

Research and Innovation Quarterly Update – Q3 19-20, January 8th 2020

Performance

Recruitment: SFH are slightly under target at Q3 for recruitment into National Institute for Health Research studies with 1327 participants taking part in studies. The annual target is 1800.

Numbers of studies: 74 studies are currently open at SFH, 19 opened and 12 closed in Q2 and 3 19/20. 62 studies are actively recruiting with RTT (Recruitment to Time and Target) for both non-commercial and commercial studies at 75%. Trials are spread across most specialities in the organisation with activity remaining high in Gastroenterology, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Surgery and Emergency Care.

DoH metrics: SFH reports quarterly to the Department of Health via the Clinical Trials Platform. The national KPI for NHS Trusts Q1 report was published in September 2019 with SFH remaining joint first place in league for delivery of commercial trials. We are still awaiting the Q2 report.

Commercial Research: 4 commercial trials opened in Q2 and Q3 19/20

Finance

The confirmed East Midlands CRN budget for 2019/20 was £713,387.00, a small decrease of 0.2% on 18/19, the indicative budget for 2020/21 is £694,000.00, a decrease of 2.7%. Q3 19/20 commercial income is £159,586.53 to be invested in growing research capacity and capability in line with NIHR Commercial Income Distribution Guidance, August 2015. The organisation is due to receive annual Research Capability Funding (RCF) from DoH of £20,000 in 2020/2021. This funding allows SFH to contribute towards sponsorship, governance costs; financial management and staff support for researchers working on NIHR adopted studies.

Patient Experience

R&I re –launched its patient experience survey in mid-October 2018. 197 participants were surveyed by the end of 2018/19 with an average satisfaction score of 96.8%. SFH has been a pilot site for the NIHR Participant Research Experience survey and has been feeding in to this since January 2019. There have been 239 responses in so far in 19/20. 85% (202 out of 239) participants surveyed strongly agree or agree they had a good experience of taking part in research.

Progress against 2019 – 2020 Strategic Priorities

The focus this year remains the similar to last year as priorities around portfolio growth, quality improvement and engagement require a sustained focus over several years. However, supporting new researchers, clinical academic careers and driving the innovation agenda forward at SFH are also key objectives.

1. Targeted Performance - 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. 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.

Measure - Recruitment target set at 1800 patients 2019/20

80% of studies closing in year to have met RTT

Progress – on target

- Further develop research in areas previously not research active e.g ED/ENT and supporting capacity and capability to do this.

Measure - Open and actively recruiting in to at least 2 studies in this area in 19/20

Progress - 2 additional ED studies opened, 2 ENT studies opened

- Growth of commercial research activity through collaboration with EMCRN.

Measure - increase in the number of site identification submissions, increased volume of SFH selected as a site, and open 6-8 commercial studies in 19/20

- **Progress** – on target

2. Quality and Engagement - 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 delivers research that is important to and prioritised by patients. Support wider research and QI programmes across the Trust as appropriate. Introducing the NIHR Research Champion/patient advocate scheme in 2020.

Measure – Increased percentage of patients aware SFH is a research active Trust. Research promotional activities undertaken, ED Band 5 secondment to R&I for 12 months, NIHR high level objectives for PRES survey met and support provided for the Orthotic/NHSI patient experience project and Discharge Improvement project

Progress – On target

Impact and Outcomes – evaluation impacts and outcomes from research report to board in October 2019.

Knowledge Management and Innovation – Collaboration with OD, QI and library services commenced

3. Building Capacity and capability – Ensuring we have the right resources, staff and facilities to be able to offer and deliver high quality clinical trials in an equitable way to our patients now and in the future.

Measure - Training opportunities for staff undertaken including clinical research training for secondees and sessions on local university degree courses delivered by R&I team. Continue development of the Research Academy to develop clinical research nurse careers and aid recruitment.

SFH to act as sponsor for a minimum of 2 studies.

SFH to act as lead site for 1 grant application.

Progress – on track; sponsorship discussions for 2 studies, Orthopaedics and Health and Wellbeing. Supporting an application with EMCRN for an RfPB.
EM Research Design Service approaching SFH as a potential partner in national objective to increase funding applications from smaller less research active organisations
R&I included in joint bid with Medicine Division for a dedicated research facility in clinic 9

NIHR Patient Recruitment Centres

In October 2019 NIHR CRN released a competition looking for hosts for five Patient Recruitment Centres (PRCs). This is a unique opportunity to be at the forefront of a key development for delivering late-phase commercial research in England. The five patient recruitment centres will be funded as part of the Life Sciences Industrial Strategy. SFH is collaborating on a bid with NUH as lead organisation. This was successful in the first round and a further tender for stage two has been submitted. Notification of award of contract to unsuccessful and successful hosts is 20 January 2020 with new contracts commencing 18 February 2020.

New R&I Director

Miss Elizabeth Gemmill (Consultant Surgeon) has been appointed as the new Director of Research and Innovation for a 4 year term. She will chair the R&I Committee; attend EMCRN Partnership Board and other regional meetings to represent SFH, alongside supporting the Head of R&I in the setting of the strategic direction of R&I.

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. A Retrospective cross-sectional study looking at data For 129 English National Health Service hospital Trusts, from National Institute for Health Research study activity data, Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI) scores and Care Quality Commission (CQC) ratings demonstrates a positive link between better CQC outcomes and the intensity of interventional research trials at NHS Trusts (Jonker and Fischer 2018). Previously the papers and evidence have only focused on mortality rates. 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.

Appendix

Our Vision

To make research part of our daily business

Our Mission

At SFH, research is about improving the care we give to our patients to make sure it is outstanding. Embed research excellence as part of our culture, and deliver this with a highly skilled knowledgeable workforce as part of everyday care.

Our Aims:

1. Strong research activity in more clinical specialities, define and secure our areas of strength and establish high class research facilities

- Focus on priority areas where we have existing strengths
- Embed research in as part of clinical service
- Increase partnership working to make the most of our potential

2. Work with more industry organisations to deliver clinical trials that change people's lives for the better

- Develop relationships with leading commercial sponsors and CRO's
- Broaden our commercial research portfolio
- Work in collaboration with EMCRN Industry team as a priority site for increasing commercial activity

3. Involve more of our patients and staff in high quality research

- Make research more visible and provide more research opportunities for our patients
- Enable patients to engage in PPI activities across our organisation and our region
- Deliver research that is important to our patients
- Improve the quality and standard of our care through participation in research

4. Develop and support a workforce with the skills to deliver world class research

- Develop a sustainable research academy to build the skills of our staff
- Develop career pathways for research staff and encourage collaborations with academic institutions
- Engage and support our research investigators
- Invest commercial research income in to building future capacity and capability