



INNOVATION AGENCY
Academic Health Science Network
for the North West Coast

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-18

Summary of achievements from the year, plus a selection
of highlights from the five years to March 2018



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INTRODUCTION

By Gideon Ben-Tovim OBE, Chair

It has been a privilege to have chaired the Innovation Agency throughout the past five years. I have seen the organisation evolve from a small team responding to local needs, to a strong, well-networked and established presence addressing national and local priorities alongside partners within the region and around the country.

We have expanded our Board of partners in the last year to ensure we have representation from the wide range of stakeholders whose interests we share. Our Board members give us invaluable insight and direction in how we provide help in meeting the many challenges faced by those delivering health and care services and I would like to thank them for their ongoing support.

Alongside the many achievements of our talented team, I would particularly like to highlight the excellent progress we have made in engaging with public and patients, through our Senate, through service user focus groups and targeted feedback from individual users of new technologies. This is particularly important when we are responsible for promoting and spreading innovations and in our work delivering Connected Health Cities, a major project using patient data.

We have been successful in attracting many millions of pounds of investment to our region, for business support; for programmes of work with our partners and in European collaborations to spread innovations. This brings huge economic benefits to our population directly through creating jobs and ultimately through improved health and care services.

There is much to celebrate and I pay tribute to all the individuals and organisations who have contributed to the achievements described in this report.

FOREWORD

By Dr Liz Mear, Chief Executive

The last year has been a time of assessing how Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) are performing, as we reached the end of our first five-year licence.

It has been a testament to the success of the AHSN Network that NHS England recognised our impact and asked us to explore ways to expand our work in spreading innovations.



Now, as well as funding from NHS England and NHS Improvement we have an additional programme of work funded by the Office for Life Sciences, to deliver a national and local Innovation Exchange programme through which health and care partners can access high impact, well-evidenced products and systems. You can read more about this in our business plan 2018-2020.

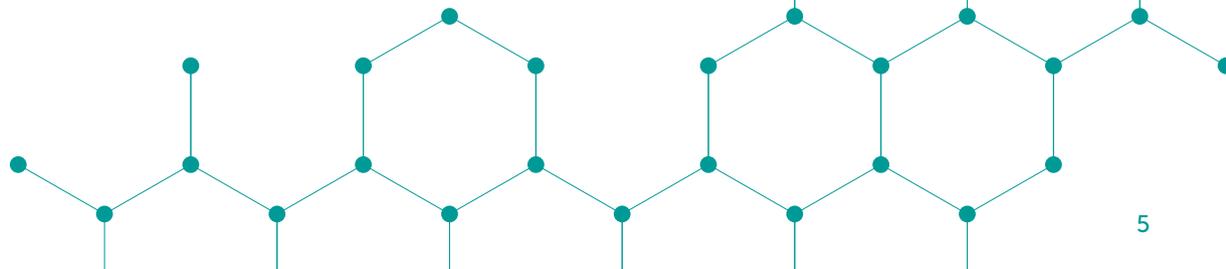
In this annual report we have taken the opportunity to highlight some of our key impacts over the last five years as well as the past 12 months, as a reminder of what we have achieved in collaboration with our partners.

It is pleasing to see aggregated impacts and to know that the hard work and dedication of our team is delivering good results. I am delighted that we have been working

closely with the two transformation partnerships in our region and we look forward to continuing our work targeting support where it is most needed.

I would like to thank our staff for their hard work and dedication, which helped us to be re-accredited with an Investors In People Gold Award, reflecting our commitment to investing in our people. I would also like to thank our volunteers and patient representatives for all they are doing to help us achieve our goals.

We are looking forward to the next five years of working with our partners to accelerate the spread of evidence-based innovations within the region and nationally through the AHSN Network.



