



**INNOVATION AGENCY**  
Academic Health Science Network  
for the North West Coast

# Innovation & health connected

Business plan summary 2017-18



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# INTRODUCTION

The Innovation Agency's aim is to spread innovations which can improve the quality of health care and reduce costs.

We act as honest brokers, mobilising expertise and knowledge across the NHS, academia and industry to help improve lives, save money and drive economic growth through innovation. Our regional partnerships are helping to deliver system change locally in line with the Five Year Forward View; and we are supporting the life sciences economy as reinforced by the Accelerated Access Review.

The North West Coast is becoming a powerhouse for digital health systems and solutions and a magnet for investment; we are delighted to work with some of the country's most innovative companies and clinicians to create a health and care system fit for future generations.

This is a summary of our plan for 2017-18.



**Dr Liz Mear, Chief Executive**



**Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE, Chair**

# WHAT DO WE DO?

**Spread innovation, improve health, generate economic growth through advancing technology**

- **We are catalysts** for the spread of innovation at pace and scale - improving health, generating economic growth and helping facilitate change across whole health and social care economies
- **We connect** regional networks of NHS and academic organisations, local authorities, the third sector and industry - responding to the diverse needs of our patients and populations through partnership and collaboration
- **We create** the right environment for relevant industries to work with the health and social care system



# OUR FIVE GOALS

We have developed a business plan which focusses on five goals, following consultation with our partners and key stakeholders about the needs of our region.

Goal 1: Support system transformation through the adoption of innovations that enhance quality and value

Goal 2: Support innovation centres and SMEs to drive economic growth

Goal 3: Drive adoption of digital innovation to improve health and care for our population

Goal 4: Deliver the NHS Improvement Patient Safety Collaborative programme

Goal 5: Collaborate with the Network of AHSNs to accelerate the spread of transformational innovation across the country

GOAL  
1

Support system transformation through the adoption of innovations that enhance quality and value

GOAL  
2

Support innovation centres and SMEs to drive economic growth

GOAL  
3

Drive adoption of digital innovation to improve health and care for our population

GOAL  
4

Deliver the NHS Improvement Patient Safety Collaborative programme

GOAL  
5

Collaborate with the Network of AHSNs to accelerate the spread of transformational innovation across the country

# GOAL ONE

## **Support system transformation through the adoption of innovations that enhance quality and value**

We will deliver a strategic framework for spread and adoption in which we will drive the adoption of innovation which is supported by evidence and provides practical tools and techniques; and we will provide an improvement framework to support putting innovation into practice.

We will further develop our partnership working and secure the support of leaders within our health economy in order to succeed in delivering adoption at scale. To facilitate this, we have created a new, joint role within each of our sustainability and transformation partnerships to lead on spread and adoption.

Building on our Putting Innovation into Practice programme and our network of Innovation Scouts, we will develop Adoption Accelerator programmes, providing structured support to drive faster uptake of innovation.

And we will:

- Support the Innovation Scouts, Evidence Champions and the Q community to spread knowledge and expertise in the wider health and care system
- Support the adoption of innovations showcased on the Innovation Exchange, our online platform of innovations for health and care services
- Work with universities and local and national improvement bodies - Health Foundation, NHS Improvement, North West Leadership Academy, AQuA and Haelo - to increase knowledge and skills in quality improvement methodologies and evidence based improvement science, including the online Quality Improvement tool, LIFE
- Energise people and allow them to think differently by using hackathons to find new ways of doing things to improve quality and increase value. We will use this methodology to co-design and run a national Innovation Leaders' Summit, in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Hacking Medicine to identify and address barriers to the adoption of innovation

## Example: Health coaching to empower patients

We have funded a programme of health coaching to support the Lancashire and South Cumbria transformation programme.

Health coaching is a client-centred partnership between clinician and patient, helping patients to gain the knowledge and confidence to become active participants in their care. The approach has been shown to improve care and reduce demands on health services. A programme of training will be provided for clinicians across Lancashire and South Cumbria.

This followed on from our help in launching a national health coaching programme developed by NHS Innovation Fellow Dr Penny Newman, which can be viewed at: [www.betterconversation.co.uk](http://www.betterconversation.co.uk).

