

## Enclosure 15 - Research and Innovation Annual Update – Q1, August 6th 2018

### Performance

Recruitment performance in National Institute of Health Research studies is strong at Q1 with 843 participants recruited, a 65% increase c.f to Q1 17/18. Performance is on track to meet the 18/19 recruitment target of 1400. Current forecasting shows this should be exceeded by year end (Graph 1).

**Highlight:** Q1 18/19 - 843 participants recruited in to trials

65% increase on 17/18

Number of open studies has slightly decreased to 78 but there are currently several studies in set up. With respect to “recruitment to time and target” (the main KPI to impact future CRN East Midlands budget allocation); 74% of non-commercial and 100% of commercial studies are currently recruiting to 100% time and target against a target of 80%.

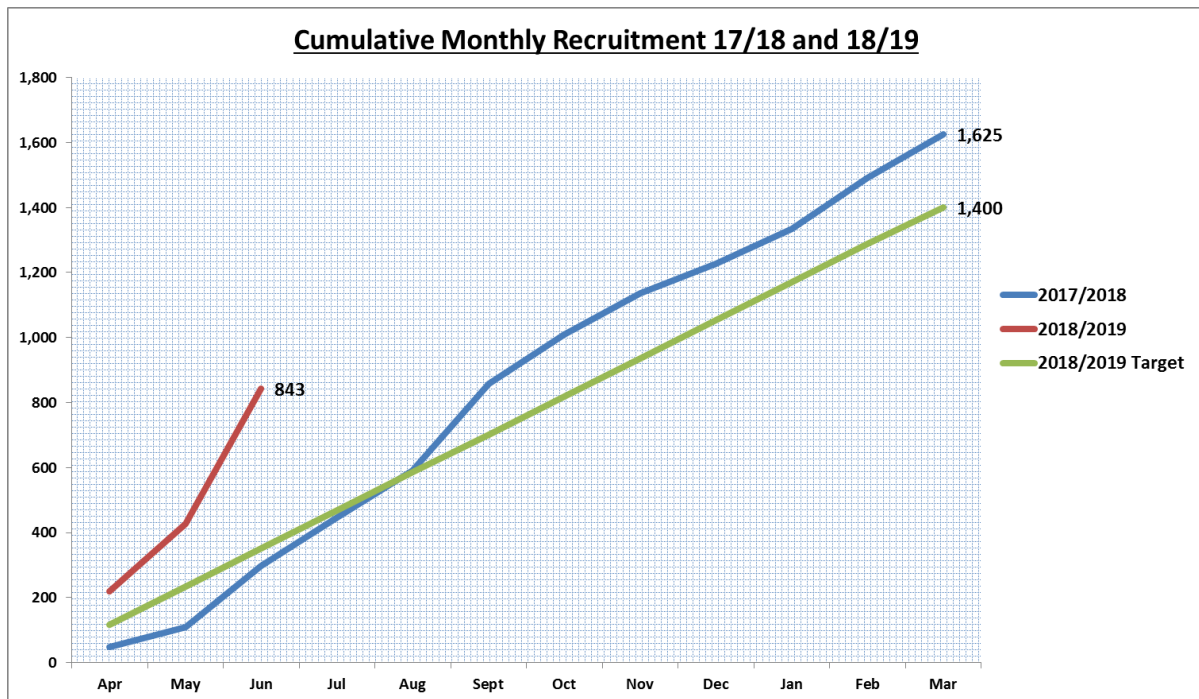
**Highlight:** R&I team finalists for regional research award in category **Outstanding Research Delivery** – 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

Trials are spread across most specialities in the organisation with more clinical research activity being conducted in the areas of Cancer, Cardiovascular disease, Gastroenterology, Reproductive Health and Childbirth and Stroke. One of our key aims in 18/19 is to extend research to other areas not previously research active.

