STRATEGY DOCUMENT

## Mission statement

*REACH* (the **R**esearch in **E**mergency care, **A**von **C**ollaborative **H**ub) aligns researchers from the two Universities in Bristol with health and care providers, commissioners and other academic organisations, to create a collaborative partnership in Urgent and Emergency Care Research that has demonstrable impact regionally, nationally and internationally. REACH shares expertise and resources to coordinate and strengthen research capacity, development and infrastructure in Urgent and Emergency Care.

## Aim

To build a collaborative hub that brings together academic organisations, health and social care providers and commissioners in a coordinated manner to initiate, direct, build and strengthen Urgent and Emergency Care research across Bristol North Somerset and South Gloucester (BNSSG) and the wider Southwest. REACH will improve Urgent and Emergency Care (defined as unscheduled health or care needs requiring a same day response) for patients by ensuring that research is aligned with local and national initiatives, institutions and priorities, and findings are disseminated and implemented through policy and practice.

## Key objectives

**Work Package 1 – Infrastructure**

- Establish and develop the infrastructure of REACH, including an agreed approach to branding, website and social media presence **(review at 6 months)**.
- Appoint a steering group comprising senior representatives from core stakeholder organisations, and arrange regular meetings to identify areas of need, oversee priorities and progress, including terms of reference and associated memoranda of understanding **(review at 6 months)**.
- Hold a launch event, with associated publicity and dissemination **(review at 6 months)**.
- Affiliate to the NIHR Academy Emergency Care Incubator **(review at 12 months)**.
- Seek additional infrastructure funding and capacity development, through investment by steering group members and external applications including cross-disciplinary approaches **(review at 12 months)**.

**Work Package 2 – Research Prioritisation and Delivery**

- Identify key research priorities and define an over-arching strategy for REACH **(review at 12 months)**.
- Respond flexibly to the national and local research priorities and external funding opportunities arising from the NIHR and other funding bodies, including the Research Councils and charities **(review at 12 months)**.

- Submit at least two grant funding applications for proposals relevant to Urgent and Emergency Care, as agreed by the REACH steering group **(review at 24 months).**
- Continuously demonstrate research impact to benefit patients, staff and systems and support the delivery of effective high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate teaching **(review at 24 months)**.

**Work Package 3 – Develop Academic Capacity and Training**
- Ensure effective links with, and support to, relevant undergraduate and postgraduate curricula in REACH's parent universities **(review at 12 months).**
- Identify and promote opportunities for health and social care professionals to gain research experience in Urgent and Emergency Care research **(review at 12 months).**
- Support at least two applications for academic training awards for health and social care professionals, relevant to Urgent and Emergency Care **(review at 24 months).**
- Act as a repository of academic expertise that enhances research and service delivery in the region **(review at 24 months).**

**Work Package 4 – Demonstrate and Promote the Outputs and Achievements of REACH**
- Create an effective internet and social media presence for REACH **(review at 12 months)**
- Identify opportunities to further promote the activities and achievements of REACH **(review at 12 months)**
- Contribute to commissioning, service and workforce development locally and regionally by offering academic expertise and challenge **(review at 12 months)**
- Hold an annual REACH review and prioritisation meeting to identify unmet need and future research priorities **(review at 12 months).**
- Establish Bristol as an international leader in applied health research spanning the full range of Urgent and Emergency Care **(review at 24 months)**

## REACH Delivery Group
The Delivery Group is made up of:
- ⊕ Two co-directors (one from each university)
- ⊕ Research leads (from both universities)
- ⊕ REACH Senior Research Fellow(s) and other core funded staff

The Delivery Group meets monthly and will collaborate to deliver:
- ⊕ The launch and ongoing promotion of REACH
- ⊕ Achievement of REACH objectives and milestones
- ⊕ Development of research funding applications
- ⊕ Oversight of the completion of funded research
- ⊕ Dissemination of research findings to academic and public audiences
- ⊕ Knowledge mobilisation and transfer with associated impact assessment

## REACH Steering Group
- ⊕ The Steering Group will have two co-Chairs

⊕ Membership includes senior representatives from each of the following partner organisations:
- University of the West of England
- University of Bristol
- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- Sirona Care and Health
- BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group
- NIHR Applied Heath Collaboration (ARC) West
- Bristol Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre
- West of England Academic Health Sciences Network

