700 (HLO1), making the LCRN the 5th highest recruiter to NIHR Portfolio studies in 2015-16 YTD and the highest on a population adjusted basis
- OUH remains the major contributor to recruitment activity in the region with over 6,600 recruits YTD and OUH is presently the highest recruiting trust nationally

- LCRN recruitment is boosted by 1 particularly high recruiting maternity study (YTD recruitment of 5,300) which is led from OUH and recruits across Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire.
- The pipeline of studies remains strong with growth in the Portfolio in several specialty areas and a number of new GP surgeries across the region engaging with Portfolio research for the first time
- Participation in cancer studies remains low in all our partner trusts with 400 recruits YTD. A draft strategy document has been produced and is currently being reviewed and discussed with key partners.
- The LCRN expects to meet its recruitment target of 1,600 (HLO7) for Dementias and Neurodegeneration (DeNDRoN) studies-
- a number of studies are expected to recruit strongly in the latter half of the year
- the new Join Dementia Research (JDR) programme is now attracting additional potential study participants from across the region with over 500 already added to its contacts database

Increasing participating in commercial Portfolio studies (HLO5) across the region remains a priority for the network

- the LCRN is still one of the lowest recruiting regions for commercial activity
- The region has recruited to 53 commercial studies YTD compared with a full year total of 114 in 2014-15
- most active studies are based in OUH and work is ongoing to increase the number of 'expressions of interest' being submitted from across the region and increase participation in primary care settings
- a draft strategy document to improve participation in commercial studies has been developed and is currently being reviewed and discussed with key partners
- The network has achieved 2 'global firsts' (cancer and non-malignant haematology) in the last 6 months (both in OUH).

Performance against time to target objectives (HLOs 2,4,5) cannot be accurately measured due to delays in the implementation of national systems (CPMS). The data provided by the CRN Co-ordinating Centre is an approximation of current performance across the LCRNs since it is not currently possible to separately identify time to target performance at individual site level for multi-site studies from the national database. Nevertheless, it is acknowledged that a number of studies – both commercial and non-commercial – are currently not meeting their overall recruitment targets and we are working hard with R and D departments and study teams across the region to tackle this.

It should also be noted that several of these metrics will need revising with the introduction of the Health Services Research (HRA) changes to governance processes over the coming months.

The LCRN is working closely with the R and D department at the OUH as Host organisation to develop a Local Portfolio Management System (LPMS) which builds on current systems within the trust and will be made available to all other partner organisations. This will enhance

the network's ability to monitor and manage time to target metrics more effectively and reduce reliance on the development of national solutions.

#### **4. Financial Reporting**

The LCRN has been allocated a core budget of £13.5m and received £317k in Research Capability Funding (RCF) for 2015-16. All required returns have all been submitted to the CRN Co-ordinating Centre in line with requested timescales. A small contingency remains and we are still forecasting a break even position for the year end.

KPMG undertook an internal audit of the financial governance arrangements in place in February 2015, the final report on which is expected.

#### **5. Other Recent Activities**

- Draft strategies for increasing commercial activity, cancer recruitment and primary care distributed for comment
- Development of small direct nursing task force which can be targeted to support specific studies and help to build the surgery Portfolio which will work initially in OUH
- Work with Medical Detection Dogs (MDD) charity in Milton Keynes to support new Portfolio research on the use of dogs in cancer diagnosis which has received considerable local and national press coverage
- New Communications and Engagement Manager to work across the region starting in September 2015
- Supporting trusts in Berkshire and Reading University in their bid to open a new Clinical Trials Unit
- Developing a short training video for Mental Health clinicians in partnership with Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Training and awareness raising events across most Specialty areas
- Planning for our annual engagement event in November entitled 'No Research No Progress' which will be PPI led
- Working with key stakeholders to introduce an annual regional recognition event for researchers and funded staff

**Dr Tony Berendt**  
**Medical Director**

Report prepared by:

Val Woods  
Chief Operating Officer  
NIHR Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands (LCRN)

September 2015