



#unleashinginnovation

INNOVATION

BOOK OF HIGHLIGHTS

2019-2020



Innovation Agency staff during an away day at Brockholes Nature Reserve in Preston

We are publishing this annual report at the strangest of times and we know that the coming year holds many questions for us about how we best support our health and care system, regionally and nationally.

While the report covers our activity highlights for the year to April 2020 we have also included a summary of our COVID-19 related work, which began in early March and which continues as we help our partners to 'reset' their delivery of services.

The Innovation Agency was well placed to play a significant supportive role from the start of the pandemic, identifying the needs of our system, filtering offers from local businesses who came forward to help and working closely with others including fellow AHSNs, LEPs, the different system cells and resilience forums and our national commissioners. [You can read more about this work on page 5.](#)

Aside from the pandemic, the Innovation Agency has seen great results from our work in spreading innovations, supporting economic growth and delivering improvement programmes. Much of this work paused in late March but by summer was restarting, albeit with some changes as we sought to reassess the priorities of our partners.

Dr Liz Mear,
Innovation Agency Chief Executive

Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE,
Innovation Agency Chair

The North West Coast in numbers 2019-2020



Patient Safety

£19m NHS savings this year through TCAM
1,039 community pharmacists using TCAM
13 trusts have adopted TCAM



Stroke Prevention

2,000 additional people on anticoagulation therapy
98 per cent of people with atrial fibrillation detected
70 AF Ambassadors trained
10,000 pulses checked
500+ mobile ECG devices distributed



Economic Growth

343 businesses supported
112 jobs created
£12.8m funding secured



Events

137 events held
4,195 attendees



Coaching Academy

1,425 hours of coaching delivered

AHSN Network National Impact



479,000+

patients benefiting from our two-year national adoption and spread programmes



96%+

acute trusts have now adopted the emergency laparotomy pathway



553,290

ITP units/scans supplied for patients in the last three years



45%

of all acute trusts have implemented TCAM



8,472

people with chronic joint pain have participated in ESCAPE-pain courses



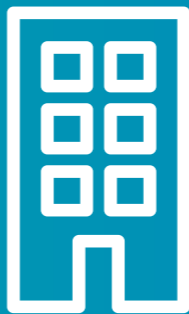
11,600+

interactions with companies since 2018



850

additional mothers in preterm labour received MgSO4 in 2019/20 as a result of PReCePT



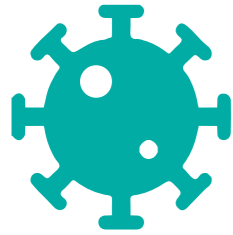
4,000+

companies supported since 2018



300+

companies have created long-term strategic partnerships with our help since 2018



Our response to COVID-19

From the start of the pandemic in March 2020, the work of the Innovation Agency and all other AHSNs became totally focused on supporting the response to COVID-19.

We listened to partners in the region and directed resources where they were most needed. This included assessing an avalanche of offers from businesses; identifying useful technologies; helping source PPE; supporting care homes; rolling out relevant patient safety programmes; and redeploying staff to national and regional roles – as summarised below...

PATIENT SAFETY

We have been helping organisations to implement **NEWS2** and **RESTORE2** in general practice, care homes and other non-acute settings as well as in all acute hospitals.

This is through providing training and toolkits to support appropriate decision-making over emergency admission, part of the national NHS Patient Safety Improvement Programme.

SAFE TRACHEOSTOMY CARE TOOLKIT

A toolkit for healthcare staff has been published by the National Tracheostomy Safety Project in collaboration with the AHSN Network and the National Patient Safety Improvement Programmes in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to support healthcare staff who are looking after patients with tracheostomies. The toolkit provides information, practical resources and links to useful online training videos and websites.

Katie Whittle from our patient safety team also delivered a well-received [presentation at a webinar](#) about tracheostomy in the COVID-19 era, organised by the Intensive Care Society.

SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

We are continuing to support all maternity units in the North West Coast to adopt **Placental Growth Factor-based tests**, to reduce admissions of women at risk of pre-eclampsia.

This became particularly important during the pandemic as it allows some women to return to community care or be monitored at home instead of being admitted to hospital for observation. [See page 11.](#)

North West Coast hospital emergency departments are being supported to implement a pathway using **high sensitivity troponin**, which rules out whether someone is having a heart attack. This pathway helps the effort to fight COVID-19 as the patient receives a diagnosis sooner, freeing up beds. [See page 10.](#)

To support the care of patients recovering from COVID-19 we are developing an insights report on innovations in pulmonary rehabilitation, for discussion with commissioners.

STAFF

We redeployed a number of our staff, including project managers, to help the Return to Work scheme in the North West; a senior communications officer to NHSX for the rollout of new digital programmes; and an associate director to NHSE/I to support the Cabinet Office to deal with COVID-19 queries.

COMMERCIAL SUPPORT

Many businesses in our region have stepped up to offer their services, in some cases repurposing their products to deliver urgently needed PPE. We have acted as a contact point for these offers and filtered those which were relevant to the right places.

In Lancashire and South Cumbria, our team was part of an initiative led by the Chambers of Commerce to co-ordinate donations of vital supplies and services to the NHS.

In Cheshire and Merseyside we collaborated with Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust and Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership to develop an **online portal** linking partner trusts with prospective commercial suppliers.

In Liverpool City Region, we have been part of the **Growth Platform's support for the Merseyside Resilience Forum** to support their key role in coordinating the provision of PPE for frontline workers.

SYSTEM SUPPORT

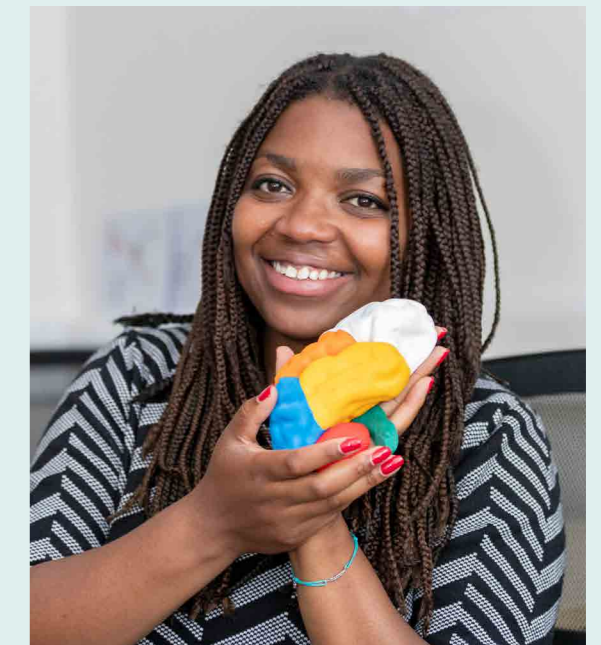
Our staff have been working with system teams in Lancashire and South Cumbria and in Cheshire and Merseyside, for instance on population health plans to reduce social isolation; and in providing solutions that support the COVID-19 response when explicitly requested.

We have been working closely with the digital teams in both systems to support the implementation of digital solutions for primary, community and secondary care.

DIGITAL SOLUTION SUPPORTS YOUNGSTERS IN CARE DURING COVID-19

A social enterprise in Liverpool, **Chanua**, was one of 18 selected from 1,600 UK business applicants to receive funding from the **NHSX TechForce19 Challenge**.

The company received £25,000 and support from the Innovation Agency to launch Neuro Love, an online platform to help young people in care to manage anxiety and low mood while staying connected socially.



Chanua Chief Executive, Naomi Mwasambili



The company's logo featured in a display in Times Square, New York



Participants in the Cheshire and Merseyside Care Homes Academy

COLLABORATION IMPROVES CARE HOME LEARNING

The Innovation Agency was one of four organisations commissioned by NHS England Cheshire and Merseyside to deliver learning sessions to care home managers and system leaders from local authorities and CCGs. The aim was to help care homes use quality improvement approaches for specific challenges.

The Cheshire and Merseyside Care Homes Academy was delivered by the Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA), the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the NHS Leadership Academy and the Innovation Agency. The six-month programme of learning sessions focused on workplace culture, quality improvement and leadership.

Deborah Payne, a care home manager with L&M Healthcare, said: *“It was very helpful, very supportive. The tools they gave me to use, the information I was given and the things that I learned have been invaluable. We now want to actually roll out the projects throughout the home and the five L&M homes we’ve got in the North West.”*

Jeffery Bynon, from Cheshire West and Chester Council, said: *“The quality improvement side of things allowed us to use really appropriate techniques and tools to really manage how we do things and to be more effective in how we work with our care homes. It enabled me to get some key skills which I feel I used in the programme and I will take forward with me on my journey. It’s been really helpful to me personally.”*

Leaders from nine commissioning bodies, including local authorities and CCGs, and 18 care home managers took part.

The initiative is part of the National Patient Safety Improvement Programme’s deteriorating patient workstream, which aims to improve the recognition of and response to deterioration in all care settings for adult patients. The programme is delivered locally by the Innovation Agency.

