



INNOVATION AGENCY
Academic Health Science Network
for the North West Coast



Annual Review

2022-2023



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund





LIST OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Thank you	4
Partners' perspectives	5
Strengthening local economies.....	11
Evaluating and spreading innovations	20
Coaching and system partnerships	33
CVD and respiratory programmes	39
National Patient Safety Improvement Programmes ...	49
Events and storytelling	53



INTRODUCTION

“Welcome to our annual review for the year 2022 to 2023; this is a snapshot of our activities and collaborative achievements in spreading health and care innovations and improvements and supporting economic growth. If you would like to find out more about any of these highlights, please get in touch.”

Dr Phil Jennings
Chief Executive, Innovation Agency



THANK YOU

“We are now in our tenth year as an academic health science network and we continue to evolve as we adapt to the changing NHS and social care landscape.

I would like to say a big thank you to our stakeholder partnership board; to everyone who has worked with us in the past year. I would especially like to thank every one of our staff, for their highly motivated, positive determination to achieve improvements which benefit our population.”

Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE
Chair, Innovation Agency



Dene Drive
Primary Care Centre



**PARTNERS'
PERSPECTIVES**

WORKFORCE TRANSFORMATION

“The Innovation Agency brings together innovative insight, connectivity across a multitude of key stakeholders, subject matter expertise around input, design, process, and very credible strategic and operational support - as well as being very approachable and genuinely nice people.”



“As a member of the Innovation Agency Partnership Board I also get to see the impact they have across the network in all their programmes and how they make a difference for organisations, systems, people delivering care and people needing care.”

Mike Burgess

North West Head of Workforce Transformation, NHS England

TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

“In Lancashire and South Cumbria, we are grateful for the sense of partnership with the Innovation Agency in tackling health inequalities, especially around cardiovascular disease. Innovation is so important if we’re going to find new ways to tackle age old problems.”

Dr Andy Knox

Associate Medical Director, Population Health,
NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria



A VALUED PARTNERSHIP

“The place of innovation and the Innovation Agency in Cheshire and Merseyside is alive and well. The partnership is a valued and productive one. Thanks for all you have done and continue to do!”

Professor Rowan Pritchard-Jones,
Executive Medical Director NHS Cheshire and Merseyside





NHS ENGLAND TOP TEAM

We hosted an NHS England visit as part of a year-long tour of AHSNs, attended by NHS Chief Executive Amanda Pritchard and senior colleagues including Matt Whitty, Dr Tim Ferris and Jacqui Rock.

“AHSNs are key to delivering innovation for the NHS and our visit to Liverpool was a chance to see some of the impact of their work, as well as some of the brilliant research and innovation being led by the trusts.”

Matt Whitty,
Director for Innovation, Research and Life Sciences and Chief Executive of the NHS Accelerated Access Collaborative

A VALUED PARTNERSHIP



“The Innovation Agency are a highly valued partner in our support for local businesses and have helped to create a significant boost to our local economy through attracting investment into health and life sciences in the Liverpool City Region.”

Simon Reid,
Head of Sectors, Liverpool City Region Growth Platform



STRENGTHENING LOCAL ECONOMIES

139
jobs
created

£87.5m
leveraged

500
companies
supported

Record Results for Economic Growth

In the last year the Innovation Agency secured £87.5m in inward investment for our region and supported more than 500 companies, creating 139 jobs.

Our work in economic growth is funded largely through the Office for Life Sciences, who commission AHSNs to identify local health and care system needs; support innovators; gather real-world evidence; and support innovation spread and adoption.

Business support has also been provided through funding from ERDF in three Health Matters collaborations – Liverpool City Region; Cheshire; and Lancashire.



INTERNATIONAL INNOVATIONS

The Innovation Agency's International Team's remit is to scan the globe for best-in-class solutions to the challenges and priorities faced by our colleagues in the health and care system.

Our support includes: Developing value propositions, analysing and engaging with the market, and offering advice on procurement and regulation compliance.

“It's been an absolute pleasure to work with the Innovation Agency. They are a true thought-partner that goes the extra mile to support achievement of your goals. They have excellently facilitated our market access strategy including building health economic evidence, partnerships with key stakeholders and more. Thanks to their support we were able to quickly and successfully enter the UK market. I highly recommend the Innovation Agency to any business that is looking to do the same.”

Dion Osemwengie,
HemoClear BV

17
overseas
companies



GETTING MOBILE WITH REACTIVE ROBOTICS

Our International Team is working with Munich company Reactive Robotics whose Vemotion robot technology helps patients in ICUs become mobile at an early stage in their treatment.

This has involved negotiating procurement and regulatory procedures; connecting with intensive care specialists; securing grant funding; and finding a UK strategic partner.