Steering group meetings will also be attended by:
⊕ Two co-directors (one from each university)
⊕ Others members of the REACH Delivery Group by invitation

The Steering Group meets every 3 months with the following objectives:
⊕ Oversee the REACH initiative on behalf of stakeholder organisations
⊕ Monitor delivery of the REACH objectives, work packages and milestones
⊕ Prioritise research topics and associated activities
⊕ Support research development, delivery, dissemination and adoption
⊕ Identify and secure supporting funding and other resources as required
⊕ Promote REACH, its activities and outputs
⊕ Form and develop collaborative links regionally, nationally and internationally

## Funding

The infrastructure to support REACH will be provided by the University of the West of England and the University of Bristol, supplemented by an annually agreed funding request to the partner organisations. This funding will be used to support:

⊕ Research infrastructure, administration, publicity, website and social media presence
⊕ Research staff engaged in activities approved by the Steering Group
⊕ Applications for external grant funding

REACH will actively seek external funding to support research projects and training including research trials and other studies, personal and general training awards and infrastructure grants. Partner organisations may provide additional funding to support specific projects or staff requirements.  The REACH Steering Group will review funding and support from partner organisations on an annual basis.

## Milestones

| Work Package | Milestone | Launch (Sep 20) | End of Q1 (Nov 20) | End of Q2 (Feb 21) | End of Q3 (May 21) | End of Q4 (Aug 21) | Year 2 Sep 21-Aug 22 | Year 3 Sep 22-Aug 23 | Year 4 Sep 23-Aug 24 | Year 5 Sep 24-Aug 25 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| WP 1 | Create a virtual and social media presence for REACH | | Agree website hosting | Website established | | Website update at end of first year | Website update November 2021 | Website update November 2022 | Website update November 2023 | Website update November 2024 |
| | Affiliate to the NIHR Incubator programme | | Application | | NIHR EC Incubator hosted by REACH | | Review NIHR EC Incubator hosting | | | |
| WP 2 | Agree short and long term research priorities in Urgent and Emergency Care | | | | Discuss at Steering Group | Publish priorities on website | Review priorities Sept 2022 | Review priorities Sept 2023 | Review priorities Sept 2024 | Review priorities Sept 2025 |
| | Secure funding for the delivery of research projects and programmes | | | Submit two stage 2 NIHR applications | | One REACH supported project running | Two REACH supported projects running | Three REACH supported projects running | Five REACH supported projects running | Eight REACH supported projects running |
| | Determine a process for the allocation of Research Capability Funding (RCF) awarded for successful grants | | | | Discuss at Steering Group | Agree and finalise process | Review process Aug 2022 | Review process Aug 2023 | Review process Aug 2024 | Review process Aug 2025 |

FINAL 1.0

| Work Package | Milestone | Launch (Sep 2020) | End of Q1 (Nov 2020) | End of Q2 (Feb 2021) | End of Q3 (May 2021) | End of Q4 (Aug 2021) | Year 2 Sep 21-Aug 22 | Year 3 Sep 22-Aug 23 | Year 4 Sep 23-Aug 24 | Year 5 Sep 24-Aug 25 |
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| WP 3 | Act as a repository of academic expertise to enhance research and service delivery in the region | | | List staff affiliated to REACH on website | | | | | | |
| | Establish a pipeline of academic training awards for health and social care professionals | | | Link those who currently hold awards to REACH website | Identify and support one or more Individual(s) to apply in 2022 | | Identify and support one or more Individual(s) to apply in 2023 | Identify and support one or more Individual(s) to apply in 2024 | Identify and support one or more Individual(s) to apply in 2025 | Identify and support one or more Individual(s) to apply in 2026 |
| WP 4 | Ensure effective promotion of the outputs and achievements of REACH | | | | | Review presence, outputs and impact | Review presence, outputs and impact | Review presence, outputs and impact | Review presence, outputs and impact | Review presence, outputs and impact |
| | Hold an annual REACH review and prioritisation meeting | | | | | | 1st REACH review and prioritisation meeting | 2nd REACH review and prioritisation meeting | 3rd REACH review and prioritisation meeting | 4th REACH review and prioritisation meeting |