

NHS GRAMPIAN

Our Commitment to Research: 2019-2023

1. Actions Recommended

The Board is asked to approve the report “Our Commitment to Research: 2019-2023”, a collaboration with the University of Aberdeen (UoA) and the Robert Gordon University (RGU).

2. Strategic Context

A key area of the Board’s longer-term strategy is to be a leader in research and innovation. This can only be achieved through more effective collaboration with external organisations, especially with our closest academic partners UoA and RGU.

Health and social care organisations face unprecedented challenges that require transformation and innovation at scale. Given the challenges being faced, research and innovation will be an essential element in the delivery of our clinical strategy, and in solving current and future healthcare challenges here in Scotland and beyond.

3. Key matters relevant to recommendation

The primary aim of this document is to signal our commitment to collaborate with the UoA and RGU, seeking to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for our community and beyond through increasing our high quality research and innovation activity. It is well established that NHS organisations that conduct more high-quality research have better health outcomes and are better able to recruit and retain staff than those who conduct less.

In the North East we have exceptional research resources and expertise, and excellent modern facilities on our integrated health campus at Foresterhill. Although our current resources are very good, NHS Grampian can further develop existing areas of activity and open new topic areas. A clinical research facility and improved data science architecture and permission processes will inevitably result in greater levels of translational research at the cutting edge of healthcare and science. However, there is also substantial potential for NHS Grampian to integrate high quality research methodology into larger transformation and improvement science programmes. It is also important to us that our community can access more complex research trials.

Relationships between NHS Grampian, UoA and RGU are of a very high quality. We work together in many ways and on a research projects and programmes. However, our commitment to increasing the range and complexity of research demands that we enhance our existing partnerships with cross-organisation networks that can anticipate and respond to research and healthcare requirements.

NHS Grampian has members of staff who have received national and international recognition for their outstanding research achievements. The very best research infrastructure and support systems will yield little return without creating the conditions to enable our staff to develop clinical research careers whilst maintaining clinical roles. We propose encouraging and supporting our staff through a network of clinical champions, targeted actions by our Research and Development staff, and recognising the commitment and success of our staff by formally protecting time in job plans.

“Our Commitment to Research” represents the joint commitment of the NHS Grampian, UoA and RGU to strengthen our joint approach to research and it is commended to the Board for approval.

4. Responsible Executive Director and contact for further information

If you require any further information in advance of the Board meeting please contact:

Responsible Executive Directors

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