**Highlight:** SFH recognised in the NIHR annual research league tables as one of the sites with the largest increase in recruitment activity last year at 80%

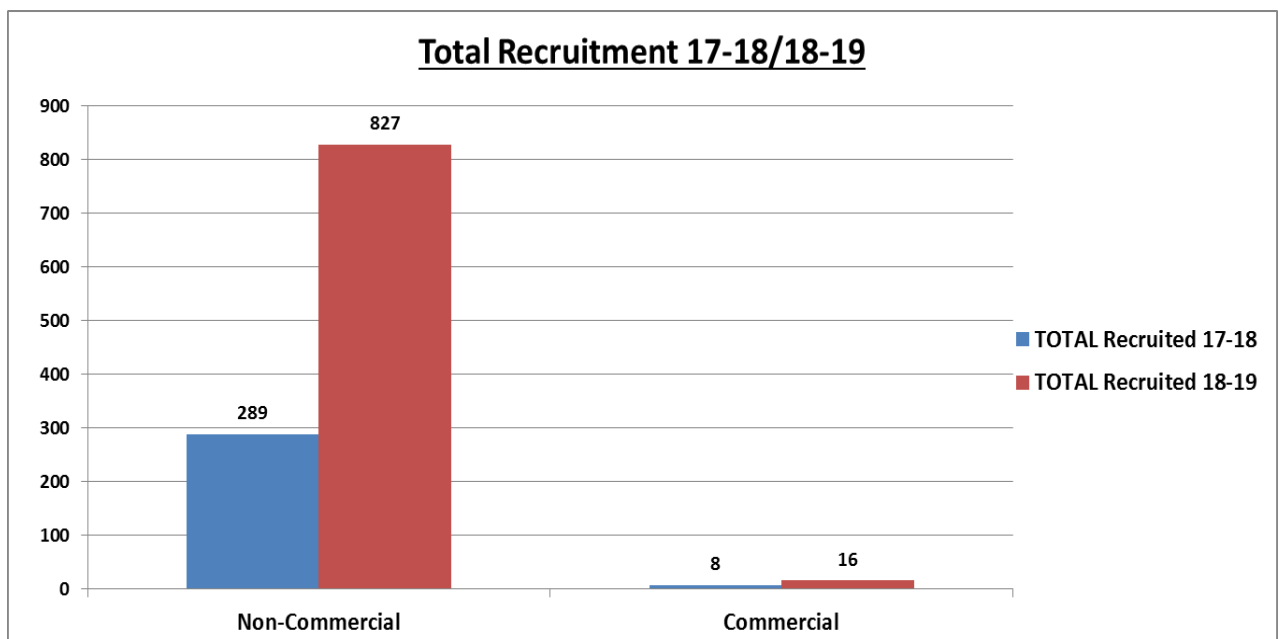
Graphs 1-4 identify performance in recruitment against 18/19 target, commercial and non-commercial recruitment benchmarked against 17/18, study activity and performance of research active areas across the Divisions. The data cut for all graphs is 30th June 2018.

