



Annual Review

— 2024 —

Message from our Chief Executive



The last 12 months have been for us a period of undeniable change: not only have we been relicensed for a further five years, we also now go by a different name.

The relicensing is an endorsement of the work we've done in the field of healthcare innovation in the last 10 years, until recently under our old name of the Innovation Agency, and it's a signal to our colleagues in the region that we continue to be their trusted innovation partner.

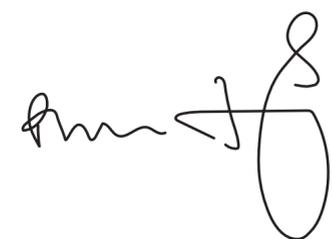
Over the last decade we have built a unique set of skills, enabling clinical colleagues to benefit from a range of new products, pathways and medicines.

It's this expertise in spread and adoption which is our unique value proposition and why we are the innovation partner for our system.

I'm confident this annual review of our highlights will bear that out.

I took on the role last autumn of Vice Chair of the Health Innovation Network and part of my job is to discover ways to remove some of the obstacles that stand in the way of innovation.

I hope when we come to compile next year's review we can showcase our successes in doing exactly that.



Dr Phil Jennings

Message from our Chair



Despite having been in post for only a few months I've been struck by how talented our team is at Health Innovation North West Coast, and how dedicated it is to supporting our health and care colleagues make a tangible difference in their communities.

The health and care environment is extraordinarily challenging. I'm sure our partners agree: the difficulties posed by operational pressures, the Covid recovery, industrial action and wider safety concerns must often seem intolerable.

As part of the health and care family, that's where Health Innovation North West Coast comes in. Our partners rarely have the headspace to pause and consider innovative potential solutions to their challenges.

I have spent much of my time meeting stakeholders from health and care, from academia and business who don't always realise how we can support and facilitate innovation.

I'm hoping we can remedy that in the coming year by raising our profile with existing partners and developing new collaborations for the benefit of the communities we serve.

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

Louise Robson, Chair



Mark Lawrie

Mark Lawrie joined us this year as a Non-Executive Director.

Mark's background is in accountancy and he spent many years with Deloitte Consulting, becoming a partner in 2001.

In 2012 he was seconded to Deloitte's Middle East operation to run its Doha consulting practice and led the firm's strategy and organisational work with Qatar's World Cup 2022 and Dubai EXPO 2022. He continues to advise the sport and major event industry.

Read more about Mark [here](#)

A change of name

In October 2023 we changed our name from the Innovation Agency to Health Innovation North West Coast.

The change of name accompanied our relicensing and that of our 14 partners, the former Academic Health Science Networks, now known as health innovation networks.

The new name aims to better reflect our role in promoting the adoption and spread of innovations that improve patient outcomes.

Meanwhile, Louise Robson, a senior leader with nearly 40 years' experience in the NHS, took over as Chair of Health Innovation North West Coast earlier this year, replacing our founding Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim. [Read about it here](#)



Annual Review

— 2024 —



Strengthening
local economies



Strengthening
local economies





Our role in growth

We provide support to health and care innovators and businesses in the North West Coast, across the UK and internationally.

We play our part in strengthening local economies by helping innovative companies to develop their innovations and deploy them in the health and care sector.

Our support for innovators includes identifying funding opportunities, linking companies with decision-makers and helping them to validate their innovations.

The Office for Life Sciences commissions us to support innovative companies. The next page shows our highlights of the last year.



Our Office for Life Sciences commission 2023-2024 in numbers

Annual
Review
— 2024 —

OLS themes...



Identifying
the need and
communicating
regional priorities



Signposting
and supporting
innovators



Validating
in real-world
settings



Adoption
and spread of
innovations across
the system

295
companies
supported



£2.2m
contracts awarded
to our companies



65
jobs
safeguarded



Nine
new products
developed



35
jobs
created



£7.9m
of inward
investment
for companies
we have
supported



20
contracts to
provide goods
and services
secured by **11**
companies



£1.9m
public investment,
including grants
£2.4m
private investment



**Strengthening
local economies**

Funding innovator success

In the past seven years we delivered five European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programmes, the last of which concluded last year.

We made several successful bids to the fund to help meet growing demand for support from health and life sciences companies.

ERDF allowed us to form closer collaborations with our universities, growth hubs and local enterprise partnerships, and provide a range of high-impact business support to more innovators and SMEs than we would have otherwise been able to do.

Mike Kenny, Associate Director of Innovation and Industry Partnerships, said: *“The North West has a rich health and life sciences ecosystem. There is far more demand than resources to support innovation. ERDF allowed us to build the capacity and capability to support bright and talented people, and bridge the needs of local NHS organisations by bringing locally developed innovations to them.”*

We continue to provide the same high-quality business and market access support to innovators through the Office for Life Sciences (OLS) commission.

Mike said: *“Our teams help innovators to access the NHS market and to scale up much more quickly than if they were doing this on their own. If we can’t help, we try to find other partners for the business, and we leave the door open. Around 30 companies contact us each month in search of support. Our team is looking beyond the North West Coast at the rest of the UK and internationally to meet the needs of our local NHS and ICBs.*

Visit: <https://www.healthinnovationnwc.nhs.uk/network-partners>

Annual Review

— 2024 —

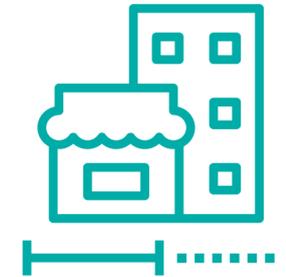
269

SMEs supported with 12 hours or more of support



57

of those SMEs were new businesses



153

full-time jobs were created as a result of our support



33

new products introduced by the SMEs while receiving our support



Strengthening local economies



Innovators named in prestigious cohort

The NHS Innovation Accelerator 2024 Fellows were announced earlier this year.

They include innovators we have been collaborating with for many years, such as: Steve Barnett from C2-Ai; Matthew Beatty MD from Surgery Hero; Taz Aldawoud from Doc Abode; Dr Julian Nesbitt from Dr Julian Medical Group.

This recognition will help the Fellows deliver even more ground-breaking healthcare innovation in our region and beyond.

🌐 **More information:** <https://nhsaccelerator.com/news-item/innovative-healthcare-solutions-take-centre-stage-announcing-the-2024-nhs-innovation-accelerator-fellows/>

Partnership goes from strength to strength

Health Innovation North West Coast's collaboration with C2-Ai and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB continues to demonstrate value and grow.