FIVE YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

IN THE NORTH WEST COAST



Over 200 jobs created



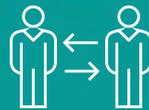
95 products introduced to NHS



20,000 pulse checks



500 strokes prevented



1,500 delegates

15 Digital Ecosystem events, connecting 1,500 delegates



5 European projects

bringing £2.1m to partners



Over £7m investment

leveraged for SMEs



7 innovation hubs

part-funded



£3.5m ERDF funding

matched by £3m from partners

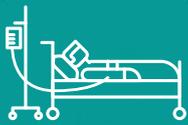


24 patients and advocates in PPI Senate



70 Innovation Scouts recruited

NATIONALLY IN COLLABORATION WITH AHSN NETWORK:



22m patients

benefited from AHSN
input



**332
innovations
spread**



1,242 contracts

36 NHS Innovation Fellows
secured 1,242 new
NHS contracts



**304,000
people**

benefited from our national
AF programme



788 jobs

SBRI Healthcare created and
safeguarded 788 jobs with
products to help 700,000
patients



1,100 locations

actively developing
innovations supported
by AHSNs



15m people

benefited from NHS
Innovation Accelerator



**600 jobs
created**



OUR VALUES AND CULTURE

Celebrating Investors In People Gold: Lauren Peate, Juliette Kumar and Dr Liz Mear

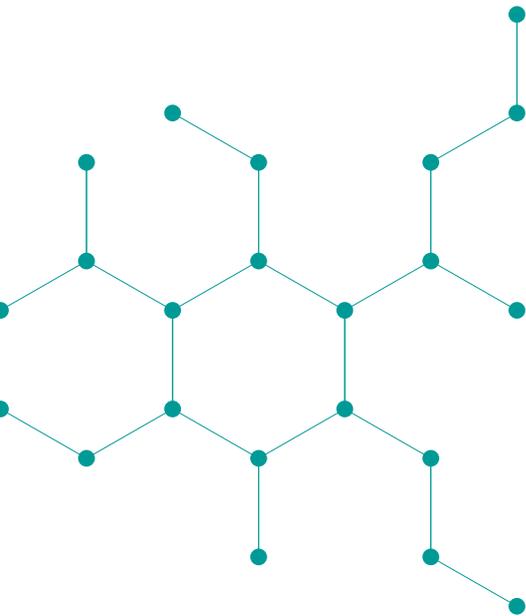
We have adopted the values in the NHS Constitution:

Working together for patients; respect and dignity; commitment to quality of care; compassion; improving lives; everyone counts.

In addition, we embrace further values which reflect the way we work:

- Doing things differently
- Enabling partners to think creatively
- Being courageous in change
- Co-creating, co-designing, co-producing
- Team working

We were delighted to be awarded **Investors in People Gold Award** for a second time, after a rigorous assessment process. The assessor highlighted strong, inspirational leadership and a culture in which staff reflect our values and 'practise what we preach' in innovative work practices.



New offices

At the beginning of 2018 we opened two satellite offices, in Preston Business Centre and in the Life Sciences Accelerator building on the campus of the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. This brings us closer to our partners, to strengthen our network and support collaborations.

Dr Andrew Hill and Stroke Specialist Nurse Karen Blake conduct a video consultation



SUPPORT FOR TRANSFORMATION

The Innovation Agency is supporting the adoption and spread of innovation and improvement in each of the two health and care partnerships in our region, Lancashire and South Cumbria; and Cheshire and Merseyside.

We have recruited a Transformation team in the last year, whose role is to ensure that innovations and best practice models both locally and nationally can be considered as part of solution design.

The team has developed a strategy for the improvement of spread and adoption of innovation, which includes agreeing methods of engagement for partners with the Innovation Agency.

Their work includes identifying relevant innovations for each partner or workstream, having classified products along service pathways, whether these are local innovations in practice or approved products from national initiatives such as the NHS Innovation Accelerator or the Innovation Technology Payment.

These innovations have been organised into eight themed areas: prevention; activation and self care; greater resource and support for primary care; workforce resource optimisation; digitising the system; system flow; operational excellence; patient safety and quality improvement.

They also connect partners with a suite of services and products that build capacity and capability in leadership for innovation.

