



Birmingham Health Partners Research and Innovation Strategy Executive Summary



About

Birmingham Health Partners (BHP) Research and Innovation Strategy is centred on the mission to work together, transforming healthcare in Birmingham and its surrounds through high impact research and innovation.

Birmingham faces unique challenges, being the third-poorest city, one of the youngest and most diverse with significant health disparities in the UK. BHP thrives on collaboration, synergising our ability to address shared priorities, translate research into practice and develop healthcare technologies to improve outcomes for current and future generations. Getting it right for Birmingham sets the standard for leadership regionally, nationally and internationally.

Priorities



Improve health outcomes

Our high-impact research and innovation will improve health outcomes with equity through clear, sustainable pathways both in communities and in hospitals.



Increase life science competitiveness

Our shared ambition is to transform Birmingham's competitiveness in the health and life sciences. We will drive health and wealth by being the destination of choice for commercial partnership rooted in our health innovation campuses, cutting-edge research and translation of evidence-based innovation into practical application.



Collaborate to develop careers

BHP recognises unique strength in collaboration and in developing careers. By working seamlessly across our diverse healthcare ecosystem, including 5 NHS trusts, 2 universities, and the Health Innovation Network-West Midlands, the strategy harnesses collective expertise, resources, and insights. We work in wider partnership and synergy with national and international collaborators and funders to set policy and develop careers.

Themes



Early Detection and Diagnosis

Early detection both in the community and in hospital saves lives and reduces burden on healthcare systems. Driving the translation of evidence-based innovation into practical implementation in diagnostics and technology with methodologies such as data science, is a major component of our international offer in health and life sciences and commercial partnership.



Experimental medicine

We must embed research and innovation at the core of clinical care as it is known to improve outcomes. This includes fostering a symbiotic relationship between research endeavours and patient outcomes. We will specifically improve care in areas of high unmet need, such as mental health, cancer, ill health and multi-morbidity associated with chronic inflammation and maternal and perinatal health.



Clinical trials

Our capability in clinical trials is nationally leading in areas and we will draw on this to ensure our standards and offer is excellent across the partnership, mindful that different healthcare partners bring complementary skills and assets.



Addressing healthcare inequalities

We will ensure equity of access to the benefits of research and innovation for the whole population focussed on reducing healthcare inequalities. We will develop and prioritise initiatives that promote equal access to the benefits of healthcare, ensuring that research and innovation advancements positively impact all segments of the population.

Impact & actions

The BHP Research and Innovation Strategy provides a comprehensive and collaborative roadmap aimed at driving transformative innovation in healthcare. By 2024 we will:

1

Expand our partnership reach to include Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust to increase our community reach and address population health inequalities and explore other RD&I networks across the Integrated Care Boards and local authorities.

2

Enhance public engagement: Develop a Birmingham Health Partners framework for public patient involvement and engagement ensuring diverse participation in research

3

Develop a detailed plan to deliver on our health inequality ambitions with health inequality lead

4

Optimise data integration: Drive our excellence in data integration by appointing a Birmingham Health Partners academic lead for data

5

Foster industry collaboration: Increase our collaborations with small and medium sized enterprises through initiatives such as the West Midlands Health Technology Innovation Accelerator, Birmingham Health Innovation Campus and the NIHR Healthtech Research Collaboration

6

Streamline trial governance for agile innovation: Process map and Identify priorities for our "bureaucracy busting" clinical trials work to be rolled out across our partnership

7

Develop our research leaders of the future: Build on our clinical academic fellowship programme

8

Expand our excellence in maternal medicine: Establish a BHP hub for maternal research bringing together clinical and academic excellence

Our success will be measured by key indicators, including increased grant funding, expanded collaborations with industry partners, growth in clinical trials, and enhanced patient recruitment across our diverse population. We will ensure that we work within budget through delivery of a resource plan.

Looking ahead...

From 2025 – 2028, we will set out, and deliver, a comprehensive series of objectives under each of our strategic areas of focus. As we navigate the next phase of our strategy, we remain steadfast in our commitment to driving innovation, fostering collaboration, and ultimately transforming healthcare for the betterment of Birmingham and beyond.



Get involved



birminghamhealthpartners.co.uk



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