C2-Ai's Patient Tracking List (PTL) triage system helps identify individuals waiting for surgery who may deteriorate more quickly. It enables surgical teams to prioritise people and take steps to reduce risks. Cheshire and Merseyside implemented the system across the whole ICB, and the results have been very positive.

Health Innovation North West Coast has brokered regional connections to help C2-Ai expand the use of their products. We also funded a real-world evaluation of the PTL triage system so C2-Ai could prove its value of the innovation and scale it up outside the region.

We are now brokering connections for C2-Ai to bring the system into five other regions. And it's working – PTL has now been deployed in 30 trusts and hospitals and four ICBs.

Mark Ratnarajah, Managing Director at C2-Ai, said: *"Health Innovation North West Coast and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB have been so supportive of innovation and embracing collaboration. We want to replicate what we do here and scale that in support of other ICBs."*

Per patient benefits of using the PTL triage system

- At least one excess bed day saved
- Eight per cent reduction in A&E attendances
- 54 per cent reduction in avoidable harm
- 35 per cent conversion to day case
- At least 60 minutes of consultant surgeon administrative time saved per year.

C2-Ai and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB award wins for the PTL triage system:

NHS Confederation/Health Innovation Network Innovate Awards 2023: Best Use of Data in Health Innovation and the overall winner-of-winners Innovation Champion of the Year at the Innovate Awards

HSJ Partnership Awards 2024: Best Elective Care Recovery Initiative (Silver), and a finalist in the HealthTech Partnership of the Year category

For more information: <https://www.healthinnovationnwc.nhs.uk/news/c2-ai-incubating-new-ideas-cheshire-merseyside>



Dr Mark Ratnarajah with C2-Ai President Richard Jones



Strengthening local economies

HETT North

Health Innovation North West Coast was well represented at HETT (Healthcare Excellence Through Technology) North earlier this year. Our Chief Executive Dr Phil Jennings chaired a keynote discussion on digital support to the NHS workforce, and Mike Kenny, Associate Director of Innovation and Industry Partnerships, chaired a conversation on ROI and commercial partnerships.



Dr Phil Jennings chairs the HETT discussion



Life sciences accolade

Lindsay Sharples, our Associate Director of Innovation Partnerships, has been appointed Chair of the Liverpool City Region Health and Life Sciences cluster board. The Combined Authority's new boards, which you can read about [here](#), aim to drive growth and influence policy.

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Strengthening local economies

Backing for diagnostic test

Health Innovation North West Coast continues to support the development of a potentially life-saving diagnostic test.

The capsule sponge test helps identify people most at risk of oesophageal cancer and has helped to ensure only those patients who really need the service are referred to endoscopy teams.

Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team is collaborating with Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance to help patients in primary care settings better understand the test. The procedure involves swallowing a tiny sponge in a capsule which is withdrawn to collect oesophageal cells.

Our team is contacting 1,800 patients to ask why they either accepted or rejected an offer to take the test, and helped develop a [patient information animation](#). The team has also convened focus groups to gather qualitative insights on the acceptability of the test.

Our industry partner Cytel and Lancashire and South Cumbria ICB landed a bronze HSJ Partnership 2024 award for the Cytoprime project: <https://www.hsj.co.uk/partnership-awards/hsj-partnership-awards-2024-diagnostics-project-of-the-year/7036781.article>



1,800
patients
surveyed



Annual
Review
— 2024 —



Strengthening
local economies

Award-winners

Several innovators we have supported were recognised in high-profile awards events in the past year. Congratulations to them!

They include:

Medilink Healthcare Business Awards: Blum Health received the Partnership with the NHS: Secondary Care Award.

HSJ Partnership Awards 2024: C2-Ai and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside: Best Elective Care Recovery Initiative (Silver) for its artificial intelligence-backed stratification and prioritisation of the elective waiting list; **Cyted and NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria:** Diagnostics Project of the Year (Bronze) for Cytoprime; and **Rhiannon Clarke from Health Innovation North West Coast** was shortlisted for Most Impactful Project Addressing Health Inequalities with Optum and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside for a fuel poverty project.



Rhiannon Clarke from
Health Innovation North West Coast



Strengthening
local economies

Mersey Burns typifies successful collaboration

An app to improve the treatment of patients with traumatic burns injuries has been relaunched, thanks to the support of Health Innovation North West Coast.

The Mersey Burns app is the brainchild of Professor Rowan Pritchard Jones, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Medical Director, who developed a system to calculate the fluid requirements of patients, which is critical to survival.

It was the first app in the UK to be registered as a medical device when it was launched in 2011, but regulatory changes forced its suspension in 2022.

Rowan, who has a background in plastic reconstructive surgery and trauma medicine with the British and US Armies, asked our team to find the funding and expertise to bring the app back into use.

We identified local innovator Michael Watts whose skills could make the vision a reality. He and his company Blüm Health worked with Rowan to relaunch the app as a registered medical device.

Michael said: "Mersey Burns is a testament to the UK MedTech industry. Not only has it been revolutionary to supporting patients with burns, but the story of a health innovation network introducing an SME to a NHS trust, developing an innovation using grant funding, really encapsulates the spirit of collaboration in the UK's healthcare ecosystem."

🌐 For more information, visit: <https://www.merseyburns.co.uk/>

🌐 Read our story: [here](#)

 **Strengthening local economies**



Dr Michael Watts; Professor Kayvan Shokrollahi, Consultant Burns and Plastic Surgeon; Jennifer Fitt, Charity Services and Projects Manager at Dan's Fund for Burns; and Professor Rowan Pritchard Jones at the relaunch of the app

