

Cardiff Health Partners

Health Innovation, Anchored in Cardiff,
Connected for Global Impact





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Introduction

We are delighted to introduce Cardiff Health Partners (CHP).

As leaders of our respective organisations, we and our teams have been working closely together on CHP and are excited about the opportunities this partnership brings and the transformative impact it will have on our region.

CHP represents a new era, a bold, strategic, and collaborative vision: three organisations coming together with a shared commitment to improving health outcomes, driving innovation, and creating lasting benefits for our patients and communities. By combining our expertise, resources, and passion, we believe this partnership will not only strengthen healthcare delivery but also foster research excellence, economic growth, and social wellbeing across the region.

This is more than a partnership. It is a promise to work collectively for the greater good. We will work collaboratively, with our industry partners, to serve as a catalyst for positive change, setting new standards for collaboration and impact.

Thank you for taking the time to explore this prospectus. We look forward to working together to make this vision a reality.

Warm regards,



Carl James
Carl James
Interim CEO, Velindre
University NHS Trust



Wendy Larnar
Wendy Larnar
President and
Vice-Chancellor,
Cardiff University



Suzanne Rankin
Suzanne Rankin
CEO, Cardiff and Vale
University Health Board



Executive Summary

Cardiff Health Partners is the vehicle for health innovation, anchored in Cardiff and connected for global impact.

We are a strategic partnership between Cardiff University, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, and Velindre University NHS Trust that aligns discovery science, clinical care, education, and industry partnerships to accelerate innovation into practice, improve health equity, and drive inclusive economic growth and regeneration.

What do we want to achieve?

Cardiff Health Partners is designed to turn collaboration into results, with an initial focus on globally recognised competitive strengths including Cancer, Brain Therapies, and Precision Medicine – linking assets and capabilities across the partnership into coherent testbeds and pathways. The model reduces barriers through shared governance, streamlined research delivery, and federated data access.

The outcome is a gateway for collaboration, faster routes from researchers, to clinicians, to patients, and a workforce trained across academic, clinical, and industry settings. This is health improvement and economic growth and regeneration, delivered together.

Our strategic vision:

Health Innovation, anchored in Cardiff, connected for Global impact

Why now?

The proposition is industry-ready and impact-driven. Cardiff Health Partners will transform health equity through enabling service delivery closer to the patient; it will improve the health and wellbeing of the population in Cardiff and beyond through strategic use of technology and promote regional growth and regeneration through creating high-quality jobs and attracting inward investment.

We have at our disposal key assets across Cardiff, ranging from cutting edge research centres to education spaces, dedicated trials and experimentation infrastructure to large scale implementation capabilities.

Early wins such as cutting-edge Huntington’s disease treatments, successes in novel trials to treat cancer, and spinouts such as Draig Therapeutics, all underpinned by modern data sharing, demonstrate pace, partner readiness, and delivery credibility.

Now is the moment to back a connected partnership that turns strategic alignment into measurable outcomes for patients, the economy, and society.

What do we want to achieve?

Through investing in our immediate priorities, there will be a direct impact to the health of our population and the economy.

What are our priorities for investment?

We have three current thematic priorities for investment.

Next-generation cancer care

The Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership (CCRP) has launched multiple early and late phase cancer clinical trials, including industry-led and translational studies. Acting as a gateway for trial portfolios across Wales, the Partnership streamlines access and collaboration.

We are seeking support to scale up CCRP, including investment in collaborative centres at the Sir Martin Evans Building, Cardiff University, and the new Velindre Cancer Centre to drive discovery, learning and innovation. This investment will accelerate and expand our ability to discover and test new treatments for cancer.



Brain therapies

Cardiff is home to a distinctive set of imaging capabilities at CUBRIC (Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre) and is among a select group of global centres delivering first-in-human intracranial advanced therapies, supported by world-class imaging, genomics, and surgical expertise.

We are seeking investment in refurbishing and expanding the Haydn Ellis building at Cardiff University, to improve our discovery and education capabilities.

Precision medicine capabilities

Cardiff brings together Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMP) delivery and a national genomics backbone to accelerate precision medicine – linking MRI-guided neurosurgery, the Wales Genomic Health Centre at Cardiff Edge, a flagship innovation campus in South-East Wales, and federated data and biobanks to move from discovery to adoption at pace.

We want to establish a new precision medicine centre of excellence at Cardiff Edge. We also want to build more operating theatres and novel imaging and laboratory facilities at University Hospital of Wales, and expand the trial, imaging, integrated data, and biobank infrastructure, strengthening existing capabilities to improve how we translate, experiment, and implement novel precision medicine innovations.



What will this achieve?

Through investing in these areas, we will:

- 1 Improve the health and well-being of the population in Cardiff and beyond
- 2 Improve equity of health access and outcomes by creating innovations, technologies and approaches that can assist in the delivery of care closer to home and reduces the carbon footprint
- 3 Establish Cardiff as a centre of excellence with credible expertise, facilities and networks that draws the best people, ideas and opportunities
- 4 Establish Cardiff as a centre of research excellence and opportunity with early emphasis on Cancer, Brain Therapies, and precision medicine
- 5 Create opportunities for high value, rewarding careers and employment opportunities that sustains the partnership and adds value to South-East Wales



We're delighted to be a member of Cardiff Health Partners, working to deliver innovations that improve health and wellbeing not just for the people of Wales but for the world, and at the same time improving economic prosperity for our country.

