

Public Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee

Tue 10 December 2024, 10:00 AM - 12:15 PM

Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff

Agenda

10:00 AM - 10:05 AM 1. PRELIMINARY MATTERS 5 min

1.1. Welcome and Introduction

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

1.2. Apologies

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

1.3. In Attendance

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

1.4. Declarations of Interest

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

10:05 AM - 10:15 AM 2. STANDARD BUSINESS 10 min


2.1. Minutes from the Public Research, Development & Innovation Committee held on the 17th September 2024

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

 2.1 Public RDI Draft Minutes 17.09.2024 AW.pdf (9 pages)

2.2. Review of Action Log

Led by Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director and Research & Development Lead

 2.2 Public RDI Action Log - December 2024.pdf (1 pages)

2.3. Matters Arising

Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair

10:15 AM - 10:45 AM 3. PRESENTATION AND GUEST ATTENDEES 30 min

3.1. Developments within the Component Development and Research Laboratory

Led by Chloe George, Head of Component Development, Welsh Blood Service

 3.1 CDRL Showcasing New Capabilities, Collaborations and Future Vision.pdf (9 pages)

Cusack Sandra
05/12/2024 16:00:25

10:45 AM - 10:55 AM
10 min

4. KEY REPORT(S)

4.1. Executive Medical Director Briefing

Led by Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director and Research & Development Lead

 4.1 Executive Medical Director Briefing.pdf (12 pages)

10:55 AM - 11:25 AM
30 min


5. QUALITY, SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE

5.1. Research, Development & Innovation Performance Report, Quarter 2, Financial Year 2024-25

Led by Robert Jones, Associate Medical Director for Research, Development & Innovation and relevant leads as follows :

- Rhydian Owen, Research & Development Cancer Strategy Lead
- Jennet Holmes, Head of Innovation
- Dr Edwin Massey, Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service / Sian James, Head of Research, Development & Innovation, Welsh Blood Service
- Amie Garwood-Pask, Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering

 5.1 RDI Integrated Performance Report FY2425 Q2 Cover Report.pdf (8 pages)

 5.1 Appendix 1 RDI Integrated Performance Report FY2425 Q2 With Risk Profile.pdf (46 pages)

11:25 AM - 11:25 AM
0 min

6. PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT

6.1. Research & Development Cancer Ambitions Strategy & Cardiff Cancer Research Hub Update

Led by Professor Mererid Evans, Consultant Oncologist & Velindre R&D Cancer Strategy Clinical Lead and Rhydian Owen, R&D Cancer Strategy Lead

 6.1 Strategy and CCRH RDI SubCtee update Dec24 final.pdf (17 pages)

11:25 AM - 11:45 AM
20 min

7. INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE

There are currently no items for Integrated Governance.

11:45 AM - 11:55 AM
10 min

8. CONSENT ITEMS

The consent part of the agenda considers routine Committee business as a single agenda item. Members may ask for items to be moved to the main agenda if a fuller discussion is required.

8.1. Consent - For Approval / Endorsement

There are currently no items for approval / endorsement.

8.2. Consent - For Information / Noting

8.2.1. Summary from the Private Research, Development & Innovation Committee Meeting held on the 17th September 2024

Cusack-Sandra
05/12/2024 16:00:29

11:55 AM - 12:00 PM
5 min

9. MEETING REFLECTIONS

Members to identify items to include in the Highlight / Assurance Report to the Trust Board in respect of the following areas:

- *For Escalation*
- *For Assurance*
- *For Advising*
- *For Information*

12:00 PM - 12:05 PM
5 min

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

12:05 PM - 12:10 PM
5 min

11. DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Public Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee will next meet on the 11th March 2025 from 10:00-1.00pm at Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff.

12:10 PM - 12:15 PM
5 min

12. CLOSE

The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee is asked to adopt the following resolution:

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).

12:15 PM - 12:15 PM
0 min

13. PRIVATE / PART B SESSION

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

- FAKTION Investment Plan
- RITA Options Appraisal - Determining the Future of RITA
- ARF / ARC Project Briefing Paper
- Radiation and Medical Physics MSc (RaMP) Bursary Programme Business Case

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

Date 17/09/2024
Time 10.00-12.15pm
Location Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff
Chair Professor Andrew Westwell, Independent Member

PRESENT		
Professor 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
Annie Evans	Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience	AE
Amie Garwood-Pask	Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering	AGP
Non Gwilym	Interim Director of Corporate Governance	LF
Professor Jane Hopkinson	Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care	JHop
Jennet Holmes	Head of Innovation	JH
Sian James	Head of Research, Development & Innovation, Welsh Blood Service	SJ
Rhydian Owen	R&D Cancer Strategy Lead	RO
Professor Robert Jones	Associate Medical Director for Research, Development & Innovation	RJ
Dr Edwin Massey	Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service	EM
Sarah Townsend	Head of R&D	ST
SECRETARIAT		
Sandra Cusack	Business Support Officer	SMC

1.0	PRELIMINARY MATTERS	
1.1	Welcome and Introduction <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i>	
1.2	Apologies Received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Donna Mead, OBE Trust Chair • Christopher Cotterill-Jones, Research Delivery Manager • Lindsay Foyster, Independent Member • Chloe George, Head of Component Development, Welsh Blood Service • Debbie Harvey, Life Sciences Hub (Observer) • Carys Morgan, Clinical Director, Velindre Cancer Service • Helen Robertson, RD&I Communications & Engagement Officer (Observer) • Nicola Williams (Deputising Annie Evans, Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient) • Carl Taylor, Chief Digital Officer 	
1.3	In Attendance The Chair extended a warm welcome to the following attendees in support of specific agenda items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Claire Lang, CCRH Senior Research Nurse Manager (Item 3.1) • Amanda Jackson, Team Lead Clinical Trials Unit (Item 3.1) • Mr Russell Goodway, BioNTech colorectal study patient (Item 3.1) • Amie Garwood-Pask, Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering (Item 5.1) • Rhydian Owen, R&D Cancer Strategy Lead to his first RD&I Sub-Committee Meeting • Annie Evans, Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience (Deputising for Nicola Williams) • Non Gwilym, Interim Director of Corporate Governance 	
1.4	Declarations of Interest <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i> No declarations of interest were raised.	
2.0	STANDARD BUSINESS	
2.1	Draft Minutes from the meeting of the Public Research, Development & Innovation Committee held on the 14th May 2024 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i>	

	<p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the Minutes of the Public Meeting held on 14th May 2024 as an accurate reflection of proceedings.</p>	
2.2	<p>Review of Action Log <i>Led by Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director and RD&I Lead</i></p> <p>The action log was discussed, and Committee members confirmed that they were assured that all actions identified as closed had been fully instigated and could therefore be closed.</p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED to CLOSE these actions.</p>	
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>BioNTech Cancer Vaccine Programme <i>Led by Claire Lang, CCRH Senior Research Nurse Manager & Amanda Jackson, Team Lead Clinical Trials Unit with patient representative, Mr Russell Goodway who is participating in the BioNTech colorectal study</i></p> <p>CL presented an overview of the BioNTech collaboration and its potential benefits for patients in Wales through innovative cancer vaccine trials and other therapeutic approaches. Mr Goodway, patient representative, also shared his perspective on the opportunities the Vaccine Programme brings to Wales, as well as providing context on patient communication issues and booking processes. The committee agreed that incorporating patient experiences and feedback leads to more patient-centered research and innovation. This collaboration is seen as a positive step towards enhancing the research climate and patient care in Wales.</p>	
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 gave a brief overview of high-level activities relating to Research, Development and Innovation during Quarter 1, Financial Year 2024/25 along with noteworthy items from the RD&I environment since the last meeting.</p> <p>Key highlights included:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Patients benefit from increased access to pioneering clinical trials for cancer treatments. • Voluntary scheme for branded medicines pricing, access, and growth (VPAG). • Director of the UK Office for Life Sciences visits Wales. • LLAIS visit to Velindre Cancer Centre Clinical Research Treatment Unit. • Partners in Care Network research study support. • Empowering Patients & Public: Shaping Future Research with Welsh Blood Service. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the contents of the Executive Medical Director Briefing.</p>	
5.0	QUALITY, SAFETY AND PERFORMANCE	
5.1	<p>Research, Development & Innovation Performance Report <i>Led by the following:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sarah Townsend, Head of Research & Development</i> • <i>Rhydian Owen, R&D Cancer Strategy Lead</i> • <i>Jennet Holmes, Head of Innovation</i> • <i>Professor Jane Hopkinson, Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care</i> • <i>Dr Edwin Massey, Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service</i> • <i>Amie Garwood-Pask, Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering</i> <p>ST presented an update on activities of the Trust’s Research, Development and Innovation service for Quarter 1, Financial Year 2024/25.</p> <p>Key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful collaboration with BioNTech, leading to significant investment and new trials in Wales. • Performance indicators for Q1 show stable activity with 245 studies at different stages, 63 active studies, and recruitment slightly up from the previous year. • Future reports will adopt a dashboard format for clearer presentation of performance indicators. <p>Capacity and Resource Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radiotherapy: Ongoing collaboration with the radiotherapy service to manage capacity and ensure contractual obligations are met. • Pharmacy: New appointments and additional resources to address capacity issues and manage a small backlog of trials. • Biopsies: Continued collaboration with Cardiff and Vale to manage radiological biopsy requirements for trials. <p>Financial Performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income: Slightly below target due to timing but not expected to impact the overall financial position. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savings: On track to deliver the targeted savings of £230,000 for the financial year. • Invoice Payments: Compliance with the 30-day payment target is improving but remains below the required 95%. <p>Strategic Initiatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiff Cancer Research Hub: Progress on formalizing the partnership agreement and developing a website for a unified front door for industry partners. • Innovation Projects: Launch of the Simply Do platform pilot for patient communication and securing funding for small grant schemes to support innovation. <p>Welsh Blood Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement Panel: Enhancing the patient and public involvement panel to support research and grant applications. • Strategy Update: Ongoing development and approval process for the Welsh Blood Service RDI strategy <p>ST reiterated that the Radiotherapy Risks Reporting is now included as an appendix of the RD&I Integrated Performance Report. This has been previously discussed at the RD&I Operational Management Group Meeting and will continue through the RD&I Governance Framework onwards to RD&I Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Committee discussed at length, the content of the quarterly report and congratulated all on the content but suggests condensing the report as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the Executive Summary Section of the cover paper, highlight three key issues within the main report that are key for this Committee, along with any risks emerging from these issues. In outlining the above, the Chair is expecting all presenters to talk to these headlines only and not the detail in the report which will be taken as read. • Produce a dashboard for more efficient reporting and monitoring of RD&I activities and performance. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the RD&I Integrated Performance Report for Quarter 1, Financial Year 2024-25.</p>	ST
6.0	PLANNING AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT	
	<p>6.1 Welsh Blood Service Research, Development & Innovation Strategy Project Update</p> <p><i>Led by Dr Sian James, Head of Research, Development and Innovation Services, Welsh Blood Service</i></p> <p>SJ presented an update on the Welsh Blood Service Research, Development & Innovation Strategy Project.</p> <p>Key Points Highlighted:</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The strategy has been refined based on feedback from the previous review, with adjustments made to the material and structure. • The strategy is moving through the approval process, with endorsements sought from the RD&I Sub-Committee for onward submission to the Strategic Development Committee and Trust Board. • Emphasis on sharing the strategy with other health boards and stakeholders to ensure alignment and awareness, i.e. The Blood Health National Oversight Group in Wales. • Inclusion of quality and equality impact assessments to ensure comprehensive evaluation and alignment with organizational goals. • Focus on making the strategy engaging and accessible, with plans to enhance the presentation and communication of the strategy to internal and external stakeholders. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee ENDORSED the WBS RD&I Strategy Project for onward submission to Strategic Development Committee and Trust Board, noting its alignment with broader strategic goals and the importance of sharing the strategy with other health boards across Wales.</p>	
<p>7.0</p>	<p>INTEGRATED GOVERNANCE</p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Research, Development & Innovation Annual Effectiveness Survey 2023-2024 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair supported by all Committee members</i></p> <p>The Committee received the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Annual Effectiveness Survey.</p> <p>Key points highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noted positive feedback from the survey with few concerns. • Agreed on the importance of using the survey's insights for strategic planning and improving committee functions. • Feedback indicated that there is a need for clearer communication on the committee's strategic purpose and its role in escalating issues to higher committees. The committee plans to dedicate time to review its strategic purpose and improve its effectiveness based on the survey feedback. Progress will be reported in future Performance Reports. • The survey had a response rate of 12 out of 20, indicating a need for higher engagement in future surveys. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the Annual Effectiveness Survey 2023-2024.</p>	
<p>7.2</p>	<p>Research, Development & Innovation Annual Committee Report 2023-2024 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair & Non Gwilym, Interim Head of Corporate Governance</i></p>	

	<p>The Committee received the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Annual Committee Report.</p> <p>Key Areas Covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outlined the committee's roles and responsibilities, ensuring alignment with its terms of reference. • Details the attendance and participation of committee members throughout the year. • Report highlights the committee's key objectives and how they have been met over the year. • The process for escalating issues to the QS&P Committee and Trust Board is detailed, ensuring proper governance and oversight. <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee ENDORSED the Annual Report for onward submission to the Quality, Safety & Performance Committee & Trust Board for approval.</p>	
8.0	CONSENT AGENDA	
8.1	Consent - For Approval / Endorsement	
	There were no items for approval / endorsement.	
8.2	Consent - For Information / Noting	
8.2.1	<p>Summary from the Private Research, Development & Innovation Committee Meeting held on the 14th May 2024 <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 14th May 2024.</p>	
8.2.2	<p>Advancing Radiotherapy Fund Highlight Report <i>Led by Dr James Powell, Consultant Oncologist</i></p> <p>The Committee received the Advancing Radiotherapy Fund Highlight Report and noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Advancing Radiotherapy Fund (ARF) is undergoing a strategic transition to the ARC project, with a focus on maintaining continuity in leadership and management. This transition is strategically planned to align with evolving research priorities and the development of research infrastructure. • Despite the transition, ongoing ARF projects continue to receive support and management, ensuring that there is no disruption to the progress and outcomes of these initiatives. The committee recognizes the importance of seamless project continuity during this period of change. 	

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	The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee NOTED the contents of the Advancing Radiotherapy Fund Highlight Report.	
9.0	MEETING REFLECTIONS	
	Members to identify items to include in the Highlight / Assurance Report to the Quality, Safety and Performance Committee / Strategic Development Committee in respect of the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Escalation • For Assurance • For Advising • For Information 	
10.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
10.1	Communication & Engagement	
	<p>The following events were noted as taking place over the next few months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MediWales: Members' Showcase - 8th October, The Maltings Cardiff • Health and Care Research Wales Conference 2024 - 10th October 2024, Sophia Gardens Cardiff • Welsh NHS Confederation Annual Conference and Exhibition - 6 November 2024, Cardiff City Stadium • MediWales Innovation Awards - 5th December 2024, Holland House Cardiff <p>The Chair asked if we could consider a more strategic approach to attending external events and conferences to enhance Velindre's presence and engagement. NG to co-ordinate with Helen Robertson to ensure strategic attendance and representation at upcoming events such as MediWales Showcase, Health and Care Research Wales Annual Conference, NHS Confederation Annual Conference and MediWales Innovation Awards.</p>	NG
10.2	<p>Retirement of Professor Jane Hopkinson, Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care</p> <p>The Chair to write and formally acknowledge the impending retirement of Professor Jane Hopkinson, who has served as the Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care. Her dedication and hard work in promoting the Healthcare agenda within the Trust have been invaluable.</p> <p>On behalf of the Committee, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Jane for her contributions and wish her all the best in her retirement.</p>	AW

11.0	DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING	
	The Public Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee will next meet on the 10th December 2024 from 10:00-1.00pm at Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff.	
12.0	CLOSE	
	<p><i>The Research, Development and Innovation Sub-Committee is asked to adopt the following resolution:</i></p> <p>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).</p>	
13.0	PRIVATE / PART B SESSION	
	<p>The following item(s) will be discussed at the Private / Part B Session of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Case : Innovation Small Grant Scheme • Business Case : Maximising cancer patient health outcomes and quality of life through further enhancing the Trust’s critical mass and succession planning for research 	

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ACTION LOG

MEETING DATE	AGENDA ITEM	Action number	ACTION	LEAD	DEADLINE DATE	UPDATE (including date)	STATUS	IF CLOSED WHAT ACTION WAS TAKEN
17.09.2024			RD&I PERFORMANCE REPORT					
	5.1	1	The Committee discussed the lengthy quarterly report and its format going forward. It was suggested to highlight three key issues within the main report and add to the cover paper. It was agreed that RD&I activities and performance would be presented in a dashboard.	Head of Research and Development	10/12/2024	Update 19/11/24 For Decembers Meeting, the Executive Summary Section of the cover paper will highlight key issues within the main report for this Committee, along with any risks and mitigating strategy relevant to these issues. A dashboard of RD&I activities and performance will be included in Quarter 2 performance report.	CLOSED	New format submitted to EMB RUN on 26/11/24 prior to RDI Sub-Committee on 10/12/24.
17.09.2024	9		RD&I HIGHLIGHT REPORTS					
		2	Support the development of a draft Highlight Report for approval by the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair.	Head of Research and Development	10/12/2024	Update 17/10/24 Drafted and submitted to the Strategic Development Committee and Quality, Safety & Performance Committee.	CLOSED	Submitted as Consent Agenda - For Noting to the Strategic Development Committee 22/10/24 and Quality, Safety & Performance Committee 14/11/24.
17.09.2024			RD&I COMMS & ENGAGEMENT					
	10.1	3	Co-ordinate with Helen Robertson to ensure strategic attendance and representation at upcoming events such as MediWales Showcase, Health and Care Research Wales Annual Conference, NHS Confederation Annual Conference and MediWales Innovation Awards.	Interim Director of Corporate Governance	10/12/2024	Update 19/11/2022 Moving forward, the Comms and Engagement Team will be taking the lead on this coordination. They have advised that all these events have been, or will be, well attended from their perspective.	CLOSED	
	10.2	4	Write to Professor Jane Hopkinson, Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care, to formally acknowledge her impending retirement and to give thanks for all her hard work with promoting the Healthcare agenda within the Trust.	Chair RD&I Sub-Committee	10/12/2024	Update 20/09/2024 – Letter drafted, signed by Chair & Exec Lead and sent.	CLOSED	Letter drafted, signed by Chair and sent.

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Labordy Datblygu Cydrannau ac Ymchwil
Component Development and Research Laboratory

Showcasing New Capabilities, Collaborations, and Future Vision



1

What is Component Development ?



Cusack, Sandra
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2

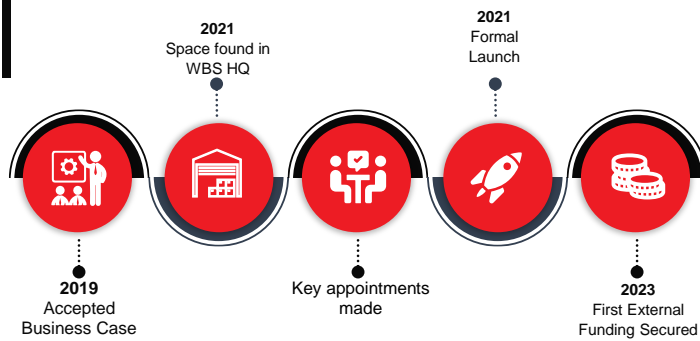
What is Component Development ?