See more on the collaboration [here](#).

MEDICINES SAFETY TRIUMPH

The Transfers of Care Around Medicines (TCAM) project is improving patient safety by providing information to community pharmacies when a patient is discharged from hospital.

TCAM in Aintree was set up through a partnership between Aintree University Hospital, part of Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; NHS England Local Pharmacy Network and the Innovation Agency.

The three partners were named joint winners of the prestigious PrescQIPP award for developing or working across health and care boundaries.

PrescQIPP is an NHS-funded not-for-profit organisation that supports the best possible prescribing of medicines.

Up to March 2020, implementation of TCAM resulted in an estimated £19m of NHS savings in the North West Coast, based on the hospital readmission costs of patients who instead received support from their pharmacist. A total of 13 trusts in the North West Coast have adopted TCAM, with over 1,000 community pharmacies taking part.



Representatives of the three organisations collect their award

IMPROVING PATIENT SAFETY

We deliver the national Patient Safety Improvement Programmes for the North West Coast, focusing on identifying deterioration; maternal and neonatal health; and creating a culture of continuous improvement.





Dr Eshita Hasan, Simon Needham, Dr Tracey Cooper MBE and Maryjo Waldron

IMPROVEMENT PROJECT MAKES IT BETTER FOR BABY

Maternity and neonatal teams at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust have succeeded in reducing admissions of full-term babies, following an Innovation Agency programme.

Through Innovation Agency-facilitated coaching and mentoring support, QI tools and techniques and access to a network of maternity and neonatal teams across the region, the trusts implemented an initiative to reduce the percentage of full-term babies being separated from their mothers.

Lancashire Teaching Hospitals found that the most common reason for a baby being unexpectedly admitted to the neonatal unit was hypoglycaemia. In an effort to keep babies warm and create the conditions for early feeding, and so reduce the risk of hypoglycaemia, the trust has increased the number of babies who receive skin-to-skin care following birth for at least an hour or until the first feed. The trust has since seen an 80 per cent reduction in admissions of full-term babies to the neonatal unit due to hypoglycaemia.

Baby Reggie was born on 17 February 2020 and he and his mum Lauren Kenyon enjoyed skin-to-skin contact immediately after birth. Reggie weighed 6 pounds 6 ounces after his first breastfeed. Lauren was keen to have uninterrupted skin-to-skin time after hearing about the benefits from her midwife during antenatal classes.

Lauren said: *"I really enjoyed the experience of holding my baby skin to skin; it felt natural to have that time together, I was able to relax and concentrate on my breathing, it was reassuring to hold baby close and it was calming for us both."*

Andrea Whitehead, Service Development Midwife at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, led the project.

She said: *"This project has demonstrated that mothers and babies benefit when staff come together to work across traditional boundaries. Following this project we have set up a 'Working Better Together' group in which we aim to continue to work together to make further improvements in care for women and their families at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals."*



babies being admitted with hypoglycaemia

At Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, the neonatal team set a goal of reducing admissions of full-term babies to the neonatal unit to six per cent by the end of March 2020. The trust had found that a third of admissions were due to hypoglycaemia, hypothermia or both.

The team introduced a new approach called the Glasgow Warm Care Bundle. This helps midwives and families keep the new-born warm. It provides clear guidance using a traffic light system and the team realised it would need to be adapted for local implementation. This was done collaboratively through engagement between maternity and neonatal staff. New approaches included the education of mothers and birth partners, maintaining a temperature of 23C in the labour ward, post-natal ward and theatre, and increased daily liaison between maternity and neonatal shift leaders.

As a result of the improvement work, the team has seen a reduction of 35 percent in hypothermia admissions, and a reduction of 50 per cent in hypoglycaemia admissions, as well as improved collaboration between staff and families, and reduced separation of mothers and babies after birth.

Simon Needham, Team Leader at Warrington Neonatal Unit, said: *"As a team we listened to individuals and wanted to improve the patient experience, keeping mother and baby together and reducing separation experiences. We did that through collaboration between departments and understanding one another."*





Dr Alan Doddridge tests a patient's pulse



AF Ambassador Wendy Westoby tests a coach driver's pulse

ON THE PULSE – REDUCING AF-RELATED STROKES

Around 80 strokes will be prevented in the North West Coast each year thanks to [the Innovation Agency's programme](#) to detect and treat irregular heart rhythms.

Atrial fibrillation (AF) is responsible for approximately 20 per cent of all strokes, which can leave survivors with devastating disabilities. In the UK, one million people are known to be affected by AF and an additional 422,600 people are undiagnosed. Treating the condition costs the NHS over £2.2 billion each year.

Making sure people with AF are given the best treatment – usually anticoagulants, blood-thinning medication to prevent clots – can more than halve their risk of having a stroke.

Academic Health Science Networks including the Innovation Agency were set ambitious targets in 2015 to improve the detection, diagnosis and treatment of patients with AF. In the North West Coast, 24,210 people were estimated to have

undiagnosed AF, while 76 per cent of people with high-risk AF were treated with anticoagulation therapy.

The Innovation Agency adopted a partnership approach across the North West Coast to improve detection, diagnosis and treatment of AF, engaging with primary care, community services, volunteer ambassadors, fire and rescue services, GP practices, pharmacies and CCGs. The Quality Outcome Framework (QOF) data for 2018/2019 revealed that the Innovation Agency achieved:

98% detection rate against a target of 85 per cent, making it the highest performing region for this national programme and exceeding the national target for 2019

84% of our region's high-risk AF patients are now receiving anticoagulation therapy – an increase of eight per cent since 2015 / 2016

"We could not have achieved this without a partnership approach and great support from clinical services and the public. We have already started to see a reduction in AF-related strokes which is a great outcome for our region."

Dr Julia Reynolds,
Associate Director of Transformation at the Innovation Agency



Pharmacist John Davey tests customer Kathleen Thomas' pulse

STROKE PREVENTION

Stroke prevention is one of the Innovation Agency's flagship programmes. We are very proud of our record in identifying people with atrial fibrillation and preventing strokes.



WHY PULSE TESTING IS CLOSE TO MY HEART

Rugby League fan Phil Black explains why becoming an AF Ambassador was such a crucial decision.

"When I signed up to be an [AF Ambassador](#), I didn't think for one second that it would one day save my own life.

I volunteered to test pulses after discovering I had atrial fibrillation (AF), an irregular pulse, 18 months ago. I was fighting a heavy cold and chest infection and was struggling to breathe so my wife and daughter urged me to get it checked out.

They took me to the coronary care unit at Whiston Hospital where doctors found I had pneumonia, a lung clot and AF. I am so lucky that they found it – they told me I was just a week away from death.

A friend who works for the Innovation Agency told me about the programme to help detect AF which, if left untreated, can lead to stroke.

The Innovation Agency has a team of volunteer AF Ambassadors who test pulses in their communities to help detect irregular heart rhythms and signpost them to their GP – so I signed up straight away.

I was given training in how to use the Kardia Alivecor – a mobile ECG device – to test pulses and set about testing my family and friends, as well as staff, players and fans at Halton Stadium where I am an assistant ground safety officer.

Then, recently, I felt a weird feeling in my chest like I had butterflies in there. I suspected my heart had come out of rhythm again so I checked my pulse with the Kardia and it flagged up 'possible AF'.

I am now waiting for a call from my consultant to let me know whether I need to have another cardioversion or cardiac ablation. Until then, I am taking tablets to control it."

Phil Black,
AF Ambassador



INNOVATION EXCHANGE NETWORK

We instigated an [Innovation Exchange Network](#) of leads across our trusts and systems that can act as a gateway between their organisation and the Innovation Agency, to signal their needs and share their innovations.

EPIC GATHERING IN LANCASHIRE AND SOUTH CUMBRIA

Over 500 staff and leaders from NHS, local authorities, academia and the voluntary sector in Lancashire and South Cumbria attended EPIC (Engage, Promote, Innovate, Collaborate), a Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria programme to enable collaboration in order to reduce health inequalities.



