

INNOVATIONS

The latest innovations to improve health care in the North West Coast

Issue #3
Spring 2019

Pictured:
Beatrice Murphy with
Senior Carer Natalie Stewart



WHAT'S INSIDE:

INVESTMENT FOR
MED-TECH START-UP

TELETRIAGE IN CARE HOMES

COACHING ACADEMY'S
POSITIVE FEEDBACK



Planning for the long term

We are excited to see our role highlighted in the NHS Long Term Plan, helping to spread innovations which improve care and efficiency.

The draft plan outlines a key role for AHSNs in a new NHS innovation system, supporting innovators in our regions and spreading innovations across the country, to health and care organisations and to citizens.

This is what we have been doing for our first five years and we are delighted that our good work will be rewarded by the opportunity to do more!

We aim to simplify the offer of support from national commissioners and to help local organisations gain maximum benefit, through our hands-on teams. We have produced a guide to what we can do for local partners; see *page 06* to read about 'Our offer to health and social care'. Our offer includes support for adoption and spread of innovation and also support for developing a culture in organisations and regions where innovation and continual improvement and learning thrive.

Our geography covers two transformation systems – Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care System; and Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership – and our dedicated system teams are focussed on their needs.

As ever, do get in touch if you would like to know more. ■

Yours,
Dr Liz Mear, Chief Executive
Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE, Chair

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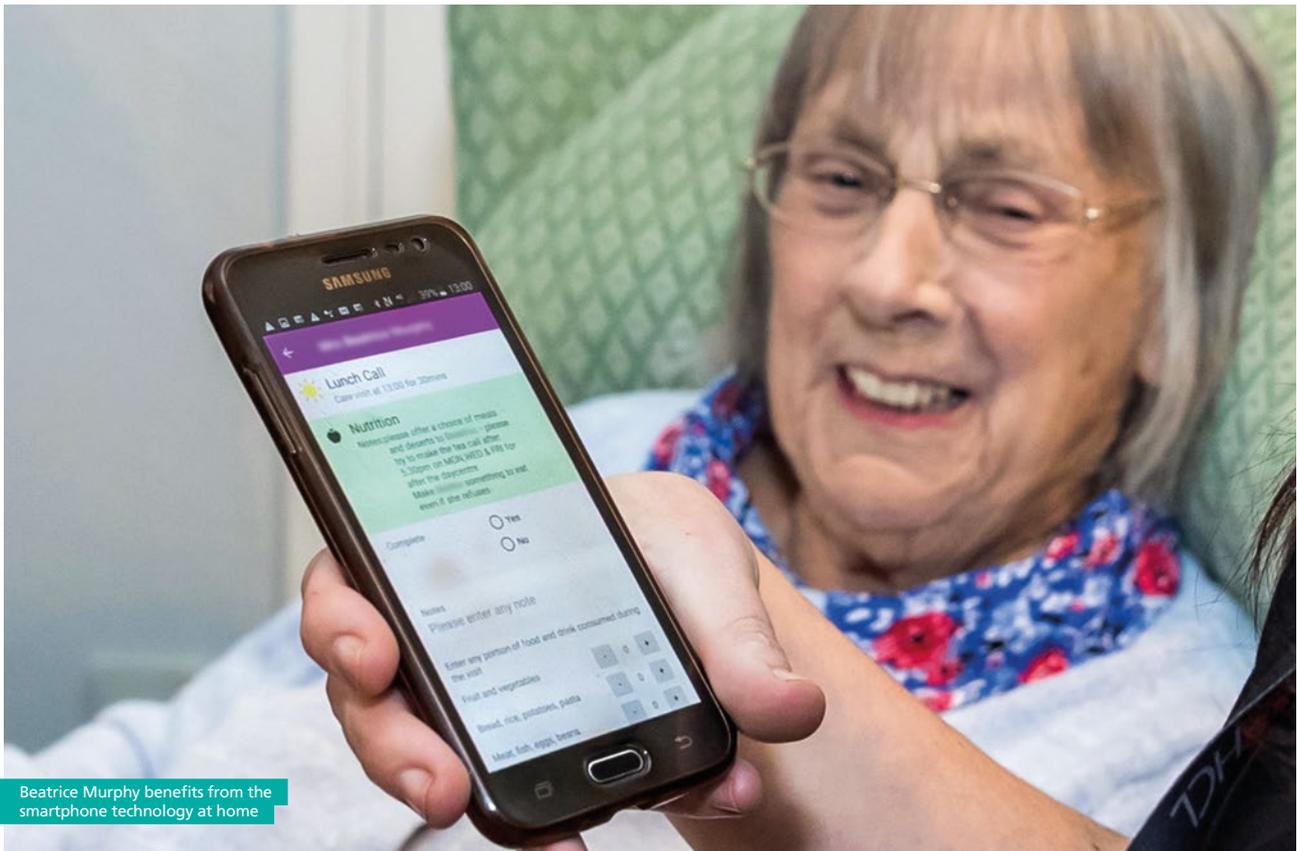
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Beatrice Murphy benefits from the smartphone technology at home

Smartphone app transforms Liverpool homecare

Liverpool is leading the way in the use of smartphone technology to deliver and monitor care in people's homes – and it was made possible through a grant of one million euros of European Union funding secured by the Innovation Agency.

