

Key messages from the Board

At its meeting on 14 February 2019, the Board received reports of continued good progress in building the infrastructure of the partnership in order to support its Mission and Vision for 2019.

Appointment of Vice Chair

After inviting expressions of interest, the Board appointed Professor Louise Kenny, EPVC for Health and Life Sciences at the University of Liverpool, as Vice Chair.



A refreshed LHP Business Plan for 2019

The Board approved the ambitious and refreshed business plan for 2019, which includes details of the themes and evolving priorities that LHP will be supporting and measuring impact against.

Hosting of LHP

An options analysis report highlighted that it would be financially most beneficial for LHP to be hosted by an NHS organisation. An expressions of interest process for an NHS host will be open to all partners and details will be communicated shortly.

Themes

The Board approved the way forward for the Living Well and Ageing Well themes, with the latter being neuroscience led.

Living Well will focus on health promotion and addiction, with oversight of the Centre for Alcohol Research. It will also provide a framework to further develop mental health.

Neuroscience (neuromuscular, chronic disease, dementia, transition, neurosurgery) will also span the life course rather than focusing solely on frailty and ageing well, and align with the Liverpool Neuroscience Group (LJMU, UoL, Edge Hill, Walton Centre).

Informatics

Implementation of LHP's Informatics Strategy is currently underway, and a Programme Manager has been recruited to the theme. LHP, and in particular the Director of Research Programmes, is leading a bid to the Liverpool City Region Strategic Investment Fund to support activity under the theme. Additionally, it was reported that the Informatics workstream was successful in attracting £214k from UK Research and Innovation Digital Sprint call.

Liverpool Biomedical Research Centre

Professor William Hope, UoL, provided an update on developing Liverpool's NIHR Biomedical Research Centre application due for submission in 2021.

Liverpool's application will have a focus on Infection Therapeutics. LHP is working closely with Professor Hope in developing the bid, including strengthening the partnerships and relationships that will be critical to a successful BRC application.

LHP Programmes infrastructure

Dr Lawson reported that work continues in building the supporting infrastructure for LHP's programmes, and the Programme Management team is growing now with posts in CVD, Starting Well, Infection, Health Informatics and Cancer recruited to, in addition to recruiting additional staff to LHP's Admin Hub.

LHP is also shortly to be recruiting the third and final executive director post, Director of Research Infrastructure and Education, which will include leadership of the new joint research service. The post will be advertised soon.

JRS

Development of the JRS continues at pace and remains on track to go live in April 2019. The recent JRS Town Hall meeting was a success in bringing together R&D staff from across the patch as part of the organisational change workstream, and kickstarted the staff side consultation taking place in each individual organisation.

The LHP office will be undergoing a refurbishment in order to accommodate the JRS, and LHP is creating an organisational development package for all staff associated with supporting clinical research in Liverpool.