This partnership gives us the fastest route to improving outcomes for the patients who are at the heart of our ambitions.

Wendy Larner
Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff University



Strategic Context

There is national precedent, We have local ambition

Across the UK, Wales, and Cardiff, there is a unique context and environment which can be leveraged through investment to deliver significant impact.

What is the context for the UK?

Over the past decade, the UK's life sciences sector has established itself as a world-leading cluster spanning pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, medical technology, and digital health. The sector now contributes around £80 billion annually to the UK economy, supported by a well-developed innovation ecosystem comprising world-class universities, research institutes, and industry hubs such as the Oxford-Cambridge Arc and the Golden Triangle (London, Oxford, Cambridge). University spinouts also play a pivotal role in the ecosystem.

Government-backed initiatives, including the **Life Sciences Sector Plan** and previous Sector Deals, have encouraged collaboration between academia, industry, and the NHS, resulting in increased R&D investment, innovation, and international competitiveness.

As organisations look to the future, there are several key megatrends impacting current thinking, such as personalised and precision medicine, digital health and AI, cell and gene therapies, sustainability, supply chain resilience, and workforce development.

How does Wales and Cardiff perform?

Wales faces pressing challenges in health outcomes, regional inequality, and economic resilience. The health of the population in Wales is poor compared to many other areas within the UK, with high incidence of cardiovascular disease and cancer at a young age and marked inequity of health between communities, who live geographically close to each other. Life expectancy within Wales is the second lowest within the four nations, at 79.6 years compared to the UK average of 81.2 years.*

At the same time, UK and Welsh strategies prioritise life sciences, translational research, and data-driven care. The UK Clinical Research Delivery reforms, emerging UK-wide standardisation of research setup, and Welsh commitments to precision medicine and advanced therapies create a favourable policy environment. This is highlighted through recent groundbreaking research innovations, such as gene therapy to slow Huntington's disease progression and QuicDNA's novel liquid biopsies to streamline treatment decisions in lung cancer.



Wales has committed to become a Marmot nation** through Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015), enshrining principles in legislation and adopting them to create a fairer society for all, leading to improved health and reduced inequalities. Welsh government policy aims to transform the healthcare system, working towards a "Healthier Wales". It has established integrated health boards which are able to be more responsive to the community needs and moving from:

- Illness to Prevention.
- Analogue to Digital.
- Hospital to Community.

The Welsh life sciences sector has seen strong industrial growth in recent years, coupled with innovative and active research. In 2022, the sector reached a record £2.85 billion in turnover, employing more than 13,000 people.

However, there are difficulties. The pathway from research to clinical application is fragmented and siloed. In addition, other opportunities are missed due to a lack of integration, coordination, and scalable infrastructure.

How do we improve population health through CHP?

Cardiff Health Partners will be the catalyst in Wales for bringing about the transition that is agreed and well described.

It will push the frontiers of medicine, as it has already done, which will not only deliver improvements to health outcomes, but will retain our talent and bring investment to Wales with prosperity as well as ambition to our communities.

It will facilitate the transition of our services to be centred around our communities to drive the three strategic shifts outlined above, utilising the talent within the University and NHS to transform our delivery and focus.

It will support, inspire, educate, and train our children to equip them to be the workforce of the future, with rewarding careers that enable them to support their families and communities and enable Wales to prosper.

*Data for 2023 sourced from NOMIS Annual Population Survey and the ONS.

**<https://www.gov.wales/wales-become-worlds-first-marmot-nation-tackle-health-inequalities>

Where is Cardiff across key socio-economic factors?

We've benchmarked ourselves against the UK. The lower-than-average economic performance coupled with the high smoking rate and lower life expectancy prove the need for Cardiff Health Partners and widescale regeneration to build more prosperous communities.

Economic	Social	Health
4.5% Unemployment rate in South-East Wales UK average*: 4.6%	£204,160 Median house price for residential property in South-East Wales UK average*: £321,899	13.0% Rate of smoking prevalence in South-East Wales UK average*: 11.6%
23.6% Economic inactivity rate in South-East Wales UK average*: 20.9%	5.1 CO2 emissions per capita in South-East Wales UK average*: 5.9	79.6 years Life expectancy in South-East Wales UK average*: 81.2 years
£20,233 GDHI per capita in South-East Wales UK average*: £25, 411	757 Population density** in South-East Wales UK average*: 1806	0.68 Infant mortality rate in South-East Wales UK average*: 0.71

*Data for 354 local authorities across the UK was used to calculate UK average
**Calculated using 2021 Census data

The analysis highlights the region's strengths, such as the lower population density and reduced CO2 emissions, which contribute to a better quality of life and a lower cost for establishing businesses. The economic analysis reveals significant opportunities for growth in the area.

A qualitative assessment of the **strengths** and **opportunities** of the region was also conducted.