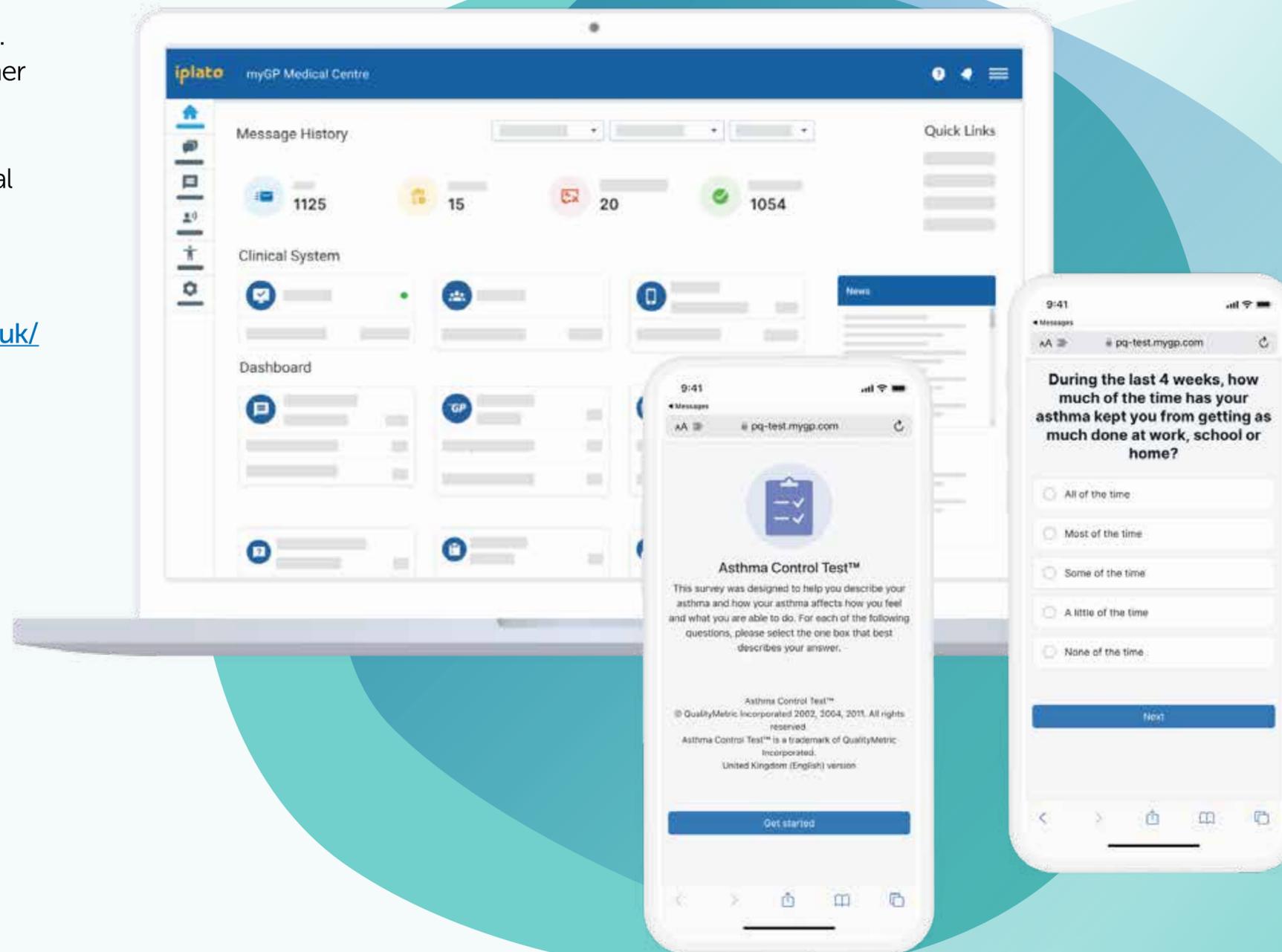
Accelerator focuses on cardiovascular disease

Health Innovation North West Coast and the three other northern health innovation networks are combining their expertise to support health innovations through the Digital North accelerator programme.

This year the focus is on cardiovascular disease (CVD), which continues to be a high priority area for us and our partners. We put forward [iplato](#) as one of four other digital health innovators participating in the programme. Its patient engagement platform has the potential to offer several CVD-related health solutions, including capture of patient data.

Read about the programme: <https://www.healthinnovationwc.nhs.uk/digital-north-accelerator-programme>

Janet Jadavji, Head of Innovation and Partnerships at iplato, said: *“Being selected for the Digital North accelerator programme alongside three other leading SMEs in the healthtech space is important recognition and we are excited to see where we can drive forwards in regard to cardiovascular disease management digital innovation.”*



 Strengthening local economies

Damibu expands into occupational health

Health Innovation North West Coast has been working with Liverpool-based tech specialists Damibu for many years to bring its product, Feeds, a platform that creates and distributes trusted online content, into 140 Merseyside primary care settings.

Damibu is now applying Feeds to address other unmet health care needs and won a £100,000 grant from the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) to develop the platform to improve the occupational health of self-employed people and small business employees.

It's the first time the product will be used outside the NHS.

🌐 For more information, visit: <https://www.healthinnovationnwc.nhs.uk/news/Digital-boost-for-occupational-health>

Damibu also won £500,000 to develop Feeds as an information tool to help ensure equal access to quality maternity care. It will do this by creating, managing, validating and delivering 'content variations' depending on language and cultural needs.

Health Innovation North West Coast was critical in helping Damibu engage with maternity teams, patients and other partners to drive the bid collaboration.

🌐 For more information, visit: <https://sbrihealthcare.co.uk/news/sbri-healthcare-awards-2-5-million-to-accelerate-innovations-that-narrow-health-inequalities-in-maternity>



Strengthening local economies



The Damibu team

Demonstrating impact

Health Innovation North West Coast continued to build on a strong record of delivering evaluation and benefits realisation projects, with several reports commissioned and delivered in the last year.

Demand for this work is increasing and evaluation can both demonstrate impact and help innovators understand barriers to adoption and identify facilitators to spread.

We delivered two reports to the NHS England Sustainable Procurement team. These reports outline the benefits of change, how to make the change and replicate what other trusts have done.

[Reducing the number of items in surgical trays](#)

[Switching from single-use to reusable surgical and isolation gowns](#)

Nicole Fletcher, Sustainable Procurement Lead, NHS England said: *“The Health Innovation North West Coast report provides a valuable review into the benefits of reusable gowns. We hope it will encourage more NHS trusts to make the switch.”*

Laura Boland, Head of Innovation Pipeline, Evaluation and Insights at Health Innovation North West Coast, said: *“We were proud to be involved in projects that support priority challenges like the NHS’s Net Zero Supply Chain by 2045 ambition. Clinically and commercially relevant evidence is more important than ever to show benefit to patients, value for money and cost savings.”*

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Strengthening local economies



Validation in real-world settings

Health Innovation North West Coast supports the Office for Life Sciences' focus on real-world validation (RWV).

The BMC Digital Health journal published a real-world validation by John Moores University of the Safe Steps falls prevention digital app, which we have supported.

