

Chief Executive Officer Report to the Board January 2020

Part 1 Public session

1. Our Business Case submission to the Department of Health & Social Care (DHSC) for additional funding this year to help us manage increased workload associated with the Research Systems development and core service provision has resulted in a transitional funding award for the 2020/2021 financial year. This funding is welcomed as it will allow us to continue work on a small number of business-critical projects which will deliver tangible benefits to applicants and staff. This includes work associated with the forthcoming Clinical Trials Regulation e.g. the Combined Ways of Working (CWOW) Project, proportionality work on amendments and student research and a number of strands of priority work in the Transparency Strategy.
2. We recently held a planning day to identify the top 5 business priority projects for 2020. This year we asked all directorates and teams to put forward business cases into this process where we would need to allocate resources. This is in addition to a number of other pieces of work that are already in progress e.g. the move to Stratford and the replacement of the ATOS support service. Further work is in train to prioritise the remainder of the business cases but the reality is that we will still have to reduce the amount of activity across the HRA and to invest in projects which release capacity and resources.
3. The additional transitional funding for Integrated Research Application System (IRAS) replacement will support the next phase of this work which allows us to develop beyond the minimal viable product for Clinical Trials, to retain expertise and to start planning out IRAS changes associated with Transparency.
4. We were disappointed to see a reduction in applicant/customer satisfaction scores over the last reporting period. This appears to be associated with our ability to resolve immediate phone call requests to provide updates on studies due to staff availability. We are currently in the process of developing an action plan to address this, but it is a direct consequence of a reduced establishment.
5. We have been continuing to work with colleagues in DHSC to secure funding for the next phase of the IRAS build through an updated business case submission. It had been hoped that we would have completed the revised business case ahead of this board meeting but this has not been possible and we are currently working with the appropriate agency to establish a new timeframe.

6. The current phase of the new IRAS build is on track and we aim to deploy the first part of the platform into the live environment to be piloted by a select cohort of researchers by the end of February.
7. We have recently procured resources to run a parallel Research Systems workstream within the IRAS build and the Induction process for the team started this week. A new team of additional contractors came on board the week starting 27th January and are based in the Skipton House Office which is now close to full occupancy

Recent external Engagement Activity (reduced external activity due to time off during this period)

	Purpose of Meeting	Outcome
Meeting with NHSX and CEOs of regulators assessing Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data across NHS	To seek agreement for a collaborative approach to regulation which supports data use and the regulation of AI	The group agreed some common ambition, agreed that Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) would take the lead on devices regulation. There will be a requirement to identify specific research into this area and prioritisation of resource
Call with David Seymour Health Data Research UK (HDRUK)	To share information on Interoperability work and CWOW IRAS development	This work will be considered in the light of a wider proposal being drafted by HDRUK with HRA involvement.
Meeting with Aisling Burnard and Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)	Regular catch up meeting to discuss up and coming changes and strategic objectives	Further meeting to be set up with Lord Sharkey. TA to advise on business cases where will would benefit from AMRC support.
Newcastle 1 Research Ethics Committee (REC)	Meeting with REC members to hear feedback on HRA support to REC and areas of potential improvement	Useful discussion on retention and recruitment of new members
Meeting with Matt Westmore and Owen Gower UK Council for	To discuss areas where there would be benefit in working together to	Some agreement around the options for specific pieces of work.

Graduate Education (UKGE)	progress the work on student research	
Regular catch up meetings with CEOs & Directors in National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)	To keep each other updated on specific projects and initiatives	Updates this month included details of changes in key personnel at NIHR and an update on the Patient Recruitment centres