The city is the first to introduce a digital system with almost all domiciliary care providers, giving instant information about 9,000 vulnerable residents to their families and professionals.

The use of an app allows care providers and families to see when a visit is carried out by a carer, for how long, and how the person responded. The effect is better informed families and care managers and improved care.

Liverpool is the only authority in Europe to be using the technology across the city, with all but one of its 18 domiciliary care providers using the everyLIFE PASSsystem.

It was made possible through a grant of one million euros of European Union funding secured through the EU STOPandGO programme of which the Innovation Agency, the Academic Health Science Network for the North West Coast, is a key partner.

All domiciliary care companies commissioned by the Council are inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) and ratings have improved for those who have been inspected since the introduction of the PASSsystem.

Susan Brown, whose mother Beatrice is a homecare patient in Liverpool, said: "I use the openPASS daily. It gives me peace of mind as I can see instantly that mum is up, washed and dressed, has eaten her breakfast and taken her medication. I also know that she's had a chat with her carer and all is well. I can check the openPASS easily any time, anywhere."

Liverpool City Council Commissioning and Contract Manager Ann Williams said: "We know the technology is benefitting our most vulnerable residents.

"No longer do we find out late in the day that a carer was unable to visit or a resident wasn't taking medication. We know immediately and then we can take action – and the family is reassured that the right care is being provided." ■



AF ambassador Debbie Parkinson (left) and Michelle Rushton with Everton legend Pat Nevin

Taking the pulse of the community

A team of AF Ambassadors visited the People's Hub at Goodison Park to test Everton fans' pulses before a Premiership game. They used portable ECG devices to test nearly 100 fans, including Everton legend Pat Nevin. ■

If you'd like to become an AF Ambassador call **Debbie Parkinson** on **01772 520250** or email **debbie.parkinson@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk**

Long Term Plan backs AHSNs

The newly published NHS Long Term Plan identifies the Innovation Agency and fellow Academic Health Science Networks as key players in accelerating the adoption of innovations. The AHSNs are named as partners in spreading innovations and supporting service improvement, a vote of confidence underlined by a guarantee of funding for AHSNs until 2023.

NHS England revealed it will invest £9 million over the next 18 months to help find and treat people with atrial fibrillation (AF). It is estimated that more than 20,000 people in the North West Coast have AF but are not identified or not well managed in treatment.

Checking pulses is a simple way to detect AF, and since 2014 we have distributed more than 600 pulse testing devices and carried out around 20,000 pulse tests. The programme has led to more than 500 potential strokes being avoided, saving around £11.2 million in NHS resources.

The Innovation Agency has set up an AF Collaborative of more than 100 GP surgeries and provided them with portable ECG devices to test patients' pulses. In addition, 36 volunteer AF Ambassadors have been recruited to test the pulses of family, friends and colleagues in the community.

The Innovation Agency has also formed partnerships with a number of organisations in the region – training staff so they can test colleagues in the workplace – including Everton in the Community, the Stroke Association, JJ Housing, Deaf Awareness Centre, Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital, The Brain Charity, the University of the Third Age (U3A) and more.

Dr Julia Reynolds, head of the AF programme, said: "We're working with multiple partners, we've got people going out testing each day across our region as well as supporting health professionals and we fully expect to reduce the number of strokes by half in our region by 2020." ■

Innovation Agency joins national coalition

The Innovation Agency is part of a new coalition led by Public Health England and NHS England to improve the detection of atrial fibrillation (AF), high blood pressure and high cholesterol – A, B and C.

Detecting and treating these conditions can prevent or delay the onset of cardiovascular disease (CVD), but many people are unaware they are at risk. More than five million people in England are currently living with undiagnosed high blood pressure.