They work closely with the national AHSN Network to improve the connectivity and visibility of innovations between AHSNs and to support the development of the Innovation Exchange. In the last year the Innovation Agency has facilitated around 100 events, including a number of bespoke programmes to support organisations, including:

- A hackathon for The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust, to help build a strategy for innovation
- An Innovation Summit hackathon for national thought leaders, about improving the pace of innovation adoption
- A coached programme for adoption and spread of innovations
- The management of the Health Foundation Q programme across the North West Coast
- Regular Innovation Scouts events and engagement activities
- Six events with the transformation partnerships to tackle system issues
- Four Ecosystem events focused on digital innovations

Funding for transformation

We awarded a total of £483,000 in grants to 12 organisations to support their transformation plans, in March 2017. During last year this enabled the launch or expansion of a range of projects across the North West Coast, from health coaching in Lancashire and South Cumbria to 3D printing of body parts to inform surgeons in three Liverpool trusts.

At St Helens and Knowsley NHS Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the funding was used to implement video consultations, initially for outpatients in stroke services. Stroke physician Dr Andrew Hill said: "As well as the obvious advantages there are some hidden benefits,

such as the ability of staff based in the trust to call on other specialists because they will be close at hand, for instance to tackle problems with diet and nutrition.

"It also means that we will be able to deliver specialist care to the patients who need it most yet are the hardest to reach – those in care homes. If we can remove the barriers of distance and accessibility we can make big improvements in the care of these patients."

The video consultations are carried out using a secure Cisco system on a smartphone or tablet and the pilot programme will run throughout 2018.



Design thinking events

Hackathons are a speciality of the Innovation Agency; our team has been trained by experts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Hacking Medicine and we use hacks to help partners tackle particular challenges.

We worked with our MIT colleagues to adapt hackathon methodology for a National Innovation Leadership Summit in November 2017, where senior health and care leaders designed potential solutions to overcome barriers to adoption and spread of innovation.

Other national collaborations included a hack with the NHS England Chief Scientific Officer to design improvements to care in care homes. Regionally, themes for hacks have included patient safety; system change in Central Cheshire; and acute care for children.

Since our initial collaboration with the MIT team in 2015, we have organised six hacks and trained 60 facilitators.

In the last year, we helped to run a neuro rehabilitation hackathon with The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust; and we supported the Hacking Health Team weekend hack in Liverpool, engaging with young people to co-design solutions to mental health problems.



National Innovation Leadership Summit



In a climate of financial restraint, our hackathon sent a clear signal to the trust and our partners that now, more than ever, is the time to think creatively, to innovate to improve care for patients."

Mike Gibney, Director of Organisational Development and Innovation at The Walton Centre

North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards

Our annual North West Coast Research and Innovation Awards attracted a record number of 146 entries and provided a platform for some of the best examples of health innovation and research from around the region. This was a partnership event with the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) North West Coast; and the NIHR Clinical Research Network North West Coast.



Culture for Innovation award winners, Well Halton

INNOVATION CULTURE

A Coaching Academy has been created to help health and social care professionals introduce innovations to benefit patients and service users.

The aim is to improve spread and adoption of innovation and to create a safe and continuously improving healthcare workplace culture, using the best available strategies and techniques.

Two coaching programmes are being delivered in 2018 through a mixture of workshops and online learning.



Helen Lee

LIFE platform

Colleagues around the region have free access through the Innovation Agency to the online LIFE QI platform, through which they can create Driver Diagrams, use frameworks and visualise results on charts, all integrated into project management.

Helen Lee, Head of Quality Improvement and Experience at Lancashire Care, said: "At Lancashire Care we are using Life QI as our systematic way to capture, report and make visible QI across the organisation. The Life QI system is a valuable resource and the support we've had from the Innovation Agency with demonstrations, masterclasses, queries and feedback has been fantastic."

Big Innovation Conversation

We are hosting lunchtime webinars to spread learning across the North West Coast. Six 'Big Innovation Conversation' sessions were held in the last year with around 200 attendees plus users of the webinar recordings.

