



INNOVATION AGENCY
Academic Health Science Network
for the North West Coast



Our offer to NHS and social care in North West Coast



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

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Introduction

We know that the multiplicity of resources and support available to NHS and social care organisations can be confusing. There are new initiatives announced nationally and locally throughout the year and a wide range of arms' length bodies like ourselves, with offers of training, collaborations, products and help with transformation.

This prospectus aims to clarify our offer to health and care partners. Firstly, please note that our offer is free to you as we are funded by national commissioners, NHS England, NHS Improvement and the Office for Life Sciences.

We are focused on matching the needs of your local system with available innovations – being your innovation partner, to put it simply. Our work is based on your priorities and we have adopted an account management approach. 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.

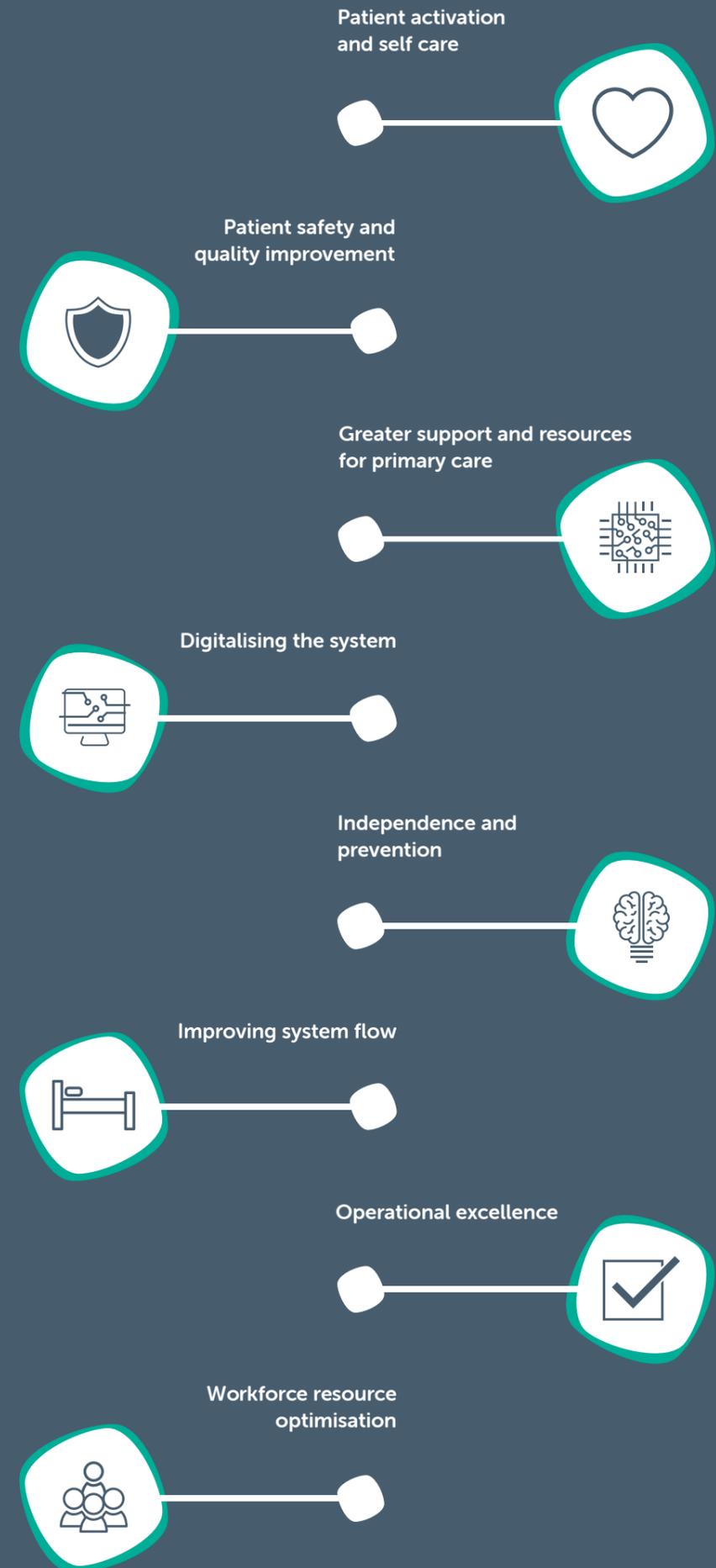
We source innovative solutions from a wide range of sources where they have evidence of improving efficiency and raising standards. These may be from other parts of the NHS, the AHSN Network, businesses or national initiatives.