[Learn more about EPIC in this short video](#)



Improving the Social, Economic and Environmental Determinants of health in Lancashire and South Cumbria

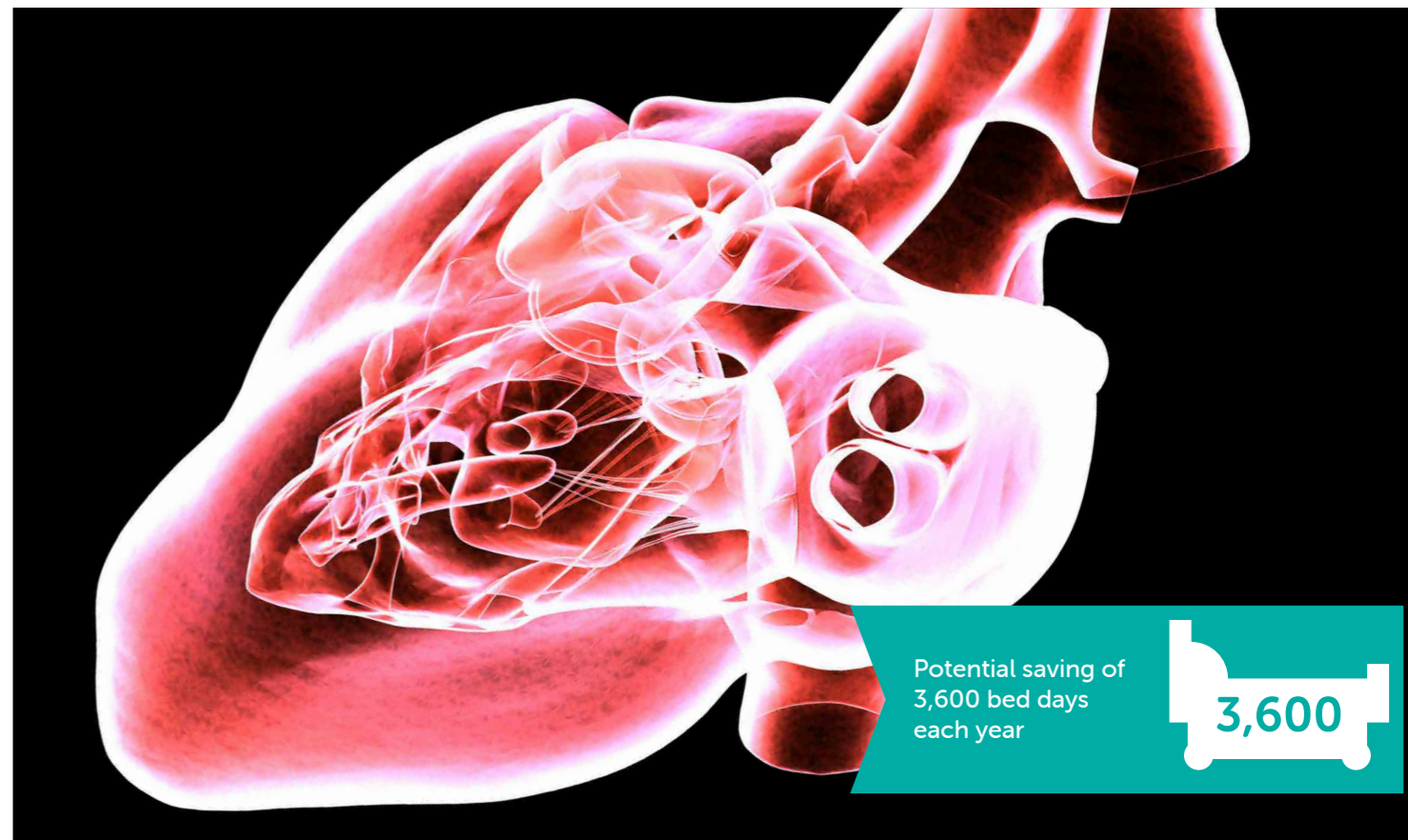
SUPPORTING COLLABORATIONS AND INTEGRATION

A new alliance was created with the support of the Innovation Agency in Lancashire and South Cumbria. [SEED](#) is an evolving partnership of organisations who are collaborating to improve the social, economic and environmental determinants of health in Lancashire and South Cumbria.

SEED partners include the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the University of Cumbria, Edge Hill University and Lancaster University, working with the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System and organisations in healthcare, education, business and voluntary, community and faith sectors.

In Cheshire and Merseyside we have supported the Health and Care partnership to run a collaboration forum for the leads of the nine places and the thematic cross-cutting programmes. We offer facilitation, content design and programme management, and our coaching team has designed a leadership course, [‘Doing things differently’](#) launched before COVID-19.

In both of our systems we provide staffing resource and offer the full range of our support services, including event management, coaching and introduction to relevant innovations.



Potential saving of 3,600 bed days each year



SETTING WORLD STANDARDS IN CARDIAC CARE

A world-class treatment pathway for patients with a suspected heart attack presenting at accident and emergency departments has been developed, through an Innovation Agency collaboration with clinicians.

It involves a blood test known as [high-sensitivity cardiac troponin testing](#), which helps the rapid diagnosis or rule-out of a cardiac cause of chest pain. This can significantly reduce unnecessary hospital admissions.

The Innovation Agency secured funding to help deliver more consistent treatment for patients across the North West Coast.

It involves Dr Aleem Khand, consultant cardiologist at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, and promises to save the NHS in Cheshire and Merseyside more than 3,600 bed days every year.

High-sensitivity troponin tests can detect very low levels of the cardiac biomarker that is released after a heart attack. This sensitivity can significantly reduce the time it takes to arrive at a diagnosis.

Dr Khand has developed a pathway that currently allows 53 per cent of people who present with a suspected heart attack to be discharged within three hours. The aim is to extend that proportion to 72 per cent within three years, with some patients discharged within an hour.

He said: *“This is an ambitious target but we’re confident we can reach it and the impact will be very significant, both in terms of improvements to patient care and savings for the health service.”*

Chest pain with the suspicion of heart attack accounts for around 700,000 A&E admissions every year, though only around 20 per cent of these are diagnosed as a heart attack.

The Innovation Agency is leading nationally on behalf of the AHSN Network in partnership with the [NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative](#), providing support to other AHSNs and trusts to adopt the process.

View a recorded webinar about the project, featuring Dr Khand [here](#).

FUELLING SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

As our health and care landscape evolves, our teams are offering project management support and helping to introduce innovations to improve care.



INNOVATIVE CARE FOR MUMS AND BABIES

All maternity units in the North West Coast are being supported to adopt [Placental Growth Factor \(PIGF\)](#) based tests to reduce hospital admissions of women at risk of pre-eclampsia.

Pre-eclampsia occurs in around three per cent of pregnancies. It is thought to be related to complications in the development of the placenta, and can have serious consequences for mothers and babies if untreated. To date there is no definitive test to diagnose pre-eclampsia and the only way to cure it is to deliver the baby.

PIGF is being fast-tracked into the NHS as part of the [NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative](#), supported by the AHSN Network. PIGF-based testing can help identify the level of risk for women with suspected pre-eclampsia, allowing women to return to community care or be monitored at home instead of being admitted to hospital.

An improvement collaborative is being led by the Innovation Agency Coaching Academy which is open to all North West Coast maternity unit staff. The aim is to achieve PIGF-based testing in all women presenting with suspected pre-eclampsia between 20 and 34 weeks.

The first in a series of webinars featuring PIGF champions Dr Jenny Myers and Dr Manu Vatish, and representatives of Roche and Quidel, who supply the tests, is available to view [here](#).

By June 2020, nine North West Coast trusts had adopted or were in the process of adopting PIGF-based testing.

For users of NHS Futures, further resources are available [here](#).



OTHER AAC PRODUCTS

The Innovation Agency and AHSN Network are helping local systems to implement other products and pathways identified by the [Accelerated Access Collaborative](#) for rapid uptake, as follows:

- **HeartFlow analysis** creates a 3D model of the coronary arteries to help clinicians to rapidly diagnose patients with suspected coronary artery disease from coronary CT angiography
- **Urolift** is a minimally invasive procedure for treating lower urinary tract symptoms of benign prostatic hyperplasia
- **Cladribine** is an oral treatment given as two treatment courses, one year apart, for treating highly active relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis in adults
- **PCSK9 inhibitors** for treatment of very high cholesterol are used together with a statin-type cholesterol-lowering medicine, or in those who are unable to take or tolerate a statin



INNOVATION IN WORKFORCE PRODUCTIVITY

We were funded by Health Education England to deliver a project aimed at finding innovative ways to address workforce challenges.

1. **Future workforce:** This involved listening to young people and educator views on the NHS as a future employer and convening 'think tank' discussions by leaders and influencers, in collaboration with our Local Workforce Action Boards.
2. **A workforce redesign and planning project was completed,** aiming to test whether we could use population health demand data, together with new integrated care models, to co-design a workforce model for mental health and learning disabilities that could be replicated in any primary care network.
3. **A project to identify how to enable a new supply of workforce** by improving access to NHS careers for psychology graduates. A second-phase project is now underway to develop a postgraduate entry point and training scheme for psychology graduates.

ESCAPE FROM THE PAIN

Around 1,600 people across the North West Coast have now completed [the ESCAPE-pain programme](#).

This rehabilitation programme for people with chronic joint pain was adopted by the AHSN Network in 2018 to be spread nationally. Research shows that 70 per cent of participants in the programme reported that they felt better able to take part in daily activities as a result.

An independent evaluation estimates that every £1 invested in the programme saves £5 as people need fewer services and

less medication, resulting in total savings to the NHS of £1.5 million for every 1,000 people who take part in ESCAPE-pain.

