



Contact details

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To whom it may concern:

The Council for Allied Health Professions Research (CAHPR) is pleased to be able to provide comments in response to the Chief Scientist Office's draft Health Research Strategy.

The CAHPR exists to develop allied health profession research, strengthen evidence of the professions' value and impact for enhancing service user and community care, and to enable the professions to speak with one voice on research issues, thereby raising their profile and increasing their influence. The CAHPR represents allied health professions' research interests across 12 professions, and has a UK-wide remit.

The CAHPR endorses the vision of the CSO in its draft strategy, which resonates clearly with the focus and contribution of allied health professionals. We fully support your view that research has a key role to play in delivering high quality health and social care services.

AHPs already have strong partnerships in place across the health, social care and academic sectors, and these can be harnessed to contribute towards achieving the aims within your vision. We therefore fully endorse the identified 5 key areas on which you intend focussing your actions.

In response to your specific questions, at question 5 we support your intention of identifying allocated researcher time for clinicians, and would be keen to work collaboratively with you to raise awareness of your actions here within the AHP professions. Being able to access supported time to undertake research activity remains a significant barrier, particularly in relation to specialist posts.

At question 17, whilst we acknowledge that there has been some provision of opportunity for nurses, midwives and AHPs to access a clinical academic training pathway, there is currently very little information available as to access to such opportunity across Scotland. While NHS Education for Scotland has produced national guidance for clinical academic careers for nurses, midwives and AHPs in Scotland, there is little evidence that this scheme is being rolled out and the opportunities proposed being made available to suitable AHP applicants. The current Clinical Academic Fellowships that are advertised on the CSO website exclude nursing and AHPs, and this creates a significant gap for other professions and the key need to provide an appropriately-supported and equitable career pathway for the development of research capacity and capability within nursing and the AHPs within

Scotland. We would consider that more work is needed to develop, embed and promote a range of CSO personal awards that will ensure your AHP workforce is equipped to meet your future needs and those of your service users. This question also links with question 5, as the culture in the workplace and lack of managerial support for uptake of personal awards can be significant barriers in progressing research capacity building within the AHPs.

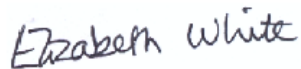
We wish you success with the development of your new Health Research Strategy, and will look forward to being able to work with you so that allied health professionals will be able to make a significant contribution to the success of its implementation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Moore'.

Professor Ann Moore ,

Director of CAHPR

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth White'.

Dr Elizabeth White,

Interim Chair, CAHPR strategy Committee