

enabling and empowering people to reach their potential and live fulfilling lives

Summary Report – Trust Board Meeting (Part 1)	Date: 31st October 2012
Report Title: AHSN Brief	
Agenda Item: AOB	Enclosures:
Sponsor:	Presenter: Arden Tomison
Report Author: Arden Tomison	
Report discussed previously at:	<i>EMT/Board Committee/TWMG/other</i>

Purpose of the Report and Action required		
	Approval	
	Discussion	
	Information	X

Executive Summary of Key Issues
<p>To brief the Board on development in relation to Academic Health Science Networks (AHSN) a significant part of the changing NHS landscape</p>

Academic Health Science Networks

Which Strategic Objective does this paper address	
A sustainable value for money business	<i>None specified</i>
Excellent service user access and experience	<i>None specified</i>
Excellent partnership working with other organisations	<i>None specified</i>
Effective engagement and improvement in staff satisfaction	<i>None specified</i>

Link to Fit for the Future Implementation Plan	
<i>Specify objective number</i>	<i>None specified</i>

Corporate Impact Assessment	
Quality and Safety implications	<i>None</i>

Recommendations to other committees

Recommendation/Decision
The Board is recommended to note the report.

Academic Health Science Networks

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Developing our services in partnership with other organisations and creating meaningful partnerships remains a key strategic objective.
- 1.2. New organisational relationships, the establishment of partnership working and networks of organisations collaborating on a common purpose are becoming more common and a feature of the changing NHS landscape.
- 1.3. This paper is intended to brief the Board in respect of one of these developments namely the formation of Academic Health Science Networks. Membership of such networks will be a mandatory requirement for all providers of NHS services.

2. Body of Report

- 2.1. The Department of Health published its strategy document 'Innovation Health and Wealth' in December 2011 which, inter alia, set out the plan to establish up to 15 academic health science networks (AHSNs) across the country. The intention is to bring together local providers of NHS services, higher education and industry partners and the public to focus on improving the identification, adoption and spread of innovative health care and stimulate wealth creation.
- 2.2. All providers of services to the NHS in the defined areas must be affiliated and all clinical commissioning groups should aspire to be involved. The networks envisage strong links with leading academic institutions, representatives of industry and commerce, and should have mechanisms to ensure full public involvement in their work.
- 2.3. There is a process of accreditation which, when successful, ensures a licence to function by the NHS Commissioning Board for an initial period of 5 years. Significant funding is anticipated, up to £50 million over the 5 year period.
- 2.4. Within the West of England context the Board will be aware of our involvement in Bristol Health Partners, a partnership collaboration of ourselves, the 2 acute trusts in Bristol, the PCT, the 2 Bristol Universities and Bristol City Council. That partnership has been productive and is setting up a series of Health Integration Teams (HITs) that span organisational boundaries with the aim of developing and testing innovative interventions and services in response to key health challenges. .
- 2.5. Bristol Health Partners had an aspiration to become an Academic Health Science Centre, an internationally recognised centre that accelerates the translation of research from 'bench to bedside'. Academic Health Science Networks aim to accelerate the adoption of evidence-based research and innovation from 'bedside to bed-sides' – challenging the slow adoption of new technologies and innovative service delivery that typifies the NHS.
- 2.6. Robert Woolley, Chief Executive of University Hospitals Bristol is leading the bid to establish a West of England Academic Health Science Network. This network includes all NHS organisations and Academic institutions in Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire

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together with research organisations, social care providers and local science, industry and commercial networks.

- 2.7. The group lodged an expression of interest with the Department of Health in August and was subsequently invited to submit a full application.
- 2.8. As part of the development of the West of England application all stake holders were invited to a launch event in Bristol on Monday 24th September. Our Chair and Medical Director were the Trust's representatives along with Rachel Clark, Head of Innovations, who has been invited to join the AHSN Steering Group overseeing development of the full bid.
- 2.9. It is the intention of the West of England AHSN to seek accreditation in the second wave requiring a full submission to the Department of Health in February 2013. The decision coming 3 months thereafter and with the intention of the network becoming fully operational by October 2013.
- 2.10. The project will deliver the outputs from 6 intended work streams ranging from improving participation in research, translating research into practice, promoting education and training, delivering service improvement, improving informatics and wealth creation through more effective engagement with industry and commercial partners.
- 2.11. Through our involvement in the AHSN steering group via the Head of Innovations, our involvement in the leadership group through the Chair / Medical Director and our involvement in the Executive Group of Bristol Health Partners (which will be a nested function within the AHSN) it is our intention to remain close to the project as it develops and ensure that the mental health priorities are fully represented throughout AHSN. The intended engagement with the local education training board will allow further opportunities for us to influence the work via the Directorate for People and our R&D Director will have a key role to play in promoting the Mental Health Research component of the various work streams.

3. Conclusions.

- 3.1. The establishment of AHSNs across the country represents an exiting opportunity for NHS organisations to work collaboratively with academic institutions, commerce and industry to improve health outcomes. The Trust has been a keen player in establishing a local prototype organisation (Bristol Health Partners) and is now well positioned to pursue these collaborations more widely throughout the West of England.
- 3.2. This will create opportunities to more rapidly expand our research portfolio, provide mental health education and training, establish meaningful service improvements, and in general, apply our innovative practice on a wide front. In addition, It will allow us to realise one component of our partnership aspirations.