“It’s difficult to navigate through an unfamiliar healthcare system and to identify the right people to speak to. The Innovation Agency were instrumental in identifying and introducing us to key people in the NHS. Without them, our venture into the UK would have been much more difficult.”

Alexander Koenig,
Chief Executive, Reactive Robotics



BRIDGING THE GAP TO REMOTE COMMUNITIES

French innovators AdEchoTech have been introduced to the UK through the Innovation Agency, to deliver diagnostic ultrasound services to remote communities.

The technology is undergoing real-world evaluation in the Scottish Highlands while further sites are being identified in the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and in high-secure settings.

“The various support services and the strong network provided by the Innovation Agency over the past 12 months have been critical. As a result, we successfully deployed our first robotic system in the UK despite the difficult business environment posed by the pandemic.”

Philippe Homsy,
Export Director, AdEchoTech



MELODY

Remote Robotic Ultrasound





REDUCING MEDICATION ERRORS FOR NEWBORNS

A French system that aims to reduce life-threatening medication errors in neonatal intensive care units is being deployed in the UK thanks to our International Team. We have worked with Logipren to refine their value proposition; develop a business case for the NHS; engage with decision-makers; and develop a proof-of-concept paper.

“While our technology has proven its benefits for the 95 neonatal and paediatric units that use it, we were completely unfamiliar with the UK healthcare system, and the Innovation Agency have given us invaluable guidance and support.”

Laure Bello,
Business Developer at Logipren

“The Innovation Agency has played a crucial role in supporting Definition Health's market engagement in the North West. Through insight, connections and general market knowhow, Definition Health is in a prime position to scale up across the North.”

Peter Snuggs,
Chief Operating Officer, Definition Health



DOUBLE DELIGHT FOR HEALTHCARE INNOVATORS

An innovative healthcare company backed by the Innovation Agency won two national awards.

Definition Health won the Best Elective Care Recovery Initiative award at the HSJ Partnership Awards for its digital work in improving patient 'prehabilitation' and surgical outcomes.

TECH COMPANY LANDS FUNDING FOR MATERNITY PROJECT

£96,000

SBRI grant

The latest funding was secured with the help of the Innovation Agency and will help Damibu explore how information can be ‘hyper-localised’.

The company has developed a digital platform for creating and delivering health information on public-facing NHS websites.

“The Innovation Agency played a really important role in helping us get the funding. They reviewed the bid and gave us support all the way through the process. SBRI sets the bar very high, so the Innovation Agency’s help was vital.”

Dave Burrows,
founder and CEO of Damibu.



GRANT BOOST FOR CHESHIRE CYBER SECURITY EXPERTS

A Cheshire company specialising in cyber security has won funding to improve digital services in the health and care sector – with help from the Innovation Agency.

Cyphere clients include housing associations, construction firms and financial services and online retailers; the funding will support its growth in the health sector.

“The Innovation Agency has been instrumental in helping us get the grant. I wouldn’t have heard of it otherwise. The Innovation Agency gave us the benefit of their strategic understanding of the market, so their guidance was vital.”

Cyphere Director Harman Singh



£50,000
secured



MEDIC BECOMES INNOVATION FELLOW



Medical innovator Dr Michael Watts, supported by the Innovation Agency, is one of 17 new NHS National Innovation Accelerator Fellows, selected to help spread cutting-edge solutions with the potential to transform healthcare.

Michael is co-founder of Birkenhead-based Blum Health and co-creator of a patient-centred, emergency-support software system designed to improve safety in maternity - Emergency Role Allocation (ERA).

17
new
innovation
fellows



“If we prevent just one foetal brain injury it would not only save a life but by clear auditability we could prevent the risk of avoidable litigation, which would, on average, be the same cost as paying for ERA for 97 years.”

Dr Michael Watts,
NIA Fellow



EVALUATING AND SPREADING INNOVATIONS

ADHD: SPREAD OF AN OBJECTIVE ASSESSMENT

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) published a Medtech Innovation Briefing relating to QbTest for the assessment of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, highlighting the benefits of objective testing technology (QbTest) when used as part of a comprehensive ADHD assessment. QbTest has been part of the AHSN Network's Focus ADHD programme since 2020.

“This report reflects the efforts of both Qbtech and all involved in assessing this technology. All our experts agreed that QbTest’s benefits create more efficiency in the pathway to care.”

Dr Venkat Reddy,
National Clinical Advisor - Focus ADHD Programme, and Officer for Digital Health and Technology, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health

9 trusts
across 13 sites
are now providing
an objective
assessment

4,954
patients benefiting
since April 2022

19%
release of clinical
time in Paediatrics &
9.2%
in CAMHS

22%
reduction in nurse
school observations
in CAMHS

92%
Of clinicians said
the results helped
understand patients'
symptoms'

Winner
of 3 national
awards including
2 HSJ
awards

4,954
NWC
patients
benefiting



COLLABORATION ON EVALUATING VIRTUAL WARDS

Our work in developing a framework for benefits realisation led to a funded collaboration to evaluate the effectiveness and acceptability of virtual wards.

