

Saving and Improving Lives: The Future of UK Clinical Research Delivery

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Department
of Health &
Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte
Máinnstríe O Poustie



**CHIEF
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UK Clinical Research Recovery, Resilience & Growth



NHS RESEARCH SCOTLAND



UK Clinical Research Recovery, Resilience & Growth

A UK-wide cross sector coordinated programme of work designed to:

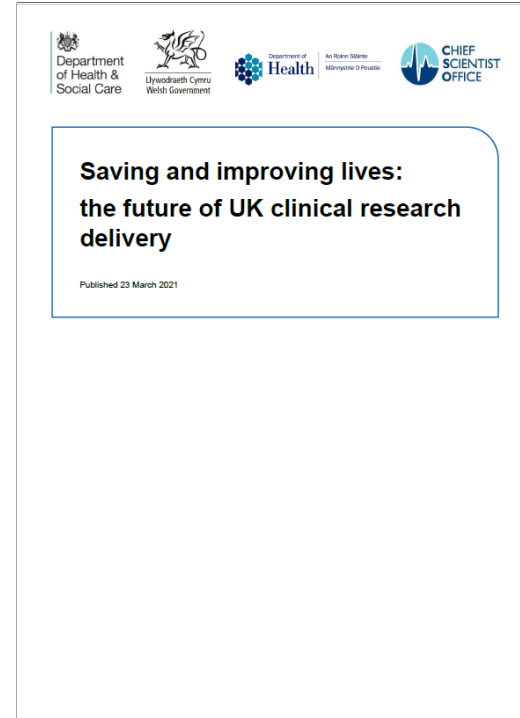
- Ensure the restoration of clinical research activity that was underway pre-COVID
- Maximise opportunities to build back a better and more resilient clinical research system
- Deliver on the commitment to make the UK the leading global hub for life sciences

Focus is on clinical research delivery

UK Clinical Research Recovery, Resilience & Growth

Initial work has focused on recovery of research activity and using the lessons learned from COVID to build back a more resilient research system.

In March the 4 UK Governments launched a bold and ambitious vision to transform the delivery of clinical research in the UK.



UK Clinical Research Recovery, Resilience & Growth

Phased Implementation

Our UK-wide vision for clinical research will be delivered in 2 key phases.

- **Phase 1:** Phase 1 is this vision – the future of UK clinical research delivery alongside our underlying action plans and strategies for improvements to be delivered during 2021 to 2022 – which will be published later this summer
- **Phase 2:** Once delivery in 2021 to 2022 is underway, we will set our sights even higher, publishing detailed plans for the future, which will deliver on our vision and unleash the true potential of UK clinical research

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes

Themes

**Clinical research
embedded in the NHS**

Patient-centred research

**Streamlined, efficient
and innovative research**

**Research enabled by
data and digital tools**

**A sustainable and
supported research
workforce**

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes



To create a research-positive culture in which all health and care staff feel empowered to support and participate in clinical research as part of their job.

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes



To make access to and participation in research as easy as possible for everyone across the UK, including rural, diverse and under-served populations

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes



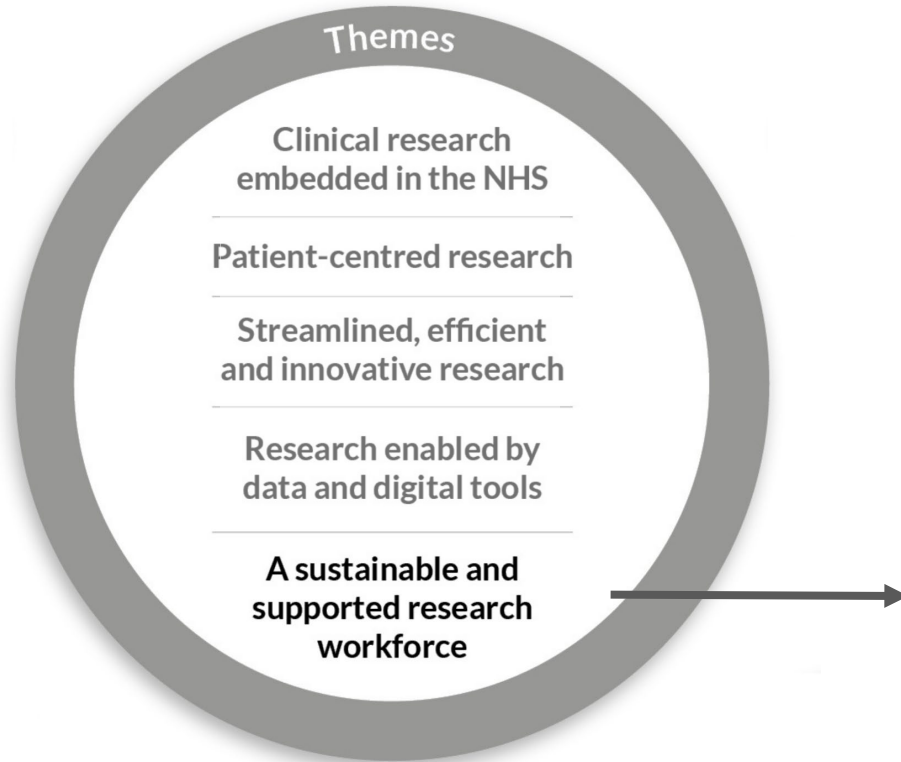
So the UK is seen as the best place
in the world to conduct fast, efficient
and cutting-edge clinical research

