Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust Strategic Plan
For Research & Development 2008/2009

General Perspective

High quality clinical research benefits patients through evidence based patient care and provides practical guidance to clinical staff. The Trust supports all research that is for evidence based patient benefit and that has been successful in the Ethics approval process. This includes local research and research in collaboration with other NHS bodies, commercial partners and universities.

Aim

Our primary aim is to address the need for sound evidence to advance our diagnostic methods and treatment techniques through clinical research that fully exploits our local resources.

Goals

The Trust will encourage high quality, effective clinical research by:

- recognising research as a core activity for the Trust;
- providing an efficient infrastructure that enables research;
- ensuring that all R&D activity using Trust resources is subject to appropriate management approval and conforms to the requirements of research governance, financial probity, and ethics;
- ensuring procedures and policies meet current government legislation and DH policies;
- encouraging and supporting collaboration through multidisciplinary research partnerships and multicentre research;
- facilitating the dissemination of research outcomes through publications and continuing professional development, which should be reflected in job plans;
• protecting and managing the Trust’s research and development based intellectual property and promoting its exploitation;
• promoting the Trust’s research within the research community and to the general public to encourage potential sources of funding including commercial income;
• supporting commercial research and national clinical trials, maintaining clear links to commercial sponsors and academic institutions;
• prioritising research programmes within the Trust;
• promoting research through annual research awards.

Delivery

The Trust will
• maintain an effective local research office to manage own account research and oversee research governance;
• include research as part of medical job plans for continuing professional development.

The research office will:
• maintain comprehensive records of all the Trust’s clinical research activity, and ensure transparency in financial management;
• encourage formulation of research proposals to qualify for inclusion in the DH research portfolio, so qualifying for DH funding of infrastructure costs;
• prioritise areas of exceptional research within the Trust
• ensure recognition for local researchers in collaborative research;
• provide an annual research report, including references and other outcome measures, and encourage disclosure of research findings;
• with Human Resources, ensure all researchers not employed by the Trust have an appropriate contractual relationship with the Trust and can be identified when they are on Trust Premises;
• agree and implement Trust policy for the management of Intellectual Property;
• implement any current or future Department of Health policy or legislation;
• complete data returns for DH and complete the Healthcare Commission reports C12;
• organise objective and transparent competitions of annual research awards.

In addition the research office will continue its role in providing expert advice in:
• guiding researchers through various regulatory controls and procedures;
• designing their research projects and drafting research protocols;
• introducing researchers to potential collaborators and sources of expertise;
• advising regarding potential sources of funding;
• preparing research agreements and commercial contracts;
• managing local research grants.