Patient Margaret James-Barber said: "My GP is brilliant; she will always discuss the alternatives and implications of different ways of treating and managing a condition. She supports my decisions – she follows my lead rather than the other way around." Margaret is pictured with Camforth GP Dr Andy Knox, who is Director for Health and Wellbeing for Lancashire North CCG.



# GOAL TWO

## **Support innovation centres and small and medium sized businesses to drive economic growth**

The Innovation Agency has already played a significant role in supporting the development of health innovation centres and we will continue to support their development by developing their networks and enhancing each centre's capability to capture grants and attract investors.

In 2017-18, in partnership with our delivery partners and supported by European Regional Development Funding, we will focus on providing support to small and medium sized businesses, enabling the adoption of innovative technologies to secure sales growth and inward investment. Our medium term goal is for the Innovation Agency to become a nationally leading host for healthcare business support programmes.

In order to achieve this, we will:

- Map health innovation centres across the region, promoting these as part of our regional asset base
- Link the strengths of the region to the Northern Powerhouse agenda and showcase nationally and internationally
- Connect each centre to our networks in the UK and abroad
- Support funding applications for future stability
- Link the regional innovation centres to transformation programme leads, and work with those centres to make direct links to NHS providers and commissioners
- Identify pathways to adoption for innovations to become commercially viable and support each centre to put innovation into practice to reduce risks to investors and funders
- Deliver a business support function to SMEs
- Support local SMEs to access European markets through the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) Health programme and provide business support to European SMEs, funded by EIT Health

## Example: European Regional Development Fund business support programme

We secured £3.5m from the European Regional Development Fund, matched by £3m from partners to support small and medium sized (SMEs) life science businesses to develop innovations which will improve health.

Six staff have joined the Innovation Agency commercial team, and partners have recruited a further six staff, to help 282 SMEs access the healthcare market.



**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund



Pictured: Innovation Agency Commercial Programme Manager Indi Singh (right) with Alastair Buchanan, Managing Director of Cadscan Ltd of Chester – one of the businesses being supported through our ERDF programme

# GOAL THREE

## **Drive adoption of digital innovation to improve care for our population**

We will drive and support the introduction of digital technology to bridge the gap between citizen demand and capacity, to meet local and national priorities.

In order to achieve this, we will focus on implementation of digital projects in each of our principal goals.

We play a leadership role in the Connected Health Cities programme which unites local health data about COPD, alcohol misuse and epilepsy; using advanced technology to improve health services for patients across the north of England. This programme aligns with our objective to make better use of the information and technology that already exists in our health and social care system to improve the health of patients and ensure services are more joined up.

We will accelerate the adoption of digitally enabled self-care by working in partnership with key stakeholders in the health, social care and third sectors.

We will achieve this by building on the existing local digital road maps. A regional strategy is in development and support will be provided, to enable collaboration and the spread of knowledge and best practice, to develop the North West Coast as a region that is 'digitally ready' for research and investment.

We will support the diffusion of knowledge and technologies from the four Global Digital Exemplars in the North West Coast - Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Wirral University Teaching Hospital and Mersey Care, to other providers.

### **We will work at a system level to:**

- Map local system, CCG and provider (including Digital Exemplar) digital road maps, identifying opportunities for collaboration and spread of innovation across the North West Coast

- Share collaboration and learning opportunities with key stakeholders and facilitate partnership working to accelerate uptake of innovation
- Showcase examples of digital innovation on our Innovation Exchange online platform and match innovations to stakeholder needs
- Support key stakeholders to adopt innovation
- Identify three showcase examples, at least two of which will come from the Global Digital Exemplars and we will support widespread implementation across the North West Coast



### **Example: Electronic transfers of care**

We supported an electronic transfer of care system in East Lancashire NHS Foundation Trust which led to a reduction in readmissions of 0.8 per cent, or 60 patients in a year, saving the trust £200,000. We are now engaged by NHS England to spread electronic transfer of care systems to 12 trusts in our region, in a pilot study which will be evaluated by a university partner.



# GOAL FOUR

## **Deliver the NHS Improvement Patient Safety Collaborative programme**

We are part of a national network of 15 Patient Safety Collaboratives, funded by NHS Improvement to provide safety improvements across all healthcare settings.

