



North Bristol  
NHS Trust

# Research and Innovation

Annual report  
**2018/19**

# Foreword

2018/19 was a fantastic year for Research and Innovation. Delivery of our 5 year Research Strategy is well underway; you can read here about some of the activities we have been doing to meet our year 2 objectives.

We have built on the success of 17/18 and enabled a whopping 5834 patients and staff to participate in research; this is 34% more than last year. We have submitted more grant applications than in previous years and supported some of our own team to take that first step towards becoming Chief Investigators. We have also had more National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) grants than ever before funded. These grant funded projects answer vital questions from front line care staff right here at North Bristol NHS Trust and will be available for our patients to join in future.

We have been working with patients and volunteers across the Trust to ensure we are delivering the research that is important for our community. We have increased the communication activities we do as well as making them more reflective of the patient population. This has helped us to engage a broader group of our patients and visitors than ever before.

We have worked closely with our regional partners, building relationships and working strategically to increase patient access to research across the West of England region. We have supported delivery of the 100,000 genomes project with our workforce and increased our collaborations across the city through the Biomedical Research Centre and Bristol Health Partner Health Integration Teams. We have had the opportunity to run a project trialling a new hub and bespoke model for clinical research, enabling us to share expertise and giving patients at NBT and our community partners the opportunity to participate in a broader range of projects.

We start 2019/20 in a strong position and I hope you're as excited as me to see what the year brings.



**Dr Rebecca Smith**

Deputy Director of Research & Head of Department

# Delivering against the Research Strategy 2017-2022

Our year 2 priorities were to:

## BROADEN

our research portfolio to offer more of our patients and staff the opportunity to participate in research

## INCREASE

research led by nurses, midwives and AHPs

## IMPROVE

the way we manage our workforce by creating a people strategy and investing in tools to aid monitoring, decision making and oversight of training and competencies

## INCREASE

patient satisfaction with our research portfolio and activities





## We have...

### **BROADENED**

- We opened 112 new research studies.
- We were awarded 9 NIHR grants led by staff at NBT, this represents a 50% increase over the last 3 years.
- 5834 new patients participated in research this year, a 34% increase compared to 2017/18 .
- We delivered a ground breaking early phase trial in maternity testing a new device for instrumental birth.
- We supported staff with limited computer access to complete paper questionnaires for a large research study enabling a broader variety of staff to participate.

### **IMPROVED**

- Re-introduction of improved Research and Leadership and Behaviour competencies
- Introduction of a Leave tracker database, to aid oversight, and to improve staff well-being. Research & Innovation's People strategy was published In January 2019.

- Introduced a centralised tracker pulling together all staff members competencies scores which has enabled us to - inform future training needs, identify workforce strengths and aid forecasted non- pay spend.

### **INCREASED**

- Held 44 sessions for patients to help design and prioritise research studies.
- Our NBT Friends and Family test shows that 100% of people are extremely likely to recommend our service.
- The NIHR CRN annual patients in research experience survey showed that 100% of research participants at NBT would recommend taking part in research to others.

# Other second year actions

## Empower patients as partners in high quality research

- Engagement meetings held with the Trust's Movemakers to establish how they can represent the Trust as research ambassadors.
- Maternity have refreshed the photographs used in their patient communication materials and website pages to reflect their unique patient demographic, making the material more engaging to those it is aimed at.
- Microbiology have developed a Patient & Public Involvement Toolkit and Practical guide for use across a European programme of antimicrobial research, created to improve way patients are engaged in the design and delivery of research in this area.
- Women & Children trialled a research study video to explain patient information which has received positive feedback from our research participants.
- Women & Children trialled different formats for their Patient & Public Involvement sessions, to try and engage younger mums (and dads), some with newborns/young children. This has had great success. One of our members who was breastfeeding felt fully comfortable to do so during the research feedback sessions. Some of the feedback we have received includes:

*"It was convenient enough to bring my baby and I didn't feel negatively judged doing so" and "My own experiences and opinions were very welcome, which really helped me feel included and helpful"*