Strengths

- Our analysis of socio-economic indicators reveals that progress across all economic, social and health metrics is consistent with national trends.
- Cardiff nurtures a highly skilled workforce through strong academic-industry partnerships. The collaboration between clinicians, researchers, and educators fosters rapid translational research and innovation. More specifically, the number of research, engineering and technology professionals in South-East Wales has risen by 45%, significantly outpacing the UK average increase of 19%. This suggests a strong presence of specialised skills essential for advancing life sciences and innovation-driven businesses.

- Cardiff hosts an integrated network of pioneering facilities, including the Cardiff Edge Life Science and Tech Park, Wales Genomic Health Centre, a cutting-edge new Cancer Centre at Velindre, and the only children's hospital in Wales. This comprehensive infrastructure supports cutting-edge research and innovation across genomics, cancer care, and precision medicine. Neurosciences in particular is commended in the Life Sciences Sector Plan.

Opportunities

- It is potentially more profitable for life science businesses to operate in South-East Wales, compared to other cities. Areas with similar health partnerships, such as Bristol and Edinburgh, report lower turnover per life science business (£8 million and £12 million respectively), whilst Cardiff reports £14 million.
- Other health partnerships, like those in Manchester and Bristol, show the power of combining technology and AI with strong collaboration across academia, clinical practice, and industry. This synergy boosts research, drives economic growth, and highlights the untapped potential for further progress for CHP.

An overview of Cardiff Health Partners

Health Innovation, anchored in Cardiff, connected for Global impact.

What is CHP?

We are a strategic partnership between Cardiff University, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Velindre University NHS Trust.

We align **discovery** science, **healthcare**, **education**, and **industry** partnerships to accelerate innovation into practice, improve health and equity, and drive inclusive economic growth and regeneration.

By connecting world-class research with frontline delivery and a strong regional life sciences base, we act as the engine of a place-based strategy that reduces fragmentation, speeds translation, and makes Wales a partner of choice for research, innovation, investment, and talent.

The outcome is a gateway for **collaboration**, faster routes from **researcher to patient**, and a **workforce** trained across academic, clinical, and industry settings. This is health improvement and economic growth, delivered together.



Who are the three founding organisations?

Velindre University NHS Trust provides blood and cancer health services, as well as other services, to the people of Wales. The new Velindre Cancer Centre is due to open in 2027, and this state of the art clinical facility will house one of the leading suites of devices to provide radiotherapy treatments. It is also based on strong sustainability principles, including being all electric and leveraging renewable energy sources.

Cardiff University's biomedical and life sciences research is at the forefront of tackling global health challenges through discovery, innovation, and collaboration. Supported by cutting edge assets, including the Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC) and the Medicines Discovery Institute, it has unlocked new insights into cancer, neuroscience, infection, regenerative medicine, and genomics.

Cardiff and Vale University Health Board is one of the largest NHS organisations in Europe, serving nearly half a million people and providing specialist services. It hosts the Wales Genomic Health Centre and is responsible for the only children's hospital in Wales.

How do we work?

1

Aligned Strategy and Vision

We are anchored to our principles and steadfast in our approach to create a better, healthier and more prosperous future.

2

Collaboration is at the heart of what we do

We are confident that the foundations we are creating will address health inequality, economic disparity and deliver projects that are truly needed by our population.

3

We are building an inclusive ecosystem

4

Fusing healthcare research, industry, and academia, with patient care



I see Cardiff Health Partners as the means to optimise the opportunity to bring, collaborate, amplify and accelerate access to the life-changing benefits of these new interventions and treatments for the people of South-East Wales as well as globally.

Suzanne Rankin
CEO, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board



What are our goals?

1

Stimulate innovation

Rapidly translate research into practice, focusing on precision diagnostics, early detection, prevention, and advanced therapies.

2

Accelerate health for our community and reduce inequity

Tackle health inequalities and ensure fair access to cutting-edge care for all communities.

3

Drive economic growth and regeneration

Stimulate high-value employment, SME growth, and inward investment.



4

Enable translational research

Bridge discovery science and clinical practice, getting new therapies to patients faster.

5

Develop a future ready workforce

Build and retain an interdisciplinary, skilled workforce through integrated education and professional development.

6

Foster regional collaboration

Maximise resources and build shared centres of excellence across Wales.



What does this mean in more detail?

Through a collaborative approach, Cardiff Health Partners will act as a unique transformational vehicle for South-East Wales.

Why now?

The positioning of the partnership will enable the organisations to leverage multiple policy levers and funding sources including the UK Government’s £86 billion investment in science and technology, and the Regional Innovation Fund.

There are opportunities aligned with UK Government 2025 Industrial Strategy’s eight primary sectors, particularly the synergy between Advanced Manufacturing, Clean Energy and Digital and Technologies, and the increased role that Universities will play in driving and delivering regional growth. Additionally, the Life Sciences Sector Plan highlights our role in supporting commercial studies, including four new catalytic centres launched this year in Women’s Health, Virology, Vision and AI in Social Care.

The opportunity is time-sensitive and South-East Wales needs to capitalise on areas where it already has a competitive advantage and is beginning to lead the way:

We are uniquely positioned to deliver on the government’s ambition to accelerate innovation and regional and national growth in Life Sciences.