This is notable because it demonstrates the acceptance of 'real-world' data from healthcare settings and the impact on patients being used to inform academic research, instead of the more standard practice of replicating results in a controlled setting.

Laura Boland, Head of Innovation Pipeline, Evaluation and Insights at Health Innovation North West Coast, said: *"We have broken some new ground in academic circles that will ultimately benefit service users in the future if other healthcare solutions are "validated" in real settings with real patients."*

The Safe Steps app, developed in Liverpool, is a digital falls risk assessment tool that provides a standardised approach for falls management in various care settings.

Lee Omar, Safe Steps founder and CEO, said: *"It is extremely valuable to have an independent RWV coming to the same conclusions on our product. This enables us to expand the use of our product, but ultimately we are proud of how this app is making a significant difference to the quality of life for care home residents."*

This RWV was part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund in 2019.

🌐 For more details on this story and a link to the publication, visit: <https://www.healthinnovationnwc.nhs.uk/news/real-world-validation-safe-steps>



Lee Omar



Strengthening local economies

Pilot brings microbial innovators to Liverpool

Health Innovation North West Coast was a delivery partner in a pilot Innovate UK Biomedical Catalyst accelerator programme that focused on microbials.

Innovate UK stipulated that only companies that completed one of its sanctioned accelerators would be eligible to apply for its Biomedical Catalyst feasibility funding.

The nationwide microbials accelerator, co-led by [LYVA Labs](#) and Bionow, was created in response to this.

A consortium of local partners joined forces to deliver it: [iiCON](#), the [University of Liverpool \(UoL\)](#), CPI, and Health Innovation North West Coast.

Hannah Randles, Innovation Ecosystem Partner at LYVA Labs, said: *“We had a short time to pull this together and everyone, including Health Innovation North West Coast, enthusiastically got on board. We are confident the funding announcement will reflect the strength of this group.”*

When the microbials accelerator opened, 24 companies were accepted onto an online “pre-accelerator”, and then a handful of companies would be shortlisted to progress to more intensive support.

Health Innovation North West Coast delivered one of these workshops and we were then selected by eight of the 11 companies to deliver support for the final stage of the accelerator.

Lindsay Sharples, Associate Director, Innovation Partnerships, said: *“The participation in this accelerator was extremely valuable. It allowed us to share our wide range of expertise with some impressive companies.”*

“These innovations have the potential to be game-changing in the fight against bad microbials and the promotion of good microbials.”

🌐 For more information on the microbials accelerator, visit LYVA Lab’s website: <https://lyvalabs.com/news/microbial-accelerator-cohort>

🌐 More information on the Innovate UK biomedical catalyst programme: <https://iuk.ktn-uk.org/news/biomedical-catalyst-pilot-accelerators/>



Strengthening local economies



Microbials accelerator partners

Support for international innovators

Through the EIT Bridgehead programme, Health Innovation North West Coast was selected by two companies in the last year to help them with UK market access.

HMG, Furth, Germany:

<https://www.hmg-systems-engineering.com/en/pgxperts/>

PGXperts is a clinical decision-support system to review complex medication scenarios and provide personalised medication recommendations. It will support healthcare professionals in complex issues of drug therapy selection and drug therapy management. It aims to improve the quality of life of polypharmacy patients. We are supporting HMG to understand the unique requirements of the UK market to enable them to position PGXperts as a valuable resource to clinicians in the drive for personalised medicine.

Doctomatic, Barcelona, Spain: <https://www.doctomatic.com/en/>

Doctomatic supports the remote monitoring of patients using visual artificial intelligence to automatically convert a photograph of the LCD of a digital medical device (for example blood pressure monitors, glucometers, pulse oximeters and so on) into a recognised reading to be shared with a care provider. We are supporting Doctomatic to evaluate their technology in the UK, either with an NHS provider or through collaboration with existing suppliers in the telehealth market.

Annual Review

— 2024 —



**Strengthening
local economies**



Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and
Care Improvement



Patient Safety
And Care
Improvement



Our support for health and care

We are the innovation partner for our health and care systems in the North West Coast.

We deliver several commissions in support of health and care partners with a particular emphasis on cardiovascular disease.

We also specialise in respiratory disease, medicines safety, maternity and neonatal services, mental health and cancer services.

In the pages that follow you can see some of our highlights in these clinical areas.



Toolkit tackles fuel poverty

'It's been a choice between heating my home or using my oxygen'

That's an observation from Joe, one of the individuals who benefited from a scheme to alleviate the impact of fuel poverty on vulnerable people.

Health Innovation North West Coast and NHS Cheshire and Merseyside joined forces on a ground-breaking project that explored ways of supporting people whose health condition made them particularly vulnerable to the effects of living in cold homes.

The successful scheme featured several partners from the public and voluntary sectors and was nominated for two prestigious HSJ Partnership awards (Best consultancy partnership with the NHS and Most impactful project addressing health inequalities).

Now the project team has assembled several resources in a [toolkit](#) to help other teams implement similar schemes in their areas.

The project was designed and delivered as part of the NHS England and Health Innovation Network Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme.

1,300
people
supported



Outcomes so far include:

- More than 300 patients put on a fuel poverty pathway
- Almost 300 referrals to affordable warmth schemes

Dianne Green lead COPD nurse:
"I've been a nurse since 1986, and we've never transformed lives like this." Watch a film of Dianne discussing the project [here](#).

Lucy Malcolm, Senior Digital Transformation and Clinical Improvement Manager at NHS Cheshire and Merseyside, said: *"It has been a great example of collaboration and the interventions we've made have been very varied, from referrals to GPs to helping with smoking cessation to mental health referrals."*



The St Helens Community COPD Rapid Response team who played a leading role in the fuel poverty project

Annual Review

— 2024 —



**Patient Safety and
Care Improvement**

Flu project prevents potential deaths

A pilot scheme to evaluate a rapid diagnostics community pathway for flu prevented four potential deaths and 17 potential hospitalisations.

Health Innovation North West Coast led a collaboration which featured a point-of-care test to give GPs and other clinicians greater confidence in a diagnosis.

The hospitalisations the project avoided prevented costs of £37,000, while the scheme also prevented an ICU admission, saving £1,000.

The first phase of the partnership, which included Roche Products and Roche Diagnostics, aimed to alleviate the burden on secondary care in the North West Coast and in Yorkshire & the Humber.