## Support and nurture a sustainable workforce with the skills to deliver world class research

- We participated in the NBT careers events highlighting research roles, career progression and training options.
- We have delivered 3 workshops with the library service to support Nurses, Midwives, Scientists and AHP's in the development of audit/QI/research. These workshops are bookable via our central Managed Learning Environment.
- We held a department away day event enabling teams to share best practise and innovative ways of working including upskilling administrative staff to enable them to deliver elements of patient care in research studies.
- We supported pharmacy to develop a different staffing structure to build resilience for the future.
- We provided £170,536 to ensure dedicated research time for our staff to develop research ideas.
- We have supported 31 of our staff to present at regional and national conferences.
- We are helping people who have completed MSc's to write articles from their thesis to build their research portfolio.

## Research will be visible in the day to day business of the Trust

- Supported and led disease specific and National events held in the atrium.
- Rebranded promotional materials and pop up banners in disease specific areas.
- Research has been introduced as one of the Trust's key screen savers.



- The Research Website traffic received over 40000 hits.
- Supported Divisions to include research in their annual business plans.
- Research is delivered in all divisions.
- Patient check in screen responses show that 88.2% of patients are aware NBT delivers clinical research an increase of 1.1% from 2017/18.
- The vascular research team has developed a quarterly newsletter highlighting research opportunities to all staff.

**Work with our regional partners to strategically and operationally align our research with our clinical services and needs of the community**

- We gained funding from the Clinical Research Network to set up a research team spanning acute and community care alongside the integrated respiratory

service. This has enabled patients in the community to participate in a greater variety of research. It has built research expertise and capacity in the community and is trialling a new way of working with our partners across boundaries.

- Invested in trial management support at the University of Bristol Clinical trials unit to increase partnership working and development of strategic bids.
- NBT researchers published an article in 'Trials' on feasibility assessments and optimising recruitment to research trials.

NBT researchers published a commentary about PPI for Clinical Microbiology and Infection cementing our leading position in this field.

- Increased the number of NBT led projects open at other sites in the region.

# Research and Innovation Performance 2018/19

Research & Innovation had a very successful year in 2018/19 improving performance against a number of key national benchmarks including bringing in 11 new NIHR grants, worth £6.6million, across 8 clinical specialties. This in turn attracts Research Capability Funding to enable Research & Innovation to act flexibly and strategically to maintain research capability and capacity, putting us in a very strong position for next year.

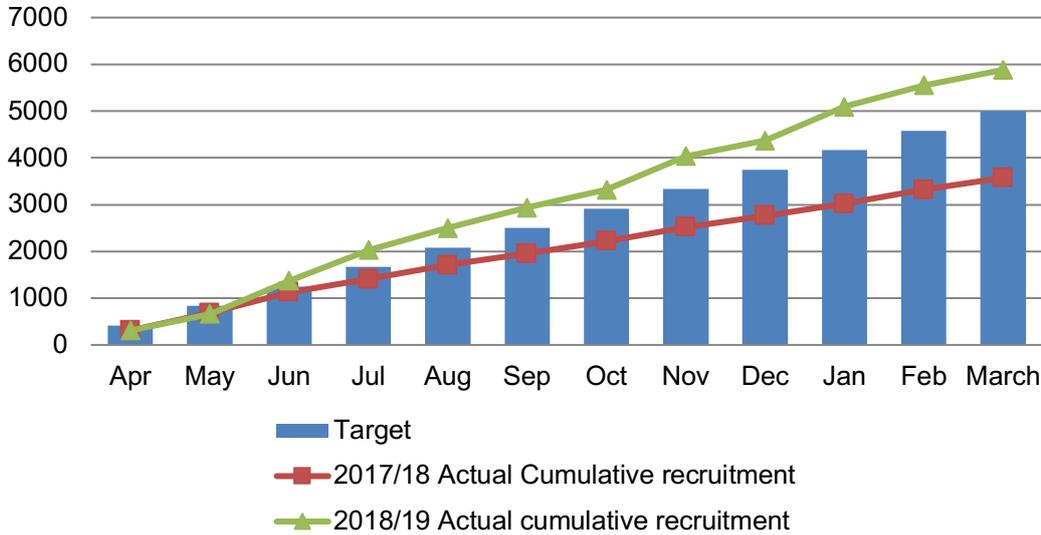
## Performance against national benchmarks

The Trust monitors a number of national and local research specific performance indicators.