The Innovation Agency has provided ESCAPE-pain training free of charge for 140 North West Coast professionals, including physiotherapists and lifestyle advisers. Through partnerships with healthcare providers and other organisations the programme is being delivered across 29 sites in the region, including hospitals and community leisure centres.



Every £1 invested saves an estimated £5

OTHER AHSN NATIONAL PROGRAMMES ARE:

- [Atrial fibrillation \(AF\) – see page 8](#)
- [Preventing cerebral palsy in preterm babies \(PRCePT\)](#)
- [Transfers of Care Around Medicines \(TCAM\) - see page 6](#)
- [Pharmacist-led information technology intervention for the reduction of clinically important errors in medicines management \(PINCER\)](#)
- [Serenity Integrated Monitoring \(SIM\)](#)
- [Emergency Laparotomy Collaborative](#)



Douglas Bowman speaks to ESCAPE-Pain participants at Barbara Castle Way Health Centre, Blackburn

DOUGLAS BOWMAN, AGED 65 AND FROM BLACKBURN, TOOK PART IN THE ESCAPE-PAIN PROGRAMME AT BARBARA CASTLE WAY HEALTH CENTRE

He said: *“I had a very sore knee; I went to see my GP and it was diagnosed as arthritis. Basically, I wanted a new knee, I was in so much pain I could barely walk and going downhill or downstairs was particularly difficult because it was so swollen. I was prescribed Naproxen, which I was taking about twice a day.*

“My physiotherapist, Emma, suggested I join ESCAPE-pain. The other people on the course were friendly – it’s nice seeing people from different parts of the town in one place. There were Muslims there, Christians, Sikhs – we were all getting on. There was definitely a social element to it. I’ve made friends with a lot of people and we still keep in touch outside the sessions. It’s a brilliant way of meeting people.

“There’s no question I could feel I was getting better. The swelling went down for a start. I’d been taking two naproxen a day and now I’m down to one a week. I’ve always liked walking but before going to ESCAPE-pain I was finding it hard to walk. Now, I always try to get four or five miles a day in. I’m not in any pain – I’ve built up the muscles around my knee. They explain it all to you, it’s taking the pain away from my knee.

“I now go to speak to new ESCAPE-pain participants to tell them how it’s benefited me. I tell them it honestly does work – I’m not getting paid for this, do as you’re told!”

NATIONAL PROGRAMMES

We and our fellow AHSNs are rolling out a set of national programmes that have a proven impact on patient outcomes.





Senate members Jim Organ and Howard Ballard with the Innovation Agency's Debbie Parkinson

AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Our **Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) team** continues to make sure that the people of the North West Coast are at the heart of our work.

There are now three PPI groups that meet regularly to have their say on our programmes of work, providing feedback, testing products and collaborating on solutions.

And the year ended in triumph when the Patient Involvement and Engagement Senate (PIES), was rewarded for its hard work at the North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2020.

The senate received the **'Outstanding contribution to patient and public involvement'** award, having been involved in several innovation, system improvement and commercial development projects over the previous 12 months.

Following the success of the Senate in Cheshire and Merseyside, a second PIES was formed in Lancashire and South Cumbria, followed by a third group focused on patient safety programmes.

"It's been a real privilege to be involved in PIES. I feel that my contribution has been valued and I have learnt a great deal about patient safety which has broadened my understanding of the vital work being undertaken by the Innovation Agency."

Chris McIlween, a new member who is also a lay member at Blackburn Hospital



U3A showcase in Ulverston

UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

The senates have been working with the Innovation Agency's commercial team to provide feedback to small companies developing innovations.

They have also developed strong links with the University of the Third Age (U3A), which brings together retired people to develop their interests and continue their learning in an informal environment.

Retired pharmacist Julia Bate, a U3A member and Patient Safety Ambassador, said: *"At the Aughton and Ormskirk U3A we have forged a great link with Debbie Parkinson and her colleagues."*

"They help us to present at our science group or health and wellbeing group meetings about the various projects they support, including medical devices and smartphone apps being developed by SMEs, and then as a group we pilot them."



ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC

The PIES team worked on a musical collaboration with a composer from the Royal Northern College of Music to create a bespoke piece of music which told the story of how they helped to develop a consent app for health data-sharing preferences for the Connected Health Cities project. The composition was performed at a concert entitled #MusicSaysDataSavesLives at Manchester Museum.



Senate member Keith Wilson with composer Nate Chivers

PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We involve patients and public representatives in all our work. They test new technologies, volunteer as AF Ambassadors to test pulses and provide feedback that shapes our plans and projects.



PIONEERING HEALTH DATA PROJECT SAVES LIVES

Millions of people across the North West Coast will benefit from improved health thanks to a project aimed at better managing patient data.

[Connected Health Cities](#), for which the Innovation Agency was lead site for the North West Coast, was a £20m, four-year pilot funded by the Department of Health to unite local health data and technology to improve care for patients in the North of England.

The project put patients at the heart of how their health data was used, with great success. It was co-ordinated by [The Northern Health Science Alliance](#) and delivered through regional centres covering the North East and North Cumbria, the North West Coast, Yorkshire and Humber and Greater Manchester.

Connected Health Cities has delivered outstanding results, saving lives, protecting capacity in the NHS worth many millions of pounds per year and improving the care of millions of patients.



Now have connected health and care records across the North of England



Could be saved across the care system

CONNECTED HEALTH CITIES IMPACT REPORT:

An [impact report](#) has been published demonstrating how the project has:

- Shown early indications at least £150 million worth of cash savings are being made in the North of England's NHS and social care every year
- Linked 10 million health records in the region
- Created at least £30 million of investment

In the North West Coast, Connected Health Cities was delivered by the Innovation Agency in partnership with [AIMES Management Services](#), [Lancaster University](#) and [The University of Liverpool](#).

The focus was on three clinical pathways: chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder (COPD), alcohol-related liver disease and epilepsy.

"This project has helped us gain a huge amount of learning for our region and allowed us to take big steps in developing our academic expertise and support frontline staff in using data to make improvements to services."

We will be building on this important work and spreading our learning in the future."

Dr Julia Reynolds,
Associate Director for CHC in the North West Coast



Carol-Ann Costello from Connected Health Cities with Michelle Rushton of the Innovation Agency

CONNECTED HEALTH CITIES

Connected Health Cities is an initiative in the North of England using NHS data and technology to improve healthcare.



Introduction and Impacts

Response to COVID-19

Stroke Prevention

System Transformation

National Programmes

Patient & Public Involvement

Events

Economic Growth

Coaching Academy

Network Collaborations

Celebrating the highlights...

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Winners of the 2020 North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards included a programme to improve mental health through access to nature; interventions for people attending A&E departments with self-harm; and a study into deterioration in children in hospital – as well as outstanding research projects and other health and care initiatives.

The awards were hosted by the Innovation Agency; NIHR Clinical Research Network North West Coast (CRN NWC); and Applied Research Collaboration North West Coast (ARC NWC) (formerly CLAHRC NWC). [Read more here](#) and view a series of short videos [here](#).



NWC Awards 2020

MUSIC SAYS DATA SAVES LIVES

A packed audience attended a concert at Manchester Museum by the Royal Northern College of Music inspired by Connected Health Cities.



#MusicSaysDataSavesLives



EIS Awards

DELIVERING EXCELLENCE WITH SUPPLIERS

A host of health and care organisations and small businesses from across the North West Coast collected honours in this year's NHS in the North Excellence in Supply Awards.

The awards, hosted by the NHS Northern Customer Board and the Innovation Agency, celebrate the work of businesses, third sector organisations and the NHS in collaborating to deliver great patient care.

[Read more here](#)



Doddy's tree

DODDY TREE PUTS DOWN ROOTS

A tree planted at Alder Hey Children's Hospital by Liverpool legend Sir Ken Dodd had a change of location.

The tree, an alder, marked the launch of [NHS Forest](#) – an alliance of hospitals and other healthcare sites making the most of their outdoor spaces for patients and local communities.

It was originally planted on the old hospital site and 10 years later, as the national NHS Forest conference returned to Alder Hey, it was moved to a position near the hospital's Institute in the Park – the beginning of the development of the new Springfield Park.

EVENTS

The Innovation Agency staged more than 100 events last year to support our programmes and showcase targeted innovations. Here are some highlights.



Introduction and Impacts

Response to COVID-19

Stroke Prevention

System Transformation

National Programmes

Patient & Public Involvement

Connected Health Cities

Economic Growth

Coaching Academy

Network Collaborations



Prof Sir Mark Walport, Chief Executive of UK Research and Innovation, launches the cluster

HEALTHTEC CLUSTER LAUNCH

The Innovation Agency and the Science and Technology Facilities Council joined forces to launch the HealthTec Cluster, an initiative aimed at enriching the health technology ecosystem in our region.

Read about the cluster's achievements in this [update from Development Manager Dr Phil Carvil](#).

TRIO OF BUSINESS FUNDING SUCCESSES

Three North West Coast companies celebrated after securing funding for health innovations.