- ◆ Delivering the best blood components for patient transfusions
- ◆ Striving for manufacturing excellence
- ◆ Driving science and innovation to maximise product potential




3

Milestones



Cusack, Sandra
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4



Dr Chloe George
Head of CDRL

Dr Chris Saunders
Development Analyst

Michael Cahillane
Research Scientist

Nichola Pearce
Research Scientist

Dr Jamie Nash
Post-Doc Research Scientist


Dr Edward Leech-Sayers
Post-Doc Research Scientist

Rotational BMSs
Colleagues' professional development

iHub
Project Management

RD&I Services
Organisational & Governance Support

5



Collaborations

Christopher Reilly-Stitt UK NEQAS Blood Coagulation

Professor Phil James Cardiff Metropolitan University, Trinity Metropolitan University, Cardiff

Dr Tracey Madgett UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH

Dr Nina Dempsey-Hibbert Manchester Metropolitan University

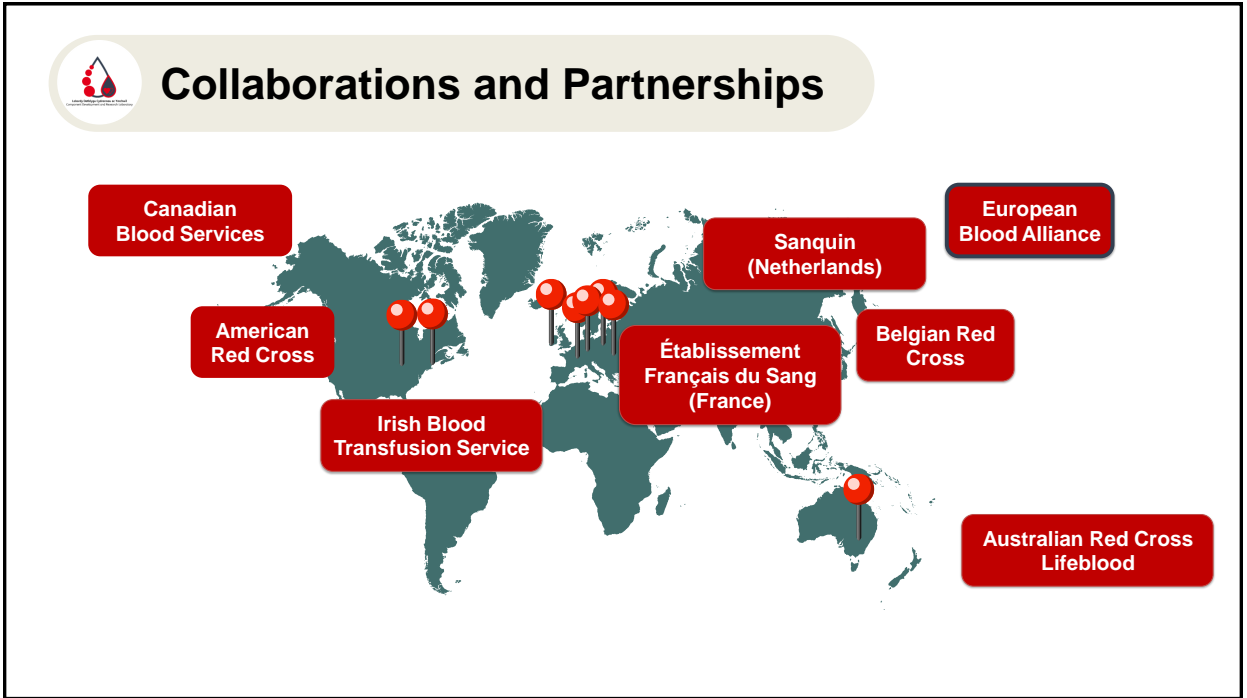
Surgeon Commander Tom Scorer ROYAL NAVY

Dr David Rawlinson GIG NEHS

Dr Christopher Hingston GIG NEHS

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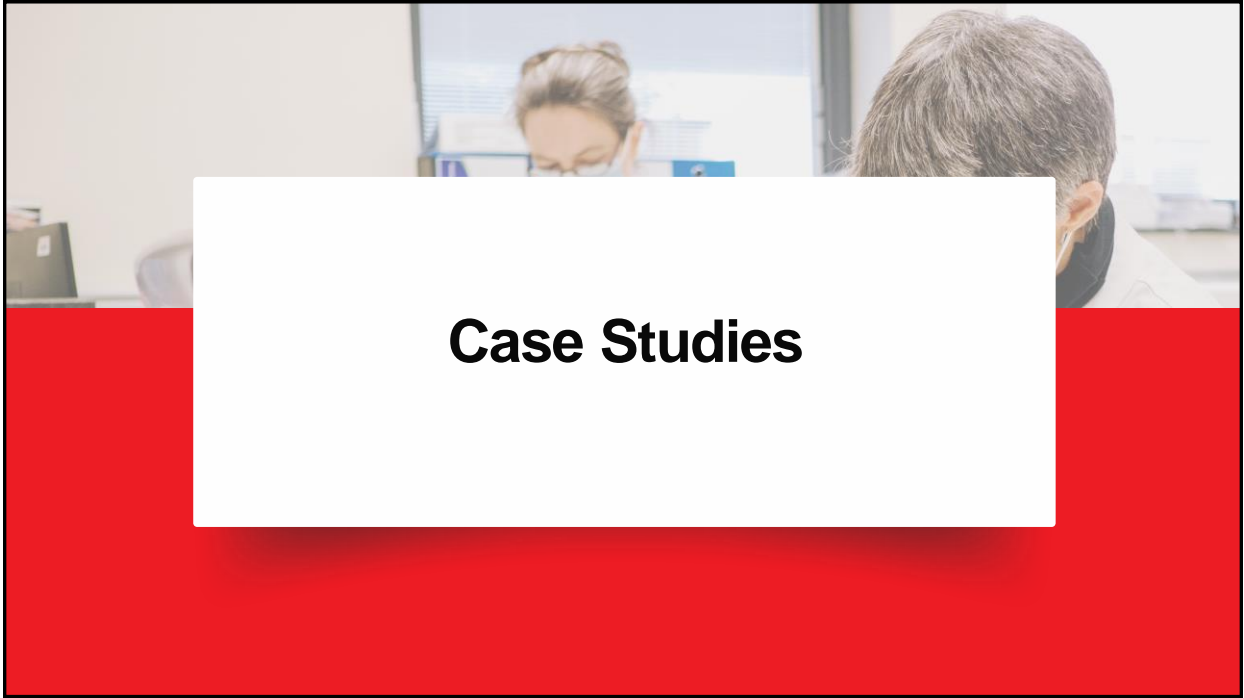
6



7



8



9

Military and Pre-Hospital Care

- ◆ Cold-stored platelets for emergency use

A photograph of a red and green helicopter in flight. The helicopter is viewed from a side-on perspective, showing its main rotor and tail rotor. It is flying against a grey, overcast sky. The helicopter has "SI-MENAU" written on its tail boom.

Laboratory of Biotechnology and Research
Equipment Development and Research Laboratory

Cusack, Sandra
05/12/2024 16:00-29

10

Sustainability of the UK's Blood and Emergency Preparedness

- ◆ Sustainability
- ◆ How to make more with less
- ◆ Supplementary cryoprecipitate



11

Blood Technology Advancement

- ◆ Sustainability
- ◆ How to make more with less
- ◆ Supplementary cryoprecipitate



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12

Supporting Clinical Trials



13

Future Vision

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14

Goals

01

Clinical Translation

Ensuring innovations reach the bedside effectively.

02

Implement new Technology
HeamOnco

02

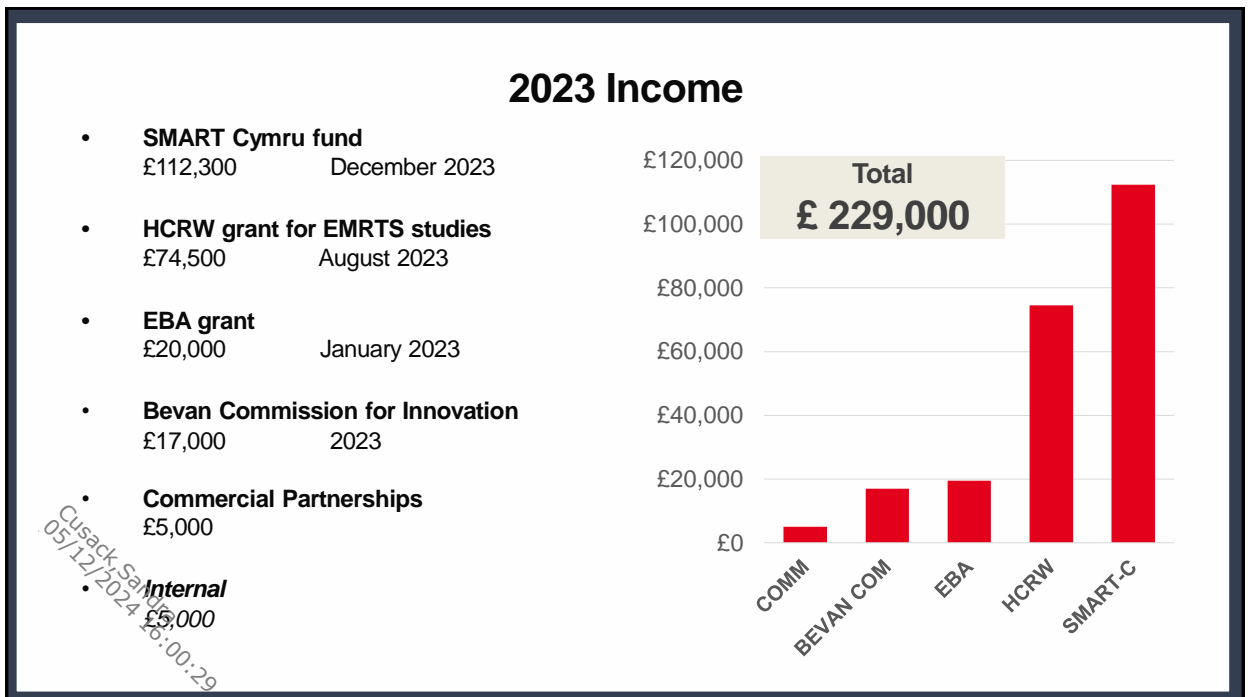
Global Leadership

Strengthening our position as a pioneer in transfusion medicine.

02

Meeting the Funding Requirements

15



16

Call to Action



Component Development
& Research Open days



RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION SUB COMMITTEE

Executive Briefing to RD&I Sub-Committee

DATE OF MEETING	10 December 2024
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REPORT	Public
IF PRIVATE PLEASE INDICATE REASON	NOT APPLICABLE - PUBLIC REPORT
REPORT PURPOSE	DISCUSSION
IS THIS REPORT GOING TO THE MEETING BY EXCEPTION?	NO
PREPARED BY	Sarah Townsend, Head of R&D Christopher Cotterill-Jones, Research Delivery Manager
PRESENTED BY	Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director
APPROVED BY	Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>This is the Executive Medical Director's briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee. This briefing provides a summary and high-level update on the Research, Development, & Innovation activities taking place in Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2024/25, along with noteworthy items from the RD&I environment since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.</p> <p>This briefing includes summarised updates on the following items:</p>

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05/12/2024 16:00:29



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health and Care Research Wales – Tackling Cancer through Research. • UK Clinical Trials Regulations – Proposals for legislative changes for clinical trials. • UK Data Use and Access Bill. • World Cancer Research Day 2024. • Health and Care Research Wales Conference 2024. • MediWales Innovation Awards 2024. • Microfluidics: Game changing investment at Welsh Blood Service. • Innovation: Simply Do / Bright Ideas. • 15 Step Visit – Early Phase Unit, VCC
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RECOMMENDATION / ACTIONS	The RD&I Sub-Committee are requested to NOTE for DISCUSSION this Executive Medical Director’s briefing summarising Research, Development & Innovation activity of Q2, FY2024/25 and noteworthy items occurring since the Sub-Committee’s last meeting.
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GOVERNANCE ROUTE	
List the Name(s) of Committee / Group who have previously received and considered this report:	Date
NOT APPLICABLE – This is the Executive Medical Director’s briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee.	
SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF PREVIOUS GOVERNANCE DISCUSSIONS	
NOT APPLICABLE – This is the Executive Medical Director’s briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee.	

7 LEVELS OF ASSURANCE	
NOT APPLICABLE – This is the Executive Medical Director’s briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee.	
ASSURANCE RATING ASSESSED BY BOARD DIRECTOR/SPONSOR	Select Current Level of Assurance

Cusack-Sandra
05/12/2024 16:00:29

APPENDICES	
None	

1. SITUATION

This is the Executive Medical Director’s briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee. This briefing provides a summary and high-level update on the Research, Development, & Innovation (RD&I) activities taking place in Quarter 2 of Financial Year 2024/25.

Additionally, this briefing includes any important or noteworthy information from the Research, Development, and Innovation environment since the previous RD&I Sub-Committee.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Health and Care Research Wales – Tackling Cancer through Research.

The Health and Care Research Wales “Tackling Cancer through Research: Collaborating and Delivering with Commercial Partners” document outlines a strategy to transform cancer clinical research studies in Wales, addressing low patient recruitment, economic losses, and health inequities. The ambition of the document is to increase participant recruitment by 500% by 2027, the plan also aims to diversify trial access across cancer types, demographics, and expand Phase III trials to over 50% of the cancer research portfolio.

To achieve these goals, the plan proposes a nationally coordinated research infrastructure using, as appropriate, “One Wales” processes to streamline trial placement and delivery. This includes efficient referral pathways, investments in genomic diagnostics to attract global research, and awareness campaigns to inform patients and clinicians about available trials. Workforce development is central, with training initiatives and incentives to grow research leadership and capacity. Strategic partnerships with industry will help position Wales as a leading destination for oncology trials, capitalising on strengths in precision medicine, immuno-oncology, and radiotherapy.

Oversight will be provided by a new Cancer Research Group, ensuring alignment with broader UK research goals, with the initiative aiming to improve patient outcomes, reduce inequities, and secure economic benefits, making Wales a global leader in cancer research and care.

As one of the key organisations for cancer research and care delivery in Wales, Velindre is already a major contributor to commercial cancer trials, with the Trust having conducted a substantial number of studies over the years. The plan's focus on further streamlining processes, attracting infrastructure investment, and increasing the number of commercial cancer trials, means that Velindre is likely to see an expanded portfolio of clinical research studies/trials, offering more treatment options to patients.

2.2 UK Clinical Trial Regulations – Proposals for legislative changes for clinical trials

The UK government consulting on proposed legislative changes to modernise the regulation of clinical trials by updating the current UK legislation, “The Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004” (SI 2004/1031), as amended. These aim to enhance the attractiveness of the UK for research, ensure patient safety, and uphold ethical standards. The proposals focus on streamlining approvals, enhancing trial design flexibility, enabling innovations – such as decentralised trials – and new technologies, and strengthening transparency with enhanced mandatory result reporting and public involvement in clinical trials.

These proposed legislative changes have several potential impacts for the Trust, both as a research site and a research sponsor. As a research site, Velindre may benefit from more streamlined trials approvals and potentially faster study initiation that may increase the volume of the research study portfolio. Additionally, support for decentralised trials could enhance patient recruitment and engagement, particularly for those who can only attend limited in-person visits. The mandate for increased transparency, such as publishing trial results might add to resource need for reporting. As a research sponsor, Velindre will need to ensure robust safety and ethical oversight to comply with new regulations, which could require adapting current frameworks and resources. The emphasis on innovation may require additional investments in training, technology, and process updates to support the integration of advanced trial methodologies.

Overall, while the reforms are likely to enhance Velindre's reputation and increase collaboration opportunities, they will also require careful attention to compliance, resource allocation, and operational adjustments to manage the changes effectively.

2.3 UK Data Use and Access Bill

The UK Data Use and Access Bill, introduced to Parliament in October 2024, aims to modernise data use across sectors while ensuring security and public benefit. It seeks to boost the economy, improve public services, and simplify processes. For clinical trials, it

offers transformative potential by enhancing data sharing, governance, and innovation. Standardising NHS IT systems will streamline access to health data, expediting recruitment and enabling comprehensive patient monitoring and analysis. Provisions for automated decision-making facilitate the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in identifying eligible participants and analysing results, improving trial efficiency and adaptability.

The Bill also enables researchers to access broader datasets, including data from technology companies, offering new insights into patient safety and oncology outcomes. Velindre University NHS Trust, as a research site and sponsor, stands to benefit from the changes. Simplified compliance through Information Commissioner's Office reforms could reduce administrative burdens, allowing Velindre to focus on innovative trial design. Updated international data transfer rules will support global research collaborations, enhancing its international standing. Additionally, digital verification services may improve patient engagement by fostering trust and increasing participation. However, these advancements will require rigorous data protection measures to ensure compliance and safeguard patient confidentiality, balancing innovation with privacy needs.

2.4 World Cancer Research Day 2024

World Cancer Research Day, took place on September 24, 2024, underscoring the transformative power of clinical trials and patient advocacy in advancing cancer treatment and prevention. With the theme "Innovation in Cancer Research Drives Progress Toward Health Equity," this year's focus highlighted the critical role of research in reducing global disparities and improving survival rates through groundbreaking advancements.

The Trust, observed the day with patient stories taking centre stage, offering powerful insights into the human impact of clinical trials. These stories exemplified the courage of participants whose involvement has fueled progress in treatments like those developed in the FAKTION trial, which led to FDA approval of a breast cancer drug, and the ARISTOCRAT trial, advancing glioblastoma research. These personal accounts illustrated the direct link between trial participation and the development of therapies that save lives.

The day also celebrated significant achievements within the research community. For instance, Velindre Cancer Centre's contributions to the HIDDEN 2 study on DVT, pioneering innovative radiotherapy technologies through the SABRE trial, and advanced initiatives like the Brain Tumour Research Initiative. These accomplishments reflect the collective efforts of researchers, clinicians, and patients working toward a future where cancer care is equitable and effective.

World Cancer Research Day fosters global collaboration, promoting research as a pathway to early detection, better treatments, and enhanced quality of life for patients. It serves as a reminder of the importance of sustained investment and participation in clinical trials to continue transforming cancer care for generations to come.

2.5 Health and Care Research Wales Conference 2024

Health and Care Research Wales's (HCRW) ninth annual conference took place on 10 October 2024 in Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. Bringing together researchers, policymakers, and healthcare professionals to celebrate advancements in health and social care research. The ninth annual conference emphasized collaboration and innovation in addressing pressing healthcare challenges in Wales and beyond.

The event showcased key themes, including improving women's health, tackling climate change impacts on healthcare, and fostering cross-sector collaborations to enhance research outcomes. TED-style talks, and interactive sessions highlighted cutting-edge projects like the Medical Science Sex and Gender Equity (MESSAGE) initiative, aiming for further integration of sex and gender considerations in research creating more equitable outcomes. The conference also celebrated the achievements of the Welsh research community through the HCRW awards.

Velindre University NHS Trust had an exhibitor stand, showcasing its contributions to cancer research, blood service and donor research, and patient care, and engaging attendees in discussions about its ongoing projects. The Trust and other exhibitors also competed for the "most engaging exhibition" award, adding an interactive element to the event.

Professor Kieran Walshe, speaking at his last conference as Director of Health and Care Research Wales, remarked on the exceptional quality of submissions and emphasised the importance of research in driving healthcare improvements and community impact. The conference demonstrated Wales's commitment to tackling global health challenges through innovative research and collaboration.

2.6 MediWales Innovation Awards 2024

The MediWales Innovation Awards 2024 will celebrate groundbreaking achievements in health, social care, and industry innovation across Wales. Scheduled for 05 December 2024, at the Mercure Cardiff Holland House Hotel, this event marks its 19th Awards.

The awards are split into two main categories: **Industry Awards** and **Health Awards**. Industry Awards recognise Welsh companies or those with a significant presence in Wales

and feature categories like Innovation, Start-Up, Partnership with the NHS, Export, and Outstanding Achievement. Health Awards are reserved for Welsh NHS organisations or collaborative projects involving them, with categories such as Technology and Digital Impact, Scaling Up Innovation, and Social Care Innovation through Collaboration. This event underscores the importance of collaborative efforts in driving forward healthcare innovation and well-being in Wales.

Velindre University NHS Trust has four nominations at the awards. These are:

- **BioNtech ‘All Wales’ Collaboration.** This project exemplifies a commitment to collaboration across Wales, aimed at improving efficiency and expanding access to Clinical Trials of Investigational Medicinal Products (CTIMPs).
- **Haemair Ltd partnership with Welsh Blood Service.** The collaboration with the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) to test the efficacy of our device in reducing levels of potentially harmful compounds such as potassium and free iron from stored red cell components (RCC).
- **Immunobuddies.** The Immunobuddies podcast, founded in 2023, is a free, on-demand series addressing clinical challenges in immunotherapy. With over 45,000 downloads globally (4,232 in Wales) and 120 episodes produced, it serves healthcare professionals by enhancing knowledge, improving decision-making, and supporting informed patient consent through expert-led discussions.
- **Drone partnership.** The Welsh Medical Drone Delivery Network, part of the UKRI-funded 'Future Flight Challenge,' aims to enhance NHS Wales' medical supply chain by implementing a scalable, automated drone logistics system. Key applications include a faster crossmatching service between hospitals and the Welsh Blood Service, and efficient ambulance restocking.

2.7 Microfluidics: Game changing investment at the Welsh Blood Service

The Welsh Blood Service (WBS) is advancing transfusion science with cutting-edge microfluidics technology, funded by a grant from the Welsh Government’s SMART Capital Equipment Fund.

Microfluidics enables the study of fluids on a micrometre scale, simulating blood flow in environments that are similar to the way blood behaves in the human body. This allows WBS to analyse how blood cells function after collection more accurately than traditional methods. More accurate results will help WBS to better preserve the quality of blood products resulting in a longer shelf-life, which will in turn benefit patients by ensuring more blood products are available when needed.

