

# Research for Better Health and Social Care – a new HSC R&D Strategy

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Chief Scientific Advisor to DoH

Director of R&D for Health and Social Care

# HSC R&D Division: Who are we?

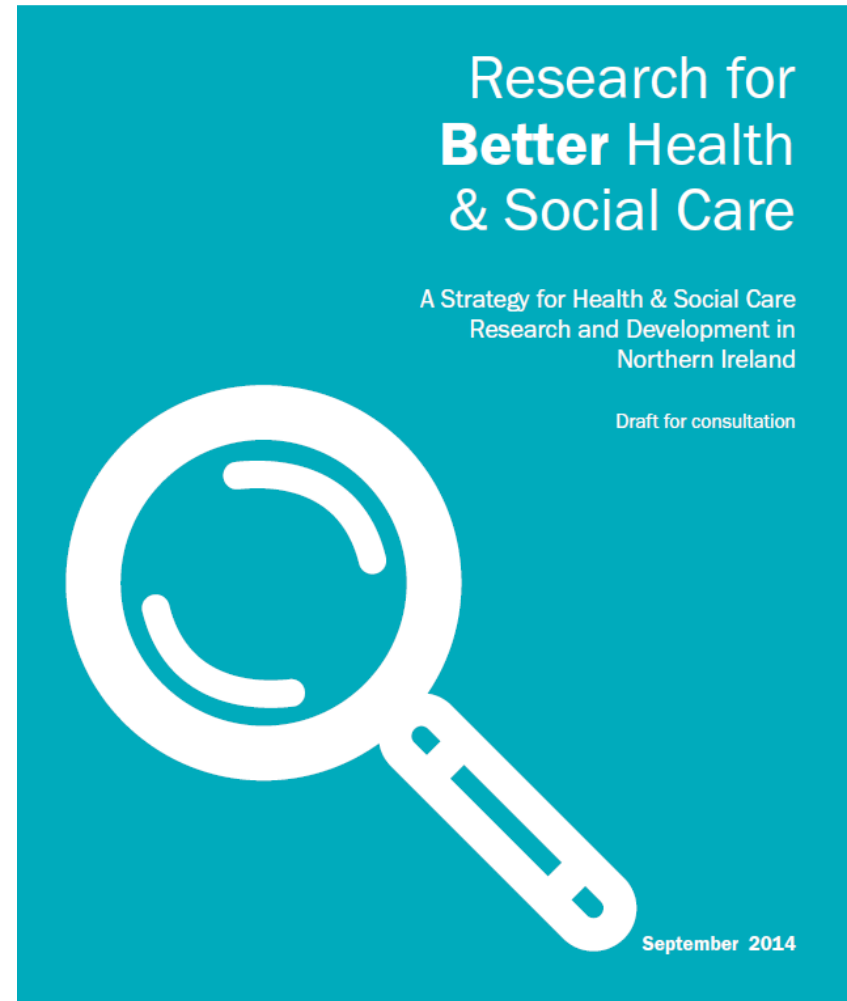
- Funded by DHSSPS (now DoH)
- Administer health & social care research funding budget as part of general functions
- Other UK equivalents
  - National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)
  - CSO Chief Scientists Office (NHS Research Scotland)
  - National Institute for Social Care and Health Research (NISCHR)

# HSC R&D Division: What do we do?

- Co-ordinate regional R&D strategy for the HSC
- Administer the HSC R&D Fund
  - In 2014-15 a total of £14.3 m will be administered by HSC R&D Division
  - This funds research in health and social care across the HSC
- Lead on the regional research governance agenda
- Encourage participation in research across HSC
- Support researchers to seek & secure research funding

## Research for Better Health & Social Care

- Third HSC R&D Strategy
- Developed in consultation with key stakeholders across HSC, public sector, academic institutions, voluntary & charitable organisations and industry
- Strategy Workshop October 2013
- Consultation from 29 September 2014 – 2 January 2015
- Implementation Plan responsibility of HSC R&D Division
- Strategy & Implementation Plan launched February 2016



# Target Audiences

- Researchers, potential researchers & their employing organisations
- Users of research findings
- Patients, service users and the public
- Businesses
- Research Funders

# Aim

The health, wellbeing and prosperity of the Northern Ireland population will benefit from excellent, world-renowned R&D in health and social care which is led from Northern Ireland