The collaboratives are led by the Academic Health Science Networks to tackle the leading causes of avoidable harm to patients. The collaboratives empower local patients and healthcare staff to work together to identify safety priorities and develop solutions.

During the coming year the collaboratives will work jointly across England on a number of key priority areas and we will take a lead role in at least two of these national workstreams, accounting for around a third of our total programme:

- safety culture
- physical deterioration including sepsis
- maternity and neonatal care

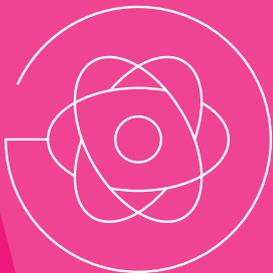
In addition we will continue to deliver a local patient safety programme informed by the needs of our stakeholders through our patient safety expert group. This programme includes:

- Atrial fibrillation: We will continue to deploy detection technology and encourage adoption of the CCG AF dashboard; we will incorporate genotype guided dosing for warfarin patients (aligned with Goal 1)
- Point of care testing: We will evaluate the use of a novel technology in a primary care setting aimed at improving antibiotic stewardship and identifying sepsis
- Medicines optimisation: We are introducing pharmacists into GP practices through the 'closing the gap' programme and will evaluate their impact on prescribing safety and efficiency. The electronic transfer of care programme mentioned in Goal 3 will involve sharing medication, admission and discharge details between acute hospitals and community pharmacies

- Falls: The award winning regional programme 'Steady On' will be introduced in care homes to identify residents at risk of falls, to enable early intervention
- Care home programme: We will train staff working in this sector with e-learning packages and introduce tools such as the Anticipatory Care Calendar. This will enable the early recognition of conditions such as dehydration or sepsis and allow timely intervention, avoiding hospital admission
- Fracture prevention: We will work with CCGs to proactively identify those patients at risk of osteoporosis and hip fracture, to offer preventative medication and to review treatment plans for those found to be at high risk
- Capability building and culture change: We will share knowledge with partner organisations to produce a workforce skilled in change management methodologies and ready to adopt innovation. This will include Q Fellows; Clinical Evidence Champions; Innovation Scouts; and work delivered on our behalf by AQUA

### Example: Evidence Champions programme

We launched a Postgraduate Certificate Evidence Champions Programme alongside our commissioned partner, Lancaster University. This programme teaches commissioners to make the best use of evidence in making decisions about new products and service improvements in their areas. We developed this programme based on the successful work of West of England AHSN.



# GOAL FIVE

## **Collaborate with the AHSN Network to accelerate the spread of transformational innovation across the country**

To gain greater benefits for patients and service users we will place more emphasis on the role of the Innovation Agency as a member of the AHSN Network, importing good ideas from other parts of the health and care system and exporting innovations which have delivered value locally

The Innovation Agency will be an agent for change in:

- accelerating the adoption of innovation across health and care
- prioritising a process for collective working, where AHSNs converge on projects and specific functions and deliver the benefits of dissemination at scale
- developing capability and disseminating knowledge of 'what works' in spreading innovation across the health and care sector by further development and sharing our Putting Innovation into Practice programme
- making the links between health and social care so that innovation can be applied across both sectors for the benefit of residents

## **We will deliver innovation programmes within the Five Year Forward View, such as:**

National Innovation Accelerator

Innovation and Technology Tariff

Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) for Healthcare

Test beds

Clinical Entrepreneurs

## Example: Preventing strokes

Through our work to identify atrial fibrillation (AF), in the North West Coast we have prevented 256 potential strokes, potentially saving around £5.6m in NHS resources.

Across the AHSN Network, an AF community has been formed which aims to prevent an additional 4,500 strokes over the next five years.

This involves introducing mobile heart rate monitor devices into GP surgeries; spreading a 'Don't Wait to Anti-coagulate' quality improvement programme into primary care; and offering an AF Landscape Tool which provides data for decision makers about AF management.



# TO GET INVOLVED

If you would like to find out more about our work and get involved, whether as a health and care professional, a local business or a local citizen, please sign up for our newsletter and/or contact us as below.

**Email:** [info@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk](mailto:info@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk)

**Tel:** 01772 520263 or 01772 520262

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