

Research and Innovation

Strategy Summary

2023-28

What is research and innovation, and why does it matter?

Health research and innovation in the NHS

Research helps healthcare professionals - like doctors, nurses and physiotherapists – find out the best ways to care for the people they are looking after.

Research and innovation can:

- Find new and better ways of preventing, diagnosing and treating diseases
- Test new approaches that could improve the lives of people receiving health care
- Look at the costs and benefits of making changes in the community, for example, introducing exercise programmes or screening for cancer in certain age groups
- Help us understand how the NHS can run more efficiently.

Research and innovation at Leicester's Hospitals

Leicester's Hospitals is one of the biggest research and teaching hospitals in England. At any one time, we have around 950 active research studies, and recruit around 12,000 people to take part every year.

We work across the whole spectrum of health, from emergency medicine to stroke, maternity care to musculo-skeletal disorders, and much more. We look after people of all ages, from the tiniest babies on our neo-natal units to our oldest patients in our 'care of the elderly' wards.

Our research is world-class: we are recognised as a leading centre for many health conditions, such as diabetes, cancer, and lung and heart diseases. We are fortunate to have the experts and equipment to drive positive changes in many branches of medicine, and receive large investments from the UK Government to make sure we can continue to deliver research for the benefit of patients.

Both research and clinical practice spark innovations that can improve healthcare. Examples of these in Leicester include the world's first virtual ward for patients with atrial fibrillation; an education programme for children newly diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and a project to test the ability of artificial intelligence to detect abnormalities on chest x-rays.

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Our Vision

To be a leader in delivering outstanding healthcare research fully integrated into clinical services that translates rapidly into service improvements and novel education programmes for the benefit of patients, public and staff.

How we will do it. Our strategy is split into 4 distinct areas:

Patients and Public



Research and innovation cannot take place without participants and public contributors

We will:

- Increase opportunities for patients to take part in research studies
- Support patients and members of the public to help us shape our research and set priorities
- Make it easier for people from under-served communities to access research
- Give all research participants the opportunity to feedback on their experiences and help us improve.

Place, People and Partners



High-quality research is a product of our staff, our full hospital services and our partner organisations

We will:

- Work hard to embed research and innovation in how we deliver care at Leicester's Hospitals
- Develop research talent across all professions – doctors, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals; and offer clearer career pathways for research delivery and support staff
- Help create a consistent research framework for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland through leadership and governance.

Performance and Delivery



Research is a regulated activity to make sure that patients are kept safe, which is balanced with a need to open trials quickly so patients can access potentially life-changing treatments as soon as possible

We will:

- Invest in our support staff so more trials can be opened as quickly as possible
- Work with partners so that our research offices are joined up to support researchers working across different organisations
- Set ambitious goals for trial recruitment to time and target
- Increase our efficiency by streamlining our study set-up processes.

Opportunity for Innovation



The NHS is a rich source of ideas to improve the ways we deliver care that benefit patients, staff and the wider community

We will:

- Work with our partners to develop IT systems that improve access to healthcare data for research purposes
- Create innovation challenges for our staff with funding available to support the best ideas
- Use our new intellectual property policy to good effect so both our staff and the Trust benefit from innovations.

Get Involved

Contact us: Rladmin@uhl-tr.nhs.uk / 0116 258 8351

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