# Objectives

**Objective 1:** To support research, researchers and the use of evidence from research to improve the quality of both health and social care and for better policy-making

**Objective 2:** To compete successfully for R&D funding, and optimise local funding, to deliver returns on investment for health and wellbeing, academia and commerce

**Objective 3:** To support those who contribute to health and social care research, development and innovation by enhancing our research infrastructure, benefitting from local, national and international partnerships

**Objective 4:** To increase the emphasis on research relevant to the priorities of the local population

**Objective 5:** Disseminate research findings in such a way as to promote understanding and knowledge, support and best practice, stimulate further research and celebrate achievement

# Profile of R&D Spend by Activity

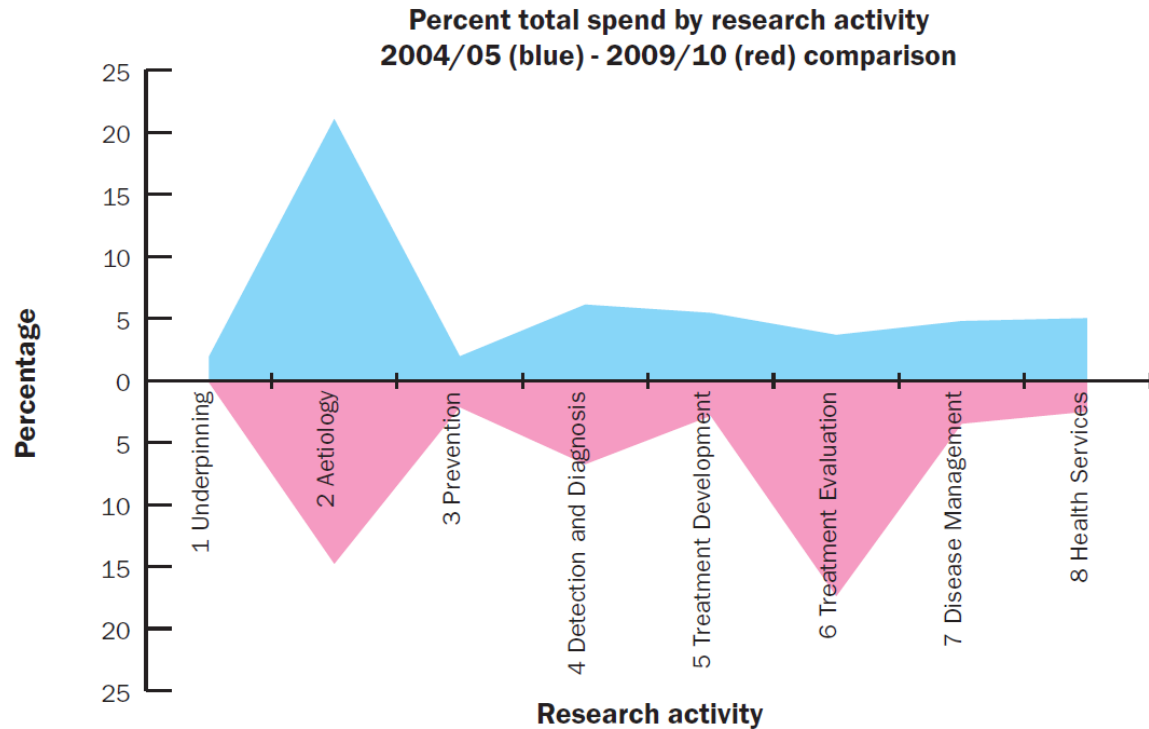
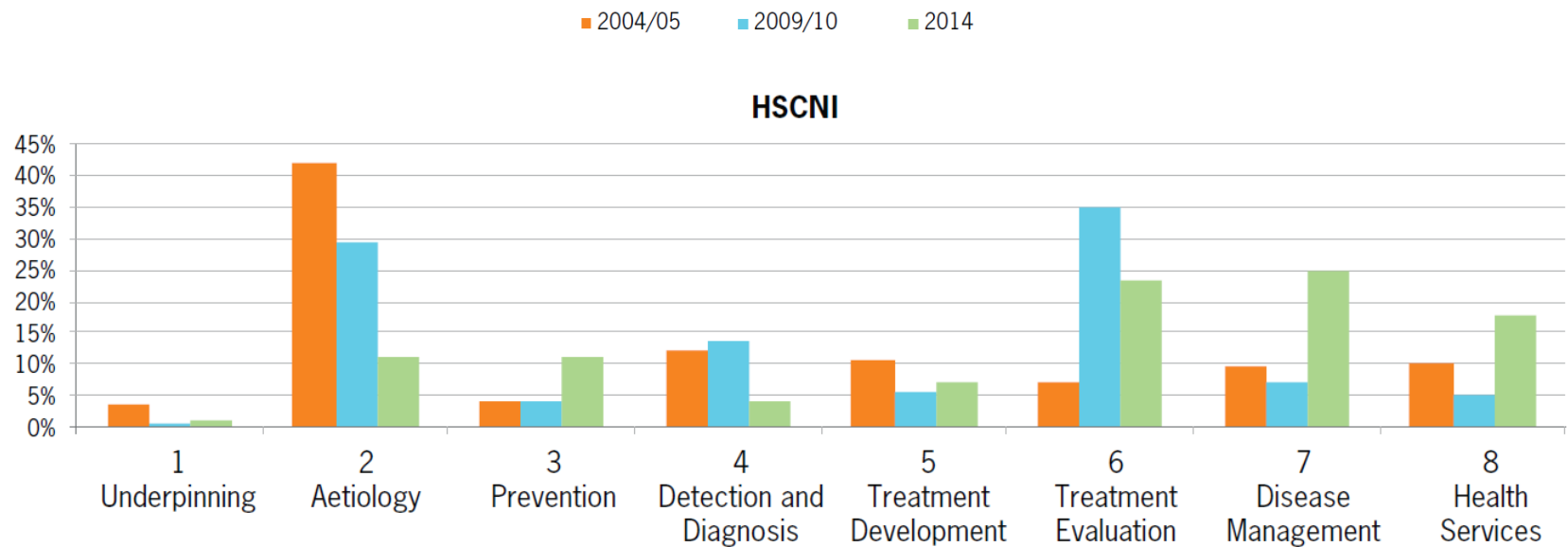


