



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board

Swansea Bay University Health Board Research & Development and Innovation Strategy



Context: The challenge of R&D in Wales

- Smaller in scale
- Geography & population distribution
- Less well-developed resource & capacity
- Clarity of strategic choices

Context: Expenditure/investment in R&D

- National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in England annual spend:
 - £1.3 billion in 2021/22 (£23 per capita)
 - Rising to £2 billion pa in 2024/25
- Allocation of UKRI COVID19 research funding:
 - 87% England (£176m) vs 2.1% Wales (£4.1m), 1.5% N Ireland (£3m), 9.4% Scotland (£19m)
- Health and Care Research Wales annual spend:
 - £42m in 2021/22 (£13 per capita)


Purpose of Strategy

- **Purpose of developing a strategy**
 - R&D: To support wider Health Board initiatives; improve health and care of the local population; support service transformation; material financial opportunities
 - Integrate SBUHB's approach to innovation
- **Archus and Academic Health Solutions (AHS) have been commissioned to establish:**
 - The current Research and Development offering at SBUHB
 - The ambition and the challenges faced
 - The core components of a successful strategy that have been adopted by other organisations and how these could apply to SBUHB

Timeline




February – April 2023



Desk Research
4-6 weeks



**Interviews &
Workshops**
4-6 weeks



**Strategy
Production**
4-6 weeks

Phase 1 – Research Phase

- **Strategic Context**
 - To include key local, regional, national and international strategies
- **Mapping of current RDI Governance in Swansea**
- **Identifying directly applicable insights from best practice**
 - National and International - Matched to similar resources, populations and strategic direction
- **Analysis of current research activity in SBUHB**
 - Including stratification between commercial and non-commercial
- **Clinical Context**
 - Local population health needs
 - Literature review of patient outcomes in research-active hospitals
 - Harnessing data – Review of connected health cities (potential parallels and opportunities for SAIL)

Phase 2 – Engagement Phase

- **Questionnaires**

- Clinical Academics, Medical Leaders, Strategy Teams

- **Group Meetings**

- Innovation Group
- R&D Office
- Governance Group
- University Group
- Executive Team

- **External Perspective**

- Pharmaceuticals - Novo Nordisk
- Health Tech - Association of British Health Tech Industries
- ABPI
- Health & Research Wales / Welsh Government perspective

Phase 2 – Engagement Phase

Sample of findings to date

Clear governance,
marketing and lines of
communication

Build on current
strengths, e.g. Cancer,
Diabetes.

Explore key opportunities
with University, e.g.
Engineering, Maths

Need for good
engagement with local
patients and population,
ensuring that RDI provides
value-add for them

Clear identity - One front
door for Swansea RDI
from an external
perspective

Organisational
transformation in short,
medium and long term

Staff to feel supported in
pursuing RDI activities.
This includes RDI being
embedded in Job Plans

Address geographical
siloed working – Swansea
can deliver in key research
areas for rest of Wales

Phase 3 – Report (In Progress)

- Synthesis of phases 1 & 2
- Key recommendations
 - Implementing these recommendations will support the growth of meaningful research activity in Swansea and improve the realisation of wider benefits for the Health Board and local population
- The report will detail the next steps required for success
 - Ensure clear direction of travel and roadmap for success

Next steps

- **Establish robust governance structure for RD&I**
 - SBUHB, Swansea University, regional
- **Implement RD&I strategy**
 - **Short-term:** Build on what is already good
 - establish opportunities in existing research-active areas
 - **Medium-term:** Build on what is promising
 - establish where investment would allow RD&I to flourish
 - **Medium/long-term:** Build for the future
 - establish areas of untapped & unique opportunities



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Questions