Our aim is to act as a navigator in the landscape of innovations and support for transformation, to help you avoid spending unnecessary time, effort and money searching for or reinventing solutions which are already available.

Our offer

Our offer is to help you by:

- Finding, curating and presenting solutions in a set of themes to simplify and streamline your search
- 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, eg products covered by the Innovation and Technology Payment



Solution themes

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 solution 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.



Digitalising the system

Products and services that:

- Trigger a shift from paper based working to digital working
- Introduce remote and assistive technology
- Enable record sharing and interoperability
- Population-based intelligence systems
- Increase patient access to information and records
- Reduce the burden of travel for staff and patients



Independence and prevention

Products and services that:

- Improve the physical, mental and emotional wellbeing of individuals and carers
- Are targeted at healthy people to keep them well and prevent illness
- Support early diagnosis by identifying people at risk of developing disease
- Identify people with an existing diagnosis who are at risk of deterioration



Improving system flow

Products and services that:

- Reduce time spent in hospital
- Help navigation of the urgent care system to prevent admissions
- Reduce delayed transfers of care
- Identify bed availability across the system
- Reduce time lost waiting for access and discharge processes



Patient activation and self-care

Products and services that:

- Support people with an existing diagnosis to manage their condition
- Provide support and education to increase patient activation that will reduce likelihood of exacerbation
- Provide information and advice which helps people maximise their wellbeing



Patient safety and quality improvement

Products and services that:

- Increase the quality and safety of clinical services
- Reduce impacts of human factors
- Reduce serious incidents and never events
- Improve patient experience
- Improve outcomes and reduce side effects



Greater support and resource for primary care

Products and services that:

- Release GP capacity
- Make GP practices more effective and efficient places to work



Operational excellence

Products and services that:

- Improve effectiveness and efficiency of 'back office' non-clinical systems
- Reduce running costs of organisations
- Are 'Carter' products
- Do the basics really well, everywhere
- Reduce variation and duplication in processes
- Help organisations do things better, faster, safer, cheaper



Workforce resource optimisation

Products and services that:

- Support the creation of new roles
- Increase productivity of the workforce
- Offer new technologies that plug gaps in workforce (eg AI in Diagnostics)
- Help reduce/avoid duplication and variation in staffing
- Support integration of health and social care teams





Innovation and Improvement Culture

Our Coaching Academy supports individuals and organisations to coach, innovate and improve. We deliver a variety of learning experiences aimed at building healthy cultures for spreading and adopting innovation. At a system level, this coaching framework seeks to shift mindsets, build capacity for transformation and help implementation. We design and evaluate our programmes around a common competency framework, allowing participants to self-assess their skills and behaviours, then design a learning plan tailored to their individual development goals.

Open cohort programmes

These offers are open to teams and individuals throughout the year, meeting in person and online over six to 12 months.

- **Coaching for Culture:**
Participating leaders will develop skills to successfully coach and facilitate improvement teams who come in action learning sets so that together they can diagnose challenges, identify transformation needs, and implement changes that enhance safety cultures within their organisations.
- **Coaching for Spread and Adoption:**
Members of these cohorts attend three face to face workshops and receive group coaching to gain confidence and skills to spread and adopt innovations and innovative practices in a variety of themes and settings.
- **Coaching Foundations Programme:**
Upon completion of this programme, individuals will be equipped to coach colleagues and system partners to build and maintain healthy innovation cultures.

Bespoke coaching programmes

Contact us about short- and long-term options for addressing specific innovation culture needs within your organisation. We can tailor your coaching to specific audiences and themes, grounded in research and best practice for health and care innovation. We can facilitate emerging communities of practice to gain momentum, address challenges, and implement change.

Self-directed courses

Learn at your own pace with our online development opportunities. Several times a year, we offer a cycle of flexible courses with online coaches, so you can pursue action learning based on authentic, relevant innovation challenges. A monthly Big Innovation Conversation lunchtime webinar covers a range of innovation and improvement topics.

Communities of Practice

- **Innovation Scouts:**
Individuals in this community support the adoption and spread of evidence-based innovations, and help embed innovation in the culture of their organisations.
- **Q Community:**
We host the North West Coast Q Community on behalf of the Health Foundation, bringing together people with improvement skills in our region. We support recruitment, provide networking opportunities both face to face and online, and offer other themed learning exchanges driven by community members.

For inquiries regarding all of our Coaching Academy programmes, contact us at coach@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk and visit the [Coaching Academy](#) page on our website.



Speakers at an event exploring best practice in stroke prevention

Events

In each of our region's transformation partnerships there are place-based teams and work streams transforming the NHS and social care system. We have a skilled event management team who can work with you to deliver events and workshops related to your transformation strategy. We would work with you to design the content and help with organisation and facilitation.