Graph 1: Cumulative Monthly Recruitment 18/19 vs 17/18

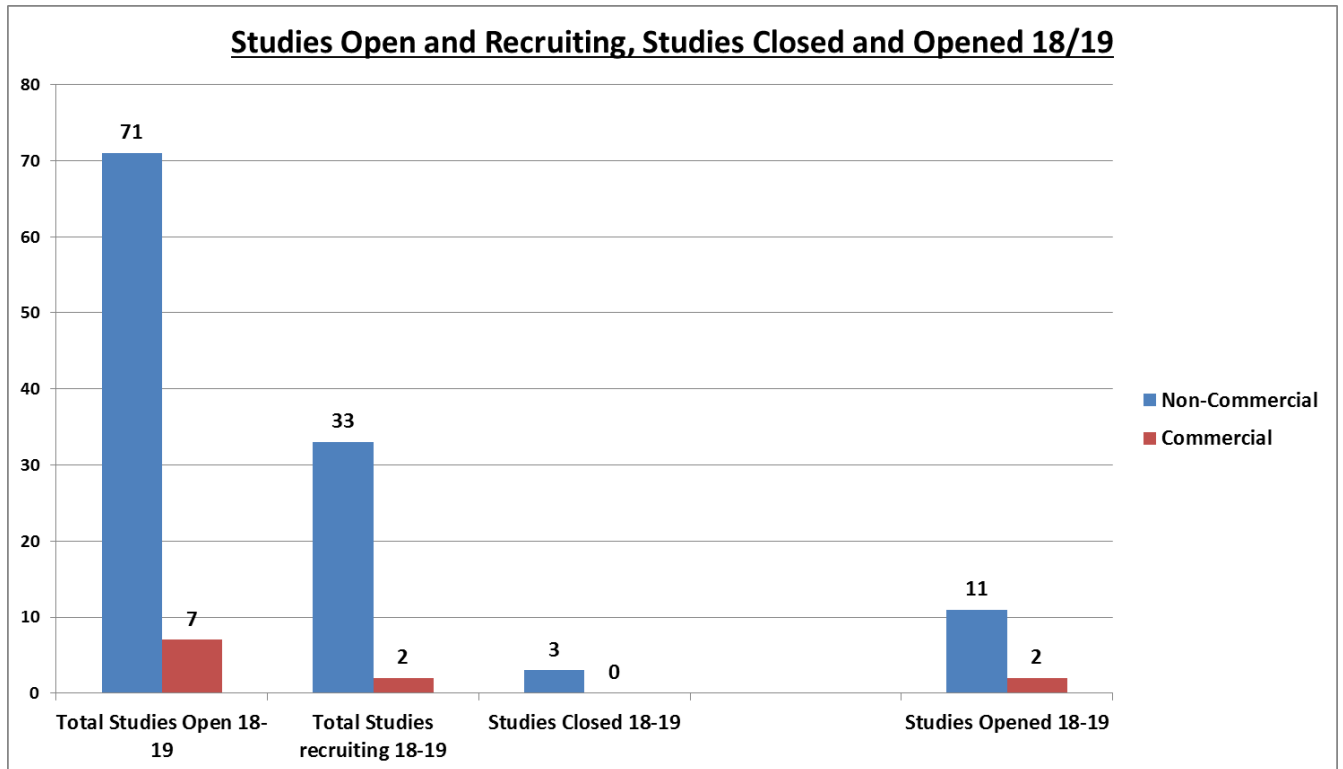


	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
2017/2018	47	109	297	446	590	858	1,008	1,137	1,226	1,335	1,492	1,625
2018/2019	218	427	843									
2018/2019 Target	117	234	351	468	585	702	819	936	1,053	1,170	1,287	1,400

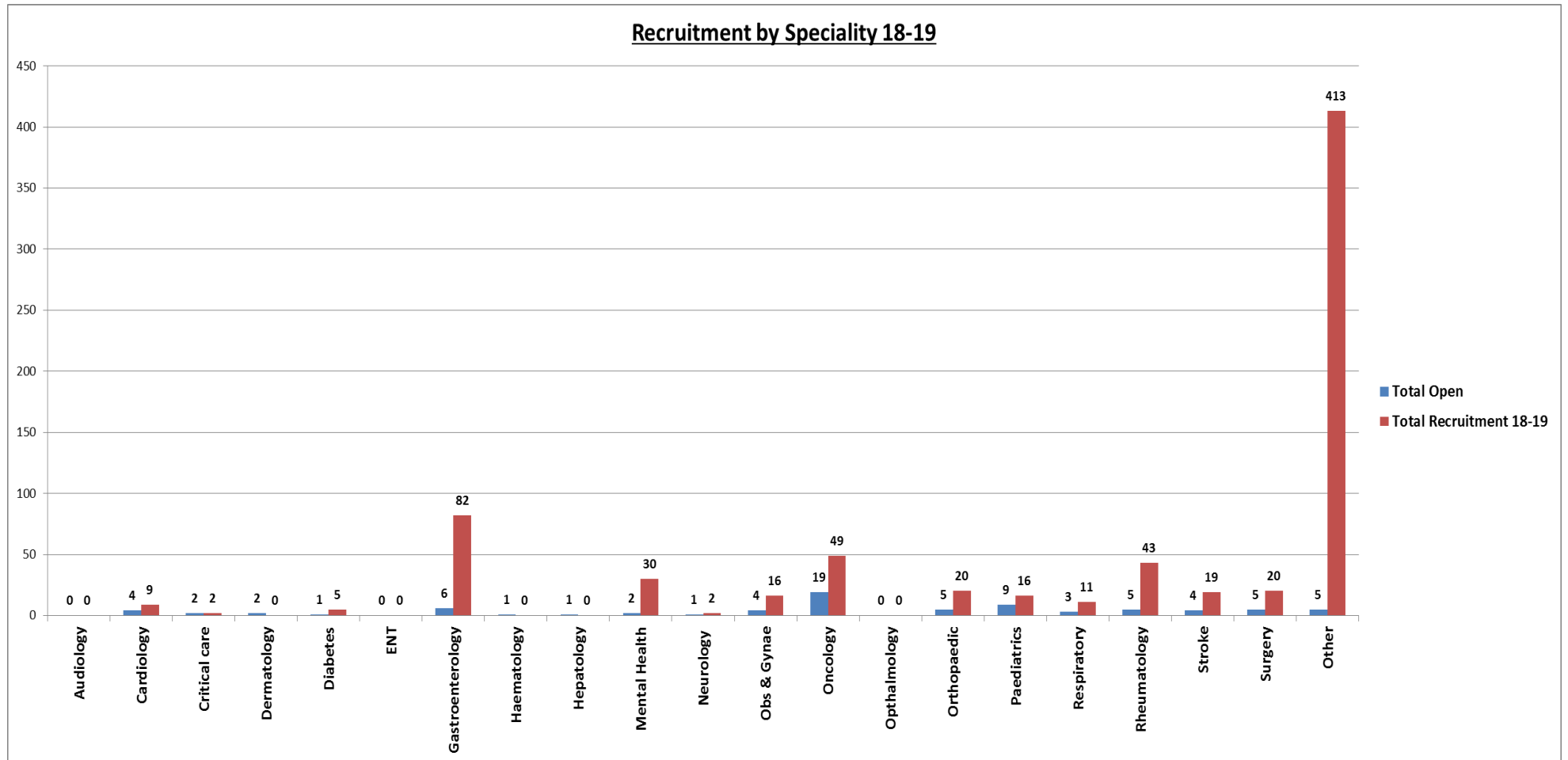
Graph 2: Total Recruitment 17/18 vs 18/19 (Commercial and Non-commercial)