Topics included the use of digital technology for remote monitoring; apps in healthcare; clinical entrepreneurship; and an electronic hospital bed tracking system.

Coaching for adoption and spread of innovations

A six-month pilot of an adoption accelerator programme was attended by 10 health professionals to develop and spread innovations beyond their own teams. This evolved into the Coaching for Adoption and Spread programme, a core offer of our Coaching Academy.

Occupational Therapist Jennifer Marsom of The Walton Centre said: "One of the things that propelled my project to where it is now, was acting on the 'challenge shots' in the programme.

"We were asked to write about our project using only 100 words and share it with people within our organisation who we didn't know. I would never have thought about that, but this one act snowballed and got me in front of the Medical Devices Board to present my project and spread it further within the trust.

"The upshot is my project idea has now been tested and is soon to be embedded within our organisation."

Q community

We have grown the Q community in the North West Coast to 111 people and hosted a welcome event in summer 2017. This community of quality improvers connect nationally and locally to spread and expand the knowledge and understanding of improvement in health and care service, creating a movement to meet the vision of Professor Don Berwick.

In November the Health Foundation hosted their national Q conference in Liverpool, bringing together 350 healthcare quality improvers and showcasing latest techniques and current thinking in Quality Improvement.

We will continue to support this community of practice, offering opportunities to connect and come together to learn – blending learning opportunities with that of the Innovation Scouts. Early workshops focused on systems thinking and psychological safety.

One of the new Qs is Aintree University Hospital Consultant Anaesthetist Matthew Bridge, who co-founded Mersey Anaesthetic Group for Improving Quality – MAGIQ. Matthew said: "I have had a great year as a Q community member. The highlights for me are the confidence you get from being part of a 'gang'. I have approached people both locally and nationally that I would never have dreamt of if they were not Q too. And their responses have always been universally positive and welcoming.

"I see the Q community tag that I use in my email as a green light for people to approach me and see if I can help them and this, in my experience, is how other members of the community have reacted to me."



Matthew Bridge

Innovation Scouts



Alex McCrudden

Our community of around 70 Innovation Scouts is drawn largely from across the NHS but increasingly, also from local government and universities. Scouts benefit from skills development through access to workshops, thought leadership for innovation and virtual learning opportunities, plus networking.

Scouts are nominated by chief executives and typically are directors, senior managers or clinicians. Their role is to encourage a culture of innovation within their organisations and to proactively promote and encourage the adoption and spread of evidence-based innovations.

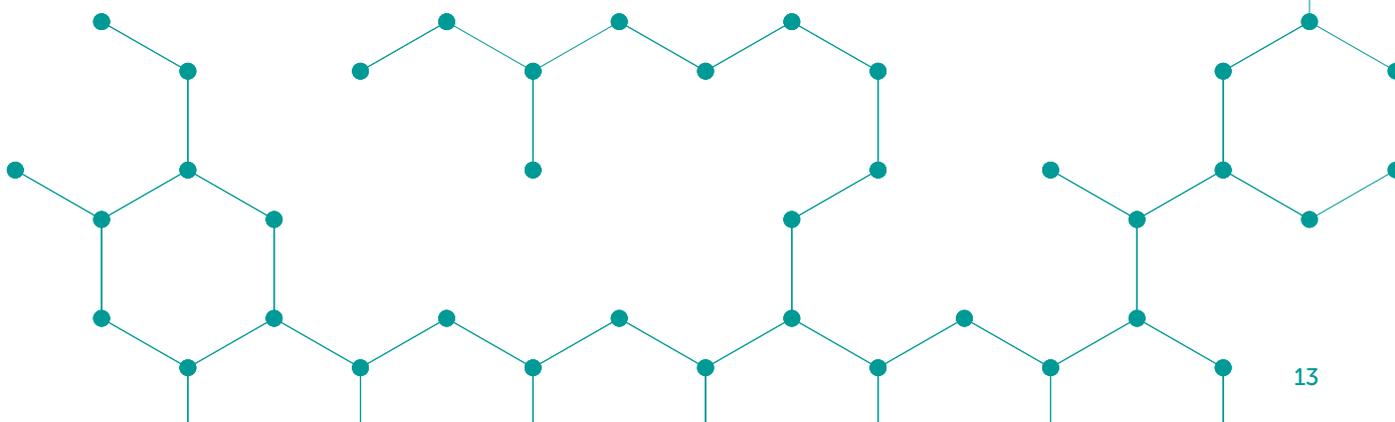
Alex McCrudden, Senior Lean Practitioner and Service Improvement Lead at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust said: "Being an Innovation Scout has empowered me to encourage a culture of innovation within our Trust. Being part of a network is so important when change is constant and almost relentless. I know I can count on the Scouts network for support and this has helped me take forward our innovation agenda. The relationship I have with the Innovation Agency is priceless and I am so very grateful for their support, knowledge and continued partnership working."