How are we measuring our success?

- Adoption of evidence-based innovations into everyday care
- Life expectancy inequalities across the region
- GVA across Cardiff and the surrounding region
- Jobs created
- Inward investment attracted (number and value)
- Number of collaborative research projects (number and value)
- Number of clinical trials (number and value)
- Workforce development metrics (training, retention, diversity)



CHP represents a transformative opportunity for South-East Wales—bringing together innovation, clinical excellence, and community impact. It’s not just about investment; it’s about shaping a future where the region leads the way in integrated health partnerships.

Carl James
Interim CEO, Velindre University NHS Trust

What assets do we have?

We have a wide range of assets at our disposal. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:

Cardiff Edge Life Science and Tech Park

Home to the new national Wales Genomic Health Centre, with potential co-location for regional cellular pathology, creating standardised human tissue molecular diagnostic pathways. There is an exciting opportunity to develop modular precision medicine manufacturing capabilities with industry partners, alongside Cytiva and Llusern Scientific as sitting tenants.

Velindre Cancer Centre

A state-of-the-art clinical facility with a Collaborative Centre for Learning, Research & Innovation as a CHP hub, due to open in 2027.

Cardiff University Campuses

Enabling discovery science, pre-clinical research, and digital innovation. Expertise in cancer, neuroscience, and regenerative medicine is complemented by cutting-edge work in data science, imaging, and ethics. Innovation spaces like sbarc|spark connect social science researchers with public and private partners.

Heath Park Campus

Provides seamless, person-centred care across the full health continuum, from prevention and primary care to acute services, rehabilitation and end of life support, driven by innovation and equity for the population it serves at the largest teaching hospital in Wales.

Federated Data, Imaging, and Biobank Platform

Ambitious Wales-wide programme to develop skills, harmonise consent, governance, and interoperable access for translational research.



Through collaboration, we can bridge research and patient care—driving innovation, improving outcomes, and ensuring that NHS practice is grounded in the best available evidence. Our researchers can work with busy clinicians of all professions to enhance health care systems and delivery of patient care.

Steve Riley
Pro Vice-Chancellor, College of Biomedical and Life Sciences, Cardiff University

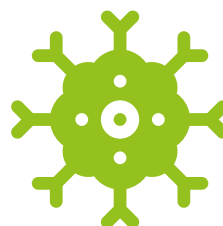
Thematic Priorities

Three thematic areas have been developed as initial priorities for investment. Each of these thematic areas is core for the short-term success of CHP.

Initial thematic priorities

1

Next-generation cancer care
The Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership has launched multiple early and late phase cancer clinical trials, including industry-led and translational studies. Acting as a gateway for trial portfolios across Wales, the Partnership streamlines access and collaboration.



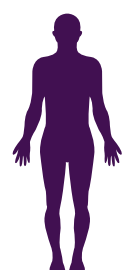
2

Brain therapies
Cardiff is home to a distinctive set of imaging capabilities at CUBRIC (Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre) and is among a select group of global centres delivering first-in-human intracranial advanced therapies, supported by world-class imaging, genomics, and surgical expertise.



