

Institution: Leeds Metropolitan University

Unit of Assessment: 2A Public Health, Health Services & Primary Care

a. Overview

Our environment is vibrant and sustainable. Building on our submission in the Allied Health Professions and Studies (unit 12 in RAE 2008) we have continued to invest on the significant trajectory of research excellence we profiled at that time. Our investment and focus on public health up to and since that time has realised significant impact benefit demonstrating the long term effect of investment in research staff and students (evidence available in templates ref1 a/b/c & ref 4a/b/c).

The Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC), Research and Enterprise is responsible for the strategic development and leadership of research and enterprise activity across our University. The offices of University Research (URO) and University Enterprise (UEO) under the line management of the DVC, support the delivery of the Strategic Plan 2010/2015 and the Research Strategy. Working together we focus on the research community, enhancing research student experience, fostering relationships with partners, companies and external organisations and promoting entrepreneurship and innovation among our staff and students.

Our University is structured into four faculties and 18 schools, each undertaking research activity specific to their subject groups. The research environment is further enhanced and focussed through the internal establishment of three Research Institutes, each with a director and a collection of research centres which cover a broad subject base. The Institutes and centres demonstrate our expertise and strengths in an array of subject areas focussing on developing research activity to provide sustainability and a platform for growth. This major investment has seen a return in the form of an increase of 57% in successful applications for external research income and a higher number of academic staff being put forward for inclusion in the Research Excellence Framework (REF).

The strategic research decision making processes take place through our committee structures at University and faculty level. The University Research and Enterprise Committee and its sub-committee. The Research Degrees and the Research Ethics deal directly with research and enterprise issues. The Research Degree Sub Committee has the sole authority for decision making on any matters relating to postgraduate research students.

Our current research student portfolio comprises over 550 students, studying full and part time on a variety of research degrees. This academic year (12/13) saw 53 postgraduate research students successfully complete their programme of study.

Our University is committed to the development of its staff, and operates in compliance with the Concordat and Researcher Development Framework. Through Human Resources (HR) and the URO/UEO we enable our staff to deliver high levels of performance by promoting and providing a wide range of development opportunities which are reviewed through our Performance and Development Review (PDR) process. There are also biennial promotion calls for suitably qualified staff to the roles of Reader and Professor as part of our on-going commitment to the research vibrancy of our university. Both early career researchers and those further into their careers are offered a wide range of development and participate in a lively research culture at Faculty and School level as well as in university-level events. Continual professional development through the Enterprise Academy and the Research Academy will equip our staff and research students with the necessary skills and attributes to be able to succeed in their chosen career paths. The URO implement several competitive schemes to build research careers such as; Early Career Research Development, Research Leadership and Research Cluster Development Awards. These schemes also promote collaboration across our University and in the wider research environment. Internal investment in addition to our external research income is an important contributor to increasing our internal structures, facilities and equipment, research profile, reputation and in the development of academic staff.

b. Research strategy

Strategic Aims and Goals

The Strategic Plan for the University, 2010-2015, sets out the long term strategy for the development of research and enterprise and which is relevant to submissions to REF 2014. The main goals of this part of the Strategic Plan are:

- ensuring research and enterprise excellence, as well as learning and teaching capability, is prioritised when appointing academic staff
- ensuring new research staff and students can demonstrate evidence of the capacity to develop integrated research and enterprise activities.
- increasing the proportion of our research activity that is internationally excellent or world leading as determined by national assessment;
- extending our reputation with stakeholders for the responsiveness, relevance and impact of our engagement work.
- securing funding for research and enterprise activities both independently and jointly with partners and collaborators;
- demonstrating the impact of our work by monitoring and evaluating inputs, outputs and outcomes associated with our research and enterprise activities using internal and external indicators;
- increasing our revenue from profitable enterprise activities;
- identifying and developing no more than five interdisciplinary areas of research strengths and potential to act as pillars for future research growth.

To contribute to the achievement of these goals, the direction for research within the Faculty and particularly within the submitted REF unit is provided by a new professorial post (since RAE 2008), the Director of Research. The role is to facilitate the delivery of the University Research Strategy and this is supported by membership of the Faculty Leadership Team which is chaired by the Dean of Faculty. The Director is supported by a new Research Support Unit staffed by a manager and administrative assistants. Its role is to provide pre award administrative support for the development of research bids and post award project management; to monitor and maintain a database of research activity and to provide support for the development and implementation of the University research strategy.