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes



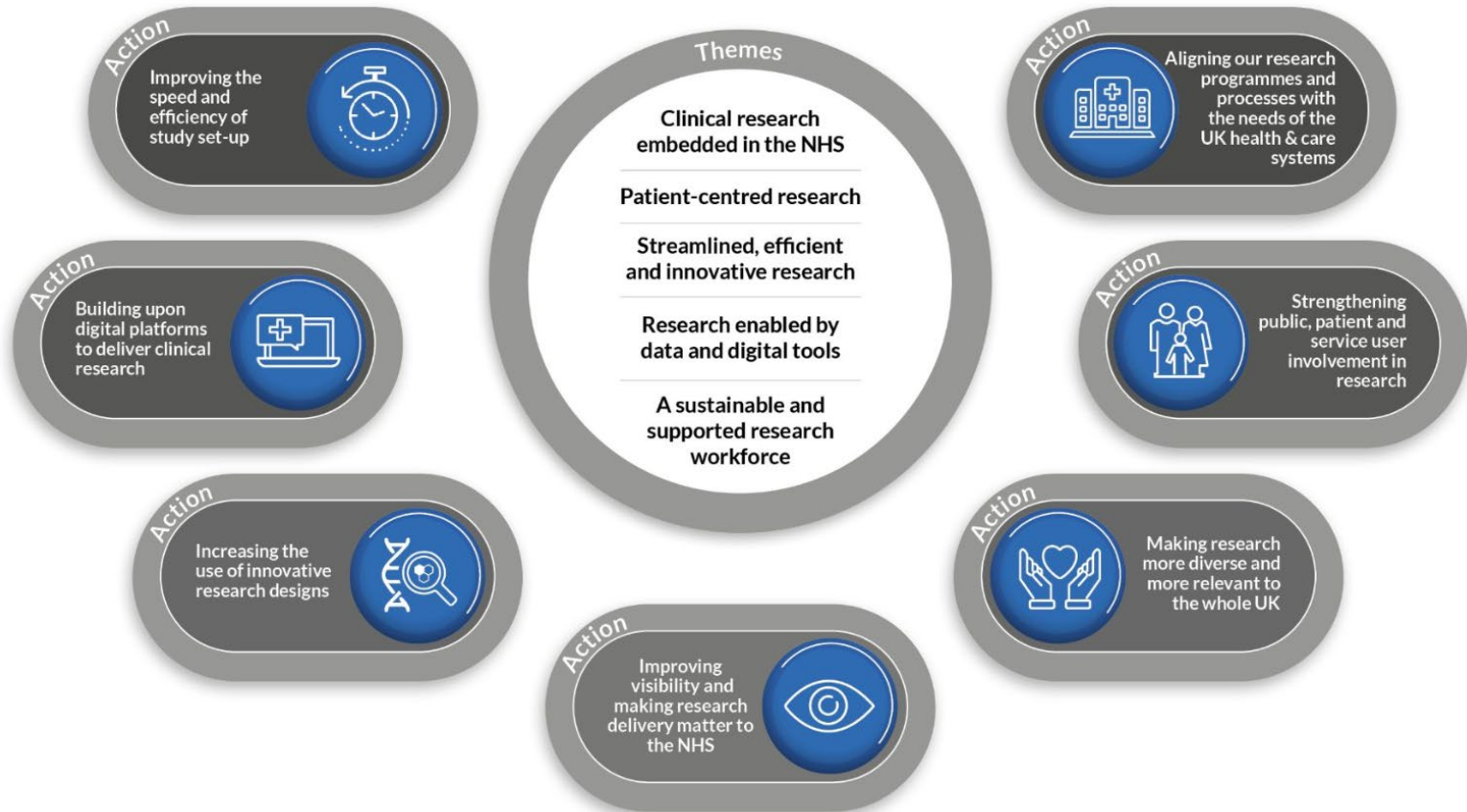
To ensure the UK has the most advanced and data-enabled clinical research environment in the world, which capitalises on our unique data assets to improve the health and care of patients across the UK and beyond