The project has moved into its second phase and will feature an evaluation to explore the clinical and economic impact of an on-demand point-of-care system and the implications for the pathway.

The evaluation will involve a survey and interviews with clinicians and primary care staff to understand the acceptability of the test and potential benefits and drawbacks.

Darren Powell, Clinical Director for the laboratory services at Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust and Clinical Lead for Point of Care testing, said: *"This project is brilliant. It is what our local health population needs. It's done at the right time, as currently there is a growing interest in community point-of-care diagnostics.*

"There is a much bigger plan to move diagnostics out to the community and make this type of specialist testing more accessible. It also aligns well with the ICB's plan to expand community testing via the virtual wards."

🌐 You can read our case study [here](#)

🌐 Omobolanle Olagunju, from the project team, blogs about the work [here](#)

Estimated impact



17 Hospitalisations avoided* = **£37k**
Hospitalisation costs prevented**

+



1 ICU admission avoided = **£1k**
ICU costs prevented

+



4 Deaths avoided

*Figures rounded to the nearest whole number
**Monetary values rounded to the nearest £1,000

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and Care Improvement

Boost for asthma treatment

A national programme to improve access to a simple test for asthma diagnosis has had a tangible impact in the North West Coast.

The Fractional exhaled Nitric Oxide, or FeNO, tests are non-invasive and measure the amount of nitric oxide in an exhaled breath, which is a biomarker for airway inflammation.

FeNO testing can deliver a faster and more effective asthma diagnosis, when viewed alongside a patient's clinical history, and can be used to monitor an individual's response to treatment.

Health Innovation North West Coast supported the testing of thousands of individuals in primary care settings in Lancashire, South Cumbria, Cheshire and Merseyside during the two-year programme.

And the programme enabled 1,829 people in the region to benefit from a more accurate and faster diagnosis of asthma.

Health Innovation North West Coast's Clinical Director Andrew Cooper said: *"Asthma can be a very debilitating condition, so we're pleased to have played our part in ensuring a faster and more accurate diagnosis for many patients."*

1,829

people had
faster diagnosis

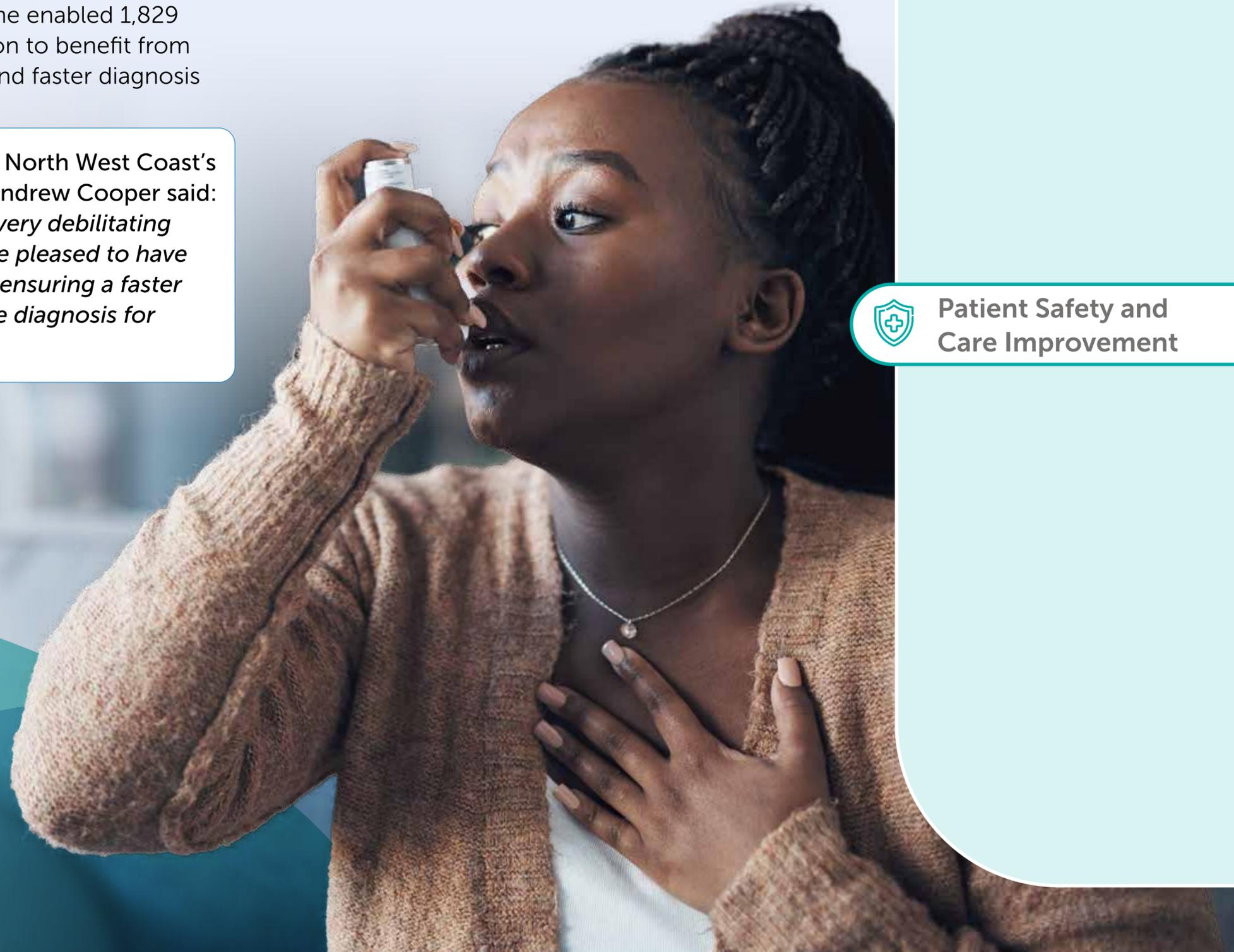


Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and
Care Improvement



Breakthrough diagnosis

An innovative pilot scheme to screen infants for a life-threatening condition has made a breakthrough diagnosis.

Familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) is a hereditary condition that can lead to extremely high cholesterol levels and has been the focus of our work to tackle cardiovascular disease.

Health Innovation North West Coast is coordinating a project in Cheshire and Merseyside to offer a simple heel-prick test to one-year-olds during their immunisation appointment to screen for FH.