Working alongside NIHR ARC NWC and Cheshire and Merseyside ICB, we have begun to gather data on benefits such as impact on readmissions; early discharge support; workforce efficiency; and carbon reduction.



“The Innovation Agency team have been fantastic partners in the delivery and shaping of the Virtual Ward programme in Cheshire and Merseyside. The team are evaluating the impact of Virtual Wards on patients, their carers, clinicians and the wider healthcare system. Their insights are not only providing data but rich qualitative insights into this large change transformation programme and they are supporting the iterative roll out of the innovation.”

Sarah Sibley,

Clinical Lead for Cheshire and Merseyside Respiratory Clinical Network
and Clinical Co-lead NW NHS@Home.

TESTING AIR 'SCRUBBER' MACHINES

A collaboration led by the Innovation Agency established a reliable and consistent process for determining the effectiveness of units that reduce airborne infections, to minimise hospital-acquired infections.

“The technology is now clinically proven to provide an invaluable contribution to infection prevention and control and, in addition, requires considerably less energy than conventional ventilation systems, which will be important across our NHS estate, as we move towards net zero carbon emissions.”

Angela Douglas,
NHS England Deputy Chief Scientific Officer



TRIAL OF RISK-STRATIFICATION SYSTEM

A trial of risk-stratification software was carried out in Cheshire and Merseyside, with the support of the Innovation Agency.

The system, developed by C2-Ai, assesses the risks facing patients on elective waiting lists, using data from more than 200 million records from 46 countries over the past three decades.

An independent study found that it accurately predicted the risk of mortality and complications for patients listed for elective surgery.



“We wouldn’t be where we are today without the help of the Innovation Agency and the ASHN Network.”

Dr Mark Ratnarajah,
Managing Director of C2-Ai



IMPROVING CARE FOR PREMATURE BABIES - EVALUATION

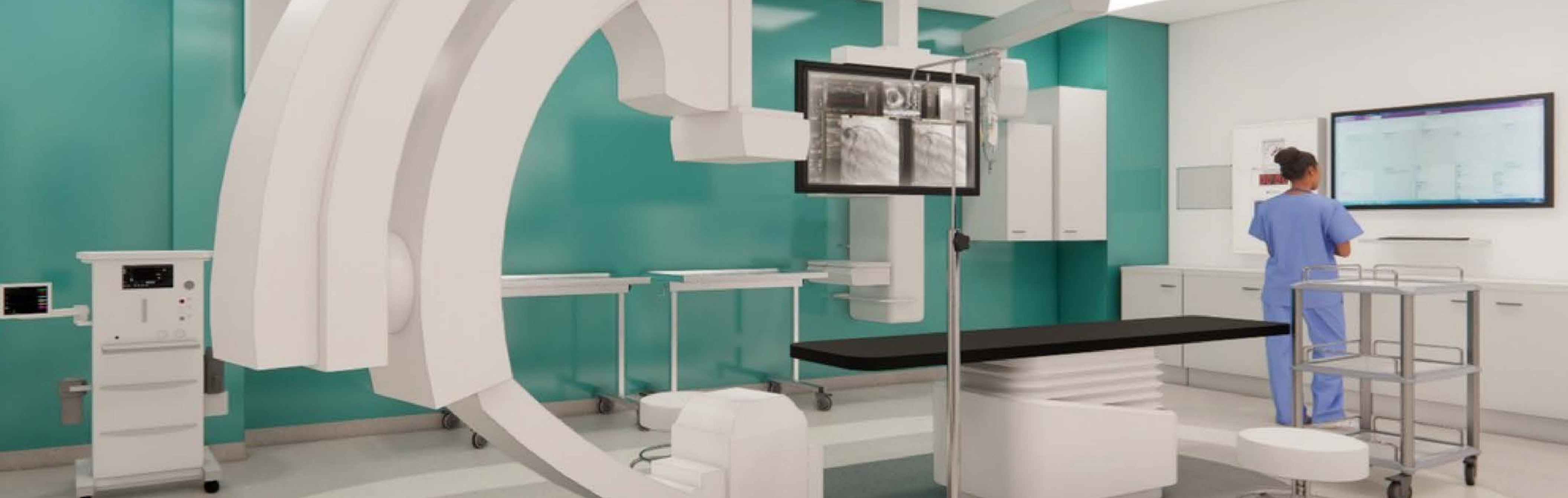
An evaluation was carried out exploring neonatal outreach services in the North West, as a first step in developing a best practice toolkit for supporting pre-term babies after early discharge from hospital.