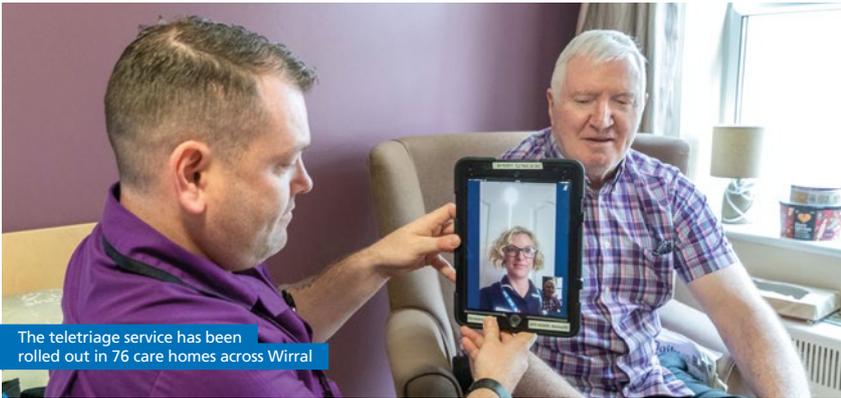
The A-B-C conditions can be detected through routine checks in community and healthcare settings. The ambitions include recommendations for decision makers and frontline professionals to get more people checked.

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear is a member of the national CVD steering group. She said: "We fully support these ambitions and we will continue to play our part in helping to detect more people at risk from stroke and heart attacks.

"Detecting an irregular heart rhythm and improving treatments for atrial fibrillation has been our single biggest focus throughout our existence as an Academic Health Science Network." ■

By 2029, Public Health England and NHS England want to:

- **Detect and treat millions more people living with high blood pressure who are currently undiagnosed.**
- **Ensure three quarters of 40 to 74-year-olds have received a formal CVD risk check and have had their cholesterol levels recorded.**
- **Increase from 35 to 45 per cent the proportion of 40 to 74-year-olds at high risk of developing CVD who are treated with statins.**



Teletriage technology helps care home residents

Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust has introduced a new 'teletriage' service for care homes, part-funded by the Innovation Agency, in which senior nurses provide healthcare advice to care home staff.

Evidence shows many care home residents are admitted to hospital when they become ill, even though it's often not the most appropriate place for them. Being admitted can have a severe physical and mental impact on people, so it's vital they are only admitted when clinically necessary.

Under the new system introduced in Wirral, when a care home is concerned about a resident, staff can ring the teletriage service. Using video chat technology a senior nurse can then carry out a rapid assessment of the patient to determine what action is required.

Following their virtual assessment, senior nurses will then coordinate the appropriate care, whether that's advice and support to care home staff or referral to other services.

Val McGee, Chief Operating Officer of Wirral Community NHS Foundation Trust, said: "Our teletriage service means unwell patients are now supported within their care home, rather than facing the frightening and disruptive prospect of ambulances and hospital departments.

"As well as providing better care and better health for patients, it provides better value for the NHS too. Some of the pressure the local hospital is facing is because people aren't sure where to go for the right advice and support, so resort to going to A&E or dialling 999.

"This can be the case for care homes too, but those signed up to our service can now call our senior nurses instead."

Since its launch in 2017 the teletriage service has been rolled out across 76 care homes in Wirral. It's available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and replaces the 111 service for those care homes taking part.

The service receives around 300 calls a month from care homes, and only 12 per cent of patients require hospital treatment, usually for an x-ray.

The service has helped avoid hundreds of unnecessary hospital admissions, providing direct support to care home staff, a better outcome for patients and reduced costs to the NHS. ■

Going green in 2019

The Innovation Agency is backing the national Year of Green Action and Liverpool City Region's Year of the Environment, focusing on health and wellbeing.

A launch event was attended by more than 100 people, with speakers from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the NHS, charities, voluntary groups, a university, museums and local authorities, sharing evidence of the impact of the natural environment on health.

Innovation Agency Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim, also Chair of Liverpool City Region's Nature Connected and advisor on the natural environment to Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham, said: "In Merseyside and throughout the North West Coast we have the best natural environment in the country – with our coastline, parks, woodlands and waterways, there are so many opportunities for people to enjoy being outdoors and active.

"We know it is good for our health to connect with nature and I am delighted that we and our partners are collaborating to enable more people to benefit, in terms of both physical and mental health."

Listen to podcasts of the event's speakers here: www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk/podcasts ■





Lauren Peate and Molly Bridgewood of the Innovation Agency prepare to send the guide to our stakeholders

Our guide to how we can help

To help NHS and social care partners better understand how the Innovation Agency can help them, we have produced a new guide.

'Our offer to health and care partners' aims to clarify how we can help, with a range of support which is free as we are funded by national commissioners, NHS England, NHS Improvement and the Office for Life Sciences.

There is an Innovation Agency team attached to each of the region's two partnerships so that we are part of the structure on the ground while based in a national network of AHSNs, through which we gather extensive knowledge and soft intelligence.

In particular, we have developed a set of themes in which we group all the products and best practices available to our partners. This will help us to match your needs to a relevant set of innovations.