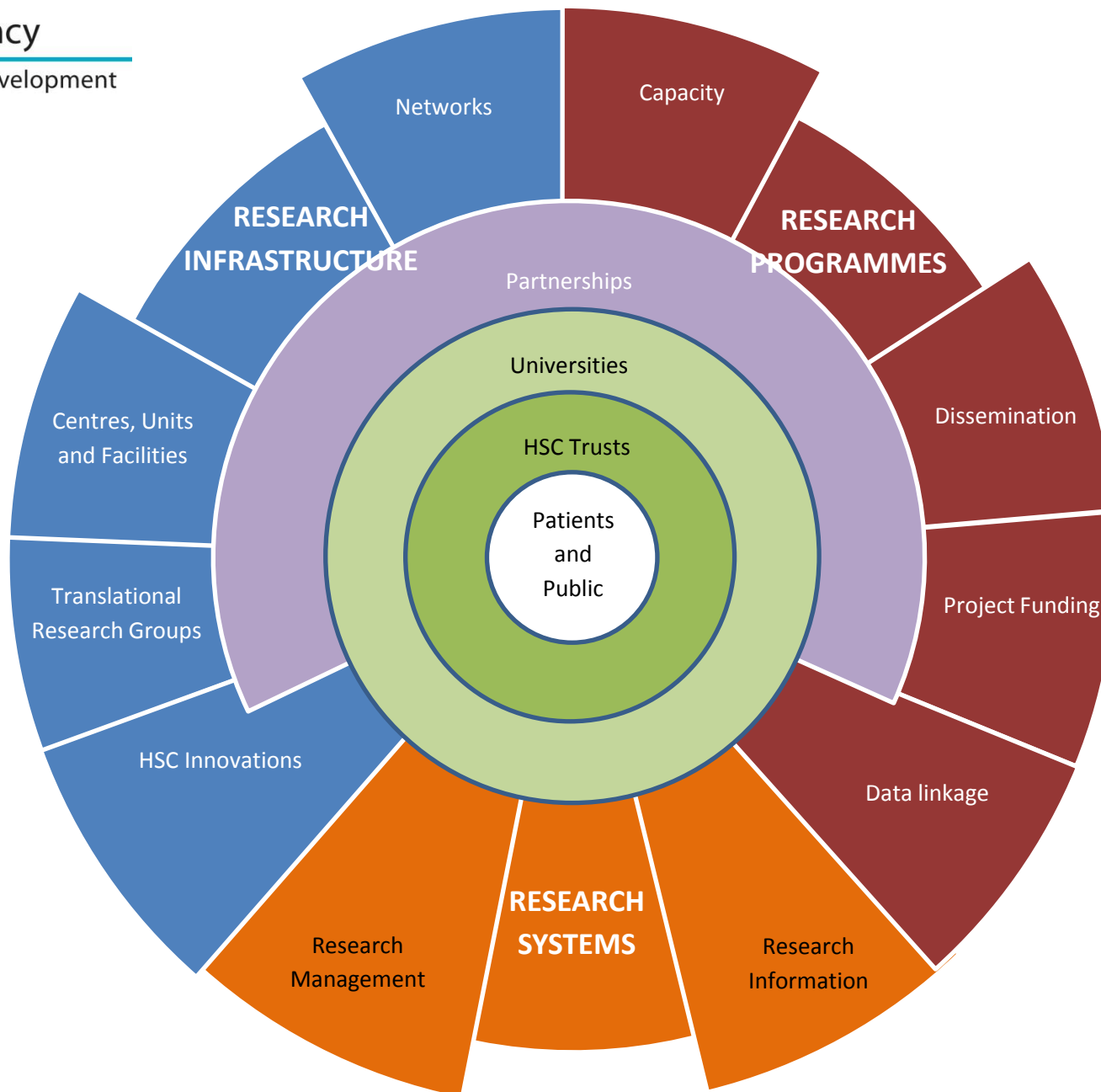
Figure 1: Change in the profile of allocation of HSC R&D Fund between 2004/5 and 2009/10.  
(UK Clinical Research Collaboration, 2012)



