Reviewer's report

Title: Improving accountability through alignment: the role of academic health science centres and networks in England

Version: 1 Date: 25 November 2013

Reviewer: peter brooks

Reviewer's report:

Comment – this is an extremely important article which is very timely as countries around the world wrestle with how to link research, learning and service delivery in a health system. This provides some insights into the complexity but also identifies some of the drivers and incentives one might look at to enhance these partnerships.

I would like to see some discussion of the importance of engaging with the community (how can that be achieved from a governance perspective?)

How can the health promotion agenda be developed in these models?

How flexible does/can the structures be so that they might withstand changes in Government – probably impossible but it might be worth a comment because we have all seen fantastic innovations in Health (and I suspect other sectors torn down by an incoming govt of a different persuasion)