The first project focuses on platelet adhesion, crucial for blood clotting. Microfluidics can simulate flow conditions to compare the clotting potential of room-temperature and refrigerated platelets, benefiting civilian and military healthcare. Future research will assess the effect of storage on red blood cells' ability to deform to pass through tiny capillaries without blockage. This has significant implications for conditions like sepsis, where the delivery of oxygen to tissues by red blood cells is critical.

Using the grant funding WBS have been able to procure an Olympus IX83 automated microscope with advanced imaging capabilities. Edward Leech-Sayers, a microscopy specialist joined WBS's Component Development Research Laboratory in November 2023. His extensive experience and expertise have been valuable in setting up the new equipment and team training, ensuring that new, high-quality data can support innovative research.

This new WBS facility will improve understanding of the functional characteristics of blood components improving manufacture and storage, and efficiency in the blood supply chain.

Chloe George, Head of Component Development at WBS, believes this work will enable expansion of WBS as a research organisation, enhancing the skills and expertise of WBS scientists and researchers – contributing valuable insights and advancements to the wider international community in transfusion science.

2.8 Innovation: Simply Do / Bright Ideas

The Velindre University NHS Trust Innovation Team has been working with a digital platform to enhance its capacity for capturing and implementing ideas for improvement and innovation. SimplyDo, a digital platform, facilitates engagement by allowing organizations to invite and manage challenges for transformational projects.

Initial work has taken place with Welsh Blood Service and internal improvement teams in developing a portal and supporting programme to capture pipeline ideas for improvement/innovation. The work aligns with the Trust's strategic priorities to create a collaborative innovative ecosystem. This ecosystem supports capability-building and streamlines processes for idea prioritisation and implementation, contributing to Velindre's goal of becoming a beacon of research and innovation in healthcare.

Within Velindre Cancer Centre, the platform will be piloted during Quarter 3 / Quarter 4 with the aims to foster a culture of innovation, leveraging multidisciplinary teams and targeted engagement strategies to overcome barriers and support staff participation. The project is designed to gather insights and refine the system for broader application Trust-wide.

2.9 15 Step Visit – Early Phase Unit, 11th October 2024

A 15 Step Visit was conducted on the 11th October 2024 by myself, Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the RD&I Sub-Committee and Sarah Townsend, Head of R&D at the Velindre Cancer Centre Clinical Research Treatment Unit (CRTU) to evaluate the quality of care from the perspectives of patients, carers, and families. This initiative is inspired by the observation that the quality of care can often be gauged within the first "15 steps" into a healthcare setting. The challenge uses a structured framework to assess key aspects of the environment and experience, focusing on cleanliness, atmosphere, and staff behaviour.

The evaluation is organized around four themes: *Well Prepared*, *Safe and Cared For*, *Involving*, and *Communicating*. Observers noted that CRTU staff were informative, friendly, and attentive, helping visitors feel at ease immediately. They were proactive in answering questions and explaining processes, reflecting their commitment to patient care. Staff also expressed satisfaction with the support and training provided by the Trust.

However, two areas for improvement were identified: regulating the unit's temperature due to a lack of thermostats and enhancing signage for better navigation. The Trust's Estates Team is addressing these concerns.

Overall, the visit highlighted a positive environment where staff showed pride in their work and teamwork, demonstrating professionalism and a strong sense of unity. The feedback affirms the CRTU's high standards in patient care.

3. ASSESSMENT

This briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee summarises and provides an update of the activities of the Trust's Research, Development, and Innovation service for Quarter (Q) 2 of the Financial Year (FY) 2024/25 and other noteworthy items that the Executive Medical Director wishes to highlight to the RD&I Sub-Committee.

4. SUMMARY OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The RD&I Sub-Committee is asked to note for **DISCUSSION** the summarised information of the Research, Development, and Innovation service's activity and other noteworthy items reported in this Executive Medical Director's briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee.

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05/12/2024 16:00:29



5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TRUST STRATEGIC GOAL(S)	
Please indicate whether any of the matters outlined in this report impact the Trust's strategic goals: YES - Select Relevant Goals below	
If yes - please select all relevant goals:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding for quality, safety, and experience <input type="checkbox"/> • An internationally renowned provider of exceptional clinical services that always meet, and routinely exceed expectations <input type="checkbox"/> • A beacon for research, development, and innovation in our stated areas of priority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • An established 'University' Trust which provides highly valued knowledge for learning for all. <input type="checkbox"/> • A sustainable organisation that plays its part in creating a better future for people across the globe <input type="checkbox"/> 	
RELATED STRATEGIC RISK - TRUST ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (TAF) <i>For more information: STRATEGIC RISK DESCRIPTIONS</i>	10 - Governance
QUALITY AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT	Select all relevant domains below
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timely <input type="checkbox"/> Effective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equitable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient Centred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	<p>a) The Executive Medical Director’s briefing summarises key Research, Development, and Innovation activities and other noteworthy research related items, demonstrating the Trust being a research supportive organisation.</p> <p>b) The Executive Medical Director’s briefing demonstrates the Trust’s commitment to undertaking research that is evidence based and appropriate, offering equal opportunities to all patients that is respectful and responsive to their treatment needs.</p> <p>c) The briefing also displays the Trust’s dedication to conducting research in a safe and effective manner, making the best use skills and resources available.</p>
<p>SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY ASSESSMENT COMPLETED: For more information: https://www.gov.wales/socio-economic-duty-overview</p>	<p>Not required</p> <p>NOT APPLICABLE – This is the Executive Medical Director’s briefing to the RD&I Sub-Committee.</p>
<p>TRUST WELL-BEING GOAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT</p>	<p>A Healthier Wales - Physical and mental well-being are maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health</p>
<p>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT</p>	<p>Yes - please Include further detail below, including funding stream</p> <p>There is a potential financial impact in not demonstrating the Trust’s commitment to the strategic goal “A beacon for research, development, and innovation in our stated areas of priority” as it could jeopardise the funding received from Health and Care Research Wales along with other non-commercial/commercial sources.</p> <p>No direct financial implications from this paper.</p>
<p>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT For more information: https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/VEL/Intranet/SitePages/E.aspx</p>	<p>Yes - please outline what, if any, actions were taken as a result</p> <p>The Equality Impact of this Executive Briefing has been considered and there are no matters of concern to raise.</p>

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ADDITIONAL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT	There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.
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6. RISKS

ARE THERE RELATED RISK(S) FOR THIS MATTER	No
WHAT IS THE RISK?	N/A
WHAT IS THE CURRENT RISK SCORE	
HOW DO THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS IN THIS PAPER IMPACT THIS RISK?	
BY WHEN IS IT EXPECTED THE TARGET RISK LEVEL WILL BE REACHED?	
ARE THERE ANY BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION?	
All risks must be evidenced and consistent with those recorded in Datix.	

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RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT & INNOVATION SUB COMMITTEE

Research, Development, and Innovation - Integrated Performance Report FY2024/25 Q2

DATE OF MEETING	10 December 2024
PUBLIC OR PRIVATE REPORT	Public
IF PRIVATE PLEASE INDICATE REASON	NOT APPLICABLE - PUBLIC REPORT
REPORT PURPOSE	DISCUSSION
IS THIS REPORT GOING TO THE MEETING BY EXCEPTION?	NO
PREPARED BY	Sarah Townsend, Head of Research & Development Christopher Cotterill-Jones, Research Delivery Manager Kate Cleary, Velindre Cancer R&D Strategy Business Support Manager Sian James, Welsh Blood Service Head of Research, Development, and Innovation Services Ross McLeish, Innovation Project Manager Helen Robertson, RD&I Communications and Engagement Officer
PRESENTED BY	Robert Jones, Associate Medical Director RD&I
APPROVED BY	Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	<p>Trust Research, Development, & Innovation (RD&I) prepare an integrated performance report at the end of each financial year's quarter.</p> <p>This report summarises and provides an update of the activities of the Trust's Research, Development, and Innovation service during the financial year 2024/25, Q2.</p>
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RECOMMENDATION / ACTIONS	The RD&I Sub-Committee are requested to NOTE for DISCUSSION the draft RD&I Integrated Performance Report for Financial Year 2024/25, Q2.
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GOVERNANCE ROUTE	
List the Name(s) of Committee / Group who have previously received and considered this report:	Date
WBS Senior Leadership Team	13 November 2024
VCC Senior Leadership Team	20 November 2024
Executive Management Board	26 November 2024
RD&I Operational Management Group	26 November 2024

SUMMARY AND OUTCOME OF PREVIOUS GOVERNANCE DISCUSSIONS													
<p>The governance cycle for this RD&I Integrated Performance Report was planned as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Meeting</th> <th>Meeting Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>WBS Senior Leadership Team</td> <td>13 November 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VCC Senior Leadership Team</td> <td>20 November 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RD&I Operational Management Group</td> <td>26 November 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Executive Management Board</td> <td>26 November 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>RD&I Sub-Committee</td> <td>10 December 2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Meeting	Meeting Date	WBS Senior Leadership Team	13 November 2024	VCC Senior Leadership Team	20 November 2024	RD&I Operational Management Group	26 November 2024	Executive Management Board	26 November 2024	RD&I Sub-Committee	10 December 2024
Meeting	Meeting Date												
WBS Senior Leadership Team	13 November 2024												
VCC Senior Leadership Team	20 November 2024												
RD&I Operational Management Group	26 November 2024												
Executive Management Board	26 November 2024												
RD&I Sub-Committee	10 December 2024												
<p>At the time of submission to the RD&I Sub-Committee comments had not been received from the WBS Senior Leadership of VCC Senior Leadership Teams in the governance cycle.</p>													
<p>The report was presented at the EMB Meeting of 26 November 2024. The RD&I Integrated Performance Report was well received, with EMB appreciating the new dashboard and the report highlighting the work of RD&I in the Cancer Service, the Welsh Blood Service and Innovation. EMB inquired about barriers to research and were updated on progress and ongoing efforts to address challenges in Pharmacy and Radiotherapy. The EMB</p>													

emphasised the importance of tracking progress against milestones and suggested discussions with corporate governance for further alignment.

7 LEVELS OF ASSURANCE

NOT APPLICABLE

ASSURANCE RATING ASSESSED BY BOARD DIRECTOR/SPONSOR

Select Current Level of Assurance

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Trust Research, Development, & Innovation (RD&I) Integrated Performance Report FY2024/25, Q2

1. SITUATION

The RD&I Sub-Committee receives the Trust’s RD&I Integrated Performance Report quarterly throughout the financial year.

For Quarters 1 through 3, the report covers the activities of the Trust’s Research, Development, and Innovation service in the reported quarter.

For Quarter 4, an annual report incorporating Q1 through Q3 previously reported, plus Q4 activities, is provided covering the activities Trust’s Research, Development, and Innovation service for the whole financial year.

2. BACKGROUND

The governance arrangements are that the Trust RD&I Integrated Performance Report is received for information or considered at the following groups and committees:

- Welsh Blood Service Senior Leadership Team.
- Velindre Cancer Centre Senior Leadership Team.
- Research, Development, and Innovation Operational Management Group.
- Executive Management Board.
- Research, Development, and Innovation Sub-Committee.

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3. ASSESSMENT

The Trust RD&I Integrated Performance Report summarises and provides an update of the activities of the Trust's Research, Development, and Innovation service for Financial Year (FY) 2024/25, Q2.

The report provides an update of activities against the Trust's Research, Development, and Innovation service's strategic priorities:

- Strategic Priority 1: The Trust will drive forward the implementation of its Cancer Research & Development ambitions.
- Strategic Priority 2: The Trust will maximise the Research & Development ambitions of the Welsh Blood Service.
- Strategic Priority 3: The Trust will implement the Velindre Innovation Plan.
- Strategic Priority 4: The Trust will maximise collaborative opportunities locally, nationally & internationally.

Additionally, the activity of cross-cutting themes and corporate work areas supporting Research, Development and Innovation are reported.

The RD&I Service wish to highlight the following items from this report:

a) BioNTech All Wales Partnership

BioNTech's partnership with Health and Care Research Wales is driving advancements in mRNA-based cancer treatments, positioning Wales as a leader in personalised cancer care. Building on its COVID-19 vaccine success, BioNTech has expanded its efforts to develop innovative cancer mRNA-based therapies for personalised cancer care.

The Trust plays a key role in this initiative, running multiple studies, including BNT122-01 (Colorectal), BNT113 (Head & Neck), and BNT327-01 (Lung), while actively setting up additional trials like BNT116-01 (Lung) and BNT326 (Solid Tumour). The partnership underscores the commitment to groundbreaking cancer research by the Trust, and Wales, in personalised care and novel cancer therapies, that has the potential to significantly impact patient outcomes.

This work represents major advancements in global cancer research and treatment strategies with potentially tangible benefits for patients and has attracted media coverage of the BNT studies in the last few months.

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b) How FAIR is continuing to improve Blood Donation in the UK

The For the Assessment of Individualised Risk (FAIR) project has revolutionised blood donation policies in the UK since its implementation in June 2021.

This evidence-based initiative replaced broad demographic-based restrictions with individual behavioural assessments, enhancing inclusivity and safety in blood donation. The policy changes have notably benefited communities such as LGBTQ+ individuals and donors of Black African heritage, who were previously disproportionately excluded. These changes also help address the demand for rare blood types essential for treating conditions like sickle cell disease.

FAIR's ongoing refinement includes initiatives like the 2024 FAIR Donor Survey run by Welsh Blood Service (WBS) in collaboration with NHS Blood and Transplant, and the UK Health Security Agency.

The WBS Research, Development & Innovation Services team distributed the survey to 8,500 donors in Wales over a three-month period. From this, around 1,000 responses gathered feedback from participants to evaluate donor understanding and the effectiveness of the updated guidelines. Insights from this survey will further enhance the inclusivity and safety of blood donation systems across the UK.

c) RITA Evaluation

The RITA virtual assistant chatbot, developed by Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNHST), has undergone an evaluation. The Trust commissioned an independent evaluation review by Swansea University. The RITA chatbot, was launched on the Velindre Cancer Centre website in February 2023 having been funded through grants and charity support.

The evaluation aimed to guide the Trust in deciding the RITA chatbot future. Four options are being proposed:

- Option 1: Sustain the RITA chatbot in its current format without refinement or expansion.
- Option 2: Support continuous maintenance, refinement and potentially expand the RITA chatbot service within the Trust.
- Option 3: Discontinue the RITA chatbot and remove it from the Trust website.
- Option 4: Discontinue the current platform providing the RITA chatbot and seek alternative funding to explore further application of the service.

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The preferred option, Option 4, involves discontinuing the current platform providing the RITA chatbot and exploring new artificial intelligence (AI) solutions.

This involves securing Velindre Charity funding for a role dedicated to continuing this work, taking on board the lessons learned, finding new partners and collaborators to integrate the platform and explore other innovative AI/machine learning solutions that can support innovative ways of working which can improve the patient experience at the current site and to support the transition to the new cancer centre.

By adopting this approach, the Trust can strategically expand its innovation portfolio, ensure cost-effectiveness, and address broader stakeholder needs.

4. SUMMARY OF MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The RD&I Sub-Committee are requested to **DISCUSS** and **NOTE** the RD&I Integrated Performance Report for Financial Year 2024/25, Q2.

5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

TRUST STRATEGIC GOAL(S)	
Please indicate whether any of the matters outlined in this report impact the Trust's strategic goals: YES - Select Relevant Goals below	
If yes - please select all relevant goals:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding for quality, safety, and experience <input type="checkbox"/> • An internationally renowned provider of exceptional clinical services that always meet, and routinely exceed expectations <input type="checkbox"/> • A beacon for research, development, and innovation in our stated areas of priority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> • An established 'University' Trust which provides highly valued knowledge for learning for all. <input type="checkbox"/> • A sustainable organisation that plays its part in creating a better future for people across the globe <input type="checkbox"/> 	
RELATED STRATEGIC RISK - TRUST ASSURANCE FRAMEWORK (TAF) <i>For more information: STRATEGIC RISK DESCRIPTIONS</i>	10 - Governance
QUALITY AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT	Yes -select the relevant domain/domains from the list below. Please select all that apply

	<p> Safe <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Timely <input type="checkbox"/> Effective <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Equitable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Efficient <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patient Centred <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> </p> <p> a) The Integrated Performance Report describes the Research, Development, and Innovation activities demonstrating the Trust being a research supportive organisation. b) The Integrated Performance Report demonstrates the Trust's commitment to undertaking research that is evidence based and appropriate, offering equal opportunities to all patients that is respectful and responsive to their treatment needs. c) The report also displays the Trust's dedication to conducting research in a safe and effective manner, making the best use skills and resources available. </p>
<p> SOCIO ECONOMIC DUTY ASSESSMENT COMPLETED: <i>For more information:</i> https://www.gov.wales/socio-economic-duty-overview </p>	<p>Not required</p>
<p> TRUST WELL-BEING GOAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT </p>	<p>A Healthier Wales - Physical and mental well-being are maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health</p>
<p> FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT </p>	<p> Yes - please Include further detail below, including funding stream </p> <p> There is a potential financial impact in not demonstrating the Trust's commitment to the strategic goal "A beacon for research, development, and innovation in our stated areas of priority" as it could jeopardise the funding received from Health and Care Research Wales along with other non-commercial/commercial sources. </p> <p> No direct financial implications from this paper. </p>

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<p>EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT For more information: https://nhs.wales365.sharepoint.com/sites/VEL_Intranet/SitePages/E.asp X</p>	<p>Yes - please outline what, if any, actions were taken as a result</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL LEGAL IMPLICATIONS / IMPACT</p>	<p>The Equality Impact of Trust RD&I Integrated Performance Report for FY2024/25, Q2 has been considered and there are no matters of concern to raise.</p> <p>There are no specific legal implications related to the activity outlined in this report.</p>

6. RISKS

<p>ARE THERE RELATED RISK(S) FOR THIS MATTER</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>WHAT IS THE RISK?</p>	<p>NOT APPLICABLE</p>
<p>WHAT IS THE CURRENT RISK SCORE</p>	
<p>HOW DO THE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS IN THIS PAPER IMPACT THIS RISK?</p>	
<p>BY WHEN IS IT EXPECTED THE TARGET RISK LEVEL WILL BE REACHED?</p>	
<p>ARE THERE ANY BARRIERS TO IMPLEMENTATION?</p>	
<p>All risks must be evidenced and consistent with those recorded in Datix.</p>	

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GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Ymddiriedolaeth GIG
Prifysgol Felindre
Velindre University
NHS Trust



Welsh Blood Service
Gwasanaeth Gwaed Cymru



Canolfan Ganser Felindre
Velindre Cancer Centre

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2024/25

Q2

July 2024 to
September 2024

Research, Development & Innovation

Integrated Performance Report

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Abbreviations.

Abbreviation	Definition
AHPs	Allied Health Practitioners
AML	Acute Myeloid Leukaemia
ARC	Advancing Radiotherapy Cymru
ATMP	Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product
BEST-C	Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion - Collaborative
BSI	British Standard Institution
C	Commercial
CAR-T	Chimeric Antigen Receptor T-cell
CCfLRI	Collaborative Centre for Learning, Research, and Innovation
CCRH	Cardiff Cancer Research Hub
CEDAR	Centre for Healthcare Evaluation, Device Assessment and Research
CI	Chief Investigator
CRF	Clinical Research Fellow
CU	Cardiff University
CVUHB	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
ESR	Electronic Staff Record
FAIR	For the Assessment of Individualised Risk
FY	Financial Year
H&N	Head & Neck
HCRW	Health & Care Research Wales
IMTP	Integrated Medium-Term Plan
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LA	Linear Accelerator
LGBTQ+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer plus other sexualities
MD	Doctor of Medicine
MRes	Master of Research
mRNA	Messenger Ribonucleic Acid
MSC	Master of Science
NC	Non-Commercial
NHS	National Health Service
NSCLC	Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PI	Principal Investigator
Q	Quarter
RAG	Red, Amber, Green
RD&I	Research, Development, and Innovation
RIC	Regional Innovation and Communication
RT	Radiotherapy
TILs	Tumour-infiltrating lymphocytes
UK	United Kingdom
UKRI	UK Research and Innovation
VCC	Velindre Cancer Centre
VEGF	Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor
VUNHST	Velindre University NHS Trust
WBMDR	Welsh Bone Marrow Donor Registry

Abbreviation	Definition
WBS	Welsh Blood Service
WCRC	Wales Cancer Research Centre

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INTRODUCTION

The Trust Research, Development, and Innovation (RD&I) Integrated Performance Report summarises and provides an update of activities of the Trust’s RD&I service for each quarter of the financial year.