UK Vision - 5 overarching themes

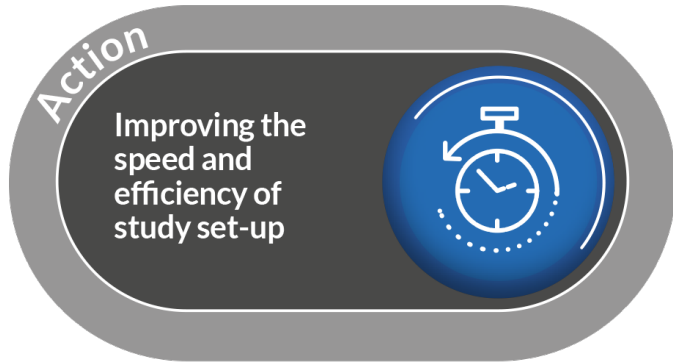


Which offers rewarding opportunities and exciting careers for all healthcare and research staff of all professional backgrounds – across commercial and non-commercial research

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



UK Vision - 7 areas for action



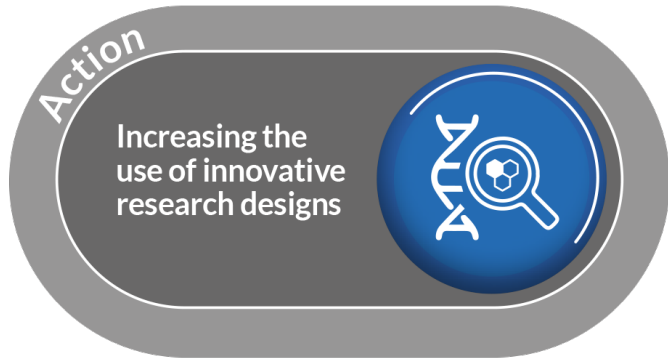
- This includes expediting costing, contracting and approvals - all areas that can often delay progress
- Further work to actively speed up research approval and delivery is also underway
 - For example, the Health Research Authority (HRA) has launched a rapid ethics review pilot for global clinical and phase I trials, which aims to halve the time to provide a final opinion on research applications

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- The power of digital research platforms has been clearly demonstrated during COVID-19, with NHS DigiTrials supporting the rapid delivery of vaccine and therapeutic trials
- There is now a need to build on these successes and increase the capacity for digital platforms to improve the delivery of research
- This will help address other important population health burdens, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease
- It will also reduce the burden on frontline health and care staff and support research delivery for cutting-edge treatments and technologies, including genomic medicines

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- Study teams across the country are adapting research delivery methods to take advantage of virtual processes and technologies
- There is an opportunity to adopt these new approaches across commercial and non-commercial research
- Innovative research should be easier for people to access and will also release capacity within the NHS
- By delivering the best research where it is best suited, we will continue to support innovative studies for cutting-edge treatments and technologies across all phases, for all therapies and for all conditions

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- We are looking to the future health needs of the population and the health service
- This will enable us to better understand the demands that will be placed on the population and health service
- It will ensure we identify the research that is most needed to support patients and the NHS across the UK

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- Engagement with health and care staff and leadership is ongoing to embed the idea that clinical research is an essential and rewarding part of effective patient care
- Work is underway to create the incentives and levers in the system to ensure staff feel empowered to support research and see the benefits it brings to their patients
- This means capturing, monitoring and promoting research activity across the NHS - including numbers of recruited or referrals to research studies and good data collection in NHS systems
- It also means building research into healthcare regulator requirements for NHS bodies and revalidation requirements for doctors and nurses

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- By building on centres of excellence, such as the Centre for BME Health in Leicester, support will be increased for research in more diverse and under-served populations
- Wherever possible, research will be delivered where the patients with the greatest need are located
- This means increasing the capacity and confidence to deliver research in areas with the highest healthcare burdens and levels of deprivation

UK Vision - 7 areas for action



- Support will be expanded to help sponsors easily access patient groups who can support the development of their studies
- It will be ensured that publicly funded research follows the highest standards of public, patient and service user involvement in research design and delivery
- Partnership working across funders will be key to improving diversity and engagement across all clinical research

National managed recovery of the UK portfolio

A nationally managed approach to the recovery of multi-centre studies is being put in place - this is in response to feedback from stakeholders and lessons learnt from efforts to re-start non-COVID research during 2020, and is anticipated to operate for a limited time period.

- NIHR CRN on behalf of the UK have begun discussions with industry partners on the recovery of commercial studies and are working with companies to ensure that their priority studies can restart, identifying which should be delivered first.
- Parallel work is underway to develop plans for managing the recovery of the non-commercial portfolio, with discussions underway with funders, sponsors, NHS R&D and other stakeholders to agree an approach.
- Further details on the processes for both commercial and non-commercial research will be published in April.

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<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-future-of-uk-clinical-research-delivery>

Diolch i pawb!

