

**UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
07 September 2010**

Title:	AUTHORITY TO ACT AS SIGNATORY FOR COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL RESEARCH NETWORK MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENTS
Responsible Director:	Tim Jones, Executive Director of Delivery
Contact:	Theresa Morton, CLRN Senior Manager, Ext 2022

Purpose:	To ask the Board to make an informed decision regarding authority for the Executive Directors of Finance and Delivery to act as signatories for the Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN) Membership Agreements based on the information presented to them in the attached report
Confidentiality Level & Reason:	None
Medium Term Plan Ref:	-
Key Issues Summary:	To provide clarity regarding authority for signing CLRN Agreements
Recommendations:	To severally authorise the Director of Finance and the Executive Director of Delivery to approve and sign CLRN Membership Agreements on behalf of the Trust.

Signed: 	Date: 24 August 2010
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------

UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS BIRMINGHAM NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

07 September 2010

AUTHORITY TO ACT AS SIGNATORY FOR COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL RESEARCH NETWORK MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENTS

PRESENTED BY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DELIVERY

1. Background

The National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CCRN) was established by the DH to provide the infrastructure to deliver high quality research across the NHS. The CCRN comprises 25 Comprehensive Local Research Networks, and in 2007 UHB successfully applied to become the Host organisation for Birmingham and the Black Country Comprehensive Local Research Network (BBC CLRN). An Agreement (the 'Head Agreement') is in place between DH and UHB which outlines the Trust's responsibilities as CLRN Host.

As the Host, UHB has written agreements in place with its 18 CLRN Member Organisations (the 18 NHS Trusts across Birmingham and the Black Country). These agreements set out the level of funding the CLRN will provide to each Member Organisation, the eligible uses of that funding, and the respective roles and responsibilities of the Host and the Member Organisation.

Following a period of consultation (to which UHB's representatives were invited to contribute), the NIHR has released a second version of the CLRN Membership Agreement. The amendments are minimal, but ensure that the provisions of the Membership Agreement more appropriately reflect those in the Head Agreement. This has been seen by the Trust's Director of Corporate Affairs, whose comments have also been included.

The Membership Agreement now requires signing by both UHB as the Host and all the Member Organisations.

2. Signatory

The original copies of the Membership Agreement were signed by the Trust's Executive Director of Finance, given the Agreements' emphasis on funding. However, with the CLRN now falling within the remit of the Executive Director of Delivery, it is proposed that he also should act as signatory.

3. Recommendation

It is requested that the Board authorises both the Director of Finance and the Director of Delivery to approve and sign the CLRN Membership Agreements on behalf of the Trust as Host of the CLRN.