Our offer is to help you by:

- Finding, curating and presenting innovations in a set of innovation themes to simplify and streamline the search for solutions
- Providing tailored local support for teams redesigning services
- Supporting the digital roadmaps in our region
- Supporting and spreading local innovations; leveraging additional funding; helping to identify suitable collaborations
- Involving you in a funded patient safety improvement programme
- Helping you to adopt nationally funded innovations, e.g. products covered by the Innovation and Technology Payment ■

The guide is available on our website in the Resources/publications section. If you would like a hard copy, please email info@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk

Easy access to tools, practices and innovations

We have simplified access to a wide range of tools, practices and innovations by grouping them into eight innovation themes.

This is part of our Innovation Exchange work, in which we help to guide partners in selecting what they need to support improvement plans and service redesign.

The themes are based on what we know are the high-level redesign challenges of our local partners.

When we are involved in the earliest stage of solution design we can help you identify relevant products in order to avoid unnecessary duplication of existing resources.

In addition, we can support partners with patient and public involvement through our PPI team, with access to patients and public advocates, including members of our PPI Senate. This will enable co-production of new pathways and products; review of documents and online resources; focus groups and surveys.

The themes are:

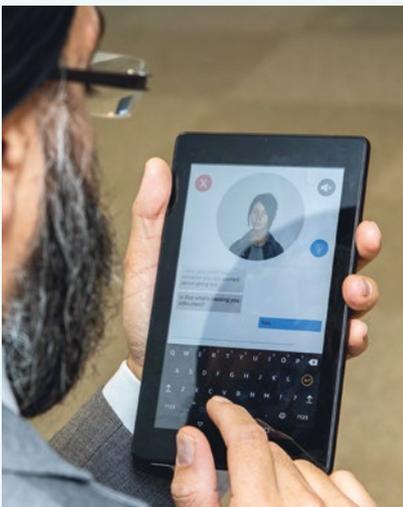
- Patient activation and self-care
- Patient safety and quality improvement
- Greater support and resource for primary care
- Digitalising the system
- Independence and prevention
- Improving system flow
- Operational excellence
- Workforce resource optimisation ■



Cadscan Managing Director Dr Alastair Buchanan with Indi Singh of the Innovation Agency

Funding for positive mental health app

Product design company Cadscan has been awarded funding to develop a voice-operated app to treat anxiety in young people.



Cadscan was awarded the contract to develop Phobot as part of the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthcare with the support of the Innovation Agency. The contract is to develop interventions that support positive mental health.

Public Health England estimates that 10 per cent of children aged five to 16 are likely to develop a clinically significant mental health disorder, one of which is anxiety. Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) is often recommended as a treatment option but the provision of therapy is often restricted due to demand.

Phobot uses artificial intelligence and natural language understanding which enables it to interpret a user's words and respond with a tailored treatment programme.

The funding has facilitated the first phase of development for Phobot, which is currently being tested on different platforms with a group of young people.

Dr Simon Lewis, a clinical psychologist at Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust, has been working with Cadscan on the development of Phobot. He said: "Phobot will help young people by using key elements from an evidence-based approach to social anxiety whilst being responsive, accessible and approachable."

Dr Alastair Buchanan, Managing Director of Cadscan, which is based in Chester, said: "Many young people find it hard to access treatment for anxiety. Phobot unobtrusively delivers effective, evidence-based support whenever they need it."

SBRI Healthcare is an NHS England initiative, led by the Academic Health Science Network (AHSN), of which the Innovation Agency is a part. ■

Positive feedback for Coaching Academy

The Innovation Agency's Coaching Academy has enrolled more than 300 learners and innovators in its first year.

The Academy attracts participants from the NHS, universities, the voluntary sector and other public sector organisations throughout the North West Coast, supporting people to build healthy cultures for spreading and adopting innovations.

It runs two core courses: Coaching for Culture and Coaching for Spread and Adoption, with face-to-face and online sessions held throughout the region, and an expanded curriculum in 2019. Programme sponsors have included the Patient Safety Collaborative and Connected Health Cities.

Susie Srivastava, training and development lead at FCMS, a Lancashire provider of emergency healthcare, said she and colleagues had reaped many benefits from completing the Coaching for Culture programme.

"I can warmly recommend it for anyone involved in transformation work. It was enjoyable and thought-provoking, with a real practical emphasis. We have started to implement some of the behaviours we discussed during the course and we expect the resulting changes will be long-lasting and have a significant, positive impact on staff and patients alike."

Dr Sharryn Gardner, a paediatrician based in Southport and Ormskirk, said: "This programme has opened my eyes to what is possible, and how to go about making it a reality. It has also introduced me to more 'doers' and innovators and that is worth perhaps even more."