All research activity, including the development and implementation of the University Research Strategy, the development of a research culture and the monitoring and is reported formally through the Faculty Research and Enterprise Committee (FREC) chaired by the Director of Research as defined in the academic board regulations and which in turn reports to the University Research and Enterprise Committee, a committee of Academic Board.

c. People, including:

i. Staffing strategy and staff development

Financial support for the research duties of staff come from a mix of income from external grants, time allocated for research and scholarship, RAE 2008 allocated income and investment by the Faculty and University. In addition, the Faculty provides support for PhD studentships through a limited postgraduate teaching assistant scheme. Other Faculty and University schemes support a limited number of PhD Studentships. A major policy to develop research staff is to identify early career researchers from within the Faculty's PhD graduates and from its postdoctoral research assistants. This has already led to the appointment of new core research staff, largely as research fellows and a senior lecturer. An RA recently won a PhD scholarship within the Faculty and there are two examples of a Research Fellow being promoted to Senior Research Fellow. Five new professors in the Faculty were successful in the recent externally peer reviewed professorial promotions round and a Readers and Professors' group chaired by the Faculty Director of Research provides academic leadership and mentoring. Two further professorial appointments have been made within the Institute for Health and Wellbeing and all new academic staff at lecturer level and are required by default to have a PhD to be employed which is University policy. All staff have access to a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) budget which year on year has fully

funded staff undertaking doctoral studies as a priority. Research and Scholarship are specifically identified PDR objectives which is compulsory for all staff.

ii. Research students

All postgraduate research students are required to complete a Research Training Programme that aims to equip them with the skills important for their development as a researcher, and that will help with their future employability. This commences with a compulsory weekend residential retreat led by the DVC for Research and Enterprise. As well as skills specific to their own doctoral research, they also include personal effectiveness, communication and networking skills and career management. All postgraduate research students are required to complete a Research Training Programme that aims to equip them with the skills important for their development as a researcher, and that will help with their future employability. At the beginning of their studies, students complete a Training Needs Analysis which forms the basis of an individual training programme that they undertake throughout their research degree. Many resources are available online so that our distance learning students can access them easily. The competencies that students are required to develop and evidence are based both on the needs associated with their individual doctoral research and also on the Joint Statement of the UK Research Councils' Training Requirement for Research Students. Training sessions are provided at University level and also by Faculties. For example, 'twilight sessions' are offered to all PhD students and cover a range of methodologies, debates and issues as well as skills development (e.g. publishing, literature searching). These sessions are provided by experts (often professors) and are well attended.

Three months after registration students prepare a report that is reviewed during a viva with a panel made up of a senior academic not connected with the project and the supervisory team. The panel can confirm the target award, recommend an alternative target award (e.g. rather than a PhD the student registers for an MPhil), recommends that the student addresses specific areas of weakness and resubmits their report, or recommends that the student withdraws from the University. At the end of each year of their doctoral research, students are required to present their work to a progress panel consisting of supervisors, an independent chair, and another senior researcher from within the faculty. These meetings are invaluable in providing students with constructive feedback and advice. Students are also invited to present their work to colleagues within the University particularly at the annual conference planned and organised entirely by our research students. Towards the end of their degrees, students produce a portfolio that identifies and evidences the skills that they have developed and can be used to enhance their employability. Students also have access to the post graduate research tutor at professorial level. Student's regularly publish their work with supervisor's pre and post viva.

d. Income, infrastructure and facilities

In addition to enhancements of laboratory and equipment provision for research in Health and Pain (Rehabilitation) referred to in RAE 2008 (a total of £847k), a new £1.4M teaching and research laboratory was completed in February 2010 providing for more laboratory-based research and a new multi-million state of the art clinical skills facility opened in spring 2012 following further University investment. A bespoke research laboratory for biomedical science and pain research as part of the £12.5M estates investment plan for the Faculty includes a bespoke floor and facilities for the growing body of PhD research students. Our work around community campus partnerships is further evidence of our infrastructure: <http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/community/>. Physical library access for students and staff is 24/7 365 days a year.

e. Collaboration and contribution to the discipline or research base

The Unit's staff are deeply engaged locally, nationally and internationally and this spreads across the other Units submitted by the University. The quality and nature of the Faculty's teaching and research programmes areas benefit from and require direct interaction with both users of research, the discipline and the public. The following provides evidence from a selection of those returned in this REF submission of existing esteem through engagements with research users, the discipline and the public. **Dr Bagnall** is a member of the executive committee and scientific sub-committee of the UK Spinal Cord Injury Research Network (UKSCIRN; grant awarding body) and Associate Senior Lecturer for the UK Cochrane Centre. She is a peer reviewer for the National Institute for