The first positive diagnosis in the country has now been made at one of the seven GP practices taking part in the scheme. The infant's family will now undergo 'cascade testing' via the Cheshire and Mersey FH Service to confirm whether any other family members have the genetic condition.

Dr Sue Kemsley, a GP at Swanlow Medical Centre in Winsford and Cheshire and Merseyside Clinical Lipids Lead for Health Innovation North West Coast, said: *"Child parent screening has been popular with our families, so much so that we have parents asking to be screened if their child is now too old to meet the inclusion criteria.*

"It's been a great opportunity to educate our population both on what FH is and how healthy lifestyle can improve risks of developing CVD."

First positive diagnosis in the country



Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and Care Improvement

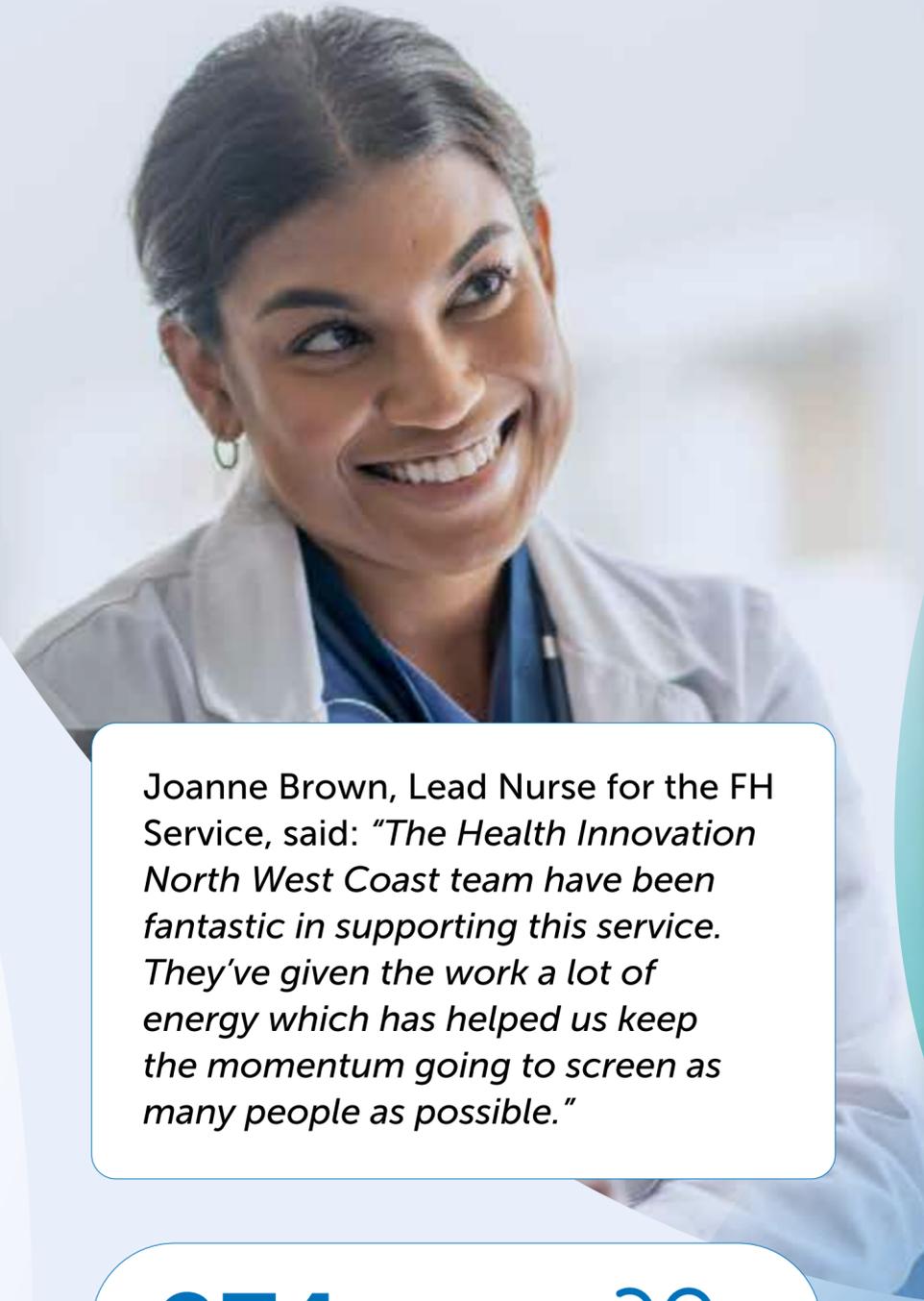
Screening service landmark

A service to detect familial hypercholesterolaemia (FH) and support patients after a diagnosis has screened 274 people in Cheshire and Merseyside.

Health Innovation North West Coast helped set up the service in autumn 2022 and has coordinated it ever since. It has identified 102 people with FH in the region.

FH puts individuals at greater risk of developing premature coronary heart disease and the project aims to offer a consistently high-quality service, including the identification of cases and testing of 'first-degree' relatives of people with a positive diagnosis.

As well as genetic testing, the service offers counselling to patients and provides a patient management plan to support clinicians.



Joanne Brown, Lead Nurse for the FH Service, said: *"The Health Innovation North West Coast team have been fantastic in supporting this service. They've given the work a lot of energy which has helped us keep the momentum going to screen as many people as possible."*

274

individuals have been through the service



Patient Safety and Care Improvement

Lipids management pathway launched

Health Innovation North West Coast led a collaboration on a new lipids management pathway to improve outcomes for people with cardiovascular disease (CVD).

We worked with the Cheshire and Merseyside Cardiac Network and clinicians and specialists across the region on the Lifespan Pathway for Lipid Management 2024.

Management of lipids is an NHS priority aimed at reducing CVD which causes one in four deaths in England. CVD is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality and is the largest area where NHS can save lives in the next 10 years.

The document's lead author was Cheshire GP Dr Sue Kemsley.

🌐 For more details and to download the pathway, visit our [website](#)



Dr James Boyes

Dr James Boyes, North West Coast Clinical Network Programme Manager, said: *"The Cheshire and Merseyside Cardiac Network is immensely proud to have worked in partnership with Health Innovation North West Coast to create the Lifespan Pathway for Lipid Management 2024."*



Patient Safety and
Care Improvement

Heart Heroes

Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) team is recruiting a growing team of people to carry out health checks in the community.

The Heart Heroes deliver blood pressure, pulse and cholesterol checks at events around our region to detect potentially life-threatening conditions, and this year have had more than 2,300 contacts with members of the public.

