

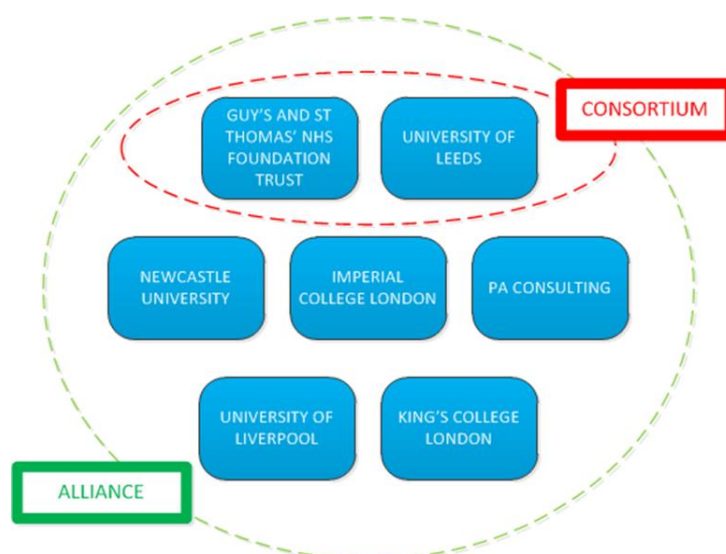
## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### NIHR CLINICAL RESEARCH NETWORK

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Clinical Research Network (CRN) makes it possible for all patients and health professionals across England to participate in relevant clinical trials. We provide the infrastructure that allows high-quality clinical research to take place in the NHS, so that patients can benefit from new and better treatments. We also help researchers to set up clinical studies quickly and effectively, we support the life-sciences industry to deliver their research programmes, we provide health professionals with research training and we work with patients to ensure their needs are at the very centre of all research activity. With annual funding of £300m and a portfolio of some 6000 clinical studies, we provide a workforce of several thousand embedded NHS staff, supported by streamlined, effective and efficient operational systems, to support the delivery of research in all clinical specialties in all NHS sectors. The NIHR CRN is formed of 15 Local Clinical Research Networks (LCRNs) that provide coverage of the whole of England, and our portfolio of studies is organised in 30 clinical research Specialties.

The NIHR CRN Coordinating Centre (CRNCC) provides national coordination and oversight of the CRN, which includes development and implementation of national CRN strategies, policies, systems, processes, frameworks and standards, and support and performance management for the LCRNs and CRN Specialties.

The Coordinating Centre is a hosted organisation jointly managed by the University of Leeds and Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust ("the CRNCC Consortium"). Some specific activities are provided by a broader Alliance of partners that includes Newcastle University, the University of Liverpool, Kings College London, Imperial College London, and PA Consulting Group.



For further information about the NIHR Clinical Research Network, please visit our website: <http://www.crn.nihr.ac.uk/>

## **NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH RESEARCH**

The NIHR Clinical Research Network is a key element of the National Institute for Health Research, which is funded through the Department of Health to improve the health and wealth of the nation through research. The NIHR is a large, multi-faceted and nationally distributed organisation. Together, NIHR people, facilities and systems represent the most integrated clinical research system in the world, driving research from bench to bedside for the benefit of patients and the economy.

Since its establishment, the NIHR has transformed research in the NHS. It has increased the volume of applied health research for the benefit of patients and the public, driven faster translation of basic science discoveries into tangible benefits for patients and the economy, and developed and supported the people who conduct and contribute to applied health research.

Further information on the National Institute for Health Research can be found at: [www.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.nihr.ac.uk)

## **UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS**

The University of Leeds is one of the UK's largest, most prestigious and diverse research-intensive universities. Ranked amongst the world's top 100 universities in the QS World rankings, and a member of the Russell Group of leading research universities, the University has an annual turnover of £587 million, over 31000 students and 7500 staff. It is now embarking on an exciting and critical period in its development, making significant investments in its infrastructure and research capability as part of a new strategic plan.

The CRN CC is hosted within the Faculty of Medicine and Health. The Faculty is at the forefront of cutting edge discovery science and translational clinical research and has a broad portfolio of programmes of study, training tomorrow's healthcare and medical professionals. With around 1600 staff and more than 6500 students it is the largest faculty in the University of Leeds, and is one of the largest medical faculties in Europe.