The project focused on a new pathway developed in Preston, called NEST@home in which premature babies are supported at home by a team of neonatal outreach nurses.

“The proposal for a regional wide model of outreach services will play a significant part in improving care across the North West of infants and their families following neonatal care.”

Louise Weaver-Lowe,
Neonatal Network Director of the North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network.





CARDIOLOGY WORKFLOW SYSTEM STUDY

Cheshire company CareCube collaborated with Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on a digital workflow system to improve cardiology services.

The Innovation Agency commissioned a study that found that, were similar sites to adopt the system, the number of procedures they could carry out would be increased substantially because of savings in administrative and turnaround times.

“We worked with CareCube to create the current system, combining our clinical experience with their outstanding, creative approach to system design and implementation. The result is an IT system that has become a vital, practical tool – that is appreciated by the staff at the clinical ‘coal-face’.”

Professor Rod Stables,
Consultant Cardiologist at Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital

NEW PATHWAY FOR FLU TESTING TRIALLED

A new flu test pathway was trialled at six primary care sites in Wirral, aiming to speed up diagnosis of patients in the community.

Through a collaboration of Innovation Agency, Healthier South Wirral, Roche Diagnostics and Roche Products Ltd, the project explored how the rapid flu test in the community might affect patient outcomes and rates of hospitalisation.

“Due to COVID, people are now familiar with using rapid diagnostic tests so it is great to be able to offer a test that can now identify both flu and COVID at the same time.”

Shirley Shinkfield,
Innovation Agency Project Manager



250
people tested



INNOVATION CLEARS ENDOSCOPY WAITING LISTS



Endoscopy
backlogs
cleared at

3 trusts



A potentially life-saving diagnostic test has cleared backlogs of patients waiting for endoscopy services in Cheshire, Merseyside, Lancashire and South Cumbria.

The 'sponge on a thread' test, known as Cytosponge, helps identify people most at risk of oesophageal cancer and has been offered in community settings, diverting patients away from

hard-pressed hospital endoscopy teams. The Innovation Agency was a key partner in securing £500,000 from SBRI Healthcare to fund the pilot programme.

“I prefer the sponge because it’s much quicker and it’s very simple.”

Tony Bayliss, patient

DEMONSTRATING IMPACT ON WAITING LISTS

A real-world evaluation was carried out into the digital tool Thrive, which gives endoscopy teams access to data to help them better balance capacity and demand, leading to improved services.

Our report showed that Thrive supports clinical teams in reducing turnaround times and identifying pinch-points in the service.

“We knew that Thrive was benefitting our endoscopy service but we wanted an independent and objective review to demonstrate the impact and where we could focus further. The Innovation Agency were able to step in and give a very balanced assessment of Thrive’s value and focus our future development efforts.”

Dr Ash Bassi,
Consultant Gastroenterologist and Divisional Medical Director,
St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



WORKFORCE INNOVATIONS INSIGHT



We have developed an Innovation Insight resource that identifies workforce challenges plus a range of solutions.

Innovations were identified in two broad categories, recruitment/retention and workforce optimisation.

Introduction

Our NHS has a workforce of 1.3 million people.

For many years, the NHS has struggled to recruit and retain the numbers and types of staff which it requires to operate efficiently and safely. The demand for NHS services is increasing year on year as we see an expansion in our population and people living with complex health conditions. The gap between the demand and the capacity in our workforce is growing and there are not enough people available to support our existing models of care. It is therefore important to rethink the way we work and respond to these workforce challenges.

The NHS People Plan sets out the need to:

- Look after our people – their health and wellbeing
- Create an inclusive culture – through compassionate and inclusive leadership
- Develop new ways of working - in terms of innovation and upskilling staff
- Grow for the future – by renewing interest in NHS careers and new roles

Workforce solutions

There are several ways in which we can address the workforce gap, some of the more traditional methods include the recruitment and retention of staff. However, as the innovation arm of the NHS, the AHSN network are particularly interested in supporting you with new ways of working, optimising existing workflows in order to enable time back to care.

As a network we have developed a framework to help us demonstrate how innovation can drive efficiencies and that there are workforce gains in everything that we do.

At the Innovation Agency we have also developed an offer around **complex change and service transformation** that redesigns a future state service model by introducing innovations in the way we work and the tools we use, to optimise the deployment of resources and embrace integrated care and personalised care concepts.

A showcase of just a sample of innovations available in both recruitment, retention and workforce optimisation are available below.