The report reflects the RD&I strategic priorities published in the Velindre University NHS Trust’s Integrated Medium-Term Plan (IMTP). These priorities support the Trust’s strategic goal to be “*A beacon for research, development and innovation*” are as follows:

STRATEGIC PRIORTIES	
PRIORITY 1	The Trust will drive forward the implementation of its Cancer Research and Development Ambitions 2022-2031.
PRIORITY 2	The Trust will maximise the Research and Development ambitions of the Welsh Blood Service.
PRIORITY 3	The Trust will implement the Velindre Innovation Plan.
PRIORITY 4	The Trust will maximise collaborative opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally.

The report provides an update of activities against the Trust RD&I service’s strategic priorities, alongside the supporting work of cross-cutting themes and corporate functions that support research, development, and innovation.

The reports for quarters one through three summarise the work in that quarter, culminating in an annual report at the end of the financial year.

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

**The Trust will drive forward the implementation of its
Cancer Research and Development Ambitions.**

1 Velindre Cancer Research & Development Strategic Ambitions.






1.1 Advance new treatments, interventions, and care.

From the Overarching Cancer Research and Development Ambitions Strategy 2021-31, **we said we would:** ‘Advance new treatments, interventions and care’.

And **we have:**

Achieved key milestones for the Cardiff Cancer Research Hub (CCRH)

The Cardiff Cancer Research Hub will bring bolder, more innovative approaches to solid tumour and haematology research to Wales. In the last quarter we have:




	Heads of Terms has been approved by all three partners. This document sets out how the partners will work together on building the CCRH and demonstrates the partners’ commitment to this important project.																																
	A new Clinical Research Fellow in Advanced RT has recently joined the team. This now means there are 3 solid tumour CRF and 1 haemato-oncology, all doing MDs. These jointly funded posts between Velindre and WCRC, along with another clinical PhD post, are integral to the success of the Hub and are a clear example of how we are developing the research infrastructure in Wales.																																
	Part of VUNHST’s aim to build capacity, capability and a critical mass within the research workforce, Katie Gilmour, CCRH Research Nurse, was awarded the Health and Care Research Wales Research Training Award to support her to study for a 2-year MRes Health Research at the University of Stirling. Further to this, Gabby Brutto, also a CCRH Research Nurse, has commenced her MSc Research Module at University of South Wales.																																
	The Discovery and Translational Research Group has been established. Part of the CCRH’s new programme structure, its purpose is to unify and coordinate CU’s cancer research activities in alignment with partners at CVUHB and VUNHST. Meeting monthly, the team will draw together their expertise to maximise potential to attract further major external investment with particular emphasis on UKRI-funding, centre-funding and commercial funding into Cancer Research at CU.																																
	<p>Trial portfolio overview:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Stage</th> <th>Study Name</th> <th>Study Type</th> <th>Funding</th> <th>Cancer Type</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Open to recruitment</td> <td>MORAb-202</td> <td>First in Human</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>Solid - multi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Monumental-6</td> <td>Bi-specific</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>Haem</td> </tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Trials in set up</td> <td>IOV-MEL-301</td> <td>TILs - ATMP</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>Solid - Melanoma</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ATTR 01</td> <td>Oncolytic virus vaccine - ATMP</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>Solid Melanoma</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SOTIO</td> <td>ATMP CAR-T Therapy</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>Solid - multi</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Closed</td> <td>MOAT</td> <td>Vaccine - ATMP</td> <td>Commercial</td> <td>H&N</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Stage	Study Name	Study Type	Funding	Cancer Type	Open to recruitment	MORAb-202	First in Human	Commercial	Solid - multi	Monumental-6	Bi-specific	Commercial	Haem	Trials in set up	IOV-MEL-301	TILs - ATMP	Commercial	Solid - Melanoma	ATTR 01	Oncolytic virus vaccine - ATMP	Commercial	Solid Melanoma	SOTIO	ATMP CAR-T Therapy	Commercial	Solid - multi	Closed	MOAT	Vaccine - ATMP	Commercial	H&N
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Closed	MOAT	Vaccine - ATMP	Commercial	H&N																													

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1.2 BioNTech vaccine trials within the CCRH trial portfolio.

We have also:

Continued to open BioNTech vaccine trials within the CCRH trial portfolio.

	Welcomed a Band 7 Research Nurse into the team who will be delivery the exciting BioNTech vaccine trials that are in set up and delivery.				
	In the process of recruiting further posts to be able to deliver the BioNTech trials and to enhance to capacity in the team.				
	BioNTech trial portfolio overview:				
	Stage	Study Name	Study Type	Funding	Cancer Type
	Open to recruitment	BNT327-01	Anti-VEGF-A antibody candidate fused to a humanized anti-PD-L1 VHH being developed in collaboration with Biotheus	Commercial	Solid - Lung
		BNT113	ATMP mRNA vaccine	Commercial	H&N
	Trials in set up	BNT116	First in Human - ATMP - BNT116 mRNA cancer vaccine	Commercial	Solid - Lung
	Potential studies	BNT 327-03	Next generation immune checkpoint modulators	Commercial	NSCLC 1L
		BNT327-07	Next generation immune checkpoint modulators	Commercial	Solid - Lung
		DB-1303	Antibody drug conjugate	Commercial	Breast
		BNT326-01	Antibody drug conjugate	Commercial	Solid tumours

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2 Nursing & Interdisciplinary Research.

2.1 Farewell to Professor Jane Hopkinson.

Professor Jane Hopkinson retired at the end of September 2024, after supporting the Trust for many years, initially as an Independent Member and most recently as our Professor of Interdisciplinary Cancer Care in a joint role with Cardiff University.

Throughout her time with the Trust, Professor Hopkinson has been a transformative force. Her expertise, wisdom, ambition, drive, and tenacity have significantly improved the research culture in the Trust, inspiring appetite, and commitment to research among our nurses and allied health practitioners (AHPs) at Velindre Cancer Centre. Her influence extends wide, leaving a profound impact on both staff and the broader patient community, truly changing lives.

Jane leaves a legacy that will endure, and she will be missed by everyone here at Velindre. We wish her all the happiness in retirement and will keep her updated on the continued growth and success of our research fellows.



Professor Jane Hopkinson (third from right) pictured with: (left to right) Hannah Russon, Anna Harries, Hannah Churchill, Nicola Williams, Rhian Wright, and Julie Curry.

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3 Velindre Cancer Service Research.



World Cancer Research Day highlights importance of clinical trials and patient stories.

Tuesday, 24 September 2024 marked World Cancer Research Day, a dedicated opportunity to showcase life-changing impact of cancer research on patient outcomes. The day serves as a powerful reminder of the crucial role clinical trials play in advancing treatments, and it is an inspiring occasion as patients themselves share their experiences as advocates for research. These stories from the front lines of research bring home the difference that trials make for lives now and for future generations.

Some of our remarkable patients have courageously participated in clinical trials, directly contributing to the progress of cancer treatment. Anthony, who participated in the Concorde clinical trial, shared his story, reflecting on how his journey has contributed to scientific discovery. Bryan holds a special place in our research community as the first patient to enrol in the PEARL trial. Farhana, a participant in the successful FAKTION clinical trial, has shared her experience in a powerful ITV Wales documentary, illustrating the impact of her involvement on the development of breast cancer treatments. Agustina, another trailblazer, was the first patient involved in the inaugural clinical trial at the Cardiff Cancer Research Hub.



Over the past year, we have celebrated numerous achievements and contributions from our researchers, clinicians, and patients:

- **INTERLACE clinical trial** – Proudly involving Velindre in an internationally recognized clinical trial.
- **FAKTION clinical trial** – Resulting in FDA approval for a breast cancer drug developed at Velindre.
- **ARISTOCRAT clinical trial** – Making strides in glioblastoma research.
- **HIDDEN 2 study** – Velindre patients' essential role in DVT research.
- **SABRE clinical trial** – Pioneering radiotherapy technology with a first-of-its-kind commercial device.
- **Ceri Stubbs** – awarded a Velindre Healthcare Cancer Research PhD Fellowship.
- **Dr Elin Harding** – Our first palliative care clinical research fellow.
- **Dr James Powell** – Leading the new Brain Tumour Research Initiative.
- **Dr Jane Mathlin** – Investigating taste changes after radiotherapy.
- Velindre's participation in **Life Sciences Hub video** on QuicDNA technology.

These milestones underscore Velindre's dedication to advancing research across various cancer types and studies. Every project, from palliative care to innovative device trials, reflects our commitment to improving cancer care and treatment options. This World Cancer Research Day, we honour not only the clinical professionals and researchers but also the patients who give their voices and experiences to inspire and shape the future of cancer research

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BioNTech partnership fuels cancer research advancements in Wales.

BioNTech's UK cancer research has gained attention through a significant collaboration with Health and Care Research Wales, aiming to pioneer mRNA-based cancer treatments and position Wales at the forefront of innovative cancer care.

Following its COVID-19 vaccine success, BioNTech's expanded efforts focus on personalised cancer immunotherapies that adapt to each patient's unique tumour profile. Velindre is currently running multiple studies within this initiative, including BNT122-01, BNT113 and BNT327-01. Additional studies, BNT116-01 and BNT326 are in the process of being set-up, expanding the Trust's research portfolio to encompass more cancer types and therapeutic approaches. This growing research program highlights Velindre's dedication to bringing new cancer therapies to patients in Wales, emphasising personalised care and novel treatments.

The growth of this partnership continues to mark a significant development for Wales, and the mission to support high-quality research that impacts patient lives and advances global cancer treatment strategies.

The BioNTech research portfolio, specifically the BNT116-01 – that is currently in set-up in Velindre - has been highlighted in a recent BBC News story. Further details can be found at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce806ndv8neo>



ITV News Highlights Bryan Webber's Efforts in Cancer Detection Training for Dentists.

In July 2024, ITV Wales at Six aired a feature on Bryan Webber, focusing on his mission to educate future dentists on the critical role they play in early cancer detection.

In the segment, Bryan shared insights into his work with dental students and recent graduates, aiming to equip them with the skills needed to recognize cancer and understand the patient journey through treatment. The story was filmed at Rhiwbina Dental at the Pines in Cardiff, where practice owner Nick Claydon kindly allowed the ITV team to capture Bryan's conversation from the dental chair. The segment underscored the importance of dental professionals in spotting early signs of cancer, potentially saving lives through timely referrals.

Filming also took place in LA3, featuring the state-of-the-art Halcyon radiotherapy machine, where Professor Mererid Evans and Dr Tom Rackley discussed Bryan's treatment journey with ITV health reporter Katie Fenton, and the impact of the PEARL clinical trial at <https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2024-07-04/the-dentist-using-his-cancer-diagnosis-to-teach-others-how-to-spot-the-signs>



Award winning project features in Life Science Hub Wales digital case study.

The QuicDNA project, a ground-breaking initiative aiming to improve lung cancer diagnosis in Wales, was recently spotlighted in a video by Life Sciences Hub Wales as part of a new series on cancer innovations. Developed at Velindre Cancer Centre, QuicDNA seeks to revolutionise the detection and treatment of lung cancer through liquid biopsies, enabling faster, minimally invasive testing via blood samples. This approach could shorten diagnostic timelines and enhance patient outcomes, especially critical for Wales, where lung cancer remains a leading cause of cancer mortality.

In a heartfelt interview, Velindre patient Craig Maxwell, whose fundraising has been instrumental in supporting QuicDNA, shared his journey. Diagnosed with terminal lung cancer in 2022, Craig launched a dedicated campaign, raising close to £1 million through events such as a walk and cycle along the Wales Coast Path. This effort, supporting the Maxwell Family Genomics Fund in collaboration with Velindre Cancer Charity, exemplifies Craig's mission to improve cancer services for future patients. "Craig's contributions are both unique and inspiring," said Professor Tom Crosby, underscoring the transformative impact of Craig's dedication. The interview can be found at: <https://youtu.be/hMQk5uhirtY?si=6rIr0D1-L4EsEigK>

The project was also recently honoured with the prestigious Moondance Cancer Award for "Innovation & Improvement." QuicDNA clinical lead, Dr Magda Meissner, praised the project's success, and the collaboration of academia, industry, and patient advocates.



Leading Palliative Care researcher, retires – almost!

Professor Anthony Byrne, a beloved figure in palliative care at Cardiff University and Velindre, is stepping back into partial retirement this July. His impact is profoundly felt across Welsh palliative care services, where he has worked for decades, enriching the lives of patients and colleagues with his humour and warmth. Anthony has spent years advancing palliative care through pioneering research and clinical practice at Velindre University NHS Trust, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board and his co-directorship of the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Centre, Cardiff.

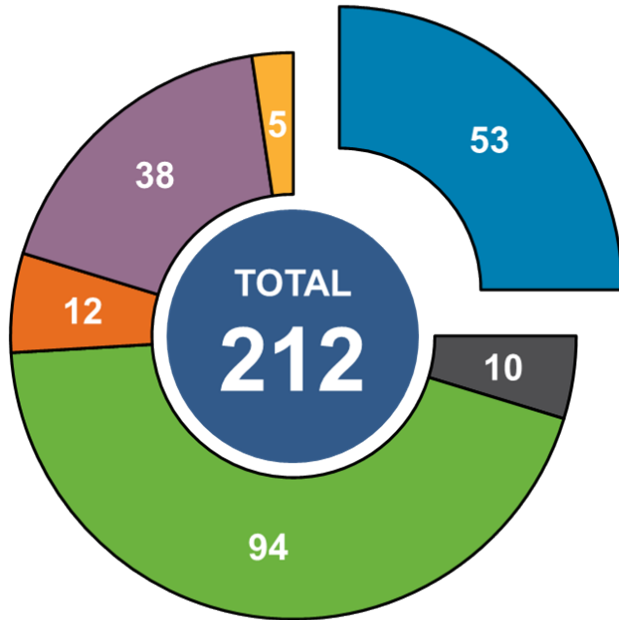
Mark Taubert, Clinical Director of Palliative Medicine at Velindre, highlighted Anthony's personal influence, describing him as a mentor, friend, and source of levity during difficult times. Sarah Townsend, Head of Research and Development, emphasised Anthony's legacy in palliative care research.

As Anthony transitions to part-time work at the Marie Curie Hospice, Penarth he will be remembered for his compassionate innovation, and advancement of quality-of-life research for patients with life-limiting illnesses, notably leading studies on patient-reported outcomes in brain tumour trials. His dedication has set new standards in the field, ensuring that patients' voices are central to clinical care.

4 Velindre Research Performance Indicators.

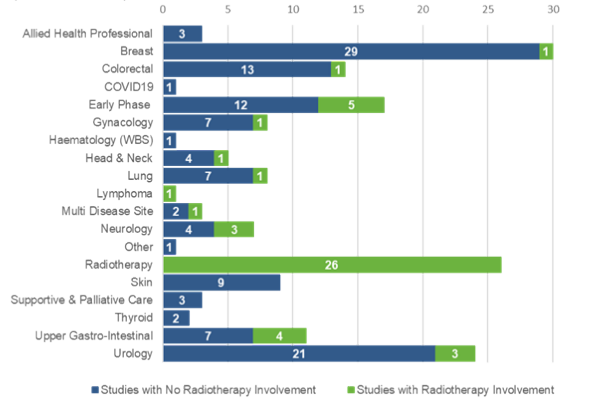
VUNHST Research Portfolio Dashboard

VUNHST Research Portfolio: № of research studies by category
(Data cut = 23 Oct 2024)

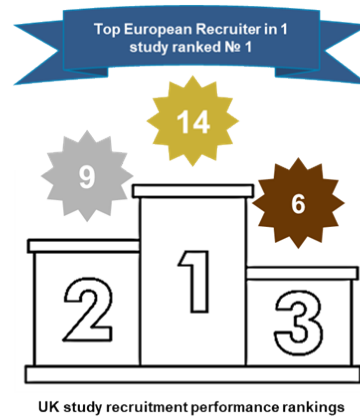
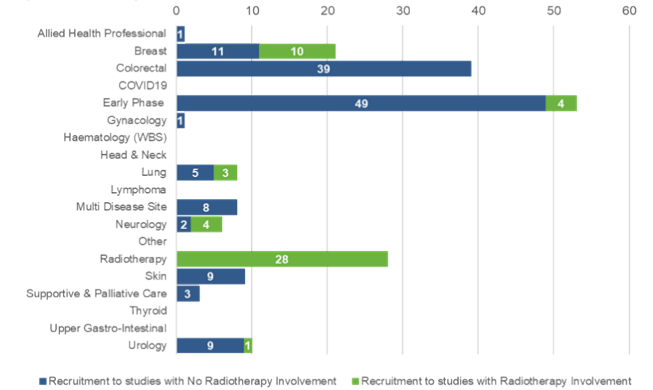


Active (studies requiring participant consent)
Active (support service or data collection only studies)
Closed to recruitment, in follow up
Closed to recruitment, no follow up
In set-up
Suspended

VUNHST Research Portfolio: № of research studies by category
(Data cut = 23 Oct 2024)



VUNHST Research Portfolio: Recruitment by category
(Data cut = 23 Oct 2024)



Year	CUMULATIVE	Quarter			
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
2024/25	11	7	4	-	-
	NC=8 C=3	NC=6 C=1	NC=2 C=2	NC=- C=-	NC=- C=-
2023/24	31	7	9	7	8
	NC=17 C=14	NC=3 C=4	NC=4 C=5	NC=3 C=4	NC=7 C=1
2022/23	35	5	9	6	15
	NC=19 C=16	NC=2 C=3	NC=6 C=3	NC=3 C=3	NC=8 C=7
2024/25	176	88	88	-	-
	NC=112 C=64	NC=65 C=33	NC=67 C=31	NC=- C=-	NC=- C=-
2023/24	432	77	151	113	91
	NC=358 C=74	NC=64 C=13	NC=128 C=23	NC=97 C=16	NC=69 C=22
2022/23	220	65	46	61	48
	NC=176 C=44	NC=51 C=14	NC=36 C=10	NC=51 C=10	NC=38 C=10

Key: NC = Non-Commercial; C = Commercial

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5 Health & Care Research Wales key indicators for Velindre University NHS Trust.

Health & Care Research Wales calculate the percentage of open studies recruiting to time and target as Red, Amber, Green (RAG).

The RAG rating is calculated as follows:

RAG rating = % recruitment - % time elapsed

Where % **recruitment** = $\frac{\text{Total recruitment (at site)}}{\text{Site recruitment target}}$

and % **time elapsed** = $\frac{\text{Number of days open (at site)}}{\text{Number of days planned to be open}}$

“RED” = % recruitment is 30% behind the % time elapsed (i.e. RAG rating = -30% or less).

“AMBER” = % recruitment is up to and including 30% behind % time elapsed (i.e. RAG rating = < -1% ≥ -29%).










“GREEN” = % recruitment is equal to or is greater than % time elapsed (i.e. RAG rating = ≥ 0%).

Health & Care Research Wales calculate the percentage of closed studies recruiting to target as Red, Green. Where, “Red” indicates the recruitment target was not met and “Green” indicates the recruitment target was met.

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5.1 Open studies – recruitment to time and target (non-commercial).

	RAG	Rating	Comparison to previous Q	Comparison to previous FY	Narrative for RAG rating = "RED"
C3 Open: % of Open non-commercial HCRW Portfolio Studies Recruiting to Time & Target		31%			<p>The studies that are hosted by VUNHST are often of small number recruitment targets or long study duration. Therefore, it is possible for studies to be RAG rated "RED" for several years or fluctuate in RAG rating for the duration of the study.</p> <p>List of studies with RAG rating = "RED"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTOv [IRAS 1003954], target = 10; planned study end date = 01 Apr 2028. • BICCC [IRAS1004377], target = 50; planned study end date = 03 Jun 2025 • Hit Meso [IRAS 322732], target = 10; planned study end date = 30 Jun 2026 • ADAPT-P [IRAS 319805], target = 17; planned study end date = 01 Sept 2024 • Cancer Vaccine Launchpad [IRAS 325291], target = 1; planned study end date = no end date • Renal REFINE [298208], target = 5; planned study end date = 31 Oct 2024 • REFINE-Lung [IRAS 1004165], target = 24; planned study end date = 01 Dec 2025. • The role of the marrow macroenvironment in the pathogenesis of AML [IRAS 231974], target = 50; planned study end date = 30 Nov 2024. <i>Study currently suspended.</i> • TRAK-ER [IRAS 286505], target = 20; planned study end date = 01 May 2024. • UKP3BEP Trial [IRAS 182633], target = 5; planned study end date = 30 Nov 2024. • VISON [IRAS 335269], target = 100; planned study end date = 30 Nov 2026
		11%			
		58%			
		21 studies			



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5.2 Open studies – recruitment to time and target (commercial).