Academy head Jen Kohan said feedback from participants has been very encouraging. "People are telling us it's changed the way they approach work and has really galvanised them to collaborate in new ways. Adopting a coaching mind-set transforms the way we collaborate and communicate with each other every day."

Please check our website for information about courses: innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk.

You can also contact us for further details at coach@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk ■



Participants at a Coaching Academy workshop

'Rapid uptake' innovations ready for rollout

The Innovation Agency and fellow AHSNs across England are helping to roll out a number of innovations that have been identified for rapid uptake.

The Government is providing up to £2 million to give more patients access to seven innovative technology areas that were identified by the Accelerated Access Collaborative, a partnership of health and health tech organisations.

Products were selected that improve patients' lives but are not currently available to everyone who could benefit. This first batch of 'rapid uptake' products includes a range of treatments for conditions such as cancer, heart disease and multiple sclerosis.

The aim is to help 500,000 people gain access to new treatments and provide cost savings to the NHS of £30 million, while reinforcing the UK's position as a global leader in health innovation.

The products will be spread through the Innovation Agency and AHSN Network's Innovation Exchanges, which match solutions to the needs of their local health and care systems.

Seven new NHS Test Beds have also been announced. These will tackle some of the biggest challenges in health and care by testing combinations of innovations in real-world clinical settings. This is the second wave of NHS Test Beds and the AHSNs will again be providing support in the regions.

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear said: "The news of more support for the spread of innovations is a welcome boost and we are excited to be supporting these well-evidenced products across the North West Coast and nationally." ■



Patient and Public Involvement lead Debbie Parkinson with Senate members Jim Organ (left) and Keith Wilson

Public Involvement Senate for Lancs and South Cumbria

An Innovation Agency Patient and Public Involvement Senate has been launched in Lancashire and south Cumbria.

The move follows the success of a similar group in Cheshire and Merseyside, where members are involved in reviewing, testing and commenting on new devices and systems for health and care services.

Setting up a second group will enable public and patient involvement and engagement in our work across a wider regional footprint.

Over the last three years our PPI Lead Debbie Parkinson has recruited members of the public together with patients who meet once every two to three months to review innovations and comment and give feedback on systems, and to help test devices.

Senate members also attend conferences and events to find out more about innovations in the NHS. Some represent the public voice on steering groups run by partner organisations.

Debbie said: "Patient surveys and questionnaires are vital to the work we do but we want to go further in actively involving patients and members of the public and working in partnership with them to help shape our NHS services, devices and systems.

"We also coordinate pulse testing using those devices, with volunteers attending events and using innovative portable devices to look for signs of an irregular heart rhythm, which can indicate atrial fibrillation."

If you would like to join the group, please contact Debbie: debbie.parkinson@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk or on 07932 769144.

You can follow Debbie on Twitter @talktodebbie ■

CEO Liz joins Northern Power Women

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear has been included in the 2019 Northern Power Women List.

She is one of a small number selected to join a list of influencers who are recognised for using power for good, who challenge the norm and ensure that everyone they work with recognises the benefits of having gender-balanced organisations.

Liz has also been shortlisted in the Transformation category of the Northern Power Women Awards.

The Northern Power Women List aims to ensure women are involved in key decisions and thinking when talking about the Northern Powerhouse.

Liz said: "I am flattered to be listed alongside amazing people who are making a huge difference as leaders and change makers. I believe we can all do more to harness the true potential of the North if we support women in achieving positions of leadership and in having a strong voice in our economy, across all sectors.

"I think our younger generation need good role models who are women and the Northern Power Women Awards and Power List are a fantastic way to inspire people, of all ages." ■





Connected Health Cities Chief Operating Officer Amanda Lamb and colleagues accept the Bionow Healthcare Project of the Year Award from Richard Deed of Trustech (second right)

CHC wins prestigious award

The Connected Health Cities (CHC) programme has been named Healthcare Project of the Year at the 2018 Bionow Awards.

The prestigious award recognises CHC's innovative use of technology and NHS data, advancing research and improving health services across the North of England.

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear said: "We are very proud of the great strides made by our Connected Health Cities team, delivering valuable insights into how data can be used to improve the way services are delivered – targeting resources where they are most needed.

"I believe this work lays the foundations for a new way of planning services, analysing the needs and patterns of illness within our population before designing care pathways. I am absolutely delighted that CHC has been recognised with this prestigious award."

Richard Deed, Technology Director at award sponsors Trustech, added: "The key element in selecting the winner was that through bringing together a complex number of partners and organisations, the project has been able to harness and make use of clinical data.

"The immediate challenge now for CHC is to sustain its activity and to continue to deliver patient benefit by harnessing the power of data for other clinical applications." ■

Proof that data really does save lives

Analysts are studying the hospital data of more than four million people as part of a ground-breaking £20m project to revolutionise the use of such information.