Challenges

Locally, our challenges echo that of the national picture. Some of the top workforce challenges include:

- A high level of vacant posts, resulting in an increased reliance on temporary staffing
- Ageing workforce - meaning that a large percentage of highly skilled and experienced staff are due to retire in the coming years
- High levels of sickness absence, with stress/anxiety being one of the top reasons for absence
- High levels of burnout due to increased activity and long waiting lists resulting from the pandemic

Are you interested in addressing your workforce challenges?
If you work in health and care in the North West Coast: [Get in touch](#)

Workforce solutions: Recruitment and retention

Part of a plan to address the workforce gap is to focus on the recruitment of new staff and the retention of existing staff by looking

Workforce solutions: Optimisation

Another part of a plan to address the workforce gap is to consider new ways of working and optimising the existing workforce to enable

42
Solutions
showcased

WORKFORCE INNOVATION LANDS TOP AWARD

A partnership that includes the Innovation Agency won the Primary Care Initiative of the Year title at the prestigious HSJ Patient Safety Awards.

Delivering a mental health prevention and promotion service within primary care networks with a new workforce supply of psychological practitioners was about the creation of a new role of trainee associate psychological practitioners, TAPPs.

“I feel so proud of all the APPs who have just qualified from the first cohort. I’ve worked closely with the 24 who worked in Primary Care Network settings and they have done a fantastic job. In just nine months, they’ve delivered one-to-one wellbeing sessions to over 1,000 individuals and over 1,200 people attended some of the wellbeing workshops delivered within local communities.”

Dr Miranda Budd,
Consultant Clinical Psychologist at LSCFT and Clinical Lead for Trainee APPs

Winner of
3 national awards
including
**2 HSJ
awards**

50

New associate
psychology
practitioners



URGENT CANCER CARE – DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

Working with Unplanned Cancer Care teams, Acute Oncology and the Cheshire and Merseyside Cancer Alliance we facilitated a series of events focussing upon real world digital solutions to improve cancer care.

The events helped to shape design thinking for automating parts of acute telephone hotline service provision, such as chatbots and automated triage.

“The Innovation Agency has supported the cancer community by horizon scanning for digital solutions that can enable improved urgent cancer pathways and new workforce models. In doing so they have supported teams to think through how urgent care pathways can be enhanced.”

Ernie Marshall,
Cheshire and Merseyside and National Acute Oncology Lead





COACHING AND SYSTEM PARTNERSHIPS

COACHING ACADEMY – YEAR IN NUMBERS

Our Coaching Academy has trained coaches, provided expert facilitation and coaching with design thinking principles and served as a conduit for people to collaborate for innovation.

"I really liked the diversity of professionals on the programme and how we had completely different views on the same topics. It opened up new pockets of the health system that I didn't know about."

Vicky Woodjetts,
Organisation Development Manager at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals,
after taking part in our Innovator's Mindset programme.



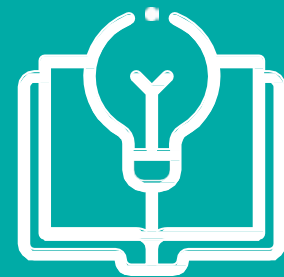
33

trained in
Coaching
Foundations



314

coaching
support
sessions



2,860

coaching
session
participants



CULTURE CAMP

Two successful online Culture Camp events explored organisational culture, looking at wellbeing, equity and innovation and collaborative working across the system.



247
Culture
Campers



“Being part of Culture Camp was a fantastic opportunity for us to show how we collaborate across all sectors for the benefit of those we support. Listening to the other speakers, it was heart-warming and motivating to hear how they do the same. Our sector of work is difficult, and sometimes it feels like the cards are stacked against us.”



“I hope that by participating in this event I have helped to inspire others, as I was inspired, to try different ways of working, cross sectors, to achieve the best outcomes for those in our care.”

Caroline Hutton,
Service Development Manager, Retain Wellbeing

COACHING FOR QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

Our Coaching for Quality Improvement accredited coaching programme was designed to provide the coaching skills necessary for leaders to take teams on a change journey. The programme was delivered to 20 QI leads across the North West Coast.

“This is an excellent programme and I would love to offer it to my team, it’s very thought provoking and an excellent team led it. It is excellent development for the challenges in the NHS.”

Helen Liggett,
Regional Lead Scientist NHS England.

Natalie Latham, Coaching Academy Programme Manager



Coaching for Quality Improvement

THE INNOVATION AGENCY
**COACHING
ACADEMY**

20

QI leads
coached



Natalie Latham, Coaching Academy Programme Manager

CREATIVE LEADERSHIP COACHING

North East and Yorkshire Leadership Academy commissioned the Coaching Academy to deliver the Creative Leaders programme – a series of online sessions for leaders at all

levels to help them expand their skills and embed creative and innovative leadership more deeply within their practice and services through interactive and engaging workshops, and coaching.



