



North Bristol
NHS Trust

Research and Development

Annual Report
2022/23

Foreword

2022-23 has been an exceptionally exciting year for the North Bristol NHS Trust Research and Development department. We updated and refreshed our Research Strategy for the period 2022-2027; exceeded previous achievements in research recruitment and research grant activity; launched a new funding stream aimed at supporting early career non-medics; and initiated our patient engagement surveys.

Achieving all this was only possible through the engagement and collaboration of everyone within the research infrastructure, the Trust, regional partners, and our stakeholders.

The NBT Research Strategy forms the basis upon which both the department's objectives are based, and our longer-term achievements are measured. Following several rounds of stakeholder engagement spanning the latter part of 2021/22 and the start of 2022/23, key elements were identified by the team members and stakeholders that were absent from the previous strategy. Specifically, our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) and our commitment to the environment.

It was felt these cross-cutting themes or 'Founding Principles' should be incorporated into all our aims and that rather than create specific aims, NBT would seek to engender a culture whereby our commitment was evident.

To achieve this, we are actively seeking skills, methods, and collaborations to ensure that everything we do at NBT holds EDI and our responsibility to the environment at the core of our work.

Helen Lewis-White

Deputy Director of Research & Head of Department



Clinical Research Strategy 2022-27

NBT's new research strategy outlines our ambitions for the next five years. It complements and supports the Trust's values and underpins the behaviour and principles of every member of staff.

Our Founding Principles, Mission and Aims are:

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE ONE

In everything we do we will seek true equality and inclusivity.

PRINCIPLE TWO

In everything we do we will seek to minimise the negative environmental impact of our actions.

In addition to the foundation principles, we confirmed our mission:

Our Mission

To improve the health and wellbeing of our patients and local populations through excellence in research developed and delivered by a highly skilled, committed workforce; while conscious of inclusivity and minimising environmental impact.

To achieve this, we have outlined four Strategic aims:

AIM ONE

Engage and empower patients and the public as partners in our world-class research

AIM TWO

Support our workforce to develop and enhance their knowledge and skills to deliver world-class research

AIM THREE

Ensure research is a core principle underpinning the day-to-day business of the Trust

AIM FOUR

Further develop our expertise in research design, management, and delivery to make NBT a national exemplar for cross-system research and innovation.

The Research Strategy builds directly on the Trust Strategy and Objectives for 2023-2024, which are to:

- Deliver **Great Care**
- Develop **Healthcare for the Future**
- Be an **Anchor in our community.**



Our new name

In 2022 we also made the decision to align our department's name with the new Patient First work and methodology, and to harmonise it with the equivalent department at United Hospitals Bristol & Weston NHS Foundation Trust - as many of our researchers work across both acute Trusts.

The Research department is now known as '**Research and Development**' highlighting our twin function to deliver great research and to develop research which is directly impactful and beneficial to NBT and our community.





Research and Development Performance 2022/23

In 2022-23 NBT was the **third highest recruiter of participants to non-commercial research in England**.

While a significant proportion of people joining research at NBT was through two specific studies, we also saw significant increases in the number of patients joining an ever-growing variety of studies as we largely rebuilt to our pre-pandemic research portfolio.

NBT's Grant Development Team has again achieved remarkable success for NIHR grants submitted:

- NBT were awarded **90% of studies** at full stage submission – an incredible achievement
- The total value of NIHR grants awarded to and managed by NBT now places us **9th in the country** out of 248 Trusts. (Assessed by the annual Department of Health and Social Care award of research capability funding (RCF))

Diversifying our research portfolio

While the development team have achieved phenomenal success in 2022-23, they have also recognised the next set of challenges and implemented workstreams to address them.

At NBT more than 95% of research is generated by medics. Whilst this provides an essential element of healthcare, our regional system benefits from multi-disciplinary approaches to problem solving.

We are therefore aiming to generate research from a more diverse range of professional backgrounds. The Development team has established an Early-Stage Research funding stream that allows non-medical staff to buy out their time and/or increase their hours, to develop ideas and the skills to enable them to apply for future research funding.



Patient participation

Within our Strategy, and within the Trust's Improvement Priorities, it is essential we are able to understand patients' involvement with research.

From the NIHR Participant Response Survey (PRES) we know that most people who participate in research would participate again. That survey does not include those people who are currently not participating in research.

NBT therefore secured the necessary approvals to undertake a survey of more than 5,000 people who had attended services at the Trust, or had been inpatients across a specific two-week period in December and January. The survey received 1,500 responses, the results of which showed:

- 70% of people knew NBT undertook research
- Of those people who were invited to participate in research, more than 80% opted to then participate
- However, as only 5% of respondents remembered being asked about research, it suggests many more people would like to be invited to participate in research. This will be a focus of our work over the coming few years.

Looking forward

The achievements of 2022/23 have established a strong platform from which to further build on and deliver our strategy. In 2023/24 the department will actively seek to continue to expand the research offer that is available to our patients, staff, and communities.

To meet the needs of our communities, we will expand our work with community groups across the region and with Bristol Health Partners to seek new and improved ways of working with research ambassadors. This will empower groups to increase participation in research and to generate new research questions for the future.

Environmental impact

There are currently no robust mechanisms to assess the environmental impact of the trust's research studies.

Over the next two years we will seek to identify ways to measure and then identify mechanisms to reduce their impact.





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