	RAG	Rating	Comparison to previous Q	Comparison to previous FY	Narrative for RAG rating = “RED”
C4 Open: % of Open Commercial Studies Recruiting to Time & Target		47%	↓	↓	<p>The studies that are hosted by VUNHST are often of small number recruitment targets or long study duration. Therefore, it is possible for studies to be RAG rated “RED” for several years or fluctuate in RAG rating for the duration of the study.</p> <p>List of studies with RAG rating = “RED”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BO45217 (Krascendo 1) [IRAS 1009611], target 3= ; planned study end date = 30/09/2025. • MORAb-202-G000-201 [IRAS 292422], target = 2; planned study end date = 31/12/2024. • Tropion 04 [IRAS 1008502], target = 7; planned study end date = 03/03/2026 • Tropion 05 [IRAS 1007219], target = 3; planned study end date = 06/02/2025.
		4 studies	↔	↔	
		5%	↑	↑	
		1 study			
		47%			
		8 studies			

5.3 Closed studies – recruitment to time and target (non-commercial).

	RAG	Rating	Comparison to previous Q	Comparison to previous FY	Narrative for RAG rating = “RED”
C3 Closed: % of Closed non-commercial HCRW Portfolio Studies Recruiting to Target		0%	↔	↔	<p>List of studies with RAG rating = “RED”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No studies
		0 studies	↑	↑	
		100%			
		5 studies			

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5.4 Closed studies – recruitment to time and target (commercial).

	RAG	Rating	Comparison to previous Q	Comparison to previous FY	Narrative for RAG rating = "RED"
C4 Closed: % of Closed Commercial Studies Recruiting to Target		62%			<p><u>List of studies with RAG rating = "RED"</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avanzar [IRAS 1006036], target = 8; planned study end date = 30/11/2024. Note: Recruitment closed a year earlier than planned • CAPitello-280 [IRAS 1005000], target = 2; planned study end date = 09/02/2025. Note: Recruitment closed a year earlier than planned. • XB002 101 JEWEL [IRAS 1005594], target = 5; planned study end date = 30/11/2025. Note: Recruitment was paused nationally due to safety concerns. The trial was only open for less than a week at Velindre. • FIGHT-302 [IRAS255226], target =1 ; planned study end date =13/09/2024. Note: Recruitment was paused during the COVID 19 pandemic and never reopened. • 1403-0002 A study of a combination of BI drugs in Patients with Cancer [IRAS 1005475], target = 3; planned study end date = 30 May 2026. Note: Velindre were only able to perform ultrasound biopsies due to capacity issues within the Cardiff and Vale Radiology Department. This had an impact on the number of patients we could recruit. • CANC 48153 [IRAS 292846], target = 10; planned study end date = 01 Apr 2025. Note: Recruitment closed a year earlier than planned • MK1308A-008 1003758, target = 7; planned study end date = 24 Oct 2024. Note: The Sponsor put recruitment on hold nationally in 2022 and the study never reopened to recruitment. This impacted our targets. Velindre is one of the top UK recruiters. • MK3475-U03 [IRAS 1003378], target = 3; planned study end date = 21 May 2024. Note: The Sponsor put recruitment on hold nationally for a year which impacted our recruitment targets.
		38%			
		2 studies			

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The Trust will maximise the Research & Development ambitions of the Welsh Blood Service.

6 Welsh Blood Service Research.

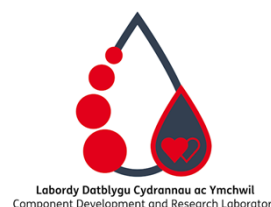
6.1 Microfluidics: Game changing investment at the Welsh Blood Service

The Welsh Blood Service is stepping into the world of microfluidic research thanks to a successful application to Welsh Government's SMART Capital Equipment Fund.

6.1.1 What is microfluidics and how will we use it?

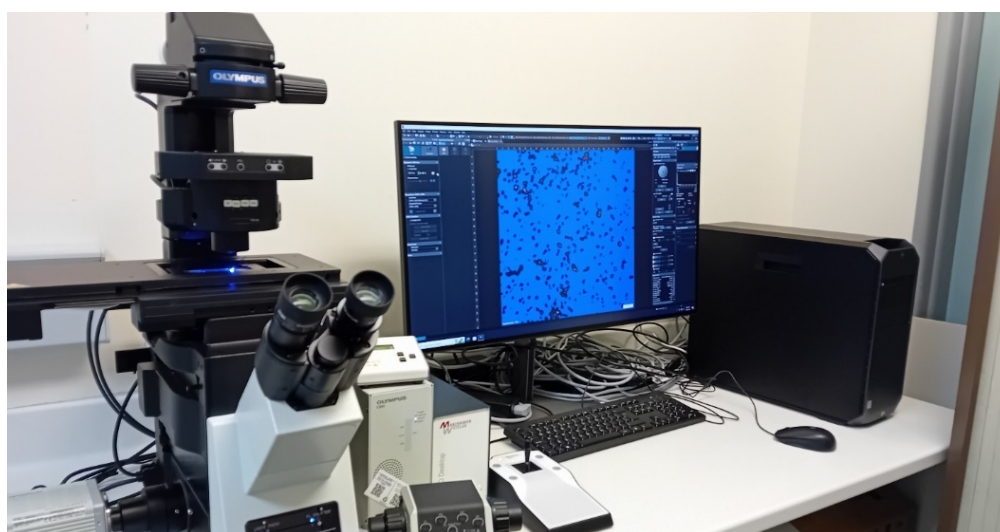
Microfluidics looks at fluids on a micrometre scale, enabling us to examine cells as they flow through simulated blood vessels in a way similar to way cells behave in the human body.

Our Component Development and Research Laboratory currently tests samples in a test tube to understand how the collection and storage of blood cells affects their function. With microfluidics we can now look at the way blood cells function after collection in an environment that is closer to the experience in the body. More accurate results will help us to better preserve the quality of blood products resulting in a longer shelf-life, which will in turn benefit patients by ensuring more blood products are available when needed. Using the funding from the SMART Capital Equipment Fund we now have the Olympus 1X83 Automated microscope and software up and running, with the microfluidics components currently in set up.



6.1.2 Our First Project

Our first project using the microfluidics kit is around the stickiness of platelets, called platelet adhesion. A principal function of platelets is to form a haemostatic plug at the site of blood vessel injury as an initial step to stop bleeding. The effect of flow is central to this process and microfluidics can be used to simulate platelet adhesion under flow conditions, something that our current methods cannot simulate as accurately.



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Of particular interest to the Welsh Blood Service is whether platelets stored at refrigerated temperatures retain their ability to stop bleeding. We are currently working alongside civilian and military colleagues to consider this question and we will be able to use microfluidics to look at normal, room temperature stored platelets and the cold stored platelets to assess and compare their clotting potential.

6.1.3 Future Projects

Red cells are the part of the blood that deliver oxygen from the lungs to the tissue, traveling from the arteries of the body into narrow capillaries which are only around 1/100 of a millimetre across. In order to squeeze through the capillaries, red cells need to be able to deform, flexing from their normal disc shape. Damaged or aged cells tend to be too rigid to flex and can block the tiny vessels.

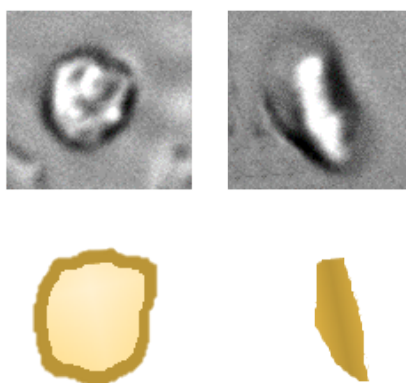


Figure 1 What a resting platelet looks like face on and from the side under this microscope.

Using microfluidics, we can make the channels of the chips as small as a capillary and mimic the flow of red cells in the body. This will allow us to assess the effect of storage conditions on the red cells' ability to deform, informing potential improvements in the manufacture and storage of red cell components. This is particularly relevant in conditions such as sepsis where the microcirculation is already compromised and the ability of transfused red cells to deform may be critical to maintain tissue oxygenation.

6.1.4 The microscopy specialist



Edward Leech-Sayers (pictured) is a microscopy specialist and joined the Component Development Research Laboratory at WBS from Cardiff University in November 2023.

His extensive experience has been very valuable in setting up the new equipment and providing training to other research staff.

“The new microscope and microfluidics equipment is an exciting advancement in technology for the Welsh Blood Service. It will allow us to look more closely at how blood

components behave as they flow around the human body.

We will be able to feed new, high-quality data into our research projects and it opens up a world of possibilities for new research at the blood service. “It is a very flexible microscope which can be used

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without the microfluidics kit, and it importantly has a camera and the ability to record, extract and quantify data, and share what we are seeing.

“I am excited to share my love of microscopy with the team at the Welsh Blood Service,” said Edd.

6.1.5 The Funding Award

A grant application was a team effort involving the expertise of the Component Development Research Laboratory, WBS RD&I Services and Velindre University NHS Trust’s Innovation team. Welsh Government awarded over £112,000 from the SMART Capital Equipment Fund to establish microfluidic technology at the blood service. Chloe George, Head of Component Development at the Welsh Blood Service said:

“This new facility will give us an improved understanding of the functional characteristics of our blood components which could lead to improvements in manufacture and storage, increased efficiency in the blood supply chain and benefits to the people of Wales. “I believe we will be able to expand as a research organisation, improving the skills and expertise of our scientists and researchers. As we explore novel avenues in transfusion science, we will contribute valuable insights and advancements to the wider international community. “I would like to thank the Welsh Government for their support by investing in the research capability of the Welsh Blood Service.”

6.1.6 Funded by



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6.2 How FAIR is continuing to improve Blood Donation in the UK

In June 2021, the UK introduced an important change to its blood donor guidelines through the 'For the Assessment of Individualised Risk' (FAIR) project.



The new approach moved away from applying broad restrictions based on identity and instead assesses each donor individually, focusing on their health and behaviours. This change removed limitations that had previously affected specific groups, making eligibility more inclusive.

Under the new FAIR guidelines, eligibility is based on individual behaviours rather than broad identity categories, allowing many more people to donate blood.

This change has been particularly impactful for the LGBTQ+ community, where many individuals who were previously excluded can now donate. The change has also been important for Black African heritage donors, again as the focus on recent behaviours rather than geographic background has enabled more people from these communities to donate. This shift gives greater inclusivity and helps address the need for more rare blood types, such as those required to treat sickle cell disease.

Dr Stuart Blackmore has played a key role in leading the research and implementation of the FAIR policy within the Welsh Blood Service. After a long and impactful career as a Consultant in Donor Medicine where he contributed significantly to promoting inclusivity in blood donation. Dr Blackmore has now retired.



The 2024 FAIR Donor Survey

The Welsh Blood Service ran the 2024 FAIR Donor Survey in collaboration with **NHS Blood and Transplant**, and the **UK Health Security Agency**. This survey, part of the ongoing research surrounding the FAIR policy, aimed to evaluate how well donors understand and follow to the new guidelines while gathering important feedback on their experiences. The data collected through this research is essential for refining the guidelines and ensuring the blood donation system remains both safe and inclusive.

Our **Research, Development & Innovation Services** team distributed the survey to 8,500 donors in Wales over a three-month period. From this, around 1,000 responses were received. The findings from this research will help further refine the FAIR policy, ensuring it continues to meet safety standards while ensuring inclusivity for all donors across the UK.

Collaboration



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6.3 Pre-hospital Platelets Collaboration

The Welsh Blood Service is working with the Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service, undertaking a research project to improve emergency trauma care. The project is titled 'Investigations into Cold Stored Platelets for Pre-Hospital Emergency Resuscitation.' The project is also supported by experts from the Royal Navy and CEDAR.



Each year in Wales, around 1,300 trauma patients face life-and-death situations, with many desperately needing emergency blood transfusions.

Research has shown that including platelets in early transfusions can significantly improve outcomes for severely injured patients. Platelets are a blood component that help with clotting and wound healing. However, platelets are currently stored at room temperature and have a very short shelf life, making them impractical for pre-hospital use.

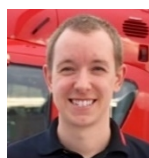
This project explores the use of platelets stored at cold temperatures. Unlike the current method, cold-stored platelets last longer and are more effective at helping blood clot. This makes them a valuable new tool for emergency medical teams. The project investigates the feasibility and effectiveness of storing cold-stored platelets alongside red blood cells in specialised transport boxes. Early results are promising, showing that cold-stored platelets could be highly beneficial. The next phase will involve further testing and data analysis, paving the way for a potential clinical trial. The ultimate goal is to deliver advanced care to trauma patients at the scene, significantly improving their chances of survival and recovery.

Funded by

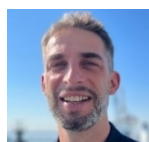


Health and Care Research Wales through the Health Research Grant 2022 (£74,546).

Collaboration



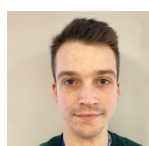
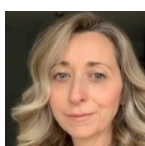
Christopher Hingston
David Lockey
David Rawlinson



Thomas Scorer



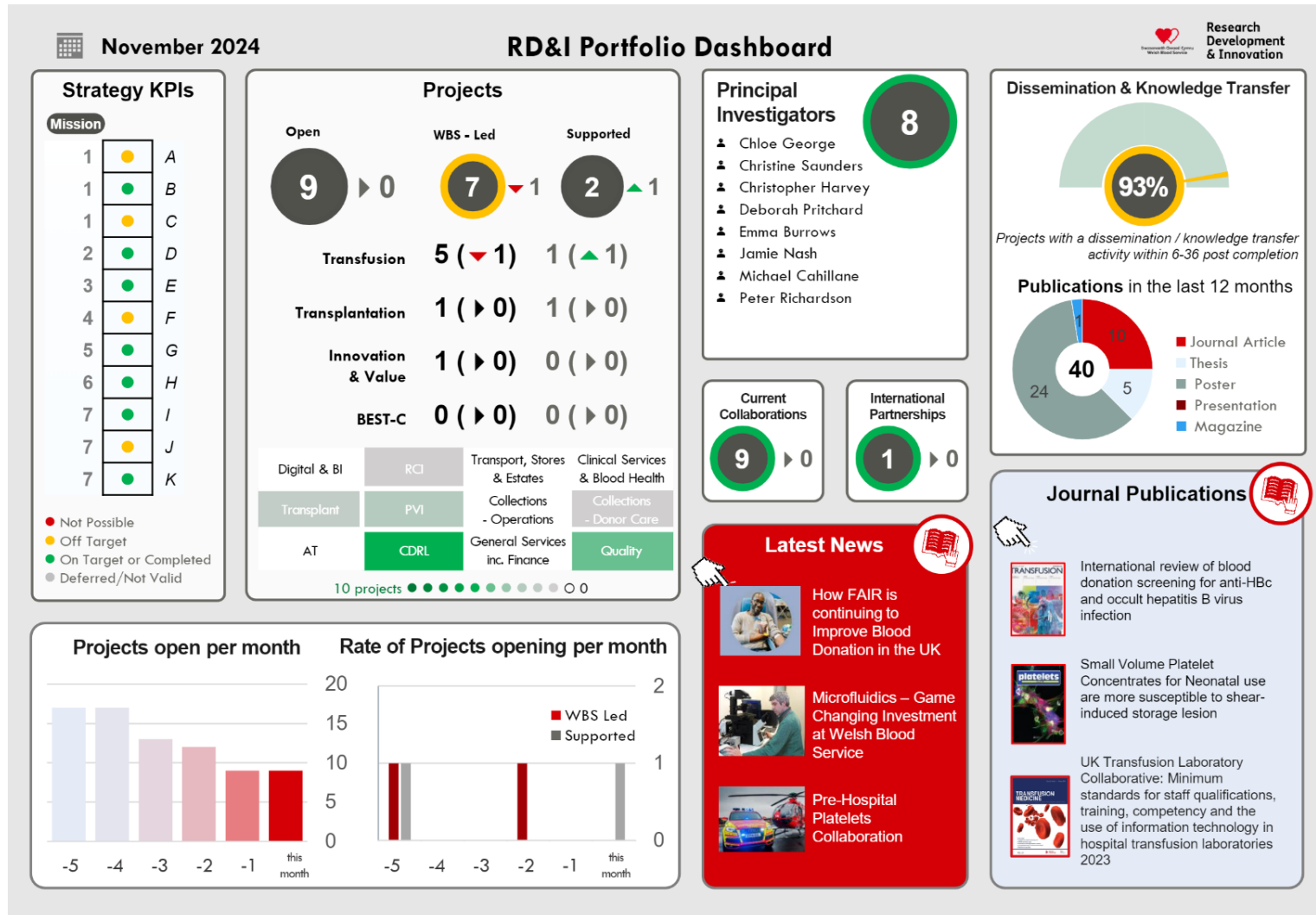
Judith White



Chloe George
Christine Saunders
Jamie Nash

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7 Welsh Blood Service Research Performance Indicators.



Journal Publications

International review of blood donation screening for anti-HBc and occult hepatitis B virus infection

Small Volume Platelet Concentrates for Neonatal use are more susceptible to shear-induced storage lesion

UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative: Minimum standards for staff qualifications, training, competency and the use of information technology in hospital transfusion laboratories 2023

Latest News

How FAIR is continuing to Improve Blood Donation in the UK

Microfluidics – Game Changing Investment at Welsh Blood Service

Pre-Hospital Platelets Collaboration

Projects open per month

Rate of Projects opening per month

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7.1 Open projects portfolio.

Project Name	WBS Project ID	Strategic Mission Link	WBS PI	Level of Involvement
Investigating the role of the bone marrow microenvironment in the pathogenesis of Acute Myeloid Leukaemia	96	Transfusion	<i>Head of WBMDR</i>	NHS Research
The use of legislation and regulation as a means of improving quality in public healthcare services	164	Innovation	Peter Richardson	WBS led RD&I
Improving Platelet Storage (PhD Cardiff Metropolitan University)	168	Transfusion	Christine Saunders	WBS led RD&I
Cold Stored Platelets for Pre-Hospital Use – Laboratory Testing	170	Transfusion	Jamie Nash	WBS led RD&I
Service Support of the Role of donor derived cell free DNA (slet derived exosomes and proinsulin in diagnosing pancreas graft acute rejection / the (EMPAR) study	171	Transplant	Emma Burrows	WBS support of others RD&I
Understanding and Investigating White Particulate Matter	175	Transfusion	Michael Cahillane	WBS led RD&I
Methodology Evaluation for Measuring Regulatory Cells in Kidney Transplant Recipients	178	Transplant	Deborah Pritchard	WBS led RD&I
Evaluation of a novel Haemoglobin S Technology to support the future approach for screening Blood Donors for Sickle Cell trait	182	Transfusion	Ann Jones	WBS led RD&I
Novel Cryoprotectants for Advancing Long-term Red Blood Cell and Platelet Storage	192	Transfusion	Chloe George	WBS led RD&I

7.2 The support of the Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion (BEST) Collaborative.

Project Name	WBS Project ID	Mission Link	WBS Staff Lead	Involvement
BEST-C 183 Does Lipaemia Cause Red Cell Haemolysis? (DOLCE)	193	Transfusion	Chloe George	WBS support of others RD&I

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7.3 Key Performance Indicators of the Welsh Blood Service RD&I Strategy.

These metrics reflect the implementation of the new RD&I strategy. In October we established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that align with the strategic goals of the updated RD&I strategy, which is currently progressing towards organisational approval. These KPIs are integrated into the organisation's reporting framework for planning and performance. For Apr to Sep 2024 performance, please refer to previous reporting of the former KPIs, as we have now ceased reporting for these outdated metrics.