## **GUY'S & ST THOMAS' NHS FOUNDATION TRUST**

With an annual turnover of £1.2 billion, GSTFT has a national and international reputation for managing and delivering a vast range of clinical research at scale, as well as for the corporate integration of research as a core business activity incorporating hosting functions and strong collaborative partnering to create a hub of research management expertise.

The Trust recognises the importance that commercial acumen and discipline brings to the long term sustainability of the organisation, especially in respect of working with complex and varied providers and identifying new revenue streams. GSTFT is a UK leader in strategic and joint ventures in healthcare delivery and as a result, the Trust now has the largest commercial directorate of any Trust within UK. The Trust's Commercial Directorate, as the commercial arm of the organisation, works closely in support of Trust services to develop and deliver external contract income. This income generation is achieved by using the reputation, skills, capacity and location of the Trust and its staff. The Commercial Directorate builds on over 20 years' experience of delivering health services to external organisations both nationally and internationally.

## **UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**

The University of Liverpool is a world famous brand; it is one of only two UK Higher Education institutions to have a campus in China, has opened an innovative new campus in London and is the largest provider of wholly online degrees in Europe. Our research expertise spans a broad range of disciplines and is world leading in a number of subject areas. We have a national profile for our contribution to widening participation in UK Higher Education, ensuring that no student able to benefit from studying at a Russell Group University is deterred from applying as a result of financial constraints.

The University has ambitious plans for growth and has been pursuing a transformation agenda for a number of years. This is manifest in part in significant development of our University campus and the introduction of award winning Central Teaching Laboratories and on-campus student accommodation, a £25m investment in our libraries, £36m investment in our engineering facilities alongside a recent overhaul of Guild of Students building which has been transformed as a result of £12m investment.

## **NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**

Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the oldest university cities in England. The University has one of the largest EU research portfolios in the UK and attracts over 20,000 students from more than 120 different countries. Teaching and research are delivered in 24 academic schools and 40 research institutes and research centres, spread across three Faculties. The university offers around 175 full-time undergraduate degree programmes in a wide range of subject areas spanning arts, sciences, engineering and medicine, together with approximately 340 postgraduate taught and research programmes across a range of disciplines.

Newcastle University has a world-class reputation for research excellence and spearheads three major societal research challenges that have a significant impact on global society: Ageing and Health, Sustainability, and Social Renewal. Newcastle has received awards for pioneering research into treating polluted water from abandoned mines, world-leading work on ageing and health and internationally renowned research into sustainable rural economies and societies.

## **KING'S COLLEGE LONDON**

King's College London offers an intellectually stimulating environment in which to work, in which staff are dedicated to the advancement of knowledge and learning, in the service of society. As a multi-faculty institution, Kings provide high-quality teaching, research and innovation across the sciences, humanities, medicine, law, dentistry, and social sciences and are a member of the Russell Group, of research intensive higher education institutions. King's is committed to maintaining the highest standards in research and education and is the largest centre for the education of healthcare professionals in Europe, and is home to five Medical Research Council Centres spread across its three teaching hospitals.

King's is one of the top 20 universities in the world (2014/15 QS World University Rankings) and is the fourth oldest university in England and based in the heart of London, King's has more than 26,000 students from nearly 140 countries, and more than 7,000 employees.

## **IMPERIAL COLLEGE LONDON**

Imperial College London is a science-based university with an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research. Consistently rated amongst the world's best universities, Imperial is committed to developing the next generation of researchers, scientists and academics through collaboration across disciplines.

Located in the heart of London, Imperial is a multidisciplinary space for education, research, translation and commercialisation, harnessing science and innovation to tackle global challenges.

Generations of Imperial, staff, students and alumni have changed the world with cutting-edge innovations; from the discovery of penicillin to the world's first invisibility cloak. Recognition of this ground-breaking work has come in the form of 14 Nobel Prizes, 81 Fellowships from the Academy of Medical Sciences, 77 from the Royal Academy of Engineering and 73 from the Royal Society.

Imperial brings together intersecting disciplines, industries and sectors across four major areas to further our understanding of the natural world, solve major engineering problems, lead the data science revolution and improve health and well-being. Emerging areas of research include the development of low-carbon technologies, stem cell therapy for stroke and how to turn light into matter.