UKCRC PREGNANCY RESEARCH REVIEW SUBGROUP UPDATE – OCT 2018

Background

1. The UKCRC board approved the establishment of the Pregnancy Research Review Subgroup in May 2016 in response to a recommendation from the CMO’s annual report 2014 – The Health of the 51%; Women. The purpose of the group is to understand research needs and current spend in the area of pregnancy and establish strategic approaches to funding where the need is greatest.

2. Professor Peter Brocklehurst chairs the group, see appendix A for full Subgroup membership list. The group has met three times since inception. Minutes of the meetings are available upon request.

UK Pregnancy Research Review

3. In the first year the group has focused on identifying the best way to meet the CMO recommendation to conduct a review of pregnancy research spend in the UK.

4. The UKCRC Board approved the Subgroup recommendation to commission a new research project to:
   a) collect and map data on current pregnancy research funding activity; and
   b) explore the research needs and priorities in the area of pregnancy research, taking into account the views of key stakeholders, practitioners, researchers and the public.

5. NIHR and Wellcome Trust have agreed to fund the research. DHSC are currently leading the commissioning of the research on their behalf, with significant input from the Subgroup.

6. We expect the contract to be awarded by the end of the year, and for the findings to be reported by the end of 2019. Members of the Subgroup will be actively involved in the project steering group once the contract is awarded.

Other activity

7. The Subgroup have discussed plans for stakeholder engagement and communication. The Group received a presentation on different models of bringing funding communities together to inform plans.

8. Members of the Subgroup have also been taking forward discussions with DHSC/NIHR to around how to better engage with pharmaceutical companies, regulators and HRA to support pregnancy research and drug development.
Annex 1: Membership of the UKCRC Pregnancy Research Review Subgroup

The Group is chaired by Peter Brocklehurst and consists of representatives from the following organisations:

- Wellcome Trust (WT)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- National Institute of Health Research (NIHR)
- Biotechnology Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Academy of Medical Sciences (AMS)
- Health and Care Research, Welsh Government
- Chief Scientist Office, Scotland
- Health and Social Care Research and Development, Northern Ireland
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)
- Royal College of Midwives (RCM)
- Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI)
- Public Health England (PHE)
- Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC)
- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH)
- National Childbirth Trust (NCT)
- INVOLVE
- Medical Schools Council (MSC)
- Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)
- NHS England
- Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych)

Annex 2: Membership of the UKCRC Pregnancy Research Review Subgroup Subcommittee

The Pregnancy Research Review Subgroup Subcommittee was chaired by Peter Brocklehurst and included the following representatives from the Pregnancy Research Review Subgroup:

- Lindsay Kier (Wellcome Trust)
- Lucy Chappell (NIHR)
- Louise Howard (PCPsych)
- Louise Silverton (RCM)
- Rachel Plachinski (NCT)