Two companies each secured £100,000 from [SBRI Healthcare](#) to help develop products, while a third is being funded by [Innovate UK](#) to take part in a 'real-world' evaluation of technology.

The SBRI Healthcare team, through the support of the Innovation Agency and fellow AHSNs, works closely with clinicians and frontline NHS staff to identify key challenges in the service, focusing on specific areas recognised as priorities by NHS England.

BRAIN IN HAND

[Brain in Hand](#), which has a Lancashire base, is providing a digital solution for the delivery of personalised care to people with autism to help them live more independently.

It is being supported by the Innovation Agency's commercial team to introduce its solution to NHS organisations in Lancashire.

"The award will fund invaluable research and development work to test and improve our digital support solution."

"This shows there is appetite for a scalable, holistic support system to help autistic people live more independently."

We are very much looking forward to the journey ahead."

Dr Louise Morpeth,
Chief Executive of
Brain in Hand

RINICARE

[Rinicare](#) and [the University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay](#) have received funding from Innovate UK for a joint real-world evaluation of a system to avoid falls.

The System to Avoid Fall Events (SAFE) is a non-invasive intelligent alarm system designed to detect and prevent situations where a patient is in danger of falling out of a hospital bed onto the floor or has already fallen onto the floor.

"The Innovate UK funding is essential in the next step of SAFE's development, allowing us to generate the evidence in terms of the ability to reduce falls, improve outcomes and save healthcare costs that are important for us to be able to market the product to the NHS."

Dr Stuart Hendry,
CEO of Rinicare



AIMES

Liverpool-based [AIMES](#) is using its SBRI funding to develop [OpenCARE](#) precision diagnostics in cardiovascular care.

Measuring functions such as ejection fraction, OpenCARE will speed up analysis, is much more precise than existing methods and will improve patient outcomes while reducing costs.

"The Innovation Agency has been really helpful in providing an economic steer and guiding us through the application process and the best ways to present our business case."

Dr Dennis Kehoe,
AIMES Chief Executive

SUPPORTING ECONOMIC GROWTH

Our support for businesses has helped create jobs and secure investment, delivering economic growth and helping NHS providers to improve care.



INNOVATION AGENCY EXCHANGE POWERS AHEAD

Our online forum for health and care colleagues to exchange ideas and innovations with the commercial sector has gone from strength to strength.

The [Innovation Agency Exchange](#) enables its users to collaborate on projects to improve patient care: health and care staff can submit challenges while companies can submit innovative solutions.

Relaunched in autumn 2019, the site had 1,500 registered users within six months and companies have submitted more than 250 solutions, ranging from a chatbot for breast screening to an app for managing gestational diabetes.

The site allows solutions to be made visible to a wide range of potential users and also acts as a search engine for outstanding innovations.

Its launch complements the new national [Innovation Exchange](#) gateway which is hosted by the AHSN Network and helps companies to access expert opinion, funding opportunities and a directory of partner organisations. The work is funded by the Office for Life Sciences.

“The Innovation Agency and our fellow AHSNs are calling on health and care partners to share their challenges so we can highlight their needs to the fantastic innovators in our region and nationally.”

“Collectively we can bring together the brightest minds and best talent and skills to bring more innovations into use, for the benefit of our population.”

Dr Liz Mear,
Innovation Agency
Chief Executive



Dom Raban, Xploro

FORGING INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

We play an active role in European partnerships including [the European Institute of Innovation and Technology \(EIT\) Health Knowledge and Innovation Community](#) and [the European Connected Health Alliance](#). The Innovation Agency is a proactive participant in [the EIT Health Bridgehead programme](#) with over 40 accelerators, incubators and other organisations, helping innovative businesses to expand within Europe and, this year for the first time, beyond, including the US market.

We have expanded our team and now have two International programme managers focused on supporting SMEs and public sector partners to access EU funding and identify collaboration partners. In the last year, this has led to two SMEs each receiving €50,000 from the EIT to fund commercialisation. [Xploro](#), a digital therapeutics platform developed in Manchester, and [Triple Tread®](#), a high-performance tricycle manufacturer based in Congleton, were both winners in the final round of the European Institute of Technology’s (EIT) Health Headstart Awards.

There were among 13 winning start-ups from across the UK and Ireland after pitching their business ideas to an expert jury. The awards of €50,000 are designed to help innovative health tech businesses overcome short term hurdles and strengthen their business profiles.

Both organisations have received AHSN support. [Health Innovation Manchester](#), the AHSN for Greater Manchester, has supported Xploro’s access to the healthcare market in the region. Triple Tread® has also been supported in their competition entry by Health Innovation Manchester and the Innovation Agency.

Mark Harrison, Triple Tread®, said: *“It was a great pleasure to connect with some amazing innovative medical entrepreneurs and their cutting-edge health technologies. Their own background stories and personal light-bulb moments were truly inspiring. The event presented the opportunity to share our story and the challenges faced starting a business whilst experiencing Multiple Sclerosis. The format allowed friendly peer advice and support.”*

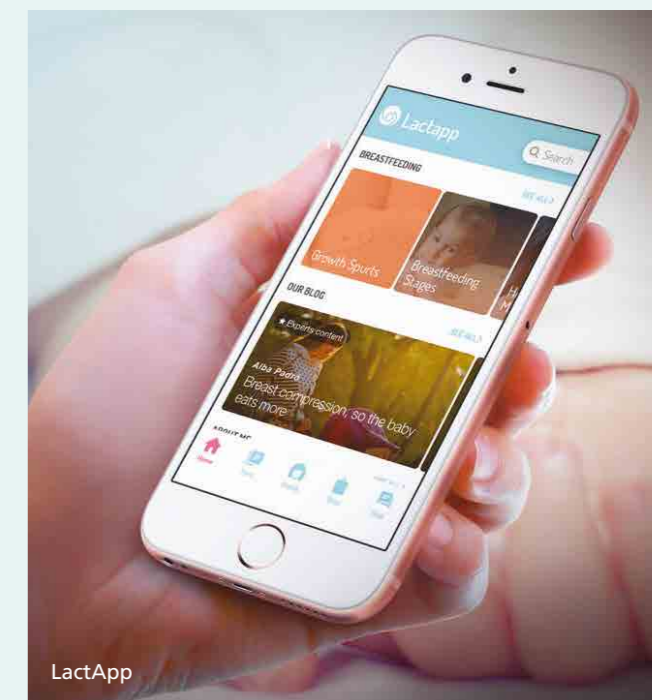
“Funding success at the EIT Health Headstart programme will create European level kudos to our Triple Tread® project. The award will allow us to achieve our short-term development objectives, finalising our design and reducing our cost of goods before positioning for future investment or collaboration for manufacture and commercialisation. I look forward to an ongoing connection with the AHSN and EIT teams.”

THE BRIDGEHEAD PROGRAMME

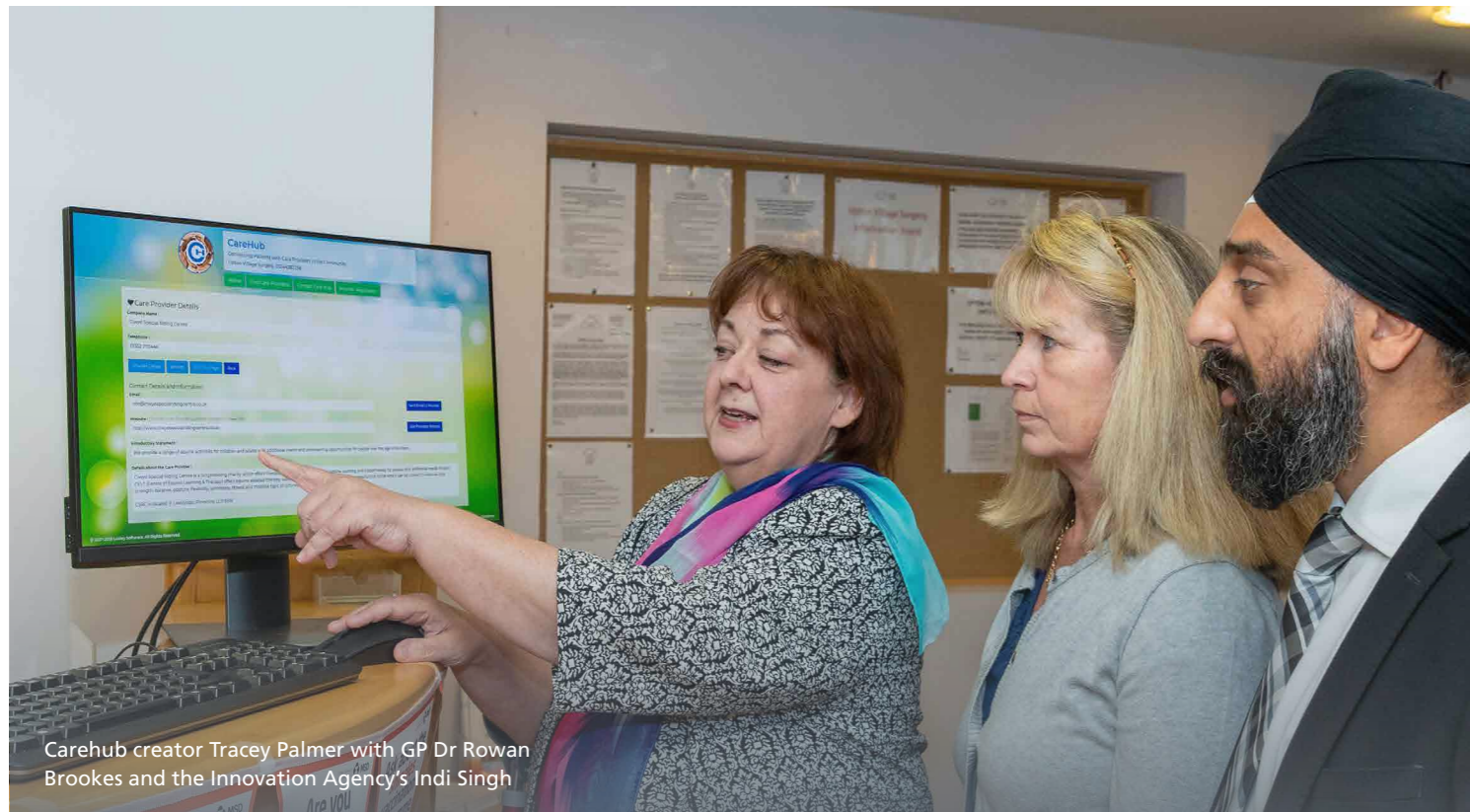
The EIT Health Bridgehead Programme aims to help small companies with promising offers to expand beyond their home markets.