3

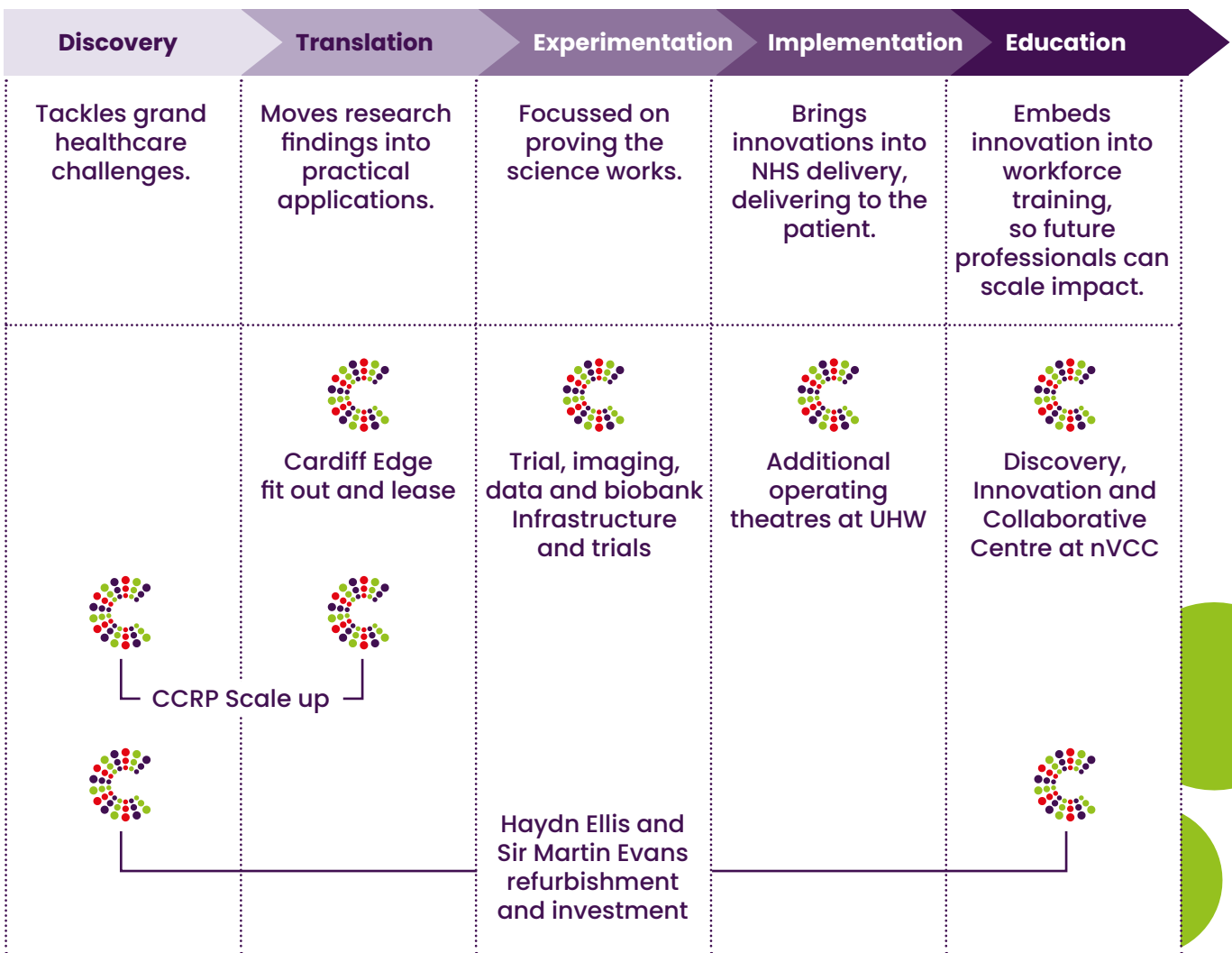
Precision medicine capabilities
Cardiff brings together ATMP delivery and a national genomics backbone to accelerate precision medicine, linking MRI-guided neurosurgery, the Wales Genomic Health Centre at Cardiff Edge, and federated data and biobanks to move from discovery to adoption at pace.



Research and innovation pipeline

Cardiff Health Partners has packaged investment asks across the end-to-end research and innovation pipeline: discovery, experimental medicine, development, trials, adoption, and scale. We will be the conduit linking academia, industry, and the NHS so capital reaches the right stage at the right time.

This pipeline ensures investments reinforce each other, cut time to impact, and give partners a clear route to engage. Current asks are mapped to the pipeline to guide co-investment from government, industry, and other funders.



Next generation cancer care

Researching and delivering the next generation of treatments for complex cancer.

Cardiff is home to leading clinical and academic cancer research expertise, both in laboratory science and clinical trials. Cardiff Health Partners leverages these strengths, combining them with capabilities in genomics, diagnostics, data science and NHS cancer services to take cancer treatment to the next level.

A new specialist Velindre Cancer Centre, a short walk from Cardiff Edge, hardwires collaboration across discovery, development, and delivery. The nearby University Hospital of Wales provides national expertise, within walking distance to key discovery and translational research institutes, including the Cardiff Experimental Cancer Medicines Centre, Wales Cancer Bank, and Medicines Discovery Institute. Together, these form the Cardiff Cancer Innovation District (CCID). With cancer rates above the UK average, Cardiff is a real-world testbed to trial and scale new ways of preventing, diagnosing, and treating cancer.

Spotlight on... Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership

The tripartite is designed to improve outcomes, deliver world-class research, enable advanced therapies, and create a structured pipeline from discovery to clinical application. CCRP has a vibrant and sustainable pipeline of trial activity. Progress to date has been strong but expansion is limited by current space and workforce capacity.

What physical, human and innovation assets are required to realise the vision?

- Establishment of a discovery, innovation and collaborative centre at the new Velindre Cancer Centre for learning, research, and innovation
- Establishment of Cardiff Cancer Discovery Centre at the Sir Martin Evans building, for co-located world-class preclinical & translational research
- Additional trial beds and workforce expansion for scale up of CCRP, across Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and Velindre University NHS Trust
- Investment in infrastructure across Cardiff Cancer Innovation District, to improve physical connectivity
- Investment in R&D and industry engagement, expanding the gateway for commercial partners and business development

By working together, we are translating our discoveries into new cancer treatments and providing opportunities for cancer patients in Wales to access a range of novel treatments that would not otherwise be available in the principality.

We are committed to developing links with industry to scale up and bring exciting new pipelines of treatments through to the clinic for patient benefit.

Dr Jacinta Abraham, Executive Medical Director, Velindre University NHS Trust



Brain therapies

Driving breakthroughs in Brain Science and Mental Health.

Brain therapies refer to a spectrum of advanced medical and neurotechnological interventions aimed at treating neurological and neurodegenerative conditions. Bringing together expertise in genomics, neuroscience, psychiatry, and data science to tackle some of society's most urgent challenges, such as dementia, schizophrenia, movement disorders, bipolar disorder, neuroinflammatory disease and neurodevelopmental disorders. Our work focuses on translating genetic discoveries into real-world personalised and advanced therapies.