The Connected Health Cities (CHC) project focuses on the use of data and technology to improve patient care in the North of England.

The North West Coast CHC is led by the Innovation Agency in partnership with AIMES secure data centre, the University of Liverpool and Lancaster University.

Analysts use data to generate insights into how to provide better co-ordinated health and social care to patients affected by alcohol-related illness, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and epilepsy.

Dr Julia Reynolds, Associate Director for CHC, said: "By working with patients, health practitioners and experts in digital health we are delivering research that is relevant, effective and having a real impact on public health.

"It is likely that solutions in exemplar chronic diseases like COPD and epilepsy will be transferable to other conditions. This project could set an exciting precedent of working collaboratively across regions, with the potential to be replicated right across the country."

For more information visit www.connectedhealthcities.org ■



Carol-Ann Costello and Michelle Rushton spread the #datasaveslives message

NHS leaders visit Innovation Agency

We were delighted to host three national NHS leaders on separate visits to the Innovation Agency.

From NHS England, Medical Director Professor Stephen Powis and Director for Innovation and Life Sciences Dr Sam Roberts met our team to hear about our wide range of work with partners, spreading innovations and supporting improvement and transformation.

We took the opportunity to carry out a pulse test, demonstrating the AliveCor Kardia mobile ECG device

Prof Powis also visited Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital to explore innovations we are supporting, including 3D printing of organs to help surgical planning and education; advance image analysis software, Heartflow; a digital workflow system, CareCube; and remote monitoring of pacemakers.

We will be hosting a second visit by Prof Powis to meet some of our Lancashire and South Cumbria partners in the summer.

Another recent visitor was NHS Improvement Director of Patient Safety Dr Aidan Fowler, on a tour of AHSNs to find out more about our work delivering the Patient Safety Collaborative programme. We took the opportunity to carry out a pulse test, demonstrating the AliveCor Kardia mobile ECG device; fortunately it showed a normal heart trace! ■

Cases in point

From 3-D printing for improved surgical outcomes to a health app that empowers parents, we have a file of case studies that illustrates the enormous range of innovative work being delivered in the North West Coast.

For in-depth case studies, visit our website: www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk/case-studies



Consultant Cardiologist Dr Rob Cooper shows 3D prints of hearts



Professor Stephen Powis with Innovation Agency and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital senior staff



Dr Sam Roberts meets some of our team



Dr Aidan Fowler takes a pulse test



▲ The PReCePT scheme aims to prevent cerebral palsy in pre-term babies

Combating cerebral palsy in pre-term babies

Maternity and neonatal staff from across the region are supporting a scheme to prevent cerebral palsy in babies. PReCePT – PReventing Cerebral palsy in Pre-Term labour – delivers a quality improvement toolkit, information materials and practical tools to support staff and raise awareness of the importance of the administration of magnesium sulphate to women in premature labour.

Cerebral palsy affects around 2.5 per 1,000 babies each year in the UK and it is estimated that this could be prevented in up to 700 babies across England by the simple administration of a dose of magnesium sulphate.

The project was initially developed with support from the West of England AHSN and co-designed with a wide range of stakeholders, including patients and clinicians. Following independent evaluation, NHS England has endorsed PReCePT for national implementation and AHSNs are helping to spread it across the country.

PReCePT in the North West is a joint project between the Innovation Agency, Health Innovation Manchester and the North West Neonatal Network, delivering a combination of improvement methods, bespoke training and resources. ■

Pharmacy project delivers £4m savings

A project to improve medicines support for individuals discharged from hospital is making a significant contribution to patient safety – and has delivered potential savings of £4 million.

Transfer of Care Around Medicine – or TCAM – involves hospital pharmacy teams identifying patients who might benefit from support from their community pharmacist.

Some patients need extra help in taking their prescribed medicines when they leave hospital. This may be because their medicines have changed or they need help in taking them safely, and medication errors after hospital discharge are associated with an increased risk of adverse effects. As many as six per cent of patients will be readmitted because of these medication errors.

The TCAM project has so far potentially saved more than 2,300 bed days by helping to prevent patients being readmitted and, according to an independent formula, saved £4 million.

The Innovation Agency and NHS England (Cheshire and Merseyside) have been working with trusts and local pharmacists to set up a secure electronic link between them. This electronic Transfer of Care to Pharmacy system, previously called eTCP, allows community pharmacies to receive important discharge information quickly and securely from a trust.

When service and other costs are taken into account, there is a saving of £520 for each patient discharged on a TCAM pathway compared with other patients.

The TCAM system is currently live in seven trusts in Cheshire and Merseyside and will extend later this year to 11 hospitals and two mental health trusts in the area, as well as all local pharmacies.