There are 15 products currently being offered for local trials through the Innovation Agency, including:

- **Mode Vivo**, the first clinical-grade sensor patch system for early detection and prevention of dehydration.
- **QT Robot**, a social humanoid robot that combines the latest advances in robotics technology and evidence-based educational content to make autism training effective, available and affordable.
- **LactApp**, a comprehensive mobile breastfeeding and postnatal support tool powered by artificial intelligence which provides expert, confidential and personalised breastfeeding advice with 76,000 possible advice paths providing more than 2,300 answers. The app autonomously resolves more than 35,000 weekly queries worldwide on a personalised basis.



LactApp



Carehub creator Tracey Palmer with GP Dr Rowan Brookes and the Innovation Agency's Indi Singh

SOCIAL CARE DATABASE IN 50 GP SURGERIES

Fifty GP practices in Cheshire are using a new social care database to signpost patients to support, advice and social opportunities, after being introduced to it by the Innovation Agency.

The [Carehub](#) website lists services ranging from major charities to local groups such as knitting circles and sports clubs. Many GP surgeries in Cheshire provide access to the service through their practice websites, and some provide access via touch screens in their waiting rooms.

GP Dr Rowan Brookes of Upton Village Surgery said: *“The NHS is under tremendous pressure and there is a shortage of GPs. Many of the problems that a GP sees have a social component to the illness presented, such as loneliness and subsequent depression in the elderly.*

“These problems are not truly medical but if addressed will help the health of the individual. Using the third sector in these cases can be valuable, but each GP or clinician is not aware of all the services on offer so wellbeing coordinators have been introduced into the NHS to help navigate people in the appropriate direction for help.

“Carehub is a valuable central resource which patients can also access directly, and so can the wellbeing coordinators and clinicians if need be. This will help improve patient self-reliance and self-care. A great resource well done!”

Tracey Palmer, who created Carehub, said: *“When I worked as a practice manager we had patients coming in who really didn't need to come and see us, but they didn't know where else to go. We'd get retirees who were suffering from boredom or loneliness, or new mums who were struggling. What they needed were social connections.*

“Carehub provides people with information according to their need. One of our GPs now signposts patients to Carehub every day – that's their prescription; join a couple of clubs, don't come back in until you have!

“The Innovation Agency has opened doors for us. I didn't have the resources to contact 7,000 GP practices, but the Innovation Agency has introduced me to the right people at the right meetings.”



APP EXPERTS SPREAD THE MESSAGE

Lancashire tech company [Hospify](#) started the year on a high note when it was approved by the NHS Apps Library.

The company has developed a free messaging app that allows healthcare professionals to communicate with each other securely while sharing confidential information about patients.

The [NHS Apps Library](#) helps users find trusted apps that have been assessed as clinically safe and its endorsement of Hospify is the first and so far the only time it has approved a general messaging service that can be used by both clinicians and patients.

The endorsement coincided with Hospify securing a £500,000 private investment to help it roll out the app.

Hospify CEO and co-founder James Flint said the service was already in use in around 200 NHS clinical sites and care homes across the country but the NHS endorsement would take it 'to the next level'.

“It has taken a lot of hard work to reach this point and we're very proud that we are the only messaging service of our type to receive this endorsement.

“It proves the app works and it has the confidence of the people who actually use it.”

James Flint, CEO and Co-Founder of Hospify

He added that Hospify addresses compliance and data security concerns that arise when healthcare professionals use widely available consumer messaging apps. Hospify is closely modelled on apps such as WhatsApp but is supported by a 'radically different data architecture'.

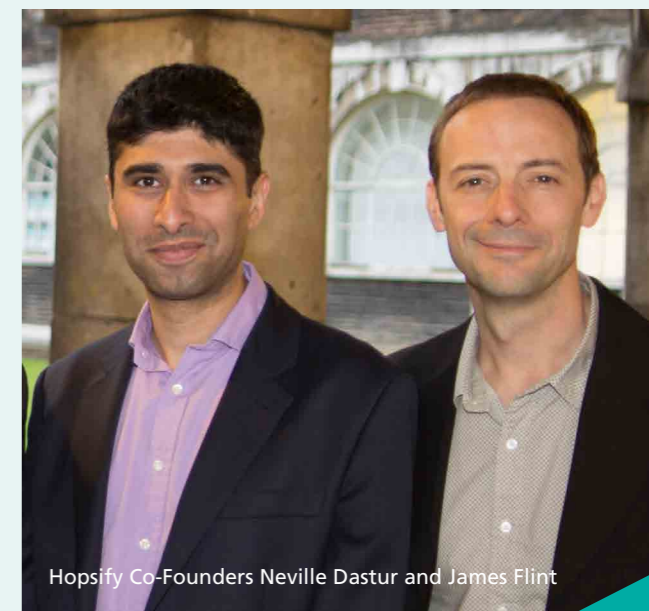
To earn the endorsement Hospify had to satisfy a number of criteria covering, among other things, clinical safety, data protection and technical stability.

“The Innovation Agency has supported us for a long time now and that's been tremendously helpful in gaining the NHS Apps Library endorsement. They have shown a lot of faith in us.”

James Flint, CEO and Co-Founder of Hospify

The Innovation Agency supported Hospify by ensuring the company was represented at a number of training and networking events, including a Health Economics workshop and Public Involvement and Engagement Senate meetings. Hospify is currently taking part in a real-world validation through the Lancashire Health Matters Programme, a partnership between the Innovation Agency and the University of Central Lancashire.

[Find Hospify on the NHS Apps Library](#)



Hospify Co-Founders Neville Dastur and James Flint

SYSTEM SAVES DISPENSING TIME

The Innovation Agency worked with [PillTime](#), which provides digital medications services, to implement a state-of-the-art digital robotic system which identifies, sorts and organises patient medication into easy-to-open pouches.

The partnership also included [Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust](#), part of the Northern Care Alliance, and Warrington-based robotics business [Medication Management Robotics](#).

The project aimed to test whether, in a controlled environment, the trust could successfully use the PillTime unit dose dispensing model to package and distribute medication to patients in one intermediate care unit and two intermediate care homes.

Demand on nurses' time to administer drugs in intermediate care units and care homes is increasing. Up to 90 minutes of nursing time four or more times a day is spent administering drugs. The administration of several medications makes the process labour-intensive with increased risk of errors.

A review of a sample of 12 patients on the intermediate care unit identified a drug administration time saving of up to 30 minutes on a typical full medication round. Following the successful roll-out on the intermediate care unit Pendleton Suite, and two intermediate care homes, the trust benefited from estimated cost savings of £7,160 per month.

Nadine Keats, nurse at the Pendleton Suite, said: *"The pouches are extremely helpful and have saved me up to 40 minutes per round. I've been able to engage more with patients."*

"The PillTime pouches have made for efficient drug rounds, a more relaxed atmosphere on the ward and enabled tidier and more manageable trolleys."

The Innovation Agency helped facilitate the pilot at Salford Royal. The pilot was supported by Global Digital Exemplar funds and was based on the findings of an earlier trial which was funded by the Innovation Agency.