Cardiff is emerging as a global centre for first-in-human intracranial advanced therapies, where treatments are delivered directly to the brain. This is supported by CUBRIC and the Medicines Discovery Institute, offering world-class imaging, genomics, and surgical expertise.

Spotlight on... Intracranial Advanced Therapies

These therapies target neurological and neurodegenerative conditions using intracranial delivery methods. Cardiff is one of a select few global centres delivering first-in-human (FIH) intracranial ATMPs (Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products). Whilst we have the knowledge and capability to deliver these therapies, in order to scale up there is a need for additional infrastructure.

What physical, human and innovation assets are required to realise the vision?

- Comprehensive redevelopment of the Haydn Ellis building to establish a world-class research institute that supports both academic research and industry collaboration.
- Investment in expansion of inpatient beds and outpatient facilities for intracranial Advanced Therapies.
- R&D investment for Cardiff to be seen as the one-stop-shop for first in human intracranial AT clinical trials.
- Additional staff in the form of technicians and training fellows to deliver operations and training.



There has been an amazing advance by Professor William Gray and his team within the Advanced NeuroTherapies Centre – part of Cardiff Health Partners.

The team have delivered a groundbreaking gene therapy through complex neurosurgery all performed within a dedicated MRI scanner at University Hospital of Wales. The specialist team at UHW are unique in the UK, only one of two centres in Europe and five worldwide delivering this trial. They are also currently delivering other gene therapy trials for neurological diseases.

David Fluck, Executive Medical Director, Cardiff and Vale NHS University Health Board

Precision medicine capabilities

Tailoring prevention and treatment strategy for our population's health.

Precision medicine uses genetic testing, data analytics, and biomarkers to understand how different people respond to disease and therapy, improving outcomes and efficiency. Precision medicine relies heavily on the ability to collect, integrate, and analyse large-scale genomic, imaging, clinical, and biobank data. Our priority is to build a federated data, imaging, and biobank capability that enables secure, interoperable access across institutions, bridging discovery science to clinical application at pace.

Spotlight on... Cardiff Edge and Regional Pathology

Cardiff Edge is the leading dedicated life science and tech campus in Cardiff and South-East Wales region. With 320,000 square foot of expansion space, it offers a unique opportunity to create an exemplar life sciences ecosystem connecting business, academia and NHS laboratory facilities at a single location. The first lab-enabled facility is planned to be developed imminently.

Regional Cellular Pathology Service, develop the required infrastructure, co-located with the Wales Genomic Health Centre, creating a strong foundation for a Precision Medicine Centre of Excellence, to transform the existing service at a regional level and support the transition to the digital pathology programme.

What physical, human and innovation assets are required to realise the vision?

- Investment in Cardiff Edge, for the development of a new cutting-edge laboratory for regional cellular pathology services and industrial space for biomanufacturing
- Expansion of a biobank and improved digital support, through establishing a harmonised, federated data and sample infrastructure
- Additional operating theatres at University Hospital of Wales, to improve capacity in the short term
- Funding dedicated to R&D, for AI tools, innovative data pilots, and establishing industry partnerships



We are energised by the once in a generation opportunity that Cardiff Health Partners presents: to ignite academic life sciences across Cardiff and the wider Welsh ecosystem, creating a vibrant hub of discovery and innovation.

Illumina is fully committed to supporting Cardiff Health Partners in their mission to establish Wales as a global leader and destination for genomic healthcare excellence.

Illumina

Successes to date

Cardiff is already delivering firsts and forging proof points. Each success is a small step which fuse together to realise CHP's strategic vision.

Huntington's Disease Treatment

A recent trial of a new treatment found that patients receiving it experienced 75% less progression of the disease overall. The Advanced Neurotherapeutics Centre (ANTC), funded by Health and Care Research Wales, is the only centre in the UK that can perform the surgeries included in the trial – utilising world leading neurosurgical expertise in the delivery of gene therapies to the brain.

This has significant scale potential, helping to improve the quality of life for a devastating condition.

Modern Data Sharing

The Haematology AML Research Unit at Heath Park provides a leading example of how integrated, consented datasets and biobank samples can drive real-world translational research.

Utilising assets such as Cardiff University Biobank and the Centre for Trials Research it delivers on local partnerships with industry as well as contributing to major global partnerships such as the HARMONY Alliance. This commitment to openness and sharing speeds up translational science, bringing benefits to patients faster.

Spinouts

Draig Therapeutics is a recent spin out from Cardiff University. This clinical stage biotechnology company is based in Cardiff and is focussed on developing transformative therapies for neuropsychiatric disorders.

They are backed by a strong network of investors and launched with one of the largest Series A funding rounds in UK biotech history. This work will deliver transformative therapeutic benefits for patients with Major Depressive Disorder.

Cancer Trials at Cardiff

To date, several Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership (CCRP) trials have opened, with a strong future pipeline of complex trials in both solid tumour and blood cancers. These include two trials from Health Care Research Wales' national BioNTech portfolio, demonstrating the key role the CCRP is playing in enabling entire industry trial portfolios to be brought to and delivered in Wales, rather than just individual trials.