The project forms part of the NHS Improvement Patient Safety Collaborative programme that the Innovation Agency delivers in the North West Coast, and is one of the innovations NHS England has asked AHSNs to roll out nationally.

Our Associate Director for Patient Safety Mandy Townsend said:

“Around 60 per cent of patients have three or more changes made to their medication during a hospital stay.

“The TCAM system is a simple but very effective way of managing changes to a patient’s medication and we’re seeing tangible results in the 18 months since it was launched locally.

“It’s crucial to involve community pharmacies at an early stage in the hospital discharge process to prevent patients being readmitted unnecessarily. The benefits to patients and to the system are clear.” ■

Stay in touch

We do our best to keep stakeholders up-to-date with our work. If you’d like to find out more about our work, or if you want to be alerted to forthcoming events, you can sign up to our newsletter.

Just visit our website:
www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk



NHSA CEO Hakim Yadi presents the report

North's poor health linked with poor productivity

Poor health has been linked with the North's poor productivity for the first time in a major report by six northern universities.

Health for Wealth: Building a Healthier Northern Powerhouse for UK Productivity was commissioned by the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA) to look at the relationship between the North's poorer health and its poorer productivity.

Tackling health inequalities between the North and South would put an extra £13.2 billion into the economy, according to the report. It would also lead to substantial economic gains, reducing the £4 gap in productivity per-person per-hour between the Northern Powerhouse and the rest of England by 30 per cent.

The Northern Health Science Alliance is an alliance of universities, hospitals and AHSNs in the North of England. Its former CEO Hakim Yadi said:

"We're missing out on £13.2 billion in the North's economy by not being smart with investment in health. By improving health we can also make a direct impact on productivity and that is something no government should ignore."

The report was written by Clare Bambra, Luke Munford, Heather Brown, Anna Wilding, Tomos Robinson, Paula Holland, Ben Barr, Harry Hill, Martyn Regan, Nigel Rice and Matthew Sutton. The universities involved in the report are: Newcastle University, University of Manchester, University of Lancaster, University of York, University of Liverpool and the University of Sheffield. ■

Recommendations include:

For central Government

- To improve health in the North by increasing investment in place-based public health in Northern Powerhouse local authorities
- To improve labour market participation and job retention among people with a health condition in the Northern Powerhouse
- To increase NHS funding in the Northern Powerhouse – to be spent on prevention services and health science research
- To reduce economic inequality between the North and the rest of England by implementing an inclusive, green industrial strategy

For Northern Powerhouse local and regional stakeholders

- Health and Wellbeing boards and NHS integrated care systems should commission more health promotion, condition management and prevention services
- Local enterprise partnerships, local authorities and devolved Northern regions should develop locally tailored 'health-first' programmes in partnership with the local NHS and third sector providers
- Local enterprise partnerships, local authorities and devolved Northern regions should scale up their place-based public health programmes across the life course: 'starting well', 'living well' and 'ageing well'
- Local businesses should support job retention and health promotion interventions across the Northern Powerhouse workforce and Northern city regions and Northern NHS integrated care systems should lead by example

The report can be found at www.thenhsa.co.uk



YouTube channel puts you in the frame

Subscribing to our YouTube is a good way to stay abreast of the broad range of activities we undertake through the course of the year.

The channel is frequently updated and, in recent months, new films have appeared covering our Liverpool City Region Year of the Environment event, how housing improvements lead to improved health and the opportunities that digital health technologies open up for health and care organisations. ■

Spreading knowledge and skills

A wide range of workshops, conferences, webinars and training events are on offer to our partners throughout the year, and are free to attend.

(Main Image) Some of the speakers at the Year of the Environment event, from left: Dr William Bird, Intelligent Health; Dave Sweeney, Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership; Jo Ward, Voluntary Sector NW; Dr Sarah Plumb, Research Centre for Museums and Galleries, University of Leicester; Kate Hall-Wright, DEFRA; Craig Lister, The Conservation Volunteers

(Inset) Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear at Eco 17 at Lancaster University, with speakers, from left: Rob Halhead of Docobo; Andy Bleaden of ECH Alliance; Dr Masood Ahmed, Digital Health London; Alan Davies, Innovation Agency; Prof Sumi Helal, Lancaster University; Aaron Brizell, Wirral University Teaching Hospital



Quarterly digital ecosystem events focus on a hot topic in health and care, bringing together system leaders and experts with businesses and third sector organisations who offer potential solutions.

The emphasis is on sharing best practice and making useful connections; and there is an opportunity to hear how the Innovation Agency can offer support in implementing innovations.

Our series of knowledge sessions are quarterly events designed to deepen understanding and improve skills in a range of subjects. Recent sessions include how leadership can shape the culture of an organisation; and what it means to be a facilitator.