The Trust aims to enable as many people as possible to exercise their right under the NBT constitution to be made aware of and participate in suitable research and our performance indicators reflect that commitment.

Each year NBT identifies a target for the number of participants it anticipates / plans to recruit into studies. These are always challenging targets to encourage us and NBT to strive to expand the opportunities open to patients, relatives and the wider health community.

## Recruitment vs Target 2018/19

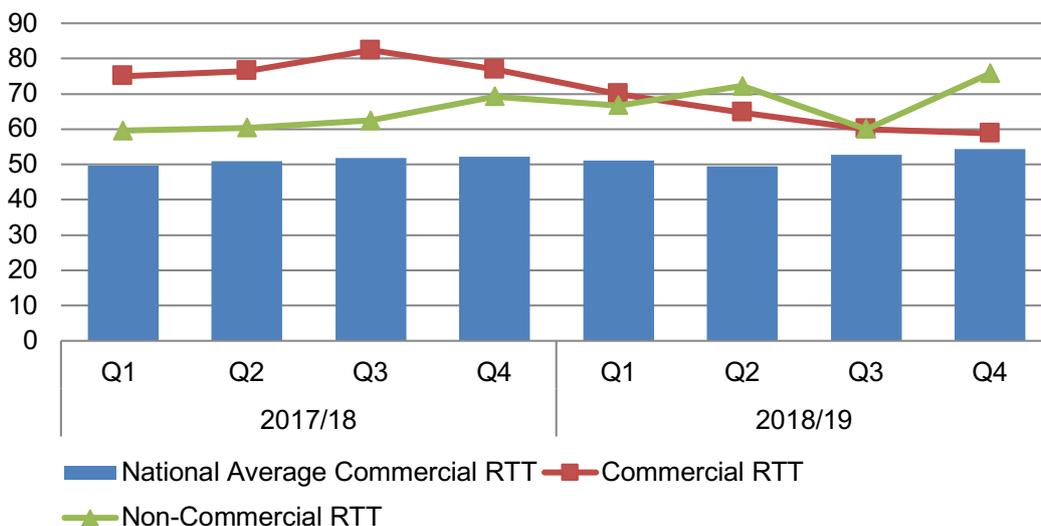


In 2018/19 NBT's target was an ambitious 5000 participants, over a 1000 participants more than in 2017/18.

In addition to monitoring how many participants are recruited to trials throughout the year the studies themselves are monitored to ensure we are delivering what the Trust said it could do. Recruitment to Time and Target (RTT) is an important measure as it indicates how

many of the trials NBT undertake to recruit the number of people within the expected period. This is important as the longer it takes to recruit participants the more costly and potentially less relevant the trials are. If a trial fails to recruit the number of participants needed it would not be able to state, categorically, that the question was answered. To avoid this studies are extended and costs incurred by the funder, whether commercial, charity or the NHS.