428
leaders
coached



“After attending the first two workshops I realised the importance of stepping back and allowing yourself some thinking time.”

Jackie Kerr,
Primary Care and System Leadership Development Co-ordinator
at North East and Yorkshire Leadership Academy.



COMPLEX CHANGE MODEL DEPLOYED

A complex change and service redesign model developed by the Innovation Agency was used in two clinical areas – pulmonary rehabilitation; and adult ADHD.

The model supports the co-design of a future state that improves outcomes, using a design thinking methodology incorporating innovation, workforce models and benefits realisation.

“The Innovation Agency were outstanding in bringing people together to make the most of the experience and expertise in the system. They helped to understand the challenges and come up with a model that is credible and has lots of potential.”

Stephen Williams,
Associate Director Transformation and Partnerships,
Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board



CVD AND RESPIRATORY PROGRAMMES

USING DATA TO REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

We are working with NHS Cheshire and Merseyside to help people at increased risk because of the combination of suffering a respiratory or cardiovascular condition and living in a cold home, as part of NHS England's Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme (InHIP).



“We have already developed an incredibly rich population health system within Cheshire and Merseyside, the CIPHA platform which pulls data all the way from social care now, with primary care and secondary care and means our ability to find patients at high risk is unparalleled.”

Professor Rowan Pritchard-Jones,
Executive Medical Director NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

NEW SERVICE TO TEST FOR FH

A pilot genetic testing service was set up in Cheshire and Merseyside with the help of the Innovation Agency, to identify people with familial hypercholesterolaemia, or FH.

In its first six months, the service has identified 15 people with FH.

FH patient Simon Clarke was diagnosed with FH after his brother Mike, 29, died from heart failure.

“My brother’s son has had confirmation that he also has the genetic alteration and at the age of 11 it is great that he will know and will be medicated correctly.”

Simon Clarke,
FH patient

15

identified
with FH



Simon Clarke (front) in FH podcast

PARENT-CHILD SCREENING FOR FH

A total of 139 infants were given a heel prick blood test to detect high cholesterol as part of a new screening programme for familial hypercholesterolemia (FH).

Three GP practices took part; 8 children had raised cholesterol and samples sent for further genetic testing; all were negative.

"All families participating in the project have had comprehensive lifestyle counselling and some have then gone on to have their own lipid profiles checked and CVD risks done which obviously has positive unintended consequences even for those who don't have FH."

Dr Sue Kemsley,
Swanlow Medical Centre, Winsford, Cheshire.

139
children
screened



ADOPTION OF THE BPQI TOOLKIT



The Blood Pressure Quality Improvement (BPQI) Toolkit is a collaboratively and locally developed QI package that embeds into EMIS and System One and supports general practice teams to deliver best practice through dashboards, consultation templates and more.

The Innovation Agency has been supporting partners in the North West Coast to use the toolkit to improve management of hypertension.

“I run the BPQI toolkit every month now, use it to create my lists of patients, then batch message out those targeted groups of patients using AccuRx Plus requesting BP readings from them.”

Dr David Baker,
GP in Wirral.

183

GP practices
using the
BPQI toolkit



NEW ASTHMA TEST AND CONDITION MANAGEMENT

The introduction of a Fractional exhaled Nitric Oxide (FeNO) test combined with condition management support in primary care, resulted in reduced symptoms for 106 patients.

We worked with Liverpool University Hospitals and practices in Aintree Primary Care Network, which has the highest prevalence of asthma in Liverpool.

“We are delighted that this project has helped to highlight the value of FeNO testing as a key jigsaw piece in asthma diagnosis. This project has enabled us to incorporate FeNO testing into the new diagnostic hubs in Cheshire and Merseyside.”

Respiratory Consultant Dr Hassan Burhan,
clinical lead for the Liverpool asthma programme.

Reduced
symptoms
for
106
patients

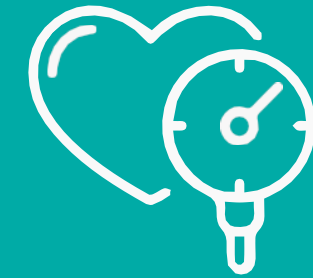


ASTHMA BIOLOGICS

“Since I have been on biologics I have been absolutely fine; no chest infections, no asthma attacks; I have been as fit as a fiddle. I’ve been able to get back to doing normal things and go to the gym - it’s the best thing ever.”

Marjorie,
Asthma patient

Referral time
reduced from
70 to **18**
days



A project to increase the use of asthma biologic therapies resulted in reduced referral time to Liverpool Severe Asthma Service (LSAS), from 70 to 18 days. Referral to first injection time was reduced from 167 to 53 days.

