

Minutes

Public Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Velindre University NHS Trust

Date 16/06/2025
Time 2.00-4.00pm
Location Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff
Chair Andrew Westwell, Independent Member

MEMBERS		
Andrew Westwell	Independent Member and Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair	AW
Vicky Morris	Independent Member	VM
ATTENDEES		
Jacinta Abraham	Executive Medical Director and R&D Lead	JA
Matthew Bunce	Executive Director of Finance	MB
Christopher Cotterill-Jones	Research Delivery Manager	CCJ
Amie Garwood-Pask	Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering	AGP
Chloe George	Head of Component Development, Welsh Blood Service	CG
Sian James	Head of Research, Development & Innovation, Welsh Blood Service	SJ
Jennet Holmes	Head of Innovation	JH
Robert Jones	Associate Medical Director for Research, Development & Innovation	RJ
Llinos Madeley	Head of Corporate Governance (Interim)	LM
Rhydian Owen	Cancer R&D Strategy Lead	RO
Alan Prosser	Director, Welsh Blood Service	AP
Richard Skone	Deputy Medical Director	RS
Sarah Townsend	Head of Research & Development	ST
Tess Watts	Velindre Reader in Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care	TW
Emma Williams	Senior Research Nurse Manager	EW
Nicola Williams	Director of Nursing, AHP's & Healthcare Scientists	NW
SECRETARIAT		
Sandra Cusack	Business Support Officer	SMC

1.0	PRELIMINARY MATTERS	
1.1	<p>Welcome and Introduction <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>Professor Andrew Westwell, the Chair, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, with a special mention to Llinos Madeley, Richard Skone, and Tessa Watts, as it was their first time attending the meeting.</p>	
1.2	<p>Apologies received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew Bunce, Executive Director of Finance (apologies for first hour of meeting to attend an Audit Wales meeting for the CEO) • David Donegan, Chief Executive Officer • Edwin Massey, Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service • Carys Morgan, Divisional Clinical Director, Velindre Cancer Service 	
1.3	<p>In Attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dean Pym, PhD Student, Welsh Blood Service (Item 3.1) 	
1.4	<p>Declarations of Interest <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>The Chair requested any declarations of interest, no declarations of interest were raised.</p>	
2.0	STANDARD BUSINESS	
2.1	<p>Minutes from the Public Research, Development & Innovation Committee held on the 12th March 2025 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i></p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 12th March 2025 as an accurate reflection of proceedings.</p>	
2.2	<p>Review of Action Log <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>The Committee reviewed the action log and confirmed assurance that all actions marked as closed had been fully completed and could be formally closed. The remaining open action was discussed:</p>	

	<p>Action 6.2.1 [12.03.25] – Integrated Business Bid Update: It was noted that a draft report will be circulated in July, with final sign-off scheduled at September’s Charitable Funds Committee.</p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the closure of actions from the March 2025 Committee Meeting.</p>	RO
2.3	<p>Matters Arising <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i></p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
3.0	PRESENTATION AND GUEST ATTENDEES	
3.1	<p>Investigating the Biophysical Cues Associated with Platelet Deterioration Over Storage <i>Led by Dean Pym, PhD Student, Welsh Blood Service</i></p> <p>Dean Pym presented his research on the biophysical factors influencing platelet deterioration during storage, aiming to extend the shelf life and enhance the quality of stored platelet concentrates. His work examines the roles of oxygen availability and shear stress, using a computational fluid dynamic model validated by experimental data.</p> <p>Dean’s research has resulted in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Published two peer-reviewed papers, with a third under review and two more in preparation • Awarded the Harold Gunship Fellowship by the International Society of Blood Transfusion and presented research findings internationally • Highlighted the benefits of collaboration between the Welsh Blood Service and Cardiff Metropolitan University, including access to specialized equipment, translational research opportunities, and enhanced implementation potential for clinical practice <p>The Committee found the presentation highly informative and expressed their appreciation to Dean and the team. Presentation slides to be circulated to the Committee.</p>	SMC
4.0	KEY REPORT(S)	
4.1	<p>Executive Medical Director Briefing <i>Led by Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director and R&D Lead</i></p> <p>JA provided an update on key RD&I activities for Quarter 4 of 2024/25 and recent developments in the RD&I landscape. Key highlights:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report Requirement: Health and Care Research Wales now mandates the publication of an annual report covering performance and financial data across funding streams, with the first report due in June 2026. Once the detailed requirements are received, share them with the Committee. • BioNTech Study: The study received extensive media attention, including a visit from the Cabinet Secretary. The first Welsh patient received the BioNTech colorectal cancer vaccine, generating further interest and potential new collaborations. • FAKTION Study: The study, now NICE-approved, was recognised for its achievements. The first patient in Wales received the FAKTION drug, with notable media coverage and acknowledgment from Julie Morgan, Member of the Senedd. • Clinical and Scientific Strategy: The inaugural clinical and scientific working together conference took place on 12th May 2025, launching the new strategy to advance research, development, and innovation within the organisation. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the briefing.</p>	
5.0	QUALITY, SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE / PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	
5.1	<p>Research, Development & Innovation <u>Annual</u> Performance Report 2024-25 <i>Led by Sarah Townsend, Head of Research & Development</i></p> <p>ST and the team presented the Annual Performance Report, outlining major accomplishments, current initiatives, and future directions for research and development within the organisation. Key highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Achievements: Notable successes included recruiting over 100 participants for the TARGET National Study and treating the first patient in Wales with proton beam therapy through the APPROACH Study. • Current Initiatives: Ongoing work features the BioNTech collaboration, the BIC study and the expansion of a diverse trial portfolio covering oncology and solid tumour research. • Future Directions: Plans focus on refining research study prioritisation, strengthening portfolio management, and streamlining financial sign-off processes. The team is also preparing a programme development grant for a physical activity intervention targeting individuals with advanced disease. • Research Community Development: The Velindre Healthcare Research Support Team continues to foster research capacity and community, holding monthly meetings and launching the 2025 Fellows programme. • Financial Overview: The Division reported a £131,000 overspend, mainly from non-recurrent non-pay costs. Income 	