Graph 3: Studies Open and Recruiting and Studies Opened and Closed 18/19



Graph 4: Recruitment by Speciality 18/19



## Contractual obligations

SFH has an external reporting responsibility to the Department of Health via the Clinical Trials Platform. This national KPI for NHS Trusts; “Performance and Initiation in Clinical Research” Q4 report was published in July 2018. All previous submissions can be viewed on the Trust’s internet site.

**Highlight:** *SFH in joint 1<sup>st</sup> position in national league tables for rapid set up and recruitment of patients’ to clinical trials*

## Finance

The budget for 2018/19 from the East Midlands CRN provided us with a 2.3% decrease (£714,137.55) on 2017/18 funding. This was due to a reduction in the NIHR EMCRN funding. Funding is based on a 2 year period for overall recruitment and performance, therefore 17/18 increased activity and performance will influence the 2019/2020 budget. Despite this reduction in funding, performance has remained significantly high, specifically in relation to studies recruiting to time and target. Q1 finance analysis demonstrates spend in line with predictions.

Commercial activity is invoiced quarter on quarter with a Q1 income of £18,181.00. This income is be invested back in to growing the research portfolio by ensuring capacity and capability to deliver high performing, high quality research, this financial year and beyond. This is in line with National Institute for Health Research Commercial Income Distribution guidance, August 2015. It is critical to the growth of research at SFH and the opportunities it can provide to our patient’s, that the organisation recognises and supports the re-investment of income from commercial trials in to R&I.

The organisation has also secured Research Capability Funding (RCF) from the Department of Health of £20,000 in 2018/19. This funding will enable SFH as a research active organisation to contribute towards sponsorship, governance costs, financial management and staff support for researchers working on NIHR supported studies, where applicable.

We also continue to support Divisional research activity by funding research PA’s on an annual basis. However, in accordance with national guidance we will be unable to utilise funding in this way next year. R&I are looking at alternative models for supporting research active clinicians. One potential model being considered is for Clinical Divisions to fund some or all of the current research PAs, with research activity performance managed as part of job plans. Based on performance, recruitment activity and income from trials in year R&I will refund this outlay in part/full at year end through deferred commercial and non-commercial income. We are also investigating opportunities with NUH to bring BRC studies to SFH alongside identifying and funding a small amount of PA time for nominated BRC theme leads at our organisation. Without this support there is a significant risk of a decline in recruitment and subsequent year on year reduction in funding.

In collaboration with Chesterfield Royal Hospital Foundation NHS Trust, SFH has secured 18/19 EMCRN innovation funding for a joint research midwife post working across both campuses. The role will trial flexible and innovative working in order to maximise recruitment to midwifery studies in our part of the region. The effectiveness of the post will be evaluated in conjunction with EMCRN to inform utilising this way of working more widely.