Wendy Westoby is a Heart Hero who has good reason to commit herself to the cause.

[Read her story here](#)

See Supporting our systems for more on our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team.

2,300
contacts



**Annual
Review**
— 2024 —



**Patient Safety and
Care Improvement**



Heart Hero Wendy Westoby
with partner Colin Hankey

Collaborating for medicines safety

A programme to reduce the avoidable harm caused by opioids is now on a firm footing in the region.

Health Innovation North West Coast worked with our integrated care systems on the National Medicines Safety Improvement Programme (MedSIP) to support them in developing a 'whole-system' approach to the challenge of high-risk opioid prescribing for chronic non-cancer pain.

Opioids offer good pain relief for acute pain and for pain at the end of life, when used with care. However, in the case of chronic non-cancer pain, when the source of long-term pain is untreatable, they can do more harm than good, particularly when used long term.

Around 6,000 people a year could be hospitalised because of taking opioids for extended periods if left unchecked. The Patient Safety Collaborative at Health Innovation North West Coast worked with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside and NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria to set up multi-agency partnerships across the region at place level.

 [Read more here.](#)

Faye Prescott, Morecambe Bay place lead from NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria, said: *"The Health Innovation North West Coast team have been a great support to those individuals who participated in the workshops, providing us with improved insight and understanding of quality improvement tools that can be taken to our local communities of practice."*



Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and
Care Improvement

Maternity project is a lifesaver

A project to improve maternity and neonatal services in the North West Coast has potentially saved up to 102 lives.

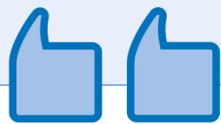
Recent data shows how the implementation of the [‘Optimisation of the preterm infant care bundle’](#) can have a positive impact on neonatal outcomes.

Our Maternity and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme (MatNeo SIP) team has supported trusts to implement this care bundle and has seen improvements over the last year.

The team has also worked with the North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network to promote the adoption of the care bundle.

The optimisation care bundle has also potentially prevented 22 babies from developing cerebral palsy, according to new research, while 41 babies were prevented from developing group B strep.

 [Read more here.](#)



Dr Alex Cleator, Consultant Neonatologist at Liverpool Women’s NHS Foundation Trust, said:

“We have worked closely with Health Innovation North West Coast to deliver our local and regional preterm optimisation work. They have been instrumental in helping us access a wealth of optimisation resources and troubleshoot our local issues.

“They have pointed us in the direction of team members across the region who have experienced similar issues and work relentlessly to help share experiences and successes.

“They are always contactable for advice and are quick to respond with helpful information and contacts.”

102

lives potentially saved



Annual Review

— 2024 —



Patient Safety and Care Improvement

Supporting late preterm babies to go home earlier

Late preterm babies can be in a hospital far from home, placing significant and unexpected financial and social burdens on families, particularly the least advantaged.

However, a lot of this care could be delivered safely at home, with the right support for families.

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration for the North West Coast (ARC NWC), Health Innovation North West Coast and the North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network (NWNODN) collaborated on a two-year research project looking at neonatal outreach services across the North West, including an audit of 20 neonatal units.

Dr Richa Gupta, Clinical Lead for the Lancashire and South Cumbria Neonatal Network, said: *“Conducting the neonatal outreach project with Health Innovation North West Coast was a great opportunity to collaborate with different organisations on a large scale.*

“This will help outline the resources needed to care for babies and families in the most appropriate setting, including some technology solutions.”

Insights from this study can help inform new neonatal outreach services, or improve existing services.

🌐 Read the news story and summary report: <https://www.healthinnovationnwc.nhs.uk/news/recommendations-for-the-expansion-of-neonatal-outreach-interventions>

This project was a part of the National Insights Prioritisation Programme (NIPP) managed by the Health Innovation Network and funded by the Accelerated Access Collaborative and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The programme explored 13 additional promising innovations across the country.

🌐 Read the full report: <https://thehealthinnovationnetwork.co.uk/about-us/supported-initiatives/nhs-insights-prioritisation-programme-nipp/>

Annual Review

— 2024 —



**Patient Safety and
Care Improvement**



Service highlight

Our support to NHS Cheshire and Merseyside in implementing a new service model for adult ADHD was one of the highlights of our year in mental health services.

We also supported the refresh of a set of e-learning tools as part of the development of a 'health calendar' for people with learning difficulties.

Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team worked with a community of practice to redesign the calendar.

This group included people living with learning difficulties, healthcare professionals and care workers.

We are developing online learning tools to help staff in care and support settings to fully use the tool to prevent harm, promote health and to recognise signs of deterioration quickly and effectively.



Annual Review

— 2024 —



**Patient Safety and
Care Improvement**

Redesigning child and adolescent mental health services

Our team published a major [report](#) proposing a new model for delivering mental health services for children and young people.

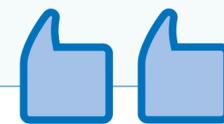
The proposed pathway shows how the redeployment of resources, new technology and a multi-agency approach can boost access to services and reduce waiting times.

The report is the fruit of a Health Education England commission to our Coaching Academy and our mental health team to lead the development of a cross-sector pathway for the North West.

The work embraced health, social care, police, ambulance and voluntary sector representatives and aimed at reducing additional strains on services caused by the pandemic.

We staged 'design-thinking' workshops that allowed attendees to share experiences and encouraged a better understanding of service-users' problems.

'Rapid insight' sessions also gave a platform for patients to share their experiences child and adolescent mental health services.



"The team were instrumental in supporting the North West in developing a working pathway/treatment prototype for children and young people.

Without the structured approach and dedication of the team this work may not have taken place. They made my role as chair of the project easy."

Anthony Davison, Director of Nursing and Quality Commissioning and Integration, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust



Supporting cancer alliances

Cancer treatment and prevention are priority areas and we have strengthened our support for our two local cancer alliances: Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance and Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance.

Lindsay Sharples, Associate Director of Innovation Partnerships, said:
"We believe that innovation can help cancer alliances meet many of their goals and that we are in an excellent place to be a 'connector' between clinicians, researchers, innovators, administrative leaders and the charity sector on local areas, throughout the region and nationally."