A monthly webinar series, the Big Innovation Conversation, explores a wide variety of themes which have included social prescribing, using artificial intelligence to prevent falls, learning from failure and psychological safety.

Our events team can also offer bespoke support to partners for their own events. ■

For more information, please visit our website: www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk/events or sign up to our mailing list by completing this short survey: <http://bit.ly/IAGDPR>



Supplier Engagement – Liverpool Women's

Supplier Engagement – Liverpool Women's:

Chris Holmes of Supply Chain Coordination Limited; David Pasko, Amy Noble, David Walliker and Jaki Allen-Free of Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust; Christopher Price of Lexmark; Carole Callister of Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, and Sue Colbeck, NHS Supply Chain Director

Innovation Winners – STHK:

Christine Walters, Lesley Kelly, Chris Cookson and Vince Owen from St Helens and Knowsley Health Informatics Service receive their award from Innovation Agency Director of Digital Health Alan Davies

Procurement Champion – Helen Oulton:

Helen Oulton (right) of The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust receives her award from Estephanie Dunn of The Royal College of Nursing

Procurement Innovation – Chester:

(From left) Kevin Hickman of the Chartered Institute of Procurement and Supply (CIPS), Andrew O'Connor, Sophie Robinson and Ian Bailiff of The Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust



Innovation Winners – STHK



Procurement Champion – Helen Oulton



Procurement Innovation – Chester

Awards for top performers

A number of organisations across the North West Coast are celebrating after landing awards backed by the Innovation Agency.

The Countess of Chester NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust and The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust have been named as winners at the NHS in the North Excellence in Supply Awards.

And St Helens and Knowsley Health Informatics Service collected the Innovation Award at the North West Skills Development Network's Informatics Awards, part of the Connect 2018 conference to showcase pioneering digital health work.

The Excellence in Supply awards recognise organisations that work together to provide great

patient care. They are organised by NHS North West Procurement Development and Northern Customer Board, which helps NHS organisations to procure for value as well as best standards of care, and were sponsored by the Innovation Agency, Health Innovation Manchester and Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network.

The Countess of Chester Hospital received the Award for Procurement Innovation for an initiative, known as 'insourcing', which led to improved staffing levels and reduced waiting times.

Liverpool Women's Hospital received the Supplier Engagement Award after commissioning a supplier to provide printing services that delivered savings and greater sustainability.

And Helen Oulton, Lead Nurse for Infection Control at The Walton Centre, was named NHS Procurement Champion.

Helen acts as a link between the procurement department and the infection control team to help prevent or manage infections.

Meanwhile, St Helens and Knowsley runs a ground-breaking project that allows stroke patients to have consultations in their own homes. The system uses video conferencing to put patients in touch with their consultants and avoid often time-consuming trips to outpatient departments. The technology – known as telehealth – has been pioneered in specialist stroke clinics. ■



Scrum down eases A&E pressure

Congratulations to Mid-Mersey A&E Delivery Board who were awarded Best Primary Care Innovation at the 2018 HSJ Awards for their eye-catching campaign which harnessed the power of Rugby League.

Beat the Scrum, which was part-funded by the Innovation Agency, brought together Widnes Vikings, St Helens and Warrington Wolves players past and present in a series of educational videos.

The aim was to help reduce pressures on A&E departments and the campaign generated more than half a million views online as well as extensive local and national media coverage. It was also showcased at Super League games. ■



Innovation Agency Podcast

We produce a number of podcasts every month. They are an ideal way to listen again at length to our speakers, or catch up with events if you were unable to attend at the time.

You can hear our podcasts here:
www.innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk/podcasts

Strong awards showing from NWC companies

North West Coast healthcare companies made a strong showing at the prestigious Medilink North of England Healthcare Business Awards 2019, which were sponsored by the Innovation Agency.

Liverpool-based Damibu collected the primary care award for its CATCH – or Common Approach to Children’s Health – app, which provides parents and carers with NHS-approved information so they know whether their child needs medical treatment or self-care would be more appropriate.

Our region has a well-deserved reputation for innovation in healthcare technology

Meanwhile, Sky Medical Technology, based at Daresbury near Warrington, won the acute care award. The company makes medical devices using their OnPulse neuromuscular electro-stimulation technology that increases blood circulation for a range of conditions.

Knowsley-based Needlesmart won the start-up award for its technology that destroys contaminated medical needles at the point of use to create a safer working environment with considerable cost-savings.

Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear said: “Our region has a well-deserved reputation for innovation in healthcare technology so the field was very strong. To win these awards in the face of such formidable opposition is an achievement to be truly proud of.” ■



INNOVATION AGENCY

Academic Health Science Network
for the North West Coast

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