Key:

✓	KPI On track
⚠	KPI requires attention

		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
Mission 1 – Improving Patient and Donor Care													
Number of WBS Led RD&I Projects	Sustain at least 10 open							⚠	⚠				
Number of researchers	Sustain at least 10 annually	See previous RD&I KPIs						✓	✓				
Percentage of WBS Departments involved in RD&I Projects	Ensure at least 80% of departments participate in RD&I activities previous year to date							⚠	⚠				
Mission 2 – Advancing Blood Components													
Number of Transfusion Research Projects Initiated	Sustain at least 4 open							✓	✓				

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		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
Mission 3 – Leading Transplant Research in Wales														
Number of Transplant Research Projects Initiated	Sustain at least 2 open	See previous RD&I KPIs						✓	✓					
Mission 4 - Use Innovation and Value Based Healthcare to Improve our Services and Performance														
Number of innovation Projects Successfully Implemented	Implement at least 5 new projects in the previous year to date	See previous RD&I KPIs						⚠	⚠					
Mission 5 – Use Collaboration to Sustain our RD&I														
Number of Collaborative Partnerships in RD&I	At least 8 projects per year that involve external party / collaborator (projects either ongoing or successfully completed)	See previous RD&I KPIs						✓	✓					
Mission 6 – Serve the People of Wales by supporting international initiatives														
Number of international projects participated in	Participate in at least 5 international projects each year	See previous RD&I KPIs						⚠	✓					

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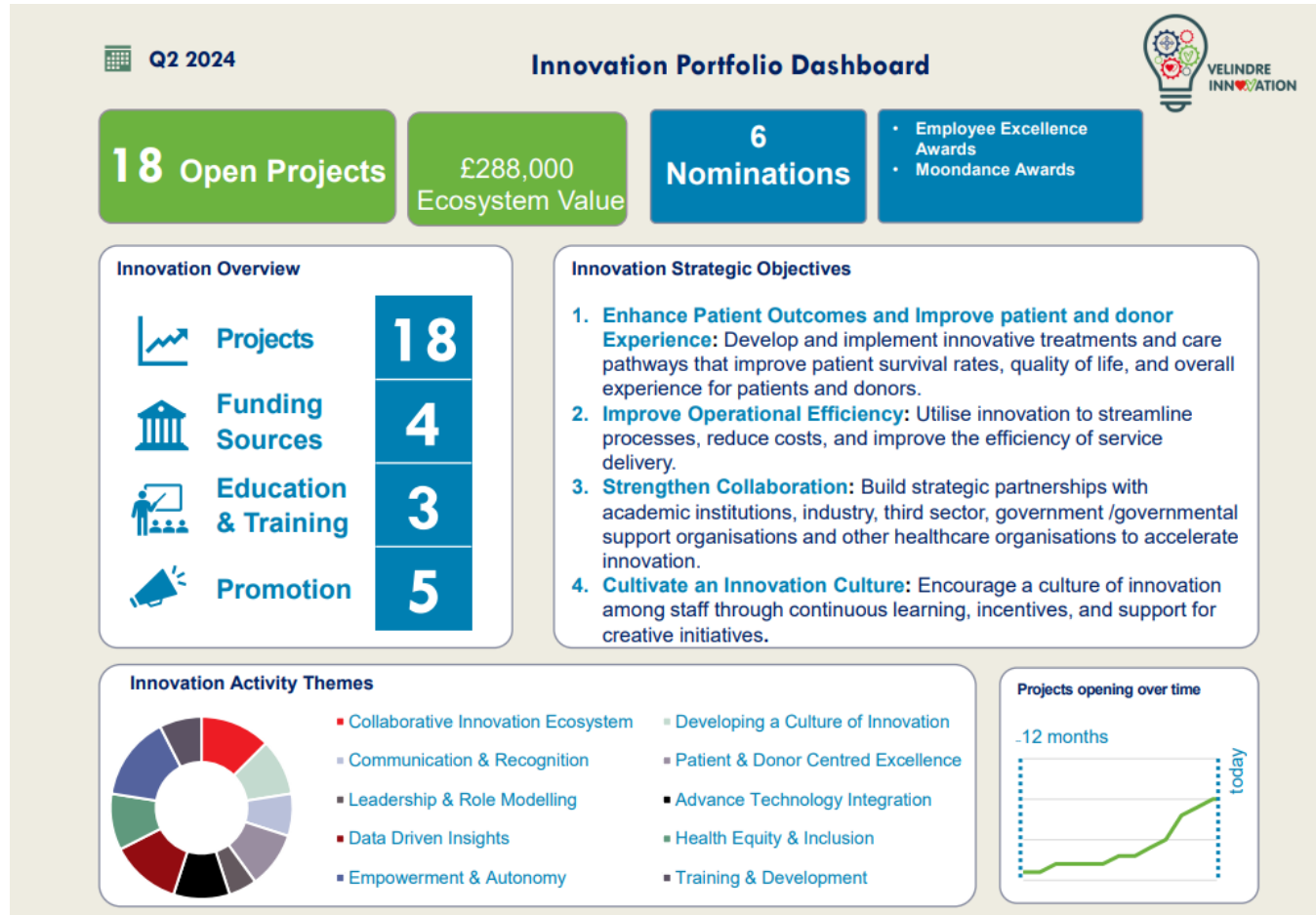
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		A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	
Mission 7 – Enhance the Impact of RD&I and Celebrate Success														
Number of research papers published	Publish at least 10 papers	See previous RD&I KPIs						✓	✓					
The PI must describe a suitable dissemination / knowledge transfer activity	100% WBS Led projects must demonstrate how they achieved some type of dissemination activity							⚠	⚠					
Number of presentations at conferences (the WBS PMF KPI)	Present at 5 Conferences per year							✓	✓					

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The Trust will implement the Velindre Innovation Plan.

8 Velindre Innovation Service.





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 **Q2 2024**

Innovation Activity Overview



 **Innovation Highlight Projects (Active)**

- **SimplyDo / Bright Ideas** - Working with Colleagues in the WBS, Improvement Teams in WBS & VCC and Industry Partner 'Simply Do', good progress is being made in developing a portal and supporting programme to capture pipeline ideas for improvement/innovation. Due to launch in November Q3 in one specific area to test the platform and learn lessons, then adapt and deploy across Velindre, with a view to rolling out Trust wide in the longer term.
- **Innovation Awareness Training** - Working with University Wales Trinity St David's to develop awareness training aligned to ISO 56001. Work is ongoing to identify training resources to support building the capability and capacity for innovation. Innovation Planning phase of innovation ESR training module to develop the content and undertake shortlisting of case study material in collaboration with NHS Innovation leads.
- **Industry Collaboration** - A collaborative project working with the Life Science Hub and MediWales to produce a blueprint for working with Industry. Workshops have been held with Industry and the outputs will inform the next steps.
- **Collaborative Centre for Learning, Research, and Innovation** – Ongoing work to develop the collaborative centre, with a project team established to identify capacity and resource requirements and produce the mission and vision statements for the centre. Project team met in August and September to formulate plan and next steps at the Life Science Hub.
- **Drone Collaboration Project** - On 18th June 2024, the Welsh Blood Service (WBS) held a half-day workshop with SLiNK-Tech and Snowdonia Aerospace LLP representatives to explore the potential of using drones for blood and biological sample. A showcase event was held in July at Snowdonia Aerospace centre to demonstrate the technology; the project was also presented at the MediWales Conference.
- **RITA Evaluation** - Virtual assistant chatbot is currently undergoing an evaluation. Commissioned review working with Swansea University to independently evaluate the Chatbot. The evaluation will inform the paper and options that will be put to the RD&I committee to inform next steps and potential BAU arrangements.

Dashboard | **Projects** | **Funding** | **Education** | **Promotion** | **Goals** | **Risks**

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 **Q2 2024**

Innovation Activity Overview





Funding Sources & Ecosystem Value


- **Regional Innovation and Communication Hub (RIC Hub)** - £75,000 funding for innovation projects
- **Velindre Innovation Award Scheme** - £100,000 to fund VUNHST innovation activity
- **Velindre Charity** - £6,500 project manager funding (Q2)
- **SBRI Fund** – £100,000 (Project Value) for Welsh Drone Delivery project

Ecosystem Value


£281,500
(+£206,500)


DashboardProjectsFundingEducationPromotionGoalsRisks

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 **Q2 2024**

Innovation Activity Overview

 **VELINDRE
INNOVATION**



Education and Training

- Developed an awareness module for innovation aligned to ISO 56001 that could be used for employee inductions
- In conversation with University of Wales Trinity St. David to accredit the course and exploring opportunities for inclusion in broader strategic training programme with the Oncology Academy (micro-credentials).
- ISO 56001 fundamentals training with BSI scheduled for Q3
- Contributed to the development of the NHS Wales ESR innovation training module
- Spread and Scale Academy Wales

DashboardProjectsFundingEducationPromotionGoalsRisks

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Q2 2024

Innovation Activity Overview



Promotion and Publications

Promotion	Publications
Bevan Exemplar Cohort 8 showcase June	Drone Delivery Intranet Stories – 3 articles published
NHS Wales drone infrastructure partnership project – Showcase event in July at Snowdonia Aerospace Centre	
RIC Hub network meeting each quarter	
MediWales Connects	

Dashboard Projects Funding Education Promotion Goals Risks

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 Q2 2024

Innovation Activity Overview



VELINDRE
INN~~V~~ATION



Short-Medium Term Goals

- Implement ISO 56001 system and seek costs and plan for external verification
- Trained auditors in ISO system
- Funding sustainability
- Roll out induction training and staff training for innovation
- Accreditation of training course
- Implement SimplyDo / Bright Ideas platform and run the first challenge
- Complete branding survey and update guidance
- Evaluation of RITA and write options paper
- Recruit to vacant posts for ARC programme and embed governance structures
- Agree governance approach for CCfLRI
- Attend Welsh Health Drone delivery workshops and showcase event and develop next steps
- Develop blueprint for collaborating with industry as an outcome of the workshops

[Dashboard](#) [Projects](#) [Funding](#) [Education](#) [Promotion](#) [Goals](#) [Risks](#)

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Q2 2024

Innovation Activity Overview



Risk Register

Risk	Comment	RAG	Mitigation
Finance	if no Welsh Government RIIC funding post 2025, innovation team will not have enough revenue for posts, significantly impacting the ability to engage in innovation activity across the Trust.	Red	Innovation award fund is being developed through an application to the Velindre Charity, providing resources for staff to engage in innovation activity and projects across the Trust.
	Charity funding for Project Manager post is due to end in December 2024 posing the risk that the innovation department cannot continue to fund the post	Orange	Alternative sources of funding are being sought through grants or charitable funds e.g. Moondance
Recruitment	The time taken to recruit into posts poses a risk that vacancies will not be filled in an adequate timeframe needed to support the department, affecting the impact and frequency of projects	Orange	Utilising secondments and expressions of interests for fixed term posts to speed up recruitment process
Governance	Timely expedition of project ideas/projects due to unclear governance /contracting process.	Orange	This will be mitigated through the execution of the Velindre innovation MDT and the development of a standardised contracting template.

- Dashboard
- Projects
- Funding
- Education
- Promotion
- Goals
- Risks**

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STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

The Trust will maximise collaborative opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally.

9 Velindre University NHS Trust Sponsored Research Performance Indicators.

The Trust sponsors research studies taking on the responsibility for the initiation, management, and financing (or arranging the financing) of those research studies.

The following information shows the performance indicators for the Trust’s sponsored studies

	FY2024/25			
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Number of New Projects Sponsored	1	0		
Number of Studies Opened	1	0		
Scope of Studies Opened	National	N/A		
Number of Sites Opened	1	0		
Number of Publications	0	1		
Number of Abstracts	3	1		
Number of Articles	1	1		
Recruitment	36	44		

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The following information shows the publications, articles, and posters generated by the Trust's sponsored studies:

Conference / Journal / Website	Submitted by	Outcome	Title
SCOPE2			
BMJ Open	Holland-Hart, D.	Published	The experiences of patients with oesophageal cancer receiving chemoradiotherapy treatment: a qualitative study embedded in the SCOPE2 trial. https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/14/9/e076394.info 23 September 2024.
PEARL			
ITV News and ITV Website			The dentist using his cancer diagnosis to teach others how to spot the signs. https://www.itv.com/news/wales/2024-07-04/the-dentist-using-his-cancer-diagnosis-to-teach-others-how-to-spot-the-signs 04 July 2024.
FAKTION			
San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium	Pearson, A		Predicting response to capivasertib in AKT1 mutant advanced breast cancer. https://sabcs.org/ 01 July 2024. <i>Submitted by Institute of Cancer Research, using data from the VUNHST FAKTION trial.</i>

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10 Cross-cutting themes: progress.

Cross-cutting themes across Strategic Priorities 1 to 4.													
Key Deliverables / Objectives	FY2023/24				FY2024/25				FY2025/26				Progress / Comments
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<p>The implementation of programmes, complementing existing training opportunities that enable and support Trust staff to develop, deliver and manage research portfolios</p> <p>Continue the work to develop and implement a R&D/Trials training programme draws upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trust developed internal training. - Training developed by other research partners and organisations such as Health and Care Research Wales. - Training from specialist non-commercial and commercial training providers <p>to support Trust staff to develop, set-up and deliver, and manage portfolios of clinical trials/research studies.</p>													<p>Training Programme & Opportunities This work is an ongoing improvement of the RD&I Division's service.</p> <p>Work continues to develop and implement a R&D/Trials training programme that draws upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trust developed internal training. - Training developed by other research partners and organisations such as Health and Care Research Wales. - Training from specialist non-commercial and commercial training providers. <p>to support Trust staff to develop, set-up and deliver, and manage portfolios of clinical trials/research studies.</p> <p>Work continues into FY2024/25 with Trust Research Service staff contributing to the content of the Health and Care Research Wales training programme.</p>
<p>Further investment in the research delivery and governance teams to make sure that studies are optimised to facilitate effective and timely recruitment and delivery</p> <p>Continue the development and implementation of staffing plans for the research delivery and governance teams (previously identified) to facilitate timely recruitment.</p> <p>Complete the appointment of senior staff in the research delivery team and to support the delivery of the Cardiff Cancer Research</p>													<p>Reorganisation of Trust Research Delivery team This work is an ongoing improvement of the RD&I Division's service.</p> <p>Considering the "Implementing the Cancer R&D Ambitions – an Integrated Business Case 2023-2026" work continues to keep under review and consolidate proposals and implementation of changes to the structure of the research set-up and delivery team structure.</p>

RD&I - Integrated Performance Report

Cross-cutting themes across Strategic Priorities 1 to 4.														
Key Deliverables / Objectives	FY2023/24				FY2024/25				FY2025/26				Progress / Comments	
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Hub and other research priority areas for the Trust.														Work continues into FY2024/25 to reorganise the Trust's Research Service Delivery Team to improve service resilience.
Keep under review and consolidate proposals and implementation of changes to the structure of the research set-up and delivery team structure.														
The development and implementation of clinical information systems to identify donors/patients eligible to take part in research studies														<p>The Trust Research Service staff, continue to keep under review the input of, and use of information, making recommendations for improvement as appropriate.</p> <p>The Trust Research Service staff are due to be involved the second phase of the Digital Health & Care Record programme during FY2024/25.</p> <p>The Trust RD&I service continue to contribute to the Welsh Government/Health and Care Research Wales on the "Digital agenda for research in Wales" programme of work, as and when invited to provide input.</p>
Having contributed to the Trust's implementation of the Digital Health & Care Record programme, continue to keep under review the input of, and use of information, making recommendations for improvement as appropriate.														
Contribute to the Welsh Government / Health & Care Research Wales "Digital agenda for research in Wales" including the work on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The contribution and use of anonymised / pseudo-anonymised data research - The programme that seeks develop abilities to "find, recruit and follow-up" participants for research. 														

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11 Research, Development, and Innovation Finances.

11.1 Introduction

The purpose of this paper is to present the financial performance of the Research, Development & Innovation (RD&I) Division for the period to the end of September 2024 (Month 6 2024/25). The dashboard included within Appendix 1 provides an overview of the position.

11.2 Financial Plan September (Month 6)

The reported financial position for the RD&I Division at the end of September 2024 was an overspend of £16k. The 2024/25 financial plan for the division is consistent with previous years in so far that the overall plan comprises the following targets:

- **£4.2m spend on research activities**
The majority (86%/£3.6m) of this relates to staff costs with the remaining £0.5m relating to non-pay costs including clinical supplies/services, education & development, travel and office equipment and consumables.
- **£4.5m of income from various sources:**
 - Health & Care Research Wales (26%)
 - Clinical Trial Income - Commercial & Non-Commercial (27%)
 - Support from Velindre Charity Integrated Bid & other individual business cases (42%)
 - Grant income & Velindre Lead sponsor income (5%)

Whilst there are variances against various budget areas, as shown within the following RD&I Revenue Dashboard 2024-2025, there are currently no areas of concern.

11.3 Summary of Performance – Year to date Sept 2024

Key Financial Target 1: to remain within monthly budget expectations.

PERIOD		£000			
		PAY	NON-PAY	INCOME	TOTAL
MONTH 6	Budget	£288	£75	(£388)	(£24)
	Actual	£421	(£2)	(£440)	(£21)
	Variance	(£133)	£77	£53	£3
YEAR TO DATE	Budget	£1,688	£307	(£2,157)	(£162)
	Actual	£1,815	£259	(£2,221)	(£146)
	Variance	£128	(£48)	(£64)	£16

Performance during the period has been in line with the budget plan with a minimal overall variance.

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Key Financial Target 2: to pay at least 95% of invoices within 30 days.

% Compliance	Current Month	Year to Date	Forecast Outturn
	70.4%	88%	>95%

Performance in the month is below the required target. Although this position has worsened in the month partly due to limited staff resources, the team have successfully recruited a band 4 member of staff (secondment) to the RD&I Finance team with a start date of November 2024. Processes continue to be reviewed to improve the position throughout the remainder of the year in order to achieve the forecast outturn. The continuation of the Trust Task & Finish Group will ensure performance is supported and RD&I will have representation to cascade measures and lessons resulting from the Group.

11.4 Analysis of Performance

Performance against pay and non-pay to the end of September is broadly in line with budget and there are no risks to be raised as part of this update.

The area of continued risk across the directorate is income. There is a significant income target of £4.6m for the 2024/25 financial year which includes an additional income target of £150k for increased commercial trials income. Whilst delivery is currently in line with target, this is an area that will continue to be closely monitored.

The trajectory of income received in year compared to historical trends is set out within the following RD&I Revenue Dashboard 2024-2025. The year-to-date position has also been included below:

Income Analysis by category:

Cumulative to date			
£64k above budget			
INCOME SUBJECTIVES	YTD	YTD	YTD
	Budget (£'000)	Actual (£'000)	Variance (£'000)
Clinical Trial Income	(£541)	(£553)	(£12)
Charity Income	(£900)	(£906)	(£6)
Welsh Gov	(£545)	(£549)	(£4)
WCRC & ECMC	(£92)	(£84)	£8
Grant/Lead sponsor income	(£80)	(£129)	(£49)
Total	(£2,157)	(£2,221)	(£64)

Income for the period is slightly higher than budget, this pattern is expected to continue to the end of the year.

11.5 Delivery of savings

The table set out in RD&I Revenue Dashboard 2024-2025 demonstrates that the 2024/25 savings plan to be delivered in full by the end of the year. Performance against current year savings target is high given that a robust programme of savings has been developed. The Directorate are currently expecting to deliver in full against savings targets, but these areas will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year.

11.6 Conclusion/ Key Actions

Budget holders have a delegated responsibility to ensure that they manage within their budgets.

The Trust Integrated Medium Term Plan (IMTP) submitted to Welsh Government required the Trust to deliver a savings plan of £2.606m, however following conclusion of the Long Term Agreements (LTAs) and the requirement to negotiate a settlement by the 30th July, the savings target was increased by £0.270m to £2.876m in order to help compensate for the loss of income from the LTA agreements and balance the overall financial position. Whilst the Division has been directly targeted with making savings of £0.230m, it is expected that all Directors work closely to ensure that collectively the Trust is able to deliver the overall targeted level and balance the overall Trust position.

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Date 26 November 2024
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11.7 RD&I Revenue Dashboard FY2024/25

Appendix 1 - Research, Development & Innovation 2024-25

Month 06 – September

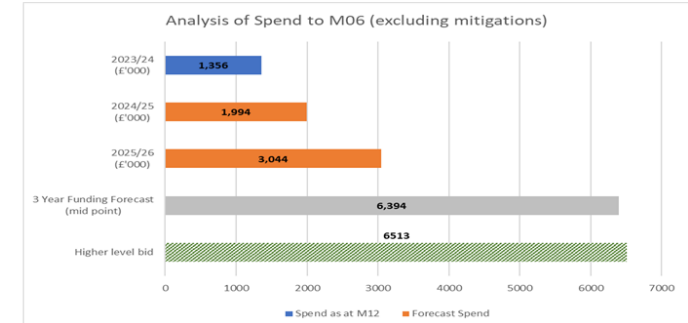
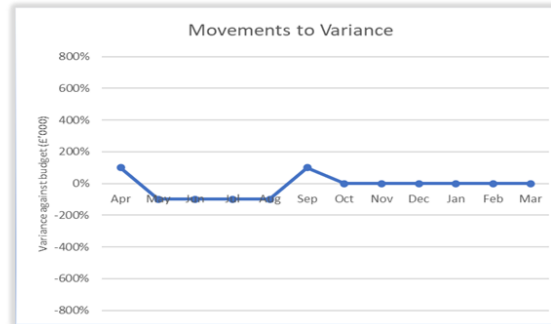
The following tables, charts and figures give an indication of the financial performance of the Directorate.