Our highlights:

- **Lancashire and South Cumbria Cancer Alliance** commissioned us to scope options for moving systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT) closer to home by using alternative settings.
- **We supported Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance** to recruit an Innovation Clinical Lead and Senior Innovation Manager.
- **We facilitated** the secondment of Ed Millensted, a Health Innovation North West Coast programme manager, to the Cheshire and Merseyside diagnostics programme as Programme Lead, leading on a histopathology review.
- **We supported** our local systems to identify and apply for funding opportunities.
- **We carried out patient and public involvement** activity for several cancer projects in Lancashire and South Cumbria, including Cytoprime.

In the coming months our Coaching Academy will deliver workshops to Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance to help them build internal innovation capacity.

<https://www.lancashireandsouthcumbria.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/canceralliance>
<https://cmcanceralliance.nhs.uk/>



Patient Safety and Care Improvement

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Supporting our systems



Supporting our systems

Our Coaching Academy

Our Coaching Academy has trained coaches and delivered expert facilitation across all sectors, creating opportunities for partners to collaborate and innovate.

Annual Review

— 2024 —

North West region highlight:

Our coaches supported more than 100 people in various sectors to imagine and prototype an innovative pathway for wrap-around mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people. **See page 34.**

Lancashire and South Cumbria highlight:

More than 100 community nurses and AHPs came together in workshops and virtual crowdsourcing sessions to co-design principles for leadership and culture, collaboration, patient-centred outcomes, innovation and improvement, safe and quality care, and responding to the needs of the community.

Cheshire and Merseyside highlight:

We formalised partnerships with Aqua, North West Employers, the North West Leadership Academy, the Clinical Leaders Network, and MIAA to stand up the North West Learning and Development Collaborative, and were commissioned by NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to design and deliver their flagship leadership programme, now under way.

Health Innovation Network highlight:

We facilitated the network's Innovation Spread and Adoption Community of Practice, collaborating with leaders to craft and refine a competency framework to support professional learning and development for all staff.



Supporting our systems

Head of Coaching Academy Jen Kohan delivers a coaching session

Coaching Academy: the year in numbers

Annual Review
— 2024 —

22

coaches trained,
coaching 97
people



537

individual
participants in 36
innovation projects



53

innovation and
improvement
workshops



19

virtual
crowdsourcing and
insight-gathering sessions



14

communities of
practice launched



Supporting our
systems

John Kohan
Director

Listening to the patient's voice

We have a very active Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team whose role is to ensure the patient's perspective is prominent in all our work.

The team hosts regular forums involving patient representatives to review all our projects. They also work with innovators and small businesses to support grant applications, contribute to focus groups and patient trials and help to assess whether various forms of communication – such as websites and leaflets – are accessible.

This extends to working with small innovative companies to help them secure funding, convening focus groups and supporting patient trials.

You can contact our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement team here:
ppi@healthinnovationwc.nhs.uk

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Supporting our systems



Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement lead Debbie Parkinson, second right, with a panel discussing MedTech innovation

Closing the workforce gap

The demand for NHS services is increasing as our population grows and more people live with complex health conditions. The gap between the demand and the capacity in our workforce is increasing and there are not enough people to support existing models of care.

Health innovation networks are part of the NHS response to this challenge and demonstrate how innovation can drive efficiencies and improvements in ways of working, resulting in benefits for the workforce, including upskilling and time back to care.



Supporting our systems

This year at Health Innovation North West Coast, as a result of our innovation work:

3,732

staff have improved knowledge, skills and confidence



1,303

staff have an improved experience of providing care



Shaping the future of telehealth services

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside is the biggest telehealth provider in the UK and one of the biggest in Europe.

As the time to “recommission” its existing telehealth platform approached, the Integrated Care Board wanted to keep pace with technology and provide world-class care. They approached Health Innovation North West Coast to lead the stakeholder and market engagement process.

Peter Almond, Head of Telehealth Services, said: *“We wanted innovation to be at the heart of telehealth services, so it made good sense to bring in Health Innovation North West Coast.*

“Through their engagement work with suppliers, patients, clinicians, and telehealth staff, we’ve captured everything we need to make the specification for the future service the best that it can be.”

Health Innovation North West Coast facilitated supplier showcase events, rapid insight sessions and one-to-one interviews, and provided a list of 50 requirements for potential incorporation into the service specification to the telehealth team.

The telehealth team wants the platform to be flexible and able to connect with more existing and future applications and hardware – such as novel remote monitoring equipment or consumer devices that haven’t yet been adopted or even brought to market.

The new provider is expected to be announced in October.

🌐 Read more [here](#).



Our team at a supplier event



Supporting our systems

Events highlight

The NWC Research and Innovation awards are the highlight of our events calendar and this year attracted 180 submissions in 12 categories.

The keynote speaker was Professor Sir Stephen Powis, Medical Director of the NHS, whose reflections on the NHS you can read [here](#).

The high-profile awards were staged at The Spine, Liverpool, with our partners [Clinical Research Network North West Coast \(CRN NWC\)](#) and [Applied Research Collaboration North West Coast \(ARC NWC\)](#).

Our team continues to organise events in support of innovators and the regional health and care system, and expects to step up activity in the coming months as more events become in-person.



Professor Mark Gabbay, Director of ARC NWC; Professor Sir Stephen Powis; Professor Enitan Carroll from CRN NWC, and Dr Phil Jennings, Health Innovation North West Coast Chief Executive

Annual Review

— 2024 —



Supporting our systems

30 events delivered by our team to **2,300** delegates



Equality, diversity and inclusion and our values

Health Innovation Network, of which Health Innovation North West Coast is a part, has made key pledges to demonstrate our commitment to diversity and innovation.

All 15 health innovation networks have adopted these pledges which help us to embed diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our organisations and our work. You can read more about these pledges [here](#).

Annual Review

— 2024 —

OUR VALUES



CARING

We value others and show respect through active listening, encouragement and empathy



COLLABORATIVE

We harness positive relationships to co-design and innovate through effective partnerships



COURAGEOUS

We lead positive disruption which enables innovation and improvement



INCLUSIVE

We proactively engage all voices to advance involvement across diverse communities



INNOVATIVE

We take a creative and curious approach to horizon scanning and solution finding



Supporting our systems



Annual Review

— 2024 —

Contact us

Health Innovation North West Coast
Vanguard House
Sci-Tech Daresbury
Halton WA4 4AB

0151 254 3400

Follow us on LinkedIn, YouTube, all mainstream podcast channels and X, formerly known as Twitter @innovationnwc



Contact us