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Health Research (NIHR) Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) stream; the Medical Research Council, the Cochrane Wounds Group and Cochrane Injuries Group and for the BMJ, BMJ Open, International Journal of Men's Health and Psychological Reports. **Professor Johnson** is International Editorial Board Member for the journal Acupuncture in Medicine and International Editorial Board Member for the Journal Analgesia & Resuscitation: Current Research and a referee for medical, rehabilitation and pain journals (including The Lancet & Pain). He is Invited author for major pain textbooks and journals (e.g. ABC of Pain (Part of the BMJ ABC series) and The Encyclopaedia of Pain. He is Chair of the TATE clinical trial (TENS for Tennis Elbow) steering group. Key Invited Conference presentations include: Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation for Cancer Pain. 2nd National Conference of Advanced Chronic Pain Management. London 2011; Continued uncertainty about TENS effectiveness from recent systematic reviews. Parallel Session B3. Evaluating TENS for Chronic Musculoskeletal Pain: Exploring the Challenges. Joint Annual Scientific Conference of the British Pain Society and the Canadian Pain Society. Edinburgh 2011. He was invited to deliver public engagement research events at The Royal Society Summer Science Exhibition, 2008; TechFest 2009, Institute of Information and Technology, Mumbai 2009; Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester, UK 2009; Royal Institution Family Science Day, London, April 2009 and has had appearances on national media including BBC radio 4 and BBC 1's The One Show. He is an expert consultant for The Advertising Standards Agency and for Philips Research International for the development of TENS technology including prototype device design and the design and execution of a randomised controlled clinical trial (Kolen et al. 2012, Pain 153: 373-381). He was Co-author of research 'prize winners' at the British Pain Society Conference in 2012 (best poster Elzahaf et al.) and 2013 (best poster Elzahaf et al. and best abstract Radford et al.).

Dr Maynard is Editorial Board member for Ethnicity & Health Journal (2008-present) and a grant panel reviewer for the MRC and the ESRC. She held an ESRC training bursary (value up to £1000; see <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/TandE/bursary/> for details) awarded August 2013 for training in Media Content Analysis at the University of Oxford, March 2014. She has an appointment as honorary Lecturer at the University of Glasgow, which facilitates on-going collaborations with the Medical Research Council Unit and most recently had an invited contribution at the Lancet Public Health Science: A national conference dedicated to new research in UK Public Health which aims to "showcase exceptional talent in the UK public health research community", UCL Institute of Child Health. **Professor Robertson** is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Men's Health and Editorial Board Member of the American Journal of Men's Health. He was a Reviewer for the National Institute for Health Research 2011 Research for Patient Benefit Scheme, Competition 14 and invited Swedish Research Council Evaluation Panel Member for the Project Grant on Gender Research. Invited Internationally to deliver "The importance of retaining a focus on masculinities in future studies on men and health" at the International Conference on Men & Masculinities. Université Laval, Quebec City, Canada (March 2011) and Invited Plenary Session 'Men and health-seeking practices: what do we know and what does it mean for policy and practice?' Andrology Australia Forum, Gold Coast, Australia, June (2009); he was also an Invited speaker for an ESRC seminar on gender health equality. He acted as project grant reviewer, NIHR School for Social Care Research and Medical Research grant reviewer, The BUPA Foundation and for the Project Grant Scheme Chief Scientist Office, Scotland. He is a Board Member of Trustees for the UK White Ribbon Campaign (2008-2011).

Professor Sahota was Invited to join a working Party (Nov 2012) by the Department of Health to develop best practice guidance for adult and child weight management services <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/best-practice-guidance-for-weight-management-services>. and to present Expert Testimony (Feb 6th 2013) Effective behavioural approaches for child weight management programmes to inform the NICE draft practice guidance for lifestyle weight management services for overweight and obese children <http://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=download&o=63653>. She is Deputy Chair of The Association for the Study of Obesity (ASO) (2012 – present) and Co-Chair of the Regional Association for the Study of Obesity (ASO) group (from Jan 2010). Voted onto The International Scientific Committee for European Congress of Obesity in 2013 she was re-elected onto the Board of Trustees for the Association for the Study of Obesity (Nov 2010-March 2014) . Invitations