# Profile of R&D Spend by Activity 2004-2014



<http://www.hrcsonline.net/sites/default/files/UKCRCHealthResearchAnalysis2014%20WEB.pdf>



Thank You  
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# So what's the plan?

## Implementing the HSC R&D Strategy

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Assistant Director

HSC R&D Division, Public Health Agency

raise  
awareness  
of the value  
of research

support HSC  
staff to  
undertake  
research

foster a  
research-  
active HSC  
workforce

# 1

## **Support research, researchers and the use of evidence from research to improve the quality of both health and social care and for better policy making**

engage with  
social work,  
social care &  
public health

provide  
funding for  
HSC  
relevant  
research

# 2

increase  
HSC R&D  
Fund

continue  
investment  
in the NIHR  
funding  
streams

seek  
co-funding  
from other  
Gov. Depts.

**Compete successfully for R&D funding,  
and optimise local funding, to deliver  
returns on investment for health and  
wellbeing, academia and commerce**

facilitate  
HSC  
researchers  
to access  
EU funding

adopt a  
partnership  
approach

develop  
effective  
relationships  
with industry

3

independent  
review of  
HSC  
infrastructure

ensure  
effective  
governance  
environment

new  
research  
infrastructure  
such as BRU

**Support all those who contribute to health and social care research, development and innovation by enhancing our research infrastructure, benefitting from local, national and international partnerships**

maximise  
benefits of  
cross-border  
working

support key  
national  
initiatives  
(e.g. 100,000  
Genomes &  
Precision Medicine  
Catapult)