This involved a local PCN-based severe asthma in-reach approach, starting in the areas of highest deprivation and inequality to target the highest-risk patients. We produced two educational videos and a podcast, covering the perspectives of the clinical lead and a patient; and how to make a good referral.

1,000
web visits
in first month



NEW WEBSITE FOR PEOPLE WITH LUNG CONDITIONS

A new website was developed with the support of the Innovation Agency, offering people living with a lung condition advice, information and guidance to manage their illness.

Breathing Point is hosted by Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital and includes a local service finder and a community forum as well as a wide range of information about lung conditions and self-management of symptoms.



“Breathing Point is a useful website for anyone who, like me, has a lung condition. There’s lots of information about treatments, interventions and living well, and there’s the opportunity through the community hub to submit questions to respiratory specialists – which is brilliant!”

John Black,
a respiratory patient from Sefton who was part of the team that developed the new website.



**Supporting lung health in
Cheshire and Merseyside**

HEART HEROES ARE SAVING LIVES

5,304

blood pressure tests



4,167

pulse tests



A growing cohort of volunteer Heart Heroes are carrying out health checks in local communities – saving lives by spotting the signs of life-threatening heart conditions.

They are organised by the Innovation Agency’s Patient and Public Involvement Team and attend events and public spaces to deliver blood pressure, pulse and cholesterol checks.

“Thank goodness that I went to the coffee morning. I am so grateful that the Heart Hero, Angela, found my problem which may have saved my life!”

David Harrison, who was identified with an irregular heart rate; his GP sent him to A&E and he was diagnosed with heart failure and atrial fibrillation.





NATIONAL PATIENT SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMMES



IMPROVING CARE OF NEWBORN BABIES

In the last year in our region, around 85 per cent of babies born before 30 weeks' gestation received magnesium sulphate, an increase of 15 per cent since 2018.

Of the 259 babies who received the dose in 2022, it's estimated that seven babies will have been prevented from suffering cerebral palsy.

“Apart from in exceptional circumstances, it has become the norm to administer antenatal magnesium sulphate to protect those vulnerable babies who have been born more than 10 weeks early.”

Catherine Nash,
Quality Improvement Lead Nurse for the North West Neonatal Operational Delivery Network



Cerebral palsy prevented in

7 babies



MANAGING DETERIORATION

RESTORE2/Mini - Recognise Early Soft signs, Take Observations, Respond, Escalate - has been introduced to care homes across the region, with the Innovation Agency bolstering local activity by providing education sessions attended by more than 400 care homes and 1,200 staff, as well as involvement of colleagues from primary care, quality teams, teletriage and the ambulance service.

In the Fylde Coast, the work has supported a PCN's introduction of MDT care home rounds.

1,200
staff
trained



“Care homes in Fleetwood now routinely use Restore2 during ward rounds and communicate individualised information which includes observations and soft signs. The clinical team can then either provide reassurance or make a visit, which reduces the number of unnecessary trips to hospital.”

Jordana Collinge,
PCN Care Co-ordinator and Social Prescriber.



PATIENT SAFETY INCIDENT RESPONSE FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION

44k

Twitter views



A collaboration between the Innovation Agency, Health Innovation Manchester, AQuA and NHS England North West provided support for PSIRF implementation for 31 NHS trusts and 3 ICBs.

This included events; videos; podcast; lunch and learn webinars; patient stories; coaching.

“I think you and the team are doing a great job with these regional events - they are hugely useful and I know will be helpful for the teams on the ground implementing the national strategy.”