Cardiff Health Partners builds on a strong foundation of globally impactful cancer research within its partners. For example, the Velindre-led FAKTION trial led to the development of a drug which recently became routinely available to NHS breast cancer patients, while CCRP was the largest UK recruiter to the Monumental 6 trial of a bispecific antibody therapy for patients with multiple myeloma.



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QuicDNA study

Lung cancer is currently the third most common cancer in Wales, with the majority of patients only being diagnosed at an advanced stage. Through a recent study led from Cardiff, and conducted across Wales, a new test has been developed, utilising liquid biopsy of circulating tumour DNA in the blood, rather than a solid tissue biopsy, to identify genetic changes that can be rapidly and precisely targeted for treatment. This less invasive approach to obtaining a sample has been found to deliver results on a faster turnaround time. We can now ensure patients get treatment that they need sooner, saving lives.



Cardiff University chose to step forward to turn research into reality, to make health, wealth and opportunity their mission. Their ambition is not just words but work, not just vision but resolve. That's what you see in Draig Therapeutics – science rooted in excellence, brought to life by leadership, powered by partnership, and aiming for more than profit – aiming for impact.

Cardiff University doesn't imagine change, it makes it. Draig Therapeutics is the proof – living, breathing, ready for the future.

Dame Kate Bingham
Managing Partner, SV Health Investors

Outcomes and Impact

What does success look like in 2035?

Our ambition as Cardiff Health Partners is for:

- That Cardiff is recognised as a true Centre of Excellence in Brain Therapies, and for its excellence in precision medicine (building on its recognised strength in genomics)
- Our partners are recognised in their innovative approach translating cutting edge research into routine cancer care and treatments
- Creation of a workforce pipeline, with widened participation, to attract more people to work on cutting edge research and clinical practice, supporting hybrid portfolio careers in clinical, academic and entrepreneurial settings
- That the above talent and assets are embedded into the wider health and life sciences ecosystem in the region
- A dedicated landing zone welcomes top talent and bold ideas to experiment, collaborate, and accelerate innovation in a dynamic, impact-driven environment
- Health inequalities in Cardiff and region will be actively reduced through inclusive interventions that ensure access to care and research participation
- Healthcare to be delivered closer to the patient (routine care)

By investing in Cardiff Health Partners, the region will see significant benefits.

We are expecting to spend approximately £500m on infrastructure, and a further approx. £350m on human capital, and research & development needs over the next ten years. Cardiff Health Partners would lead to a significant economic contribution of between £785m and £813m in GVA and 10,440 – 10,840 jobs between 2025–2035. This investment will unlock additional benefits, beyond the monetary impact, extending and improving healthcare metrics across South-East Wales.

Methodology

Contribution to GDP is measured in terms of Gross Value Added (GVA). GVA is a monetary measure of the value an organisation creates during its production process. It is the difference between the price of its products (outputs) and the price of the inputs it uses in producing these (or intermediate consumption).

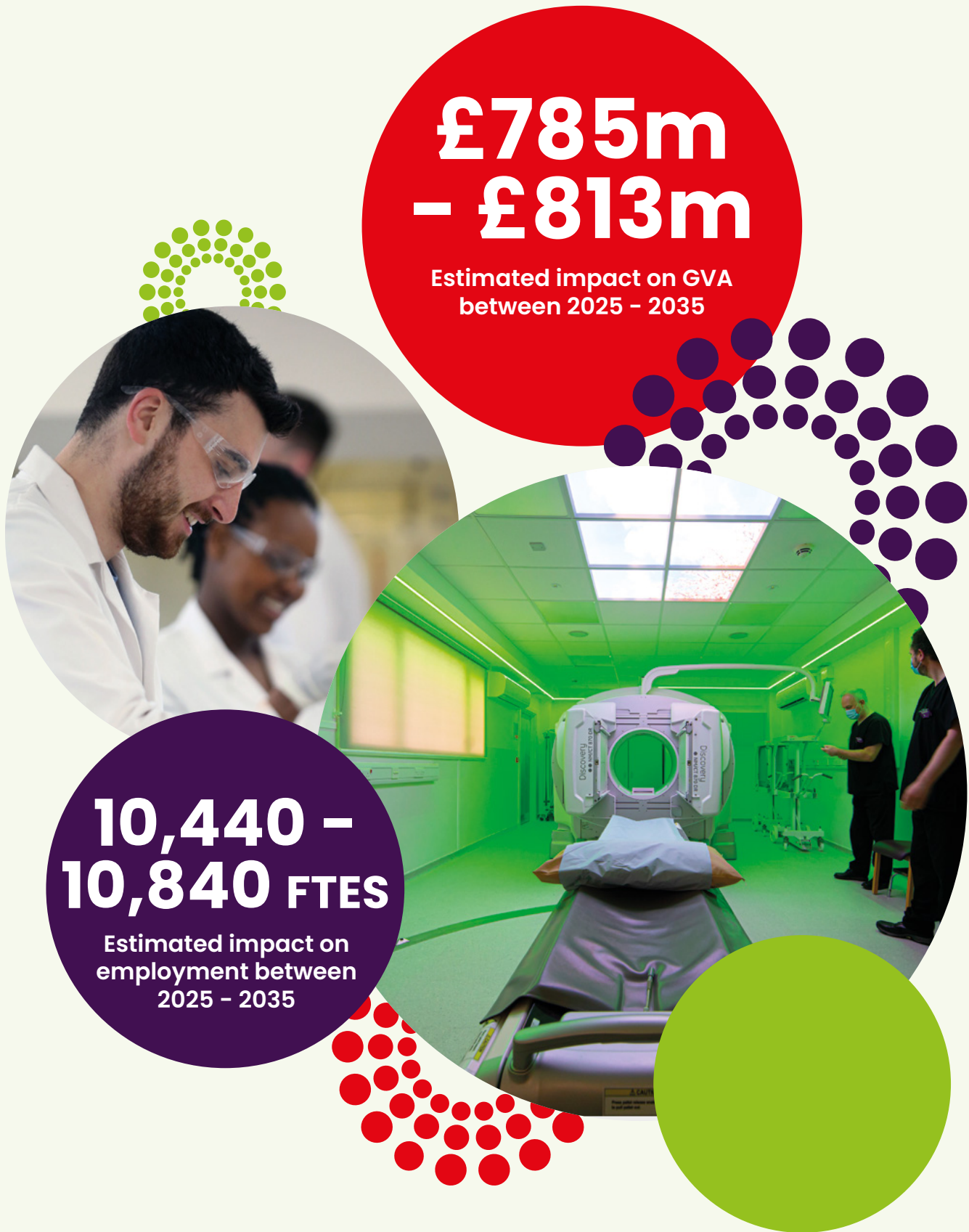
GVA is an alternative term for GDP at factor cost, which is GDP before taxes and subsidies on products. As such, GVA is the company-level equivalent of GDP.