# 4

ensure  
service  
users and  
the public  
are involved

commission  
relevant  
research

## **Increase the emphasis on research relevant to the priorities of the local population**

maximise  
use of health  
& other  
routinely  
collected  
data

report  
outputs and  
impacts of  
funded  
research



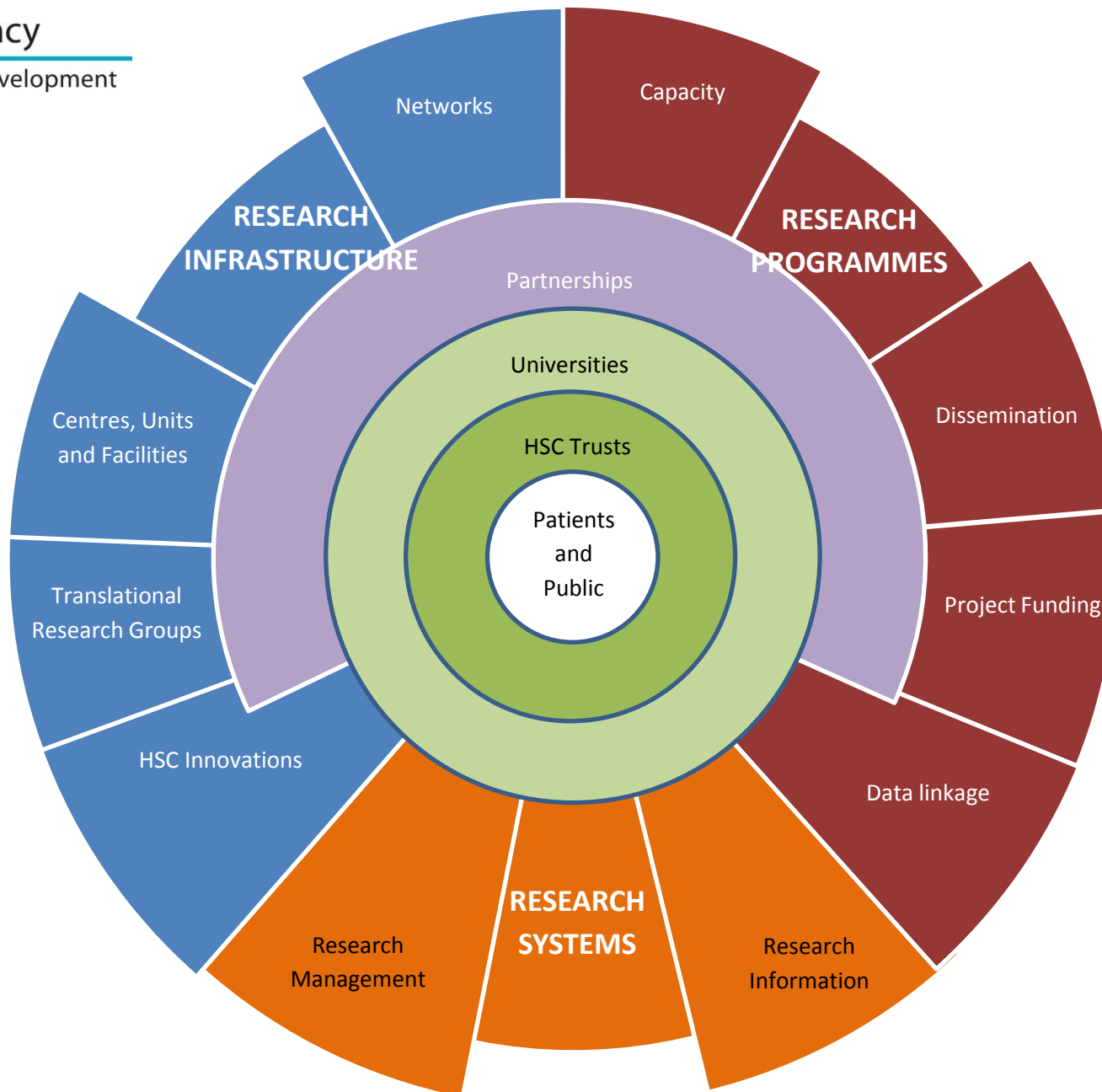
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disseminate  
research  
findings

drive  
adoption of  
evidence-  
informed  
practice &  
policy

**Disseminate research findings in such a way as to promote understanding and knowledge, support and best practice, stimulate further research and celebrate achievement**

communicate  
relevant  
messages  
about funded  
research



# Key Priorities 1 – Short term

- Commission an independent review of R&D infrastructure
  - convene an expert panel to undertake a full review of the current infrastructure.
  - consider and implement recommendations of the review
- Secure NETSCC investment from 2017-18 onwards
- Work towards addressing skills gaps in the research community
  - contracts workshop and advisor
  - health economics and other skills to enhance research capability

