

Trust Board Report

Meeting Date:	Monday 23 rd September 2013
Title:	Research and Development Host
Executive Summary:	This report confirms the outcome of the process led by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) to select the Host of the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (LCRN)
Action Requested:	Trust Board are asked to note the report
Report of:	Director of Planning and Contracting
Author: Contact Details:	Director of Planning and Contracting Maxine.espley@nhs.net
Resource Implications:	The financial information received to date indicates that the LCRN Host will hold a contract to deliver in the region of £30 million for R&D activity across the West Midlands.
Public or Private: (with reasons if private)	Public
References: (eg from/to other committees)	
Appendices/ References/ Background Reading	
NHS Constitution: (How it impacts on any decision-making)	<p>In determining this matter, the Board should have regard to the Core principles contained in the Constitution of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✦ Equality of treatment and access to services ✦ High standards of excellence and professionalism ✦ Service user preferences ✦ Cross community working ✦ Best Value ✦ Accountability through local influence and scrutiny

Background Details

1.

Introduction

The Board received reports in April 2013 and June 2013 outlining the way in which the funding, co-ordination and performance management of Research and Development (R&D) in NHS/Foundation Trusts was to be revised. As a result of the changes proposed by the Department of Health (DoH) a national competitive process was launched led by the NIHR to select 15 Host organisations to manage and co-ordinate research activity across the Country.

RWT submitted an application to the NIHR to Host the West Midlands LCRN. The process involved the submission of two separate applications demonstrating the experience of the Trust and the way in which we would undertake the role of Host. This was followed in July 2013 by a presentation to a national selection panel.

Through this process the Trust was able to demonstrate a strong commitment to R&D, experience of successfully delivering significant change programmes and a culture of working in partnership.

2.

Outcome

On the 3rd September 2013 the DoH announced that RWT had been selected as the Host organisation for the West Midlands LCRN. The West Midlands is to be the largest clinical network in the Country leading research activity in the region of £30m.

The Trust has demonstrated a strong commitment to R&D over a number of years and in 2013 received national recognition for the increased amount of medical studies delivered year on year. The selection as Host provides RWT with a fantastic opportunity to further raise our profile as a significant contributor to the R&D agenda and to work with other Trusts to raise the level of R&D activity across the whole of the West Midlands Region.

3.

Next steps

The NIHR expect all new Host arrangements to be in place by the 1st April 2014. This will involve the transfer of the existing networks into the newly formed West Midlands LCRN including TUPE of some staff members. To support this work the NIHR has appointed a Transition Manager to work with the Trust over the coming months.

On the 23rd September 2013, the CEO and Director of Planning and Contracting will be attending the national launch meeting for the 15 successful Hosts and further details on the transition period and the Host contract are expected to be made available at this stage.

The appointed Trusts/Foundation Trusts are:

- Barts Health NHS Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: North Thames)
- Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Greater Manchester)

- Guys' and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: South London)
- Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: North West London)
- Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Eastern)
- Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Thames Valley and South Midlands)
- Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: South West Peninsula)
- Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: North West Coast)
- Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Kent, Surrey and Sussex)
- Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Yorkshire and Humber)
- The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: North East and North Cumbria)
- The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: West Midlands)
- University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: Wessex)
- University Hospitals Bristol Foundation Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: West of England)
- University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust (host for the Clinical Research Network: East Midlands)

Dr Jonathan Sheffield, Chief Executive of the NIHR Clinical Research Network, said:

"The 15 host organisations announced today are truly outstanding in their commitment to clinical research, and I very much look forward to working with them as we take our remit forward."

A detailed work plan was developed as part of our selection submission and this will now be taken forward by the Executive Team. This includes the establishment of a Partnership Board consisting of all Trusts across the West Midlands Region to ensure strong governance arrangements are in place. It is expected that the Partnership Board will report to the Trust Board and have senior representation including the Trust nominated Executive and Non-Executive leads.

Recruitment to a number of key posts will also be required as set out by the NIHR, these include a Chief Operating Officer and a Clinical Director for the Host function. The NIHR is developing job descriptions for these positions and will expect to be involved in these important appointments. One of the clear expectations of the Host will be to ensure appropriate governance exists to separate the Host function from the Trusts internal R&D department and therefore the timely appointment to the new positions is critical.

4. Summary and Recommendations

The decision by the DoH and the NIHR to select RWT as the Host for the West Midlands LCRN is significant and provides the organisation with a fantastic opportunity to further enhance and develop our reputation as a leading contributor to the research, innovation and life sciences industry agenda.

The Board are asked to note the report and to receive a further progress report in November 2013.