	<p>generation remains a key risk, with a target exceeding £5 million for the upcoming year.</p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the RDI Annual Performance Report 2024-25.</p>	
5.2	<p>Health and Care Research Wales : Update on VPAG Funding & Tackling Cancer through Research <i>Led by Professor Robert Jones, Associate Medical Director for RD&I</i></p> <p>RJ delivered an update on VPAG funding, covering its objectives, the application process and anticipated benefits for the organisation's research capacity. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose: VPAG funding, provided by the ABPI, is intended to strengthen commercial infrastructure and support the delivery of commercial trials, with the aim of achieving cost recovery through increased trial income. • Application Process: Led by Sarah Townsend and Christopher Cotterill-Jones, the organisation secured significant funding through a successful application. The funds will be allocated to new posts and infrastructure to facilitate commercial trial activity. • Anticipated Impact: The funding is expected to greatly boost research capabilities, particularly by increasing patient recruitment into commercial trials. The target is a fourfold rise in cancer patient recruitment by 2028. • Next Steps: A meeting with HCRW and the ABPI is planned to review progress and clarify expectations. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the Update on VPAG Funding and Tackling Cancer through Research presentation. Presentation slides to be circulated to the Committee.</p>	SMC
6.0	INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE	
6.1	<p>Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Cycle of Business 2025-26 & Terms of Reference 2025-26 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>The Committee reviewed the cycle of business and terms of reference for the upcoming year, highlighting several improvement areas. Planned updates will reflect committee feedback and evolving requirements, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the cycle of business and terms of reference to reflect new requirements, including the Health and Care Research Wales annual report and the oversight of the small grant scheme. • Incorporate references to OECl accreditation and related research infrastructure into both documents, aligning with the ambition for comprehensive cancer centre accreditation. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and formalise a transformation plan for optimizing research delivery across all professional groups, especially nursing, and include this in the cycle of business and terms of reference. • Clarify and revise the membership structure in the terms of reference, specifically regarding independent members and attendees, and review the organogram to show links with the Clinical and Scientific Strategic Board. • Strengthen language around the growth of multi-professional research, especially in relation to nursing and interdisciplinary research, in the terms of reference. • Address compliance with the duty of quality legislation, ensuring the committee understands and demonstrates how it meets this requirement. • Align business case cycles and meeting dates with other committees for greater effectiveness and consider a development session to clarify strategic versus operational business cases and the application of quality impact assessments and assurance levels. <p>Action: Both documents will be revised per committee input, recirculated for further feedback and submitted for formal approval at a future meeting.</p>	LM/SMC
7.0	CONSENT AGENDA	
7.1	For Approval / Endorsement	
	The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED there were no items for approval / endorsement.	
7.2	For Information / Noting	
7.2.1	<p>Summary from the Private Research, Development & Innovation Committee Meeting held on the 12th March 2025 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the summary of the Private RD&I Sub-Committee minutes from the 12th March 2025.</p>	
7.2.2	<p>R&D Annual Review Meeting - Velindre University NHS Trust / HCRW - Feedback letter from Carys Thomas <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i></p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the letter from Health and Care Research Wales, which emphasised the positive feedback provided.</p>	

8.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS <i>(Prior Agreement by the Committee Chair required)</i>	
	The Chair had not received any prior requests for items to be considered under Any Other Business for today's meeting and did not propose to take any.	
9.0	MEETING REFLECTIONS	
	<p>Members to determine items for inclusion in the Highlight / Assurance Report to the Quality, Safety and Performance Committee and Strategic Development Committee under the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Escalation • For Assurance • For Advising • For Information <p>Action: AW/ST to confirm which items will be submitted to QSP and SDC in due course.</p>	AW/ST
11.0	DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING	
	The next meeting of the Public Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 4th September 2025, 10:00-12.00pm at Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff	
12.0	CLOSE	
	<p>The Research, Development and Innovation Sub-Committee is asked to adopt the following resolution:</p> <p><i>That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest in accordance with Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (c.67).</i></p>	
13.0	PRIVATE / PART B SESSION	

The following items will be discussed at the Private / Part B Session of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee:

- Minutes from the Private Research, Development & Innovation Committee held on the 12th March 2025
- Business Case: Use of a Charitable legacy to fund a Clinical Research Fellow
- Business Case: Overcoming Refractoriness in Cancer Care Via Generation of HLA I-Depleted Platelets
- Business Case: RD&I Project: Regulatory Cells as a Biomarker in Kidney Transplant Recipients
- Business Case: Development of Online Adaptive Radiotherapy
- SBAR for Augmenting Collaborative Research, Development, Innovation and Education

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