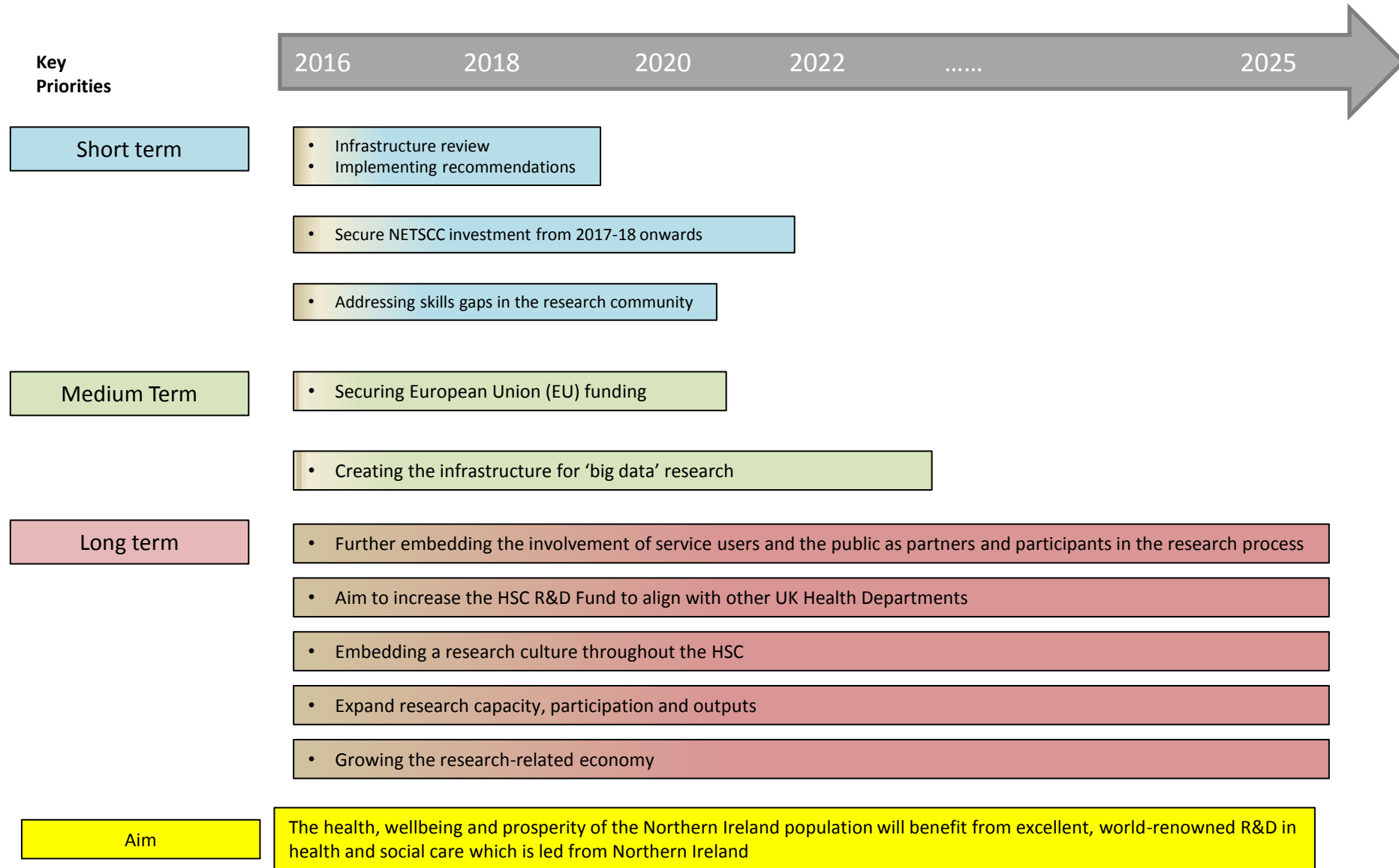
# Key Priorities 2 – Medium Term

- Securing European Union (EU) funding
  - leading funding bids
  - working with partners to secure funds from relevant EU funding programmes
- Creating the infrastructure for ‘big data’ research
  - maximising the opportunities for research using and linking routinely-collected data from health and other administrative sources

# Key Priorities 3 – Long term

- Involving people and service users in research
  - by further embedding the involvement of service users and the public as partners in the research process to help ensure our investment brings benefits for the local population.
  - increasing public awareness and participation in research
- Aim to increase the HSC R&D Fund to align with the average per capita level of other UK health research funds
- Embedding a research culture throughout the HSC
  - development of a formalised reporting structure for research activity
- Engaging with researchers and practitioners across all HSC professions to expand research capacity, participation and outputs
- Growing the research-related economy
  - enhancing existing relationships with industry and representative organisations to ensure productive research partnerships

# IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE



Thank You

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