Our quarterly Ecosystem digital health conference and exhibition showcases solutions to topical health and care challenges.

We organise a quarterly Knowledge Session covering a range of practical learning opportunities.

Involving patients and public

Our Patient and Public Involvement team engages with patients, carers, patient advocates and charities. They can work with you to play a valuable role in planning service improvements and innovations. They co-ordinate a Public/Patient Involvement and Engagement Senate which meets every 12 weeks; bring together focus groups; find volunteers to test new products; and organise a cohort of Atrial Fibrillation Ambassadors who use portable devices to test family and friends for atrial fibrillation.





Staff at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust using their electronic patient record

Spread of local innovations

We support the spread of innovations which are having an impact on improving care and efficiency. We provide strategic advice, evaluation, marketing, introductions and showcasing at national events.

Our Commercial team delivers a programme of business support to SMEs in Cheshire, Liverpool and Lancashire and South Cumbria, to connect companies with successful innovations to organisations who will benefit from their use.

An example is 3D printing of anatomical models by small business 3D LifePrints. The company was supported by the Innovation Agency from its early days, working with Alder Hey Children's Hospital to produce models of body parts to help surgical teams prepare for operations – and explain procedures to families.

In 2017 we provided a match-funded grant to Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital and to the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals, to spread the service.

The company secured £500,000 venture capital investment in 2018 to expand their work; and they have become part of Alder Hey's mainstream activity, now funded by the trust after being supported by the Alder Hey Charity for three years.

Where clinicians have developed innovations, there are various ways in which we can help. This will include making relevant connections – with businesses, funders, academics, charities and other groups. We provide professional advice and support, for instance with product testing, evaluation and commercial partnerships.

Digital transformation

We are supporting local digital roadmaps and are members of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Digital Revolution Programme Board and Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria Digital Health Board.

Our offer includes analysis, signposting and collaborations. We help organisations to understand their challenges with digital transformation and we direct them to a wide range of resources. These could be funding opportunities, ongoing advice and guidance or connections with businesses with relevant solutions; academics with evidence of best practice; or other, similar organisations who have addressed similar challenges.

Our digital health team works closely with national programme leads at NHS England, NHS Digital, NHS Improvement, Department for Culture, Media and Sport; Innovate UK and Office for Life Sciences and we work with digital leaders to connect national programmes to local partners and form collaborations when opportunities arise, with partners from all sectors – academia, businesses, voluntary and other public sector bodies.

We have a leadership role in the Connected Health Cities programme, which unites carefully selected local health data with advanced clinical algorithms and enabling digital technology to develop a learning health system and thereby improve health services for patients in our region and across the North of England on an ongoing basis. There are opportunities to develop this work further, as it combines with other national and local data mining and predictive and investigative analytics work.

Alder Hey Clinical Director of Innovation
Mr Iain Hennessey in the hospital's
Innovation Hub





Patient safety

We organise the North West Coast Patient Safety Collaborative, a community available to everyone interested in addressing key patient safety issues. It is part of the national Patient Safety Collaborative programme, delivered in partnership with NHS Improvement and the AHSN Network.

The focus is on three national work streams: Maternal and neonatal safety; early identification of sepsis, including the spread of NEWS2; and culture for patient safety improvement.

We also deliver patient safety programmes which meet the needs of our local partners. For example, we have developed a tool called the Anticipatory Care Calendar which helps care home staff monitor residents for signs of deterioration; and we have conducted a Bone Health Programme in GP surgeries to identify and treat osteoporosis.

There is a programme of national innovations being spread by all AHSNs which include a number aimed at improving patient safety and quality of care – see page 8.

If you would like to get involved in the Patient Safety Collaborative, please email info@innovationagencynwc.nhs.uk.



Midwives at Blackpool Teaching Hospital with the Innovation Agency's Associate Director for Patient Safety, Mandy Townsend

National Innovation Programmes

We are rolling out a programme of innovations on behalf of our national NHS commissioners, to benefit our regions. The nationally spread innovation programmes include products and practices which have evidence of impact and are ready for adoption.

The innovations are:



PINCER
Involves an automated search to identify combinations of medications which are prescribed commonly but may lead to harm. The programme uses pharmacists in practice to both identify at risk patients and establish new systems and processes to improve prescribing.



Transfer of Care Around Medicines
We are introducing systems which link hospitals to community pharmacies, avoiding errors and helping patients who need extra support with prescribed medicines when they leave hospital.