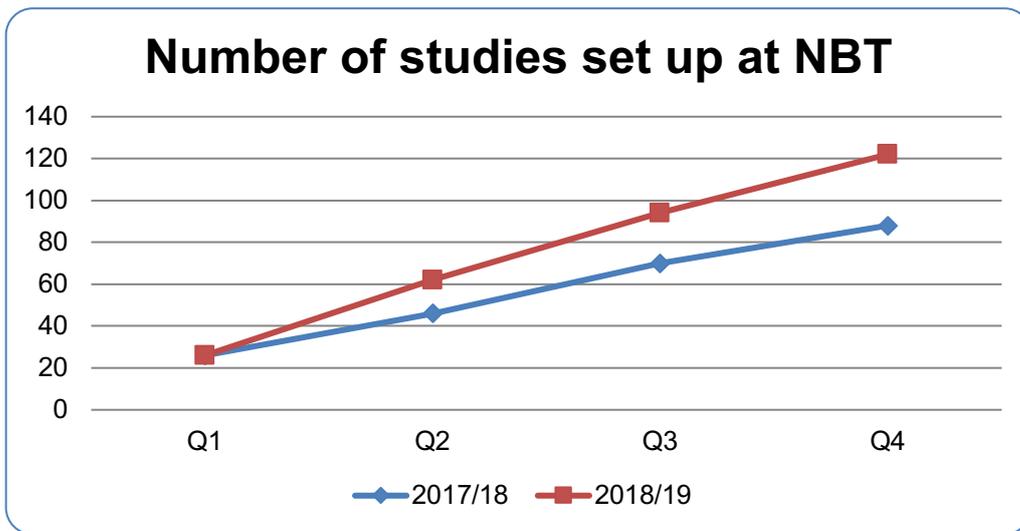
## Commercial and non-commercial RTT



To enable more people to participate in research. R&I has reviewed our processes to ensure a more efficient and effective set up for studies. As a result in 2018/19 NBT opened 14% more studies which are adopted onto the NIHR portfolio the 6th highest increase in England than in 2017/18. When all studies are included, ie: student studies, starter studies etc., which are the groundwork for the studies which go on to become the large national grants adopted onto the

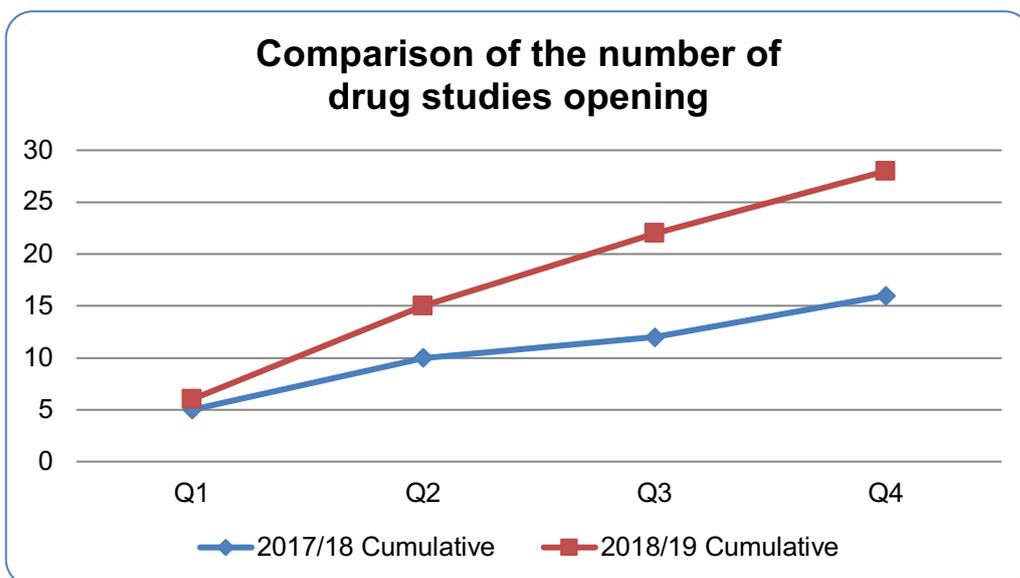
portfolio, that increase is over 35%.

Recent work has shown that Trusts which participate in research have better mortality risk profiles than those which do not deliver research projects. In addition there is an indication that other quality markers monitored by the CQC are further enhanced particularly where Trusts engage in more interventional studies, drug studies, device studies and other interventional studies.



At NBT the clinical trials pharmacy team have worked tirelessly to review their structure and enhance their ability to work flexibly and dynamically to deliver the

needs of researchers and sponsors. As a result NBT has also seen a significant increase in the number of drug studies set up in 2018/19.





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Floor 3, Learning & Research building  
Southmead Hospital, Westbury-on-Trym, Bristol BS10 5NB

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