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Alex McCrudden, Senior Lean Practitioner and Service Improvement Lead at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust



PATIENT SAFETY CULTURE

Patient Safety Collaborative

In partnership with NHS Improvement and the AHSN Network, we run the North West Coast Patient Safety Collaborative. This works across the system to improve patient safety by developing a safety culture which is led by staff and patients and uses innovative approaches to deliver significant change and learning.

In the past year, we have expanded our team with the addition of two Associate Directors of Patient Safety and a programme manager who are specialists in safety and quality improvement.

We help to deliver three national workstreams:

- Early recognition of deterioration
- Creating the conditions for a culture of safety
- Supporting the maternal and neonatal health safety collaborative

Local programmes

In our local programmes, we have delivered capability and capacity building, especially around quality improvement and safety improvement techniques.

We have built on this experience to develop a Coaching Academy which will enable health and care professionals to use these techniques in practice to improve culture, quality and safety of the health and care services they provide.



Mandy Townsend of the Innovation Agency with midwives at Blackpool Teaching Hospitals



Pharmacist Hassan Argomandkhah



By connecting hospitals with community pharmacies as well as with GPs, we can reduce errors in medication following a patient's stay in hospital.

Evidence shows that patients who see their community pharmacist after an admission to hospital are less likely to be readmitted, and if they are they will have a shorter length of stay."

Hassan Argomandkhah, Chair of Pharmacy, Local Professional Network, NHS England (Merseyside)

Medicines safety

We have improved medicines safety in partnership with NHS England through our Electronic Transfer of Care to Pharmacy programme, involving 13 trusts in Cheshire and Merseyside.

To date, four trusts have adopted systems which enable discharge information about medicines to be instantly transferred to a patient's chosen community pharmacy and GP.

An estimated £327,000 savings to the health economy have been made through the avoidance of readmissions due to medication errors.

Evidence champions

A Post Graduate Certificate in Professional Practice was delivered in partnership with Lancaster University in 2016-17, to improve knowledge in using evidence and improvement tools, for clinical and non-clinical public sector commissioners.

A second Post Graduate Certificate is under way in 2018, sponsored by the Connected Health Cities programme and focused on using big data to improve services. Dr Gareth Wallis, Deputy Medical Director NHS England North (Lancashire and South Cumbria), said: "My understanding of the use of Quality Improvement methodologies has significantly increased. I now have a much more structured approach when commissioning new services."





Technologies to prevent harm

We have helped to spread innovative technologies to promote healthier lives and prevent harm. These include the products available through the NHS Innovation and Technology Tariff – such as guided mediolateral episiotomy scissors; arterial connecting systems to avoid accidents in administering medication; and systems to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia.

Bone health

In partnership with Amgen we have delivered a bone health programme based in GP surgeries in Lancashire. Using data from medical records, we have been able to identify patients who are at risk of osteoporosis or where this diagnosis already exists, to ensure that the optimal medication regime is prescribed in every case. This early work will be used as a springboard for a larger pan-Northern programme planned next year.

North West Coast Genomic Medicine Centre

We have continued to support the