James Titcombe OBE,
Patient Safety Consultant

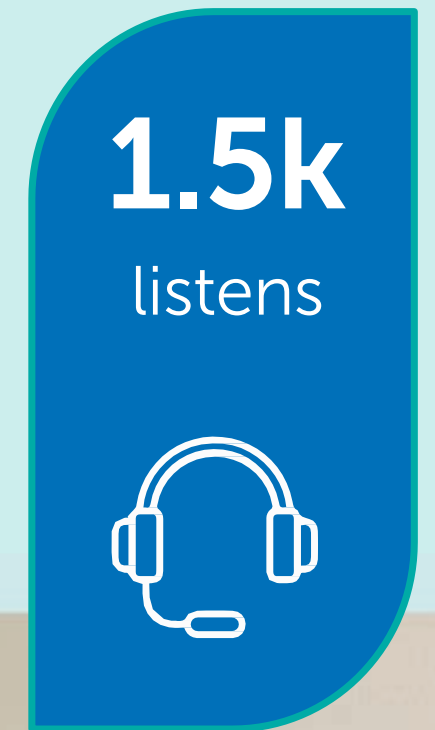
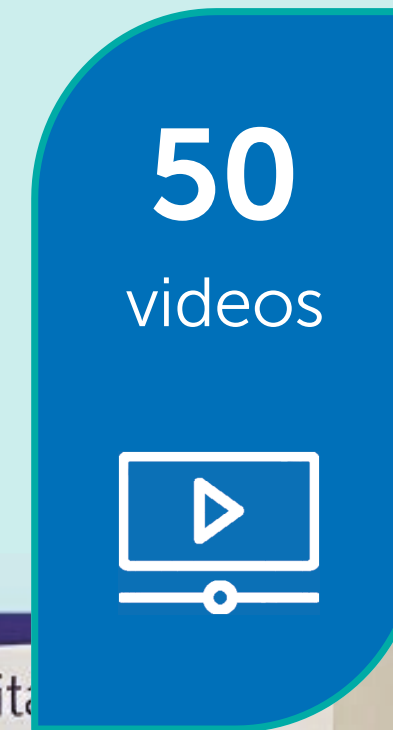
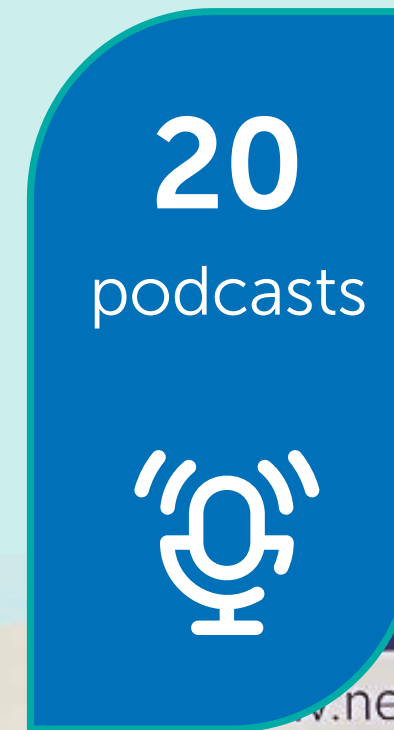


EVENTS AND STORYTELLING

EVENTS AND STORYTELLING

Most of the Innovation Agency's events are now delivered online but we continue to deliver an annual awards event alongside our partners the NIHR ARC NWC and NIHR CRN NWC. We hosted a highly acclaimed AHSN Network Bridging the Gap event, to showcase our work supporting innovators in health and care.

Videos, podcasts, case studies and news stories are produced regularly by the Innovation Agency to describe our collaborations, creativity and the impact of our work. Links to subscribe to our newsletter and our podcasts and videos, are available on our website.



NWC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION AWARDS

The North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards 2022 received a record number of 180 nominations in 12 categories.

BBC North West Tonight presenter Roger Johnson hosted the event at Edge Hill University, which was also live-streamed.

180
nominations



“We need research so we can keep bringing the best new ideas to patients more quickly and the more research that’s done in the UK, the more translatable the results of that research.

We’ve seen through Covid that we’ve got brand new vaccines and brand new treatments for Covid and we have got huge amounts of innovation right across the NHS; it is fantastic to see all your innovations.”

Matt Whitty,
NHS England Director of Innovation, Research and Life Sciences





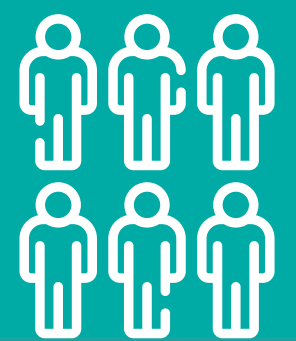
BRIDGING THE GAP

We organised the AHSN Network Bridging the Gap conference in Liverpool, attended by around 150 NHS leaders, SMEs, clinical entrepreneurs and established innovators.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Lindsey Hughes, Director of Research and Engagement for Innovation, Research and Life Sciences at NHS England; and StJohn Crean, Pro Vice Chancellor at the University of Central Lancashire.

Video interviews with speakers are available on our YouTube channel.

150
delegates



NATIONAL INNOVATION COLLABORATION FOR DIGITAL HEALTH PODCAST

A series of six episodes in the NHS National Innovation Collaborative for digital health podcast was produced by our Communications Team.

The collaborative aims to create a connected network across the NHS, social care and local authorities to rapidly share learning and best practice and to accelerate the deployment of innovative technologies that enable care to be delivered to people at home.



**Innovation
Collaborative.**
for digital health

6

podcast
episodes





INNOVATION AGENCY
Academic Health Science Network
for the North West Coast

CONTACT US

Innovation Agency

Vanguard House Sci-Tech Daresbury Halton WA4 4AB

T: 0151 254 3400

W: innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk

E: Follow us on *LinkedIn YouTube Instagram Twitter*

All mainstream podcast channels



EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