CCRP is developing the next generation of cancer research and enabling translation of new discoveries into the clinic for patient benefit.

For example, the CCRP's ATTEST trial gives NHS patients in South-East Wales access to pioneering virus vector technology, founded on Cardiff University research, that selectively infects cancer cells, producing an immune-modulating drug from inside the tumour cells.

Awen Gallimore
Professor, Cardiff University



Assumptions:

- Expenditure between labour and capital varies. Economic effects are presented as ranges
- It has been assumed that 31.8% of the proposed capital expenditure will leak-out internationally. This is based upon the % of UK imports relative to GDP
- Investment asks have been uplifted 2% annually to model for inflation
- The economic input data for sectoral spending is derived from Supply-Use Tables provided by the ONS

Limitations:

- Due to data availability, 2022 Supply-Use tables from the ONS were used to estimate the 10-year impact
- The analysis has been conducted on a gross basis. It does not take additionality (deadweight, leakage,) into consideration of the overall contribution
- These estimates are based on high level estimates of expenditure and are subject to change
- There has not been a full interrogation of the investment asks

Summary and... what comes next?

Cardiff Health Partners...

offers an exciting, scalable platform with near-term readiness and long-term durability. It brings a coherent pipeline of opportunities across discovery hubs, clinical trial expansion, infrastructure (including digital and data), and workforce development – anchored by flagship, co-located assets with national reach.

Investment will catalyse system-wide benefits: improved population health and access to innovation; stronger regional productivity creating high-value jobs; and an internationally visible ecosystem that accelerates partnerships and inward investment.

Cardiff Health Partners will deliver the ambitions of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, Welsh Government's Economic Mission, and the UK Life Sciences Industrial Strategy.

It will transform:

- Health equity through enabling health service delivery closer to the patient
- Delivery of health improvement at scale through strategic use of technology
- Regional growth and regeneration by creating high-quality jobs and attracting inward investment

We are currently seeking investment in...

Next-generation cancer care

To scale up Cardiff Cancer Research Partnership, as well as establish a discovery and collaborative centre at the Sir Martin Evans Building and a discovery, innovation and collaborative centre at the new Velindre Cancer Centre for learning, research, and innovation. This investment will enable additional discovery and translation of new treatment for cancer.

Brain Therapies

To refurbish and expand the Haydn Ellis building at Cardiff University, to improve our discovery and education capabilities.

Precision medicine capabilities

To establish a new centre of excellence at Cardiff Edge, build more operating theatres at University Hospital of Wales, and expand the trial, imaging, data, and biobank infrastructure, to improve how we translate, experiment, and implement novel precision medicine innovations.

What are we doing now?

We will continue to progress, accelerate and scale our ambitions – underpinned by robust implementation plans and clear investment requirements.

If you're interested to learn more, you can find our website here...

cardiffhealthpartners.org.uk

Now is the time to back a connected, partnership that turns strategic alignment into outcomes for patients, the economy, and society.



Cardiff Health Partners represents exactly the kind of bold, collaborative innovation that defines the Cardiff Capital Region. It's an investment not only in medical innovation and economic growth, but in improving the health, wellbeing and life chances of people across South-East Wales and beyond.

Mike Brough
Director of Economic Growth,
Cardiff Capital Region



cardiffhealthpartners.org.uk

