

ACCELERATED ACCESS COLLABORATIVE (AAC) BOARD

Paper Title: Life Science Vision Implementation (LSVI) Update

Agenda item: 7

Report by: Jessica Kirby, Strategy, Investment, and Analysis (Office for Life Sciences)

Paper type: For review, noting

AAC Priority Area:

Demand signalling / horizon scanning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Adoption and spread	<input type="checkbox"/>
Increasing research	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Working with partners	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increasing uptake	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (statutory, governance)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Ask of the AAC Board:

1. Note the progress on the Healthcare Missions, following the substantive discussion on them at April's Board meeting; and note (following a verbal update) the plans for the upcoming Prime Ministerial "moment" on Life Sciences on 14 July.

Executive summary:

1. Implementation of the Life Sciences Vision, which was published in July 2021, continues at pace following the Comprehensive Spending Review, including the development of the eight Healthcare Missions.
2. Policy development has continued across all eight missions, scoping out the ambition of each mission and exploring appropriate delivery models where funding has been secured. £125m has been secured through the Spending Review for the Cancer, Obesity, Mental Health and Addiction Missions and addressing systematic barriers to access and uptake of innovation. Funding has also recently been agreed among government partners for the dementia mission.
3. The launch of some of the Healthcare Missions and wider Vision commitments is intended for the summer. A key part of these summer announcements will be a Life Sciences Vision Implementation Roadmap which was committed to within the Vision last year.

Background

1. Implementation of the Life Sciences Vision which was published in July 2021, continues at pace following publication and the allocation of SR funding including both the development of the eight Healthcare Missions and across the vision's three key objectives.
2. The cross-cutting strategic priorities being delivered across the vision objectives on science and research through work on the clinical research, NHS innovation and business environment will support the delivery of the missions through long term system changes, and support. Reflecting on discussions at the AAC Board in March, this paper provides an update on the funded Healthcare Missions that have a particular focus on the development and scale use of new technologies in the NHS and are being co-designed with national and local health service partners.

The Healthcare Missions

3. As set out in the Healthcare Missions update to the AAC Board in March, the eight Healthcare Missions span a variety of disease areas that have large scale impacts on the NHS, morbidity and mortality, and large commercial opportunity for industry. The Missions are being designed to learn from and replicate, albeit at a smaller scale, core elements of the Vaccines Taskforce, by bringing together the best of the NHS, industry, academia, philanthropy and Government to accelerate the development of new products to market in areas of significant clinical need.
4. Policy development has continued across all eight missions, scoping out the ambition of each mission and exploring appropriate delivery models where funding has been secured. £125m has been secured through the Spending Review which will be used in part for the Cancer, Obesity, Mental Health and Addiction Missions, and funding has recently been agreed amongst government partners for the Dementia Mission. OLS continues to seek funding for the remaining missions in Respiratory, Vaccines and Ageing whilst undertaking extensive engagement to refine scientific focus and target objectives and deliverables.

4.1. **Mental Health:** aims to address the significant unmet need for innovative new treatments and technologies, through deepening the understanding of mental ill health, and using this knowledge to advance the development of new therapies and products. The mission will be funded through a portion of the £95m allocated for the Healthcare missions and NHS Innovation (c. £30m). Discussions have taken place with a wide range of stakeholders to create an operating model that works for the sector, the NHS and service users. We expect to launch the mission's funding competition in the summer, which will enable bids from leading NHS organisation and academic institutions to form a consortia which will create research infrastructure. The mission will be delivered primarily in the North and the Midlands, recognising the significant burden of disease in those parts of the country, and the need to continue to build research infrastructure outside of the Greater South East.

4.2. **Obesity:** aims to deliver cutting edge research in large, diverse populations

that demonstrates the impact that innovative drug/ digital/ device/ service combinations can play in tackling obesity as a major driver of cardiovascular disease. Ultimately, by demonstrating this value in real-world settings, our ambition is to develop a new 'blueprint' for the future of how life sciences innovations can be used to better tackle obesity across the NHS and globally. In line with recent Ministerial steers, we are developing a place-based approach to delivery, delivering a programme of real-world research in areas of greatest need – particularly in the North of England and beyond the 'golden triangle'. Stakeholder engagement to test the best operating model for this is ongoing. The mission will be funded through a portion of the £95m allocated for the Healthcare missions and NHS Innovation (c. £20m). We expect to launch the mission's funding competition in the summer, which will invite bids from local NHS and civic partners, academic institutions, and industry stakeholders to participate.

4.3. **Cancer:** The Life Sciences Vision set out a high-level ambition to drive the development and commercialisation of new cancer medicines, diagnostics, and genomic and predictive technologies in the UK, acting as a testbed for oncology innovation. The mission is currently funded through a portion of the £95m allocated for the Healthcare missions and NHS Innovation in Spending Review 2021 (c. £20m). Further funding is being sought from public, private and third sector sources. This mission is focusing on two priorities: 1) supporting the at-scale trialling and utilisation of novel screening technologies, early diagnostics and artificial intelligence in the NHS, and 2) improved targeting and development of cancer immunotherapies including cancer vaccines, by developing a United Kingdom - Immunological Phenotyping Network and delivering a national study in cancer immunotherapy.

4.4. **Addiction:** aims to create an environment that treats drug addiction as a chronic healthcare condition, utilising the power of research and collaboration to accelerate breakthroughs and innovations that will result in more effective treatments and technologies for addiction. The mission will be funded through £30m allocated through the drugs strategy. The mission is currently in development to focus on opioid and cocaine as the most prevalent addictions with clear gaps in treatment and research options in England.

5. Work is advanced between OLS, NHS England, NIHR, UKRI and other partners about how each Mission can be most effectively commissioned – building on existing capabilities, infrastructure and investments.

Governance

6. To support the effective delivery of the Vision, Life Science governance structures have been reformed and refocussed to make them sharper and more delivery focussed. These Boards, working alongside the AAC Board, will monitor and drive progress, and provide Ministers, who are accountable to Parliament for the delivery of the Vision, with appropriate assurance.

Next steps

7. With the Life Science Implementation Roadmap, which many members of the AAC Board have inputted into, due for publication on 14 July at a Prime Ministerial Life Science “Moment”, a fuller verbal update on next steps will be provided in the meeting.

Board members are asked to:

The AAC Board note the work ongoing to deliver the Life Science Vision; and (following verbal update) note the plans for the Prime Ministerial Life Science “moment” planned for 14 July.