Cheshire-based Medication Management Robotics, who provided hardware and support for the pilot, has received 12 hours of assistance through a European-funded business support programme in which the Innovation Agency is a partner. Further business support from the Innovation Agency has included introductions to NHS pharmacy, management and procurement teams across Cheshire and Merseyside.

"At this time when the NHS and nurses in particular are under increasing pressure, we believe that new technologies like this will help the NHS to support Closed Loop Medication administration."

Andy Beesley,
Medication Management
Robotics



Robotic pouch dispenser at Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust



The Health Matters programme gets under way in Lancashire

HEALTH MATTERS BUSINESS SUPPORT SERVICE UP AND RUNNING

Our business support programme in the North West Coast is offering guidance to small businesses on access to the NHS, funding and investment opportunities.

The [Health Matters programme](#) builds on an existing service by offering real-world validation of products and services put forward by small and medium-sized companies. The validation process shows evidence of impact and benefits.

The European-funded programme is a collaboration in which the Innovation Agency works with a number of partners in different parts of the region, helping businesses navigate the often complex health and care landscape. By taking part, businesses can take advantage of the knowledge, experience and expertise of commissioners, clinicians and academics.

Companies are introduced to the right people in the health and care system; helped to explore funding opportunities; and offered training and networking events.

Innovation Agency Associate Commercial Director, Mike Kenny said: *“There’s a wealth of innovation in the business community in our region and the Health Matters programme is designed to take those companies to the next level.*

“It will provide mechanisms for companies to have their innovations validated, which is a key step in the process of having a product adopted.”

In Cheshire and Warrington, the Innovation Agency collaborates with our fellow AHSN Health Innovation Manchester and with the University of Chester; in the Liverpool City Region we are partners with the Local Growth Hub and Liverpool John Moores University; and in Lancashire and South Cumbria we work with the University of Central Lancashire and with Boost, Lancashire’s Business Growth Hub.

IMPOSSIBLE TUMOUR

A six-year-old girl diagnosed with an ‘impossible tumour’ underwent pioneering surgery at Alder Hey Children’s Hospital which was made possible by the use of 3D printing.

The tumour was wrapped around the spine, arteries and organs of Leah Bennett and it was described by surgeons in three centres as ‘impossible’. The decision to operate was made only after the surgical team was presented with a model of the tumour, created by the company [3D LifePrints](#), which has been supported by the Innovation Agency since it first established a base within Alder Hey.

The Innovation Agency has also provided match funding to two other trusts to pilot the use of 3D printing.

Surgeon, Jo Minford said: *“I don’t think we would have operated if we had not had the print and had time to look at it and consider the different aspects of the challenge.*

“Being able to show the print to Leah’s parents meant that they could really understand the risks and were able to make a well-informed, fully shared decision with us.

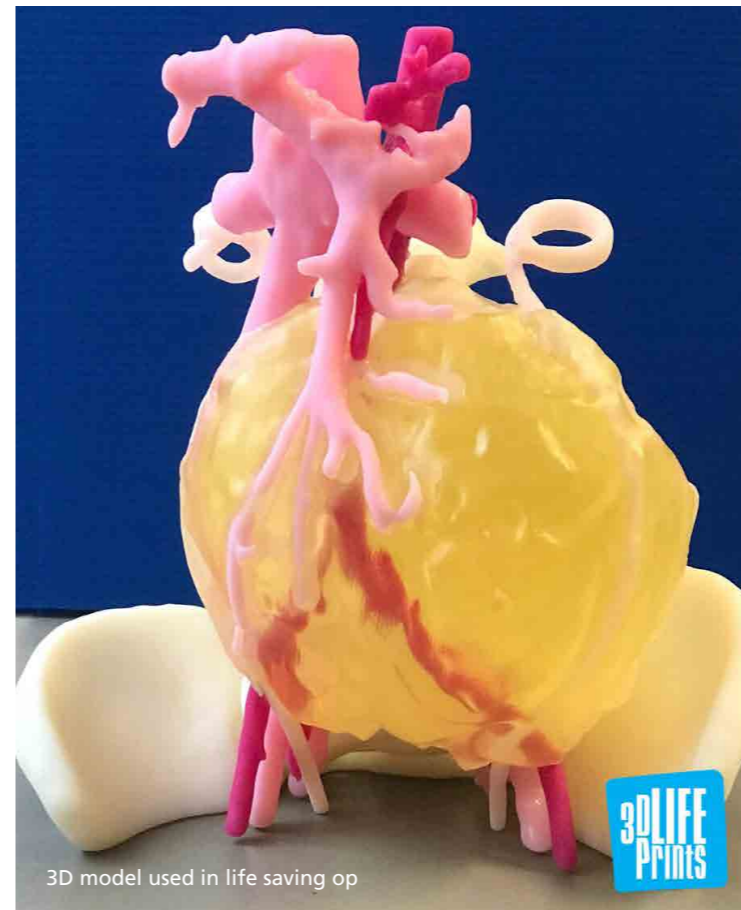
“And the theatre team, many of whom aren’t used to looking at scans on a screen, were able to look at the model and be better prepared for the surgery.”

▶

[Listen to a podcast interview with Jo Minford, Leah and her dad, Stephen Bennett](#)

▶

[Listen to a follow-up interview with Dave Collins of 3D LifePrints and Clinical Director of Innovation at Alder Hey, Iain Hennessey](#)



3D model used in life saving op



Leah, Stephen and Jo

COACHING FOR INNOVATION

Our Coaching Academy has made a major contribution to the region by shaping the design of a system leadership programme for Cheshire and Merseyside, the Doing Things Differently programme.

The programme is being delivered in partnership with the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership, the Advancing Quality Alliance (AQuA), the North West Leadership Academy and North West Employers and explores how leadership skills and behaviour can set the tone in organisations.

Effective system leadership skills were the focus of the first cohort of the programme which expects to welcome up to 400 people as it develops. This group will also be collaborating on the region’s strategic aim of reducing cardiovascular disease.

The Coaching Academy has supported the development of **the Place and Programme Leads forum** in Cheshire and Merseyside, which brings together leaders to share their plans. Now self-sustaining, the forum is building on its reputation as the hub which sets a strategic direction.

We have bolstered our support for [the Q Community](#), a group of individuals aiming to foster continuous improvement in health and care. A fund has been created which can be used by members to cover the cost of local meetings. More than 400 Q members have so far benefited from such gatherings.

Our community of **Innovation Scouts** which numbers more than 80 active members continues to welcome innovators, in particular those with a focus on entrepreneurship.

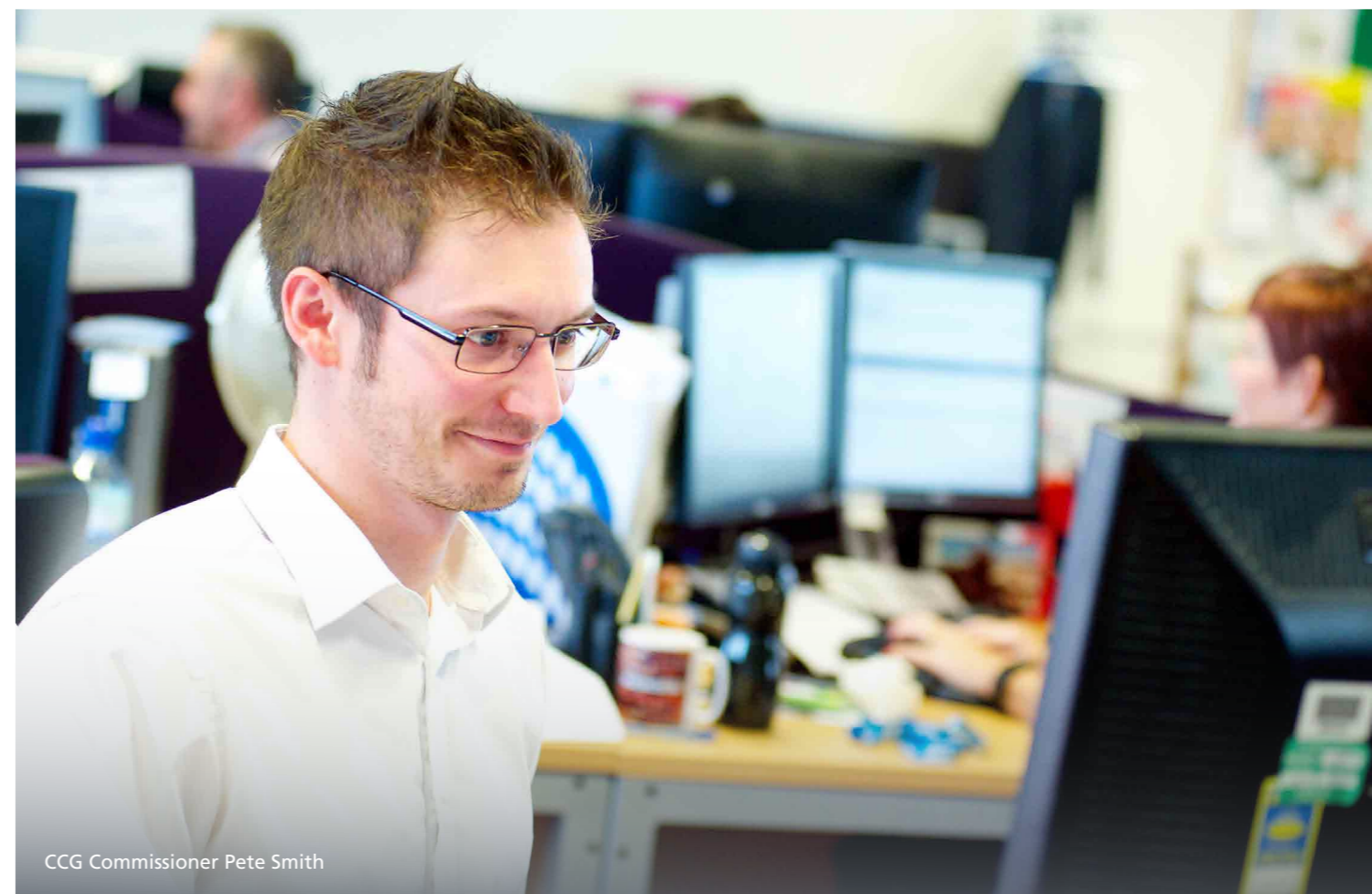
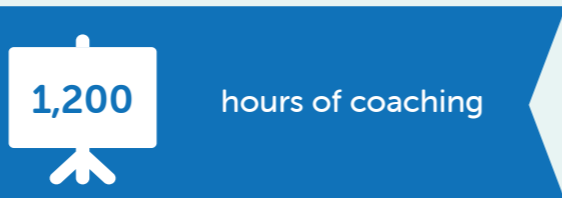
After a review of the Scouts initiative, which was launched in 2014, we created **the Innovation Exchange**, a network whose members are strategically placed to provide access to the health and care system for selected innovations.

