



School for Primary Care Research mid-term review

I would like to confirm the positive outcomes of the mid-term review meeting, held on 25 April 2018 at Quarry House.

The purpose of the review was to assess the performance of the School against agreed objectives for both the research and capacity building contracts.

We agreed that overall, the Department of Health and Social Care, NIHR CCF and NIHR TCC were pleased with the progress being made by the School, and the strategic direction covering the remaining period of the contracts. The key areas covered in the discussion included:

- Acknowledging the School is performing very well against its objectives, and is leading in primary care research.
- Considering the reasons for an apparent plateauing in publication impact.
- Developing opportunities for increasing external collaboration.
- Strategy for leveraging funding.
- The possibility of nationally allocated ACF positions.
- A method of financial reporting and management, and handling underspends occurring within each contract.
- Equity of membership and internal collaborations within the School.
- Developing a plan for staffing the central Directorate which would mitigate risks.

Specific recommendations were also made following the discussion for the School to consider moving forwards and for development for the next phase.

- i) The School was asked to develop strategies for highlighting work where important outcomes result outside the School, such as leveraging of external funding, supporting personal awards and external collaborations. This should be reflected in future annual reporting.
- ii) Both CCF and TCC will work with the SPCR to harmonise financial management and reporting to limit reported and future underspending. Meetings will be set up with SPCR finance and representatives from CCF and TCC.
- iii) Further consideration should be given to establishing a strategy to ensure that publication impact increases over the remainder of the contract.
- iv) The School should consider configuring central management support to be able to handle contingencies.
- v) Patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) is promising, and we would like to see SPCR sharing this work more widely across NIHR. It is recommended that the School continue to employ an individual to oversee PPIE for the School as this is an important aspect of all NIHR research.

Progress made against these recommendations will be monitored during the three-way meetings held between the NIHR CCF, NIHR TCC and the School.

I hope you found the mid-term review process helpful in considering the progress of SPCR, and I would like once again to congratulate you on the successful outcome.

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