Atrial Fibrillation
We are sharing learning and best practice across the 15 AHSNs with a range of programmes which identify people with atrial fibrillation; increase the number on anticoagulant therapy and improve treatments for those diagnosed with AF, preventing strokes.



ESCAPE-Pain
This is a programme of education and tailored exercise for people with knee or hip osteoarthritis, providing self-management support in the community. It helps people to avoid surgery and improves mental as well as physical wellbeing. We are training local physiotherapists and training instructors to deliver the programme.



Serenity Integrated Monitoring
SIM brings together police officers and healthcare professionals to respond to people with complex mental health needs, in crisis. They help people to avoid further harm, death from accidental suicide, and involvement in the criminal justice system.



Emergency Laparotomy
This programme introduces a care bundle for improving standards of care for patients undergoing emergency laparotomy surgery. Its use in three AHSN regions has led to reductions in crude in-hospital 30-day mortality rates by 11 per cent and reduced length of stay of 1.3 days.



PreCept
PreCept – Preventing Cerebral Palsy in PreTerm Labour – ensures that mothers of preterm babies are given antenatal magnesium sulphate, to reduce the risk of cerebral palsy and infant death.

Free innovations

There are products available for free up to Spring 2019, via NHS England's Innovation and Technology Tariff and Innovation and Technology Payment. The ITT and ITP are NHS England programmes that provide access to innovative products that have a proven high quality/cost improvement impact at low or no cost to NHS organisations.

The ITP covers:



Endocuff Vision®

This is a soft flexible attachment which fits to an endoscope, improving colorectal examination for patients undergoing bowel cancer screening. For every 1000 patients treated it is estimated that 6 cases of cancer could be avoided through the use of this device.



Heartflow®

Advanced image analysis software that creates a 3D model of the coronary arteries and analyses the impact that blockages have on blood flow to rapidly diagnose patients with suspected Coronary Heart Disease (CAD). Its use may avoid the need for invasive investigations and provide a cost saving of £214 per patient. Recommended by NICE.



SecurAcath

A device to secure catheters that is associated with a low incidence of catheter-associated complications, improved stability and reduced infection risk for patients with a peripherally inserted central catheter. The device has the potential for cost savings from a reduction in the time taken during dressing changes. Recommended by NICE.

The ITT covers:



Non-Injectable Arterial Connector Implementation

An arterial connecting system to reduce bacterial contamination and the accidental administration of medication.



PneuX

A pneumonia prevention system, which is designed to stop ventilator-associated pneumonia.



myCOPD

A web-based application for the self-management of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).



EpiScissors-60

Guided mediolateral episiotomy scissors to minimise the risk of obstetric injury. This innovation will be reimbursed based on the number of uses.



Urolift

An alternative surgical procedure that can be performed as a day case for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), a common and chronic condition where the enlarged prostate can make it difficult for a man to pass urine. This innovation is provided at the same cost as current procedures.

Funding opportunities

We identify and leverage opportunities for funding, bringing partners together to develop bids for investment from national and European sources, to support transformation.

Funding pipelines include Health Foundation grants; the Innovate UK test bed programme; international projects to support real world adoption of innovation funded through European grants (EIT); the Small Business Research Initiative for Healthcare; the Connected Health Cities programme; and workforce programmes with Health Education England.

For example, we secured €1 million for Liverpool City Council to procure assistive technologies to support care in people's homes.



“ AHSNs are the innovation arm of the NHS”.

Ian Dodge, Director of Strategy, NHS England

About The Innovation Agency

We are described as ‘the innovation arm of the NHS’ (Ian Dodge, Director of Strategy at NHS England, Expo 2017). We are one of 15 Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) established by NHS England to spread innovations which have been demonstrated to improve health and reduce costs; and we support health systems in transformation and improvement.

The Innovation Agency is the AHSN for the North West Coast, covering Cheshire, Lancashire, Merseyside and South Cumbria. Our national funding enables us to provide services for free to our local partners.

We work closely with other AHSNs to roll out national innovation and improvement programmes, as well as local programmes.

Our staff teams are focussed on transformation; digital health; business support; patient safety; European funded programmes; communications and events; and quality improvement and coaching.

We lead the North West Coast Patient Safety Collaborative, funded by NHS Improvement and focussing on three national work streams – early identification of deterioration; maternal and neonatal safety; and safety culture.

In 2018 we received a new commission from the Office for Life Sciences which involves funding the development of Innovation Exchanges in the AHSNs, a process of matching local needs with innovations which may also be selected for national spread and adoption, accelerating their uptake across England.

Contact us

If you are in Cheshire or Merseyside, contact **Jenny Dodd**:

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Part of the AHSN Network

The AHSN Network

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