include European Congress on Obesity (May 2011) Effective Behavioural strategies for Childhood Obesity Programmes- European Congress on Obesity (May 2013) Ethnic Differences in the diet of infants: Born in Bradford 1000 study; Regional Funding Committee of Research for Patient Benefit Programme, and expert workshop for Change4Life social marketing campaign, Department of Health. She was also Invited by Department of Health to participate in a project aimed at developing web-based resource on health and well-being interventions in schools and colleges and is a steering group member of Childhood Obesity Research Group for Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Professor South received a personal invitation by the Chief executive of the NHS to address patient involvement within NHS England (October 2013) and Invited by the ESRC as knowledge navigator for local government to lead rapid research review for ESRC, Local Government Association and SOLACE (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers), (July 2013). She is a Co-investigator for Team Grant (Community-Based Primary Healthcare): Canadian Chronic Disease Awareness and Management Program (C-CHAMP) - Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program, (\$2.5 million, 2013-2018) Ontario, Canada, University of Montreal, University of Ottawa. Invited Keynote International presentations include. 'Health promotion by communities and in communities: current issues for research and practice' at 7th Nordic Health Promotion Conference, (June 2013) Vestfold University College, Norway and 'Community involvement and the changing conditions of welfare in the UK'. Nordic conference 'Health promotion, power and welfare', Roskilde University, Denmark (August, 2011). She was Invited by the Institute for Volunteering Research to be on a panel discussion 'Volunteering in health and social care: How can it effectively, equitably and sustainably confront the future?' at The Voluntary Sector and Volunteering Research Conference 2013. Other attendances by personal invitation include NHS England AGM and pre-workshops, (September 2013) to the NHS Values Summit, held at Leeds Metropolitan University, (November 2012) and an invitation from Paul Burstow MP, Minister of State for Care Services to a workshop on 'Improving health and wellbeing in the new health and care system' 18th March 2011, London. Attendance by invitation at Department of Health, 21st July, 2011 to consider the establishment of a community volunteers for preparation for parenthood programme and again by invitation at The Department of Health national think tank: Engaging with communities: where does patient and community engagement fit into the new policy scenario? Health Inequalities National Support Team national 'think tank' in 23rd Feb, Leeds, 2011. She is also Panel member (expert public health) for Wakefield Poverty and Prosperity Commission, for the Wakefield Together Local Strategic Partnership, December 2011-April 2012.

Dr Tashani is on the editorial board of The Libyan Journal of Infectious Diseases and the Libyan Medical Journal. He is on the board of The Libyan Academics in UK Universities, a charity organization that facilitates UK/Libyan academic collaboration. **Dr Warwick Booth** is an Editorial Board Member for The Health Education Journal and an academic expert reviewer for public health research programme. She was an Invited speaker at the International Qualitative Research for Policy Making Conference, Malta (2009). **Professor A White** shared the platform in the European Parliament with the European Commissioner John Dalli at the launch of The State of Men's Health in Europe Report and is a Member of the National Cancer Equalities Initiative Advisory Group; the Cancer Reform Strategy - Awareness working group and the National Cancer Equalities Initiative working group. Invited key note papers at National and International conferences and congresses: including the National Cancer Equalities Initiative Men and Cancer Gender Visioning Event and a European Commission Health Information Workshop held at the European Health Forum Gastein in 2010 Equalities Initiative Men and Cancer Gender Visioning Event in Leeds; Following an opinion piece on work in the New Scientist has had coverage in over 357 media outlets, including the TV and Radio for the work on Premier League Health in December. He is Elected Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Society for Men's Health and the Scientific coordinator for this year's World Congress and European Regional Editor for the Journal of Men's Health. A Research bid reviewer for the ESRC he is Member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Men's Health, the Trends in Urology and Men's Health journal and an advisor on the International Journal of Men's Health. Named as the world's 61st most influential man affecting men's lives in the Men's Health Magazine's 'Power 100' He received the Robert Tiffany International Award 2012, Nursing Standard, Royal College of Nursing and Outstanding

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Contribution Award 2011, Men's Health World Congress, ISMH. **H White** is Co-Chair of the European Cystic Fibrosis Nutrition Group and member of the European Cystic Fibrosis Society Scientific Committee (2013-2017). **J White** was Invited to speak at the House of Lords Science and Technology Select Committee Call for Evidence: Behaviour Change on Health Trainers and to the consultation on the White Paper Equity and Excellence on behalf of the Yorkshire and Humber Health Trainer Team and commissioned by The British Journal of General Practice to write an article on How community resources can enhance clinical practice.