#### Expanding the Industry Research Portfolio

We have seen an increase in commercial activity over the past several years but this is now beginning to plateau with numbers of studies and recruitment remaining reasonably static. In 17/18 the Trust only secured and opened 1 commercial trial. A key objective for 18/19 is to reverse this and regain an upward trend. Although our business case for developing a dedicated research unit on the Kingsmill site allowing more complex commercial trials to be conducted has not been supported at this stage, we continue to work with the Trust’s Property Manager to try and find a more suitable space. The Trust’s potential to deliver high quality commercial research has been recognised by the East Midlands Clinical Research Network and is detailed in their Annual Delivery Plan 2018-19. The R&I Manager has also been asked to participate in a national initiative; the national improvement plan for commercial research led by the NIHR.

***Highlight: SFH selected by research network as a priority site for growth of commercial research Q1 -2 commercial trials opened, 1 in set up***

#### Portfolio Balance

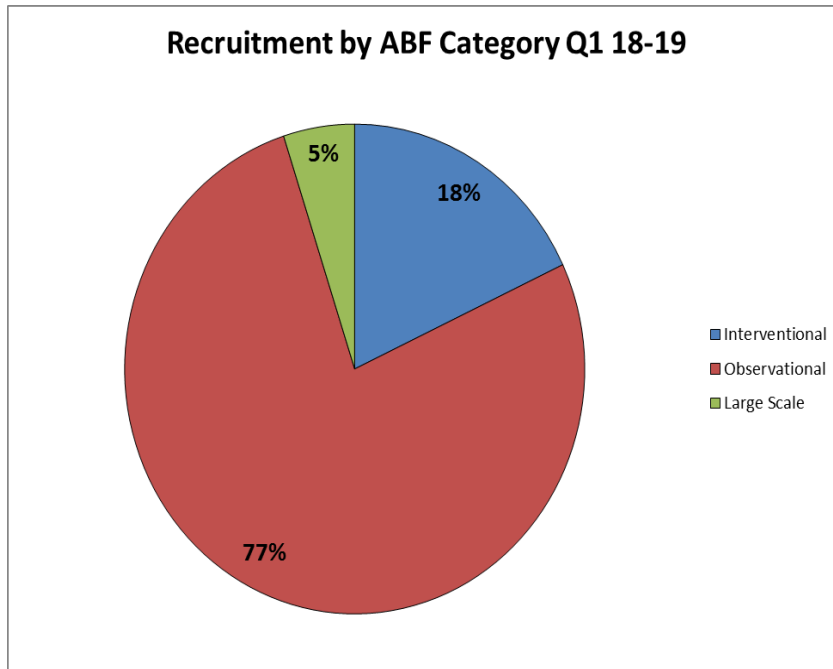
Funding for NHS research activity from the DoH is managed through local Clinical Research Networks (East Midlands CRN) and is activity based. Yearly funding allocations take in to account not just performance in terms of overall recruitment and recruitment to time and target, but the types of studies an organisation is running. This is termed Activity Based Funding (ABF) and comprises 3 categories; Large scale studies >10k Sample size, Observational and Interventional. Each attracts a specific weighting based on complexity which in turn translates to the value in funding attributed (see Table A).

Table A: ABF Complexity weightings 17/18

	<b>Complexity weighting 2017/18</b>
Band 1 – Large Scale UK total sample size >10,000	1
Band 2 - Observational	3.5
Band 3 - Interventional	11

In our previous report we identified the need to shift our balance of studies so there is a closer balance between Band 2 and Band 3 studies. Current position indicates this change in direction of travel has not yet been realised but will be closely monitored and managed over the coming year (Chart 5)

Chart 5: Recruitment by ABF Category



### Workforce

The department appointed a Band 3 Research Healthcare Assistant in June 2018. The Band 7 team leader left R&I at the end of March 2017 and a 0.6 wte replacement role is now out for advert. The role has been significantly changed to meet service and provide leadership development opportunities for the successful candidate.

A research secondment programme is now in progress with two staff members working with us one day a week. Following evaluation of the programme and funding we aim to roll this out further over the next two financial years.

R&I have been working closely with the Chief Nurse and leadership team. Research is a key area of focus in the Nurse and Midwifery strategy and is part of the strategic priorities. SFH as an organisation has committed to increasing research uptake and engagement in research by developing a nurse research academy. This will allow staff to be engaged as part of their substantive post, in research. The R&I manager and Heads of Nursing are currently doing a piece of work to develop new nursing posts that contain this research element. In phase 1 four new posts within medicine and surgery are due to go out to advert; phase 2 will commence in early 2019 with another four posts to be advertised. It is hoped by focusing on hard to recruit areas, and specialities that have the potential to deliver research activity, this will lead to improved recruitment and retention of staff.

*Highlight: SFH is supporting a Nurse Academy to embed research in to clinical care and support staff recruitment*

### 2018-2019 Strategic Priorities

The focus for this year is to achieve specific goals in the following 3 key areas:

1. Broadening the SFH research portfolio in order to support service delivery and innovative practices, with a particular focus on:
  - Increase the number of patients who have access to research studies as part of their care pathway. Recruitment target set at 1400 patients 2018/19. There is also an aim to ensure maximum income return by achieving a balanced research portfolio. Clear focus remains on achieving time to target (RTT) in relation to recruitment, in order to maximise the annual performance premium awarded by the CRN, with 80% of studies closing in year to have met RTT.
  - Developing research in areas across the organisation that align with Trust priorities e.g Dementia/Age and Ageing – falls.
  - **Measure** – Open and actively recruit in to at least 1 study in each of these areas in 18/19
  - Developing research in areas previously not research active e.g ED/ICU and supporting capacity and capability to do this through regional collaborations with NUH Emergency Department research team (DREEAM) and ED Clinicians  
**Measure** - Open and actively recruiting in to at least 2 studies in this area in 18/19
2. Growth of commercial research activity through collaboration with EMCRN. SFH has been identified as a research site with the potential drivers for this type of growth.  
**Measure** - increase in the number of site identification submissions, increased volume of SFH selected as a site and visited by a sponsor, and open 6-8 commercial studies in 18/19.
3. Improving and contributing to the quality agenda through creating more research opportunities for patients and staff. Wider dissemination and promotion of local organisational behaviour that offers the best possible research choices and benefits to patients and deliver research that is important to and prioritised by patients  
**Measure** – Patient research journey for Trust members event, R&I dedicated web page development, increased percentage of patients aware SFH is a research active Trust. Research promotional activities and 8 new posts appointed through the nurse academy with 1 day a week clinical research included.



**Highlight:** SFH 3<sup>rd</sup> highest recruiting partner organisation in the EMCRN

Alongside these priorities there is considerable activity surrounding our performance and finance responsibilities; ensuring we meet targets and secure funding to sustain and develop the R&I business model, and continue to build research capacity and capability over the next several years.

We have strong associations with other NHS Trusts and Universities and are committed to expanding research activity and facilities at SFH through these partnerships. A collaboration is now in place with Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust to expand the types of research studies available to our local population by bringing studies from Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre to SFH.

In January 2018 SFH became a pilot site for the CRN lead Edge Data Quality Minimum Dataset Project. The project aimed to ensure all sites across the UK were capturing the minimum data required for research projects to aid local and national reporting. At the end of Q1 SFH had succeeded in achieving 100% across all areas of minimum data required.

#### Summary

Our Research and Innovation department is now well established and includes a multidisciplinary infrastructure supporting a broad range of research activity across many clinical areas of the Trust

The service we provide continues to deliver better outcomes for our patients at SFH, allowing them access to new and different treatments. The reputation of the Research and Innovation department and SFH as a research active organisation continues to grow. We have strong associations with other NHS Trusts and Universities and are committed to expanding the research activity, breadth of our portfolio and facilities at SFH through development and delivery of our Research strategy.

At a local level research can have positive outcomes in terms of increased quality of care, patient satisfaction and financial benefits to the organisation. It is well known that organisations that are research active provide better care to their patients and have better outcomes. A study looking at data from 209,968 patients diagnosed with bowel cancer in England between 2001 and 2008 found that bowel cancer patients are more likely to survive in research active hospitals (GUT, 2017). Another study in 2015 demonstrated a direct association between higher levels of research activity and lower levels of patient mortality following emergency admissions, and this trend continued even after taking staffing and structural factors in to account (PLOS 2015). It is important as a research active organisation that wherever possible we continue to make the changes and meet the requirements needed to advance our research activity and build research capacity for the future.