



igniting our potential

(UKCRC/09/22)

Paper Name: **Developing Incentives for Research in the NHS**

Purpose of this paper and action required:

The purpose of this paper is to update the UKCRC Board on activities to develop incentives for research in Scotland

Board members are asked to:

- i) Note progress in areas highlighted

Annexes:

Annex 1 The Scottish Academic Health Sciences Collaboration

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The Scottish Academic Health Sciences Collaboration

UKCRC Board Meeting – 5 November 2009

The Scottish Academic Health Sciences Collaboration (SAHSC) aims to establish a world-leading clinical research platform for patient-oriented, translational medicine research. It builds on the close NHS and academic partnerships already existing in Scotland's four university teaching hospitals – in Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow – and through these to other Scottish Health Boards and universities.

Building the interest in the concept has helped significantly to engage Health Board Chief Executives and Chairmen with research. The Collaboration has been formed as a result of the strength of commitment each Board has come to feel for its agenda and purpose

The Collaboration will see the creation of up to 250 multidisciplinary posts across the partner organisations through re-investment of £15M of funds. The posts to be recruited - this year and up until the end of March 2012 – will target key areas of clinical research infrastructure including imaging, tissue banks, pharmacy, nursing support and informatics. Good progress on recruitment has already been made.

The SAHSC was launched in June by Scotland's Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing Nicola Sturgeon.

A Strategic Oversight Board has been established to monitor the implementation of the SAHSC along with a Rapid Response Group that has a remit of assessing significant research opportunities that could be undertaken by the collaboration. In addition, clinical leads across multiple disease areas in each city of the SAHSC have been identified. These leads will provide highly visible points of contact for stakeholders, including industry, to discuss research opportunities within the NHS and their partner universities.

The SAHSC infrastructure is centrally placed to take advantage of a number of measures aimed at incentivising both non-commercial and commercial research taking place in Scotland's NHS. This focuses on various work-streams being taken forward through NHS Research Scotland (NRS) and includes those around efficient approval of commercial and non-commercial multi-centre clinical studies, the use of standard forms and agreements for contracting research within the NHS and academic partners and also the use of a common costing template. Significant progress has been made in these areas and this is being translated into timely and efficient contracting of clinical studies with the NHS.

The SAHSC also plays a significant part in Scotland's commitment to the Office for Strategic Coordination of Health Research (OSCHR). The clinical research infrastructure that the SAHSC brings will help in OSCHR's objective of bringing a coordinated approach to health research and its translation into patient care.

Chief Scientist Office

16 October 2009