The Coaching Academy’s flagship programmes, [Coaching for Culture](#) and [Coaching for Spread and Adoption](#), have continued to grow in popularity.

The Coaching for Culture programme is part of the culture improvement workstream of the Innovation Agency’s Patient Safety Collaborative. More than 100 people from the North West Coast have been through the programme and 20 coaches have been trained to lead improvement teams.

The Coaching for Spread and Adoption programme is aimed at individuals with innovations that can be adopted to improve the experience of care or that help make better use of resources. Three cohorts have taken part in the programmes in the last two years, amounting to 232 hours of coaching.

[Listen to a series of short podcasts from the Coaching Academy](#)



CCG Commissioner Pete Smith

PETE SMITH’S STORY

CCG Commissioner Pete Smith, from Lancashire, took part in the programme Coaching for Spread and Adoption: Innovations in self-care and social prescribing.

“It’s the kind of programme I think we need across the patch, to give people some practical tools like developing business cases and pitching. To put that into a programme for people who probably hadn’t done anything like that before was great.”

“The programme was hard work, but it wasn’t laborious. The coaches, Claire, Karla and Jen, kept it interesting and relevant. You wanted to do the things they were talking about even though it was challenging.”

“My overall outstanding memory is the creative approach to it all. It wasn’t just ‘here’s how to write a paper, here’s a template’ – it was all about creative ways to get people on board. It’s things like having the headspace to try things out on people.”

“A challenge when completing the course was trying not to just go back into the day job. I now feel I’ve got much more flexibility, I feel more confident approaching stakeholders and saying ‘I think this will work’. I’m less afraid of getting it wrong or asking people to help me fill out the blanks.”

“We recently held a workshop and I took a really different approach from what I might have done in the past, and I think that was directly attributable to the Coaching Academy.”

COACHING ACADEMY

Our Coaching Academy provides a variety of learning experiences aimed at fostering a healthy culture for spreading and adopting innovation.



LEE OMAR BECOMES NIA FELLOW

A healthcare innovator from Liverpool was selected as one of the 2020 cohort of Fellows of the prestigious NHS Innovation Accelerator (NIA).

Lee Omar is the co-founder of [Safe Steps](#), a risk assessment tool helping to prevent falls among older people.

Safe Steps is an app for care home staff to carry out falls risk assessments. The digital screening tool is based on NICE guidelines for risk assessment and covers 12 areas of falls risk.

The use of Safe Steps in more than 100 care homes – including 78 in Wirral, Merseyside – is estimated to have reduced falls by up to 28 per cent.

Further versions of the app are in development, including one to help community-based teams reduce falls for people living at home, and a hospital-based version being trialled at Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust.

“Falls is something I have personal experience of, after being a carer for a loved one who had a fall which led to their life deteriorating. I am passionate about reducing the number of preventable falls in our ageing society.

“Being an NIA Fellow as part of Safe Steps gives me the opportunity to scale our fall prevention digital health product nationally and save more lives.”

Lee Omar,
Co-Founder of Safe Steps



The project began following an introduction by the Innovation Agency to transformation leaders at Wirral Borough Council, and the Innovation Agency has continued to support the company by spreading the innovation to other AHSNs.

The NIA is an award-winning NHS England initiative. Initially funded by a cohort of five AHSNs, including the Innovation Agency, all 15 AHSNs now contribute to the programme. Since its launch it has seen 2,214 NHS sites adopt NIA innovations, created 468 jobs and raised £134.8m in funding.

Lee Omar is among 11 new Fellows to be selected through a rigorous, multi-stage assessment process. He is also CEO of Red Ninja which co-creates technology using expertise in artificial intelligence, data science, the Internet of Things, smart cities, electrical engineering and app development.



CLINICAL ENTREPRENEURS GO FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

There is a growing network of NHS Clinical Entrepreneurs across the North West Coast and nationally, supported by AHSNs to develop their innovations.

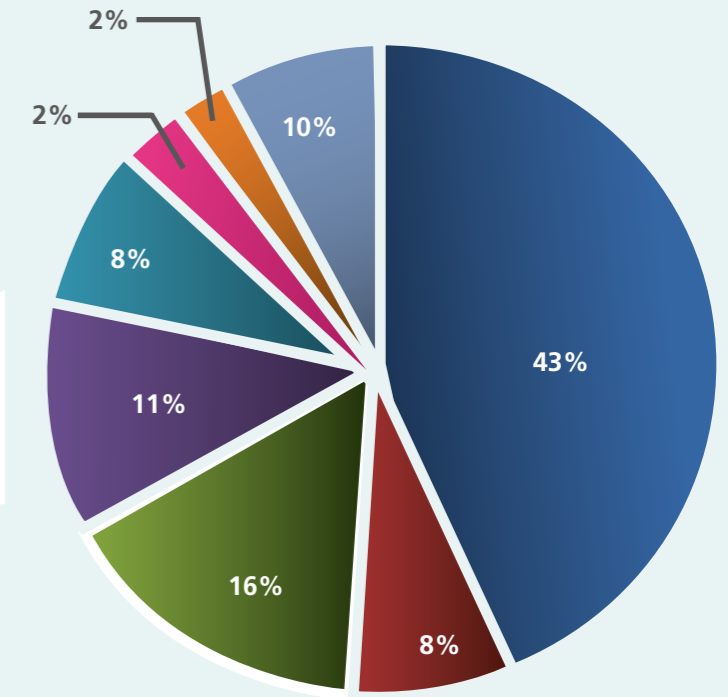
The NHS England Clinical Entrepreneur training programme gives opportunities to health professionals to develop their aspirations during their training period. The aim is to equip them with the skills, knowledge, experience and leadership capacity needed to deliver on the promise of digital health, genomics, data analytics, advanced technology and social networks for the NHS.

One of the North West Coast Clinical Entrepreneurs is Dr Rajiv Sethi, a junior doctor on rotation in Lancashire. The Innovation Agency has sponsored the Health Careers Conference for the last three years, organised by Rajiv through his Becoming a Doctor network.

Since it started four years ago, the programme nationally has recruited over 500 Clinical Entrepreneurs. Based on metrics collected from the first three years, Clinical Entrepreneurs have raised over £164m of funding, helped return/retain over 106 NHS employees, helped create 1,047 jobs and 175 start-ups, and facilitated over 1,019 partnerships and collaborations. Furthermore, 10,831 organisations have adopted Clinical Entrepreneur innovations, resulting in 17.4m private, professional and patient users of their products, processes and services.

FINANCE REPORT

This chart shows income sources for the Innovation Agency in 2019 – 2020.



- NHS England Programme funding £2,610k
- NHSI PSC Funding £470k
- Office of Life Sciences £942k
- ERDF £699k
- Connected Health Cities £497k
- HEE 111k
- TCAM 107k
- Other 597k

NETWORK COLLABORATIONS

We collaborate with the AHSN Network on a range of programmes, linking our region with national initiative.



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Events

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Coaching Academy

BOOK OF HIGHLIGHTS



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EUROPEAN UNION

European Regional Development Fund