The figures and charts below highlight the performance against the 2024/25 targets.

Subjective	Cumulative Position M06			
	Annual Budget (£'000)	Budget £'000	Actual £'000	Variance £'000
Income	(4,596)	(2,157)	(2,221)	(64)
Pay	3,625	1,687	1,815	128
Non Pay	577	307	259	(48)
Grand Total	(394)	(163)	(146)	16

Income Summary

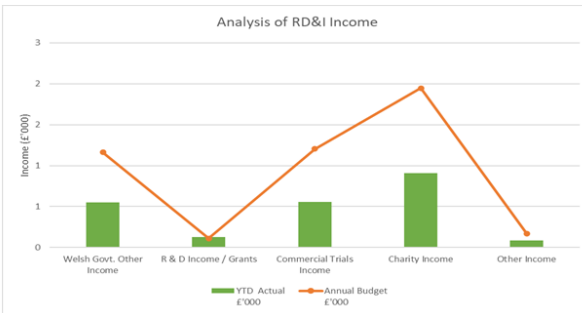
Subjective	Sum of Amount £'s			
	Annual Budget £'000	YTD Budget £'000	YTD Actual £'000	YTD Var £'000
Welsh Govt. Other Income	1,164	545	549	(4)
R & D Income / Grants	112	80	129	(49)
Commercial Trials Income	1,203	541	553	(12)
Charity Income	1,947	900	906	(6)
Other Income	170	92	84	8
Grand Total	4,596	2,157	2,221	(64)



The figures and charts below highlight the medium-term position and will be key in determining a strategic approach to financial planning.

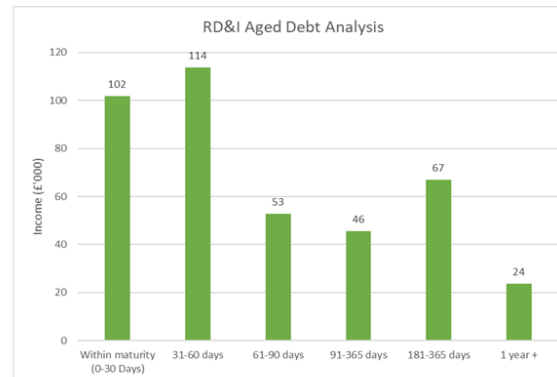
Payment of Invoices: to pay at least 95% of invoices within 30 days.

RD&I Saving Theme - Recurrent	Category	IMTP Target (£'000)	Savings Realised (£'000)	Variance (£'000)	Variation (%)
Commercial Income	Income	150	150	0	100%
Establishment Control	Pay	80	80	0	100%
Sub Total		230	230	0	



	Current Month	Year to Date	Forecast Outturn
% Compliance	70%	88%	>95%

Aged Debtors



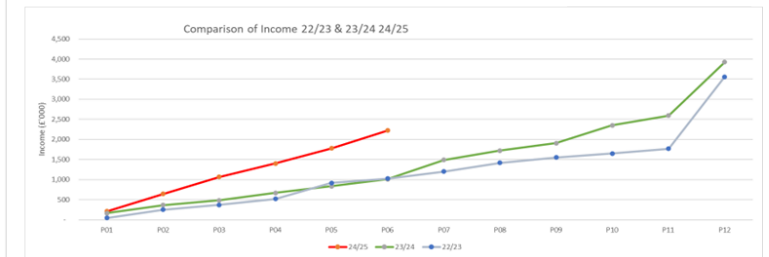
Recurring Budget Risks & Opportunities:

- Consider options to further explore commercial and other income in line with IMTP strategy
- Financial sustainability around level of posts funded via the charity – exit strategy to be developed
- Patient recruitment

IMTP Considerations:

- Progress made against £150k increase in commercial trials income plus additional vacancy factor of £80k - £230k total
- Mitigation of financial pressures and risks

2024-25 DELIVERY OF SAVINGS



Appendix A: Summary of RD&I Risk Profile

The following table summarises the risks for Research & Development from 01 April 2023. Risks are reviewed through the RD&I governance route as appropriate and only escalated to a higher level where the Controls / Action Plan are unable to reduce the risk to an acceptable level. The escalation of a risk, based on the risk score once the controls / action plans have been applied, is as follows:

Risk Score	Escalation group
15 or above	Executive Management Board (EMB) and RD&I Sub-Committee. These risks are the responsibility of the EMB and RD&I Sub-Committee to ensure effective management and resolution. Risks are further escalated to Trust Board, if the RD&I Sub-Committee determines the risk to require Trust Board involvement or is a Trust-wide issue and so out of scope of the Research & Development Service.
8 to 14	Review action at Research, Development, and Innovation Operational Management Group and close within 6 months.
4 to 7	Review action at Research, Development, and Innovation Operational Management Group and close within 12 months.
1 to 3	If agreed no further action, risk can be closed and re-assessed if there is a recurrence of the risk.

Risk Summary Table (Open Risks)

No	Risk ID	Risk Description	Date opened	Inherent Risk Score	Controls / Action Plan & Progress	Current / Target Risk Score	Status	Level of control	Lead
1.	2200	<p>The RADIO THERAPY SERVICE risk (Risk ID 2200) was made visible in Datix to the Research Service in March 2024. The risk has been assessed for impact on the Research Service’s ability to continue service delivery:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to meet the Trust’s existing contractual requirements to deliver clinical trials requiring patients to receive radiotherapy treatment. Capacity to offer patients opportunity to take part new clinical trials where they would receive radiotherapy treatment. <p>The controls / action plans put in place to address the Research Service’s aspects of this risk and their progress are described in the “Controls / Action Plan & Progress” column.</p> <p>The RADIO THERAPY SERVICE risk has an inherent risk score of 20 and has previously been escalated to the Trust Executive Management Board. The RADIO THERAPY risk is owned by that service and is described below for reference:</p> <p>RADIO THERAPY CAPACITY There is a risk to whole of Radiotherapy Performance and Service as a result of insufficient capacity within the current linear accelerator fleet, leading to the radiotherapy service being unable to meet the current and anticipated demand.</p> <p>The lack of sufficient capacity within the Radiotherapy service has had the following consequences:- Compliance risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An inability to maintain waiting times compliance. - Creation of waiting lists. - Inability to meet RCR clinical guidelines. <p>Patient safety risk</p>	01 May 2011	12	<p>06 Aug 2024.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Research Service is in regular communication with the Radiotherapy Service to discuss their capacity in managing existing clinical trials with radiotherapy treatment and meet Trust contractual requirements. This is achieved through a number of mechanisms: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Trust R&D Office representation on the Radiotherapy Trials Portfolio Group, which assess and discuss the impact of Radiotherapy Service changes on the delivery of existing clinical trials, allowing prioritisation discussions to take place. Regular meetings between the Head of R&D, Research Delivery Manager, and Superintendent Radiographer – R&D. <p>Through these mechanisms, the existing clinical trials with radiotherapy have been assessed and the Trust is able to meet its contractual requirements.</p> The Research Service’s Head of R&D and Research Delivery Manager are part of the established Radiotherapy Trials Solutions Group chaired by Dr Paul Shaw (Consultant Clinical Oncologist) that has made recommendations to improve the situation. Work is underway to implement and monitor these recommendations made by the group, to ensure that the Trust is able to set-up and deliver new clinical trials with radiotherapy treatment within the capacity constraints alongside the existing portfolio of trials; and aligned with the Radiotherapy’s service re-design as part of the Integrated Radiotherapy Solutions (IRS). <p>The above actions will allow the Trust to continue to deliver its current contracted portfolio of trials with radiotherapy treatment and offer patients opportunities to take part new trials aligned with the IRS development.</p>	8	Open	Research / Trials = Adequate	Radiotherapy Services Manager

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№	Risk ID	Risk Description	Date opened	Inherent Risk Score	Controls / Action Plan & Progress	Current / Target Risk Score	Status	Level of control	Lead
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patients will wait longer to start treatments resulting in possible poorer clinical outcomes, lack of symptom control and poor patient experience. <p>Reputational risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited service developments with a corresponding delay or inability to meet IMTP objectives. - Restricted ability to participate in clinical trials or research projects. - Issues with recruitment and retention of staff. 			<p>The Radiotherapy Service's IRS programme of work will see the implementation of a treatment and planning system supplied from a single vendor. Any changes resulting from the work that could affect the Trust's ability to deliver trials with radiotherapy treatment is considered through ongoing discussions with the Research Service and Clinical Teams.</p>				
2.	3186	<p>Recent vacancies in Velindre Cancer Centre's (VCC) means a possible slowing of research study set-up and patient recruitment is required, meaning a reduction in new studies opened and recruitment numbers. May also delay VCC Pharmacy's ability to support studies/service at Cardiff Cancer Research Hub (CCRH).</p>	22 Aug 2023	15	<p>15 Oct 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All vacancies have been recruited into. Progress to be reviewed in December 2024 following all staff being onboarded and training completed. 2. VCC Pharmacy and Trust R&D Office are collaborating on the prioritisation of research studies for set up and recruitment. <p>21 Aug 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Additional Pharmacist resource in place (0.4WTE Band 7 from general Pharmacy budget); individual is new to trials and will take time to upskill. 2. Principal Pharmacist for Clinical Trials recruited with a start date 4th November 2024. 3. BioNTech funded posts in final stages of recruitment. 4. No material reduction in risk as throughput of new trials remains restricted and a backlog has developed. <p>23 Apr 2024</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VCC Pharmacy have made appointments to vacant posts, and staff have begun with the organisation during March/April 2024. 2. VCC Pharmacy are in the process of training new appointments to support trial setup and delivery. 3. VCC Pharmacy and Trust R&D Office meet weekly to discuss the priority trials and the progress in returning the pharmacy service to full capacity. 4. Trust R&D Office continue to work with the site-specific teams to compile trial prioritisation list to aid prioritise the work for VCC Pharmacy. 5. VCC Pharmacy and Trust R&D Office to review the core pharmacy team staffing to support study set up and recruitment at a future time point. 	8	Open	Adequate	Chief Pharmacist

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No	Risk ID	Risk Description	Date opened	Inherent Risk Score	Controls / Action Plan & Progress	Current / Target Risk Score	Status	Level of control	Lead
3.	3252	Cardiff & Vale University Health Board (CVUHB) unable to keep up with Velindre University NHS Trust's (VUNHST) support requests for research study radiological biopsies.	09 Nov 2023	20	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continuing to set-up research studies where biopsies are optional or can be undertaken at Velindre Cancer Centre (VCC) 2. Continuing to set-up research studies with mandatory biopsies using support requests to CVUHB on a case-by-case basis. 3. Work ongoing with CVUHB Joint Research Office & CVUHB Radiology to resolve issue. 4. VUNHST R&D commercial radiology sessions supporting the identification of radiological biopsy requirements as part of study set-up. 5. VUNHST exploring support service agreements with other organisations. 	8	Open	Adequate	Head of R&D

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Risk Summary Table (Closed Risks)

No	Risk ID	Risk Description	Date opened	Inherent Risk Score	Controls / Action Plan & Progress	Current / Target Risk Score	Status	Level of control	Lead
1.	3251	Breach of confidential data when study participant data sent to Sponsor organisation via an unsecured electronic method.	18 Sep 2023	12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Staff ceased transmission of data until secure electronic portal in place and working. 2. Staff re-trained on Information Governance. 3. Staff training on use of secure electronic portal and importance of use. 4. Secure electronic transmission pathways to be set-up prior to recruitment of first participant for all future studies. 5. Sponsor organisation informed, corrective and preventive action (CAPA) log completed with study file note shared with Sponsor and entered into Investigator Site File. 	3	Closed	Adequate	Senior Research Nurse Manager
2.	3250	Loss of minus-80 Celsius freezer integrity in Clinical Research Treatment Unit (CRTU).	28 Jun 2023	12	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Immediate action to re-locate frozen samples to Welsh Blood Service (WBS) facilities. 2. Informed all sponsor organisations of freezer integrity loss and to arrange sample shipment. 3. Worked with freezer maintenance company on identifying fault and restarting freezer. 4. Updating sample management procedures, re-trained staff on processes, and ensuring timely shipment of samples to Sponsors, limiting numbers of samples on site. 5. Sponsor organisations informed, corrective and preventive action (CAPA) log completed with study file notes shared with Sponsors and entered into Investigator Site Files. 6. To collaborate with Welsh Blood Service (WBS) to implement a business continuity plan. 	4	Closed	Adequate	Research Delivery Manager
3.	3249	Trial sub-investigator consented study participant without being signed off on delegation list or study training log.	11 Jul 2023	9	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Having returned from maternity leave, Sub-Investigator re-instated on delegation logs and completing required training logs. 2. Principal Investigator(s) countersigning relevant delegation logs and training logs. 3. Sponsor organisation informed, corrective and preventive action (CAPA) log completed with study file note shared with Sponsor and entered into Investigator Site File. 4. Trust R&D Office regularly reminds all Principal Investigators of importance for all delegated staff to complete delegation logs and training logs. 5. Standard Operating Procedure to be updated to address re-instatement of delegation and study training on returning from extended leave. 	3	Closed	Adequate	Research Delivery Manager

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Cardiff Cancer Research Ambitions

Progress update

RD&I Subcommittee
November 2024

Cardiff Sandra
15/12/2024 16:00:29



Ref: RD02

Overarching Cancer Research and Development Ambitions 2021-31

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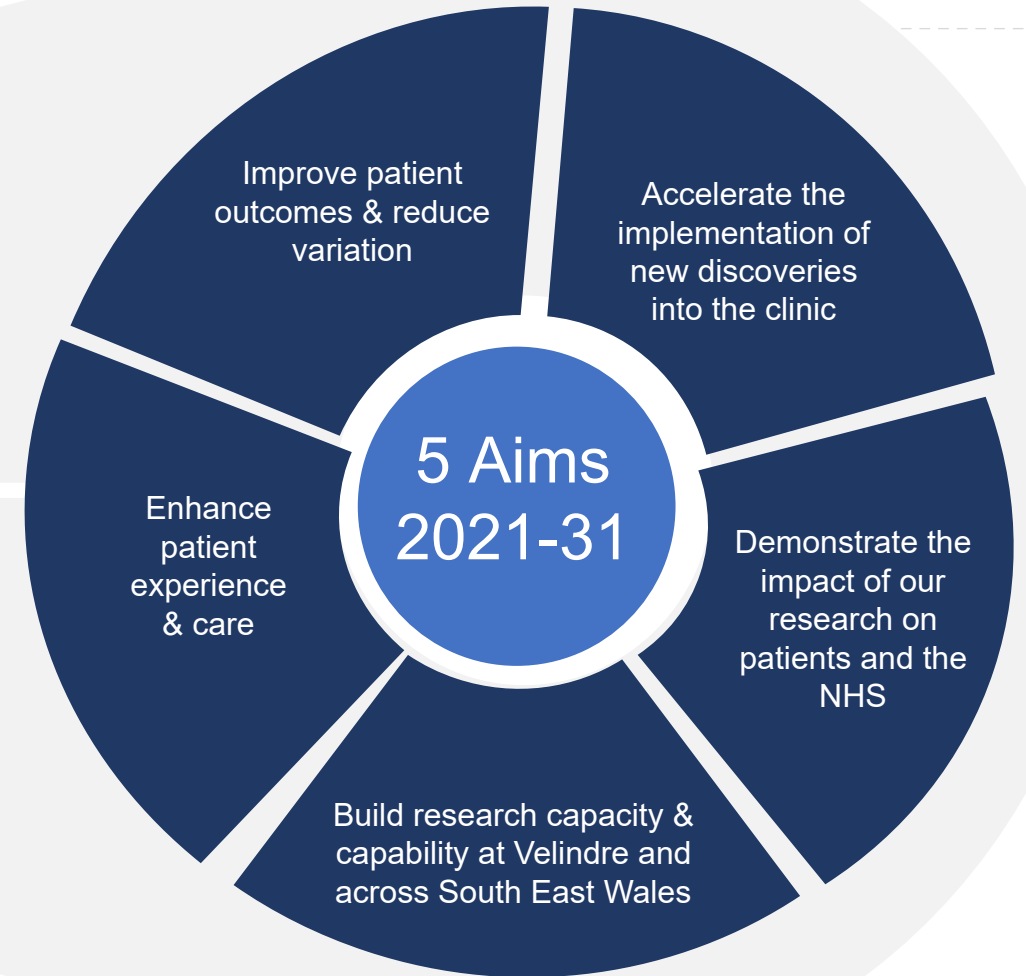
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Mission

To become a leader in cancer research nationally & internationally, transforming the culture of our organisation into one where every patient and every staff member who wants to engage with research has the opportunity to do so.

Vision

Our vision is to work with patients and partners to design & deliver excellent research that improves the survival & enhances the lives of cancer patients living in Wales & beyond.



Velindre University NHS Trust

Research & Development Themes

Putting patients first & center of everything we do

Advancing new treatments, interventions & care

Driving translational research through connecting the Lab & Clinic

Embedding research & innovation within the organisational culture & structure

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Velindre Cancer R&D Ambitions Strategy 2021-31 : why do we need it?

- Identifies priorities – what everyone should spend at least some of their time working on
- Articulates where we want to reach by 2031
 - Helps with alignment (everyone paddling in broadly the same direction)
 - Helps with prioritising where to allocate resources

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The Plan for Delivering the Strategy

1) Translate the strategy into an action plan

- This is what actions we'll do to achieve the strategy
- Being clear on how we'll define & measure progress & success

2) Track progress

- Identify which actions / aims / objectives are we likely to deliver to timescale

3) Answer Key Strategic Planning Questions

- If we carry on as we are, will we deliver the strategy in its entirety?
- If not, which parts won't be delivered 100% and why? How would we change this?
- The world has changed since 2021. Do any strategic objectives need to change too?

4) Take Decisions:

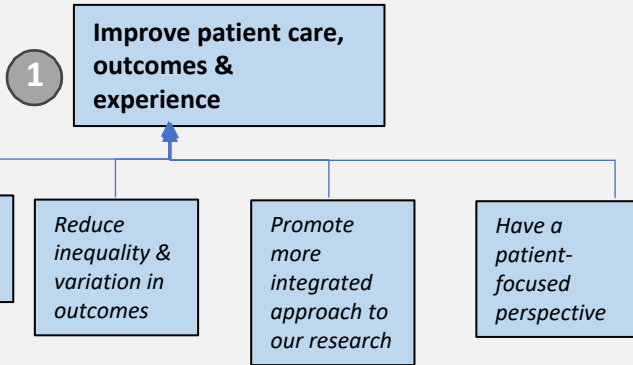
- a) Close gaps or fix issues
 - Do something differently
 - Allocate extra resources (money, staff time) or apply for funds
- b) Review the strategy

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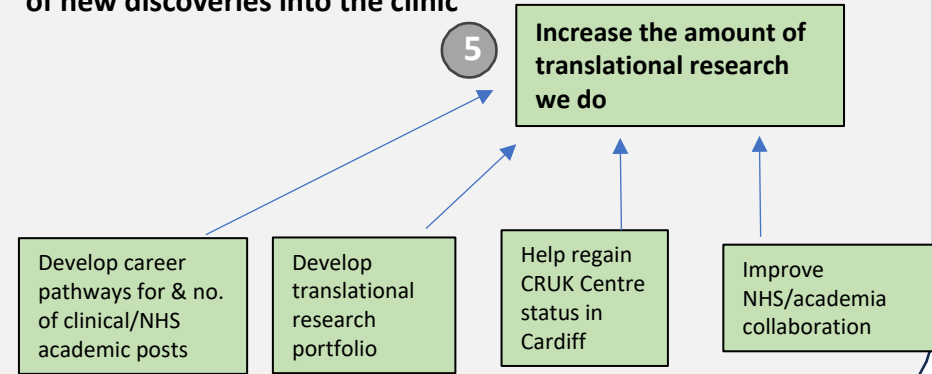
Velindre's Cancer Research & Development Ambitions Strategy

Aim A: Enhance patient experience & care

Aim B: Improve patient outcomes & reduce variation



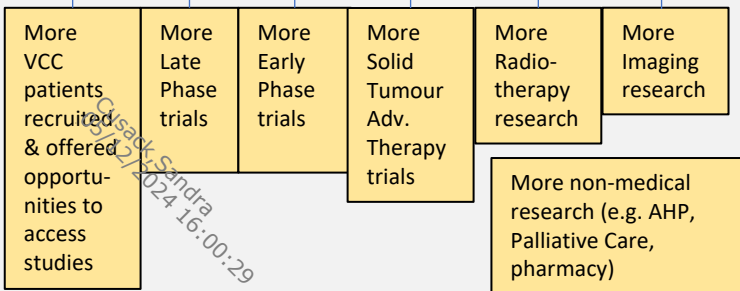
Aim C: Accelerate the implementation of new discoveries into the clinic



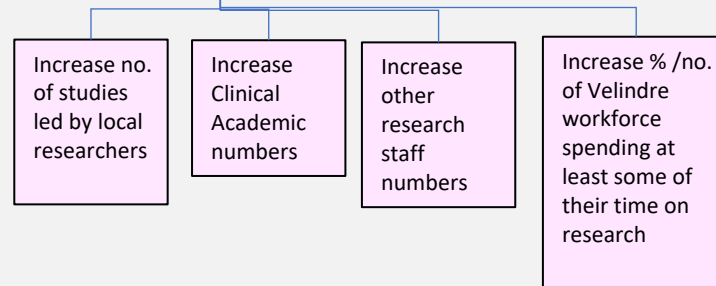
Aim E: Build research capacity and capability at Velindre and across South East Wales

Aim D: Demonstrate the impact of our research on patients and the NHS

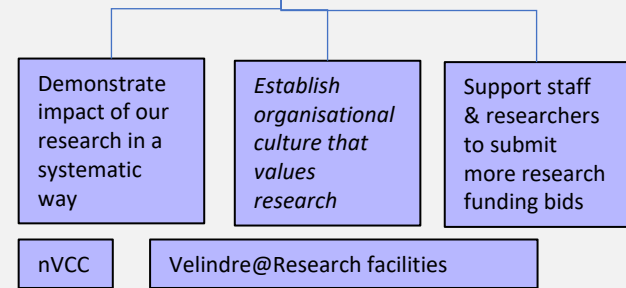
2 **Increase the number of trials, research & patients recruited**



3 **Increase the number of researchers & research-active staff**



4 **Create a supporting infrastructure to enable us to do more research**



Aim E: ...across South East Wales

Operate at a strategic level outside Vel. R&D

Work with wider VUNHST & its Charity

Work with external partners

UHBs	Industry	HEIs
Govt.	3 rd sector	Others

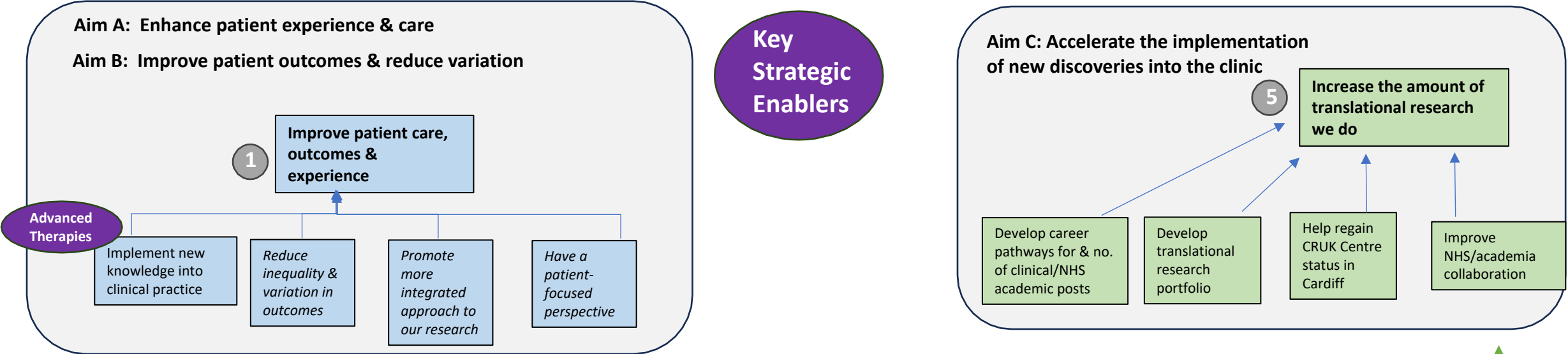
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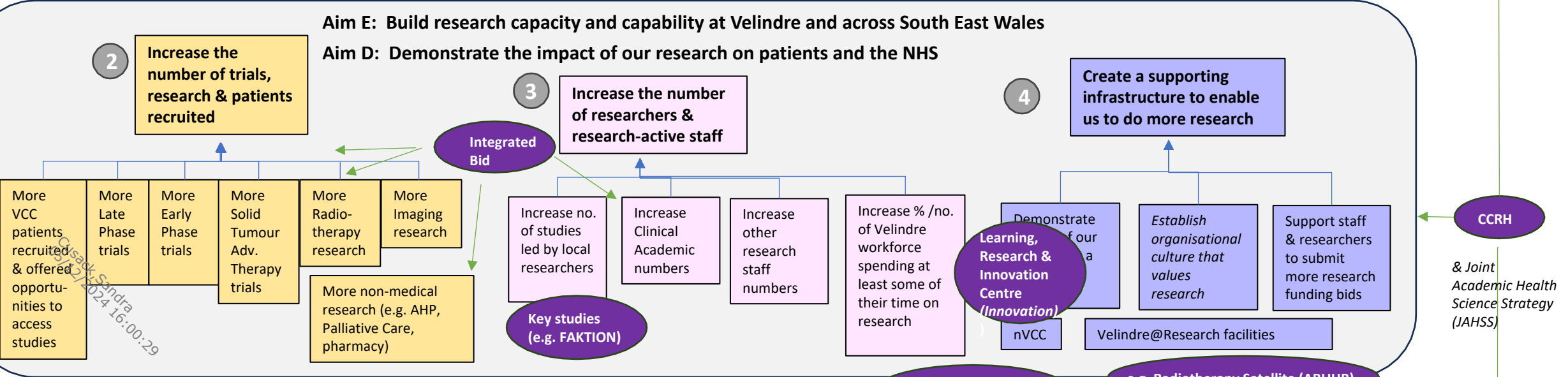
Key Strategic Enablers

Aim C: Accelerate the implementation of new discoveries into the clinic



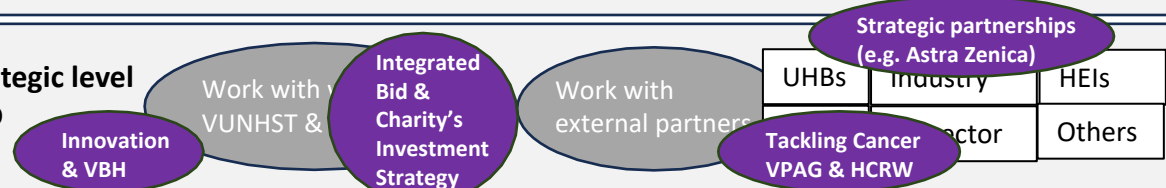
Aim E: Build research capacity and capability at Velindre and across South East Wales

Aim D: Demonstrate the impact of our research on patients and the NHS



Aim E: ...across South East Wales

Operate at a strategic level outside Vel. R&D



& Joint Academic Health Science Strategy (JAHSS)

1) Translate the strategy into an action plan

- Initial action plan completed – currently being updated

2) Track progress

- Initial draft of progress update on the Strategy's 80+ deliverables (RAG rating)
- Identify areas of strong progress, and areas where progress is slower than anticipated
- Present to OMG (& SLT, SLG etc.) and discuss:
 - Does it accurately capture progress?
 - Are additional/different actions needed? (e.g. commit resources to overcome challenges or take advantage of progress made)

3) Present Key Assurance Information to RD&I Sub Committee & others

- If we deliver on our plan, will the strategy be delivered in its entirety?
- If not, which parts won't be delivered 100% and why? What is the risk & likely impact?
- Recommendations and key decisions needed

4) Ask Decision makers to take key decisions:

- a) Close gaps, mitigate risks or take advantage of opportunities identified
 - Do something differently
 - Allocate extra resources (money, staff time) or apply for funds
- b) Update elements of the strategy
- c) Escalate within Trust's governance structure

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Information to be available by the next RD&I SubCommittee meeting

- 1) RAG rated summary of progress against the strategy
 - Breakdown of particular area(s) of the strategy can be provided

- 2) Key risks risks & blockages (plus mitigating actions)
 - escalated issues & risks

- 3) Areas of strong performance & key opportunities

- 4) Decisions needed & recommendations

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Hwb
Ymchwil
Canser
Caerdydd

Cardiff
Cancer
**Research
Hub**



Cardiff Cancer Research Hub

Update



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CCRH – a partnership between three organisations to develop a collective front door to cancer research

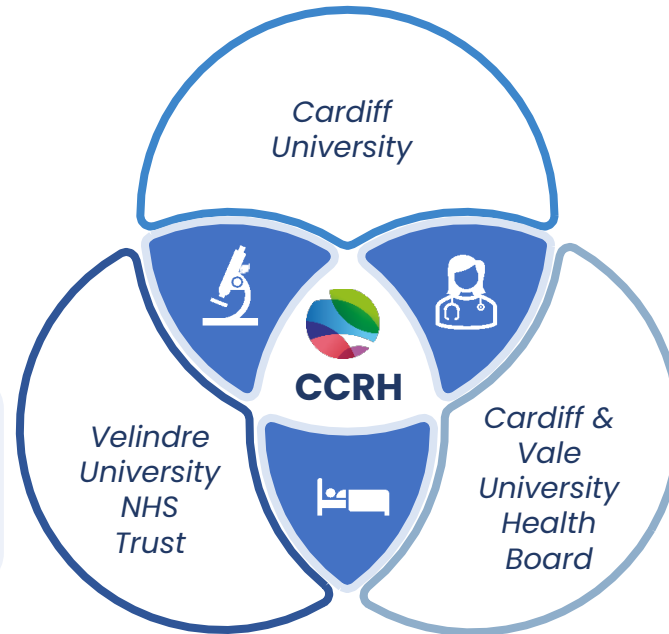
A partnership combining **world class academic and clinical capabilities** in cancer research, development and innovation, from across the university and NHS to provide a **holistic bench-to-bed cancer research pathway**.



Wales' only Russell Group university with a diverse cancer research and innovation portfolio focused on accelerating the transition from lab to clinic.



A **specialist NHS provider** focused on delivering **non-surgical tertiary oncology services** to 1.5m patients through its dedicated Cancer Centre.



International reputation for **pioneering clinical research**, including its tertiary centre for Blood Cancer treatment in Wales with a large portfolio of commercial and non-commercial trials and level 3 transplantation centre.

Recommended by the Nuffield Trust as a key development alongside building nVCC – to deliver complex and novel treatments that can't be given in Velindre over on UHW site with access to HDU/ITU etc , and build a translational research portfolio with Uni colleagues.

Vision of The Cardiff Cancer Research Hub



Vision: *A new, world-class specialist Hub in Wales translating current cancer research into better lives for patients.*



Patient recruitment and sample storage

Drawing on our connections with Health Boards across Wales to provide access to a population of 3.4 million people for clinical trials and resulting patient samples.



Collaborative clinical trials

Running holistic and complex clinical trials (from phase 1 to phase 4) using our purposefully designed facilities to support commercial and non-commercial trials.



Facilitating Industry, Healthcare & Government

Integrated partnership working with Pharma, Health Boards, Trusts and Government to streamline the 'drug to market' process (including regulatory and commissioning).



Translational Bench-to-Bed research

Collaborative approaches to drive 'bench-to-bed' translational research (from pre-phase to phase 4) for novel therapies and hypotheses.



Cusack Sandra
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CCRH: An opportunity to accelerate the discovery and delivery of new cancer treatments in Wales

Cancer research is **priority area across government, healthcare and pharmaceuticals**, in Wales and beyond.



Cancer research, innovation and equity & accessibility, a Welsh government priority.

Welsh Government's 2023-35 Public Health strategy cancer research commitment.



Research-active hospitals lead to lower mortality rates.

Extensive research evidences improved care experience and outcomes for cancer patients.



Pharmaceuticals industry actively investing in cancer research.

Through evolution of trial landscape, cancer candidate pipeline and availability of data.

By bringing academia, clinical professionals, government and industry stakeholders together, the Cardiff Cancer Research Hub can deliver unique benefits:



Improved patient outcomes due to increased access to research for cancer patients in Wales



A **research pipeline** that meets **growing** patient and industry **demand for novel trials**



Greater collaboration to **streamline bench-to-bed progress** and **improve speed** of research trials



Reduced health inequalities for cancer patients in Wales



Bolder, more innovative approaches to solid tumour and haematology research



A **future-focused Cancer workforce** in Wales to drive new drug advances

Cusack-Sandra
05/12/2024 16:00:29

CCRH Programme Structure



Executive

Partnership Board

Overall responsibility for CCRH decision making. Link to Joint Academic Health Science Strategy

Oversight

Project Board

Operational oversight of CCRH. Oversees Service Groups & Enabling Workstream

Operations

2 Service Groups oversee Trials & Research
Groups meet as a joint group every 3rd meeting

Clinical Operations Group
Operational management of CCRH's trials portfolio

Discovery & Translational Research Group
Builds CCRH's pre-trial research portfolio

Enabling

5 Enabling Workstreams

Finance and investment
How money flows around CCRH, joint finance processes, investment strategy

Communication & engagement
CCRH website, marketing materials, comms & engagement strategy

Infrastructure
Business cases for new CCRH building at UHW

Workforce, training & education
Joint workforce processes, workforce planning & widening pipeline of clinical/academic workforce

Partnership working arrangements
Partnership agreement, joint / aligned processes

PMO

Business Case, Programme co-ordination

- **Heads of Terms and high-level draft partnership model agreed, outlining how the CCRH operates**

These are being developed into a detailed Partnership Agreement.

- Velindre will lead trials it hosts or does the most work on.
- Velindre will be the 'banker' and continue to host the PMO function.
- Annual subscription from each partner for core CCRH staff (amount tbc). Surplus income from CCRH activity will also fund core team.
- Exploring bringing CCRH under the Joint Academic Health Science Strategy (JAHSS) structure.
 - Funding & influencing opportunities (e.g. government, industry)
- **CCRH's trial portfolio continuing to grow**
 - 2 trials open (5 patients already treated) and 3 trials in set up (plus 13 further trials supported by CCRH team).
 - Many of these trials represent 'firsts in Wales'.
- **CCRH's discovery & translational research function is now operational**
 - Overseen by a Discovery & Translational Research group:
 - Aim is to increase discovery & translational research pipeline (e.g. progressing from CU labs into VUNHST & CAVUHB trials)
 - First large regional research funding bids being created (MRC Centre of Research Excellence programme).
 - Other priorities: new (clinical) Fellowships, speeding up patient samples to researchers, aligning capital plans, regional working around data.

A supplier has been procured to create the **CCRH's website**. This will be the 'front door' for the CCRH. Website aims to launch in Qtr 4.

- There are 3 solid tumour and 1 haemato-oncology CCRH Clinical Research Fellows in post, all doing MDs.
 - These jointly funded posts between Velindre and the Wales Cancer Research Centre illustrate how we are **building research infrastructure capacity** in Wales.

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Open Trials	Phase	Drug Type	Type	Collaborating Teams	Delivery Clinical Area	Target No	Opened
Morab	I/II	Antibody Drug Conjugate	Ovarian Endometrial	CCRH and C&V CRF	C&V CRF	Target 2 Recruited 1	April 2023 – on hold for next phase
Monumental 6	III	Bi-Specific	Myeloma	CCRH and C&V Haem CRG	CRF, Haem B4 Ward	Target 5 Recruited 3	March 2024

Trials in Set up	Phase	Drug Type	Type	Collaborating Teams	Delivery Clinical Area	Target No	Planned start date
Iovance	III	TILs	Melanoma	CCRH and C&V CRG and BMT	VCC IP Ward, C&V surgery, BMT	2	Oct 2024 – will be delayed
ATTR-01	I/II	ATMP – Oncolytic Virus Vaccine	PDAC, CRC, NSCLC, H&N, gastric, ovarian, urothial	CCRH and C&V CRF	C&V CRF	8-10	Jan 2025
BOXR1030	I/II	CAR-T	Multiple tumour sites	C&V BMT and CCRH	PACU	2	Delayed

Cusack, Sandra
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CCRH/BioNTech Pipeline as of 15 October 2024



CCRH Research Hub Fellows Early Phase Study Support on CRF

Open Trials	Phase	Drug Type	Type	Collaborating Teams	Delivery Clinical Area	Target No	Opened
BNT113	II	ATMP mRNA vaccine	H&N	CCRH and VCC EP Team	VCC CRTU	3	17/04/24
BNT327-01	II	Next generation immune checkpoint modulators	NSCLC	CCRH and VCC EP Team	VCC CRTU	2	15/09/24

Trials in Set up	Phase	Drug Type	Type	Collaborating Teams	Delivery Clinical Area	Target No	Planned Start
BNT116	I	ATMP mRNA vaccine	NSCLC	CCRH and C&V CRF	CRF C&V	6	Nov 2024

Potential Studies	Phase	Drug Type	Type	Collaborating Teams	Delivery Clinical Area	Target No	Planned Start
BNT 327-03	III	Next generation immune checkpoint modulators	NSCLC 1L	CCRH and VCC LP Team	VCC CRTU	TBC	TBC
BNT327-07	II	Next generation immune checkpoint modulators	NSCLC 2L	CCRH and VCC EP Team	VCC CRTU	2-3	Feb/Mar 2025
DB-1303	III	Antibody drug conjugate	Breast	CCRH and VCC LP Team	VCC CRTU	TBC	EOI stage
BNT326-01	I/II	Antibody drug conjugate	Solid Tumours	CCRH and C&V CRF	CRF C&V	TBC	SSV Oct25

Trial Name	PI
ProMMise	Ceri Bygraves
DTP3	Ceri Bygraves
Agave	Wendy Ingram
Cellcentric	Steve Knapper
Incyte INCBOO928-104	Steve Knapper
CPI	Steve Knapper



Minutes

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

Date 17/09/2024
Time 12.30 – 1.30pm
Location Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff
Chair Professor Andrew Westwell, Independent Member

PRESENT		
Professor 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
Annie Evans	Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience	AE
Non Gwilym	Interim Director of Corporate Governance	LF
Jennet Holmes	Head of Innovation	JH
Rhydian Owen	Cancer R&D Strategy Lead	RO
Professor Robert Jones	Associate Medical Director for Research, Development & Innovation	RJ
Dr Edwin Massey	Medical Director, Welsh Blood Service	EM
Sarah Townsend	Head of R&D	ST
SECRETARIAT		
Sandra Cusack	Business Support Officer	SMC

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1.0	PRELIMINARY MATTERS	
1.1	Welcome and Introduction <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee Chair</i>	
1.2	Apologies Received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Donna Mead, Trust Chair • Christopher Cotterill-Jones, Research Delivery Manager • Lindsay Foyster, Independent Member • Amie Garwood-Pask, Deputy Head of Finance Business Partnering • Professor Jane Hopkinson, Velindre Cancer Service Professor of Nursing and Interdisciplinary Cancer Care • Carys Morgan, Clinical Director, Velindre Cancer Service • Nicola Williams (Deputising Annie Evans, Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient) • Carl Taylor, Chief Digital Officer 	
1.3	In Attendance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annie Evans, Deputy Director of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience (Deputising for Nicola Williams) 	
1.4	Declarations of Interest <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i> No declarations of interest were raised.	
2.0	STANDARD BUSINESS	
2.1	Minutes from the Private Research, Development & Innovation Committee held on the 14th May 2024 <i>Led by Professor Andrew Westwell, Chair of the Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee</i> The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee APPROVED the Minutes of the Private Meeting held on the 14th May 2024 as an accurate reflection of proceedings.	
2.2	Review of Action Log <i>Led by Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director and RD&I Lead</i> There were no outstanding actions for review.	
2.3	Matters Arising	

	<p><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>Business Case : Innovation Small Grant Scheme <i>Led by Jennet Holmes, Head of Innovation</i></p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee ENDORSED the project as described for onward approval. The Committee agreed to support the business case as presented and the Advancing Radiotherapy Fund Board and the Charitable Funds Committee have been notified of this decision.</p>	
3.2	<p>BUSINESS CASE: Maximising cancer patient health outcomes and quality of life through further enhancing the Trust's critical mass and succession planning for research <i>Led by Professor Robert Jones, Associate Medical Director for Research, Development & Innovation</i></p> <p>The Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee ENDORSED the project as described for onward approval. The Committee agreed to support the business case as presented and the Charitable Funds Committee have been notified of this decision.</p>	
4.0	CONSENT AGENDA	
4.1	Consent - For Approval / Endorsement	
	There are currently no items for approval / endorsement.	
4.2	Consent - For Information / Noting	
	There are currently no items for information / noting.	
5.0	ANY OTHER BUSINESS	
	There were no additional items of business brought for discussion.	
6.0	DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING	
6.1	The Private Research, Development & Innovation Sub-Committee will next meet on the 10th December 2024 from 12.30-1.00pm at Trust Headquarters, 2 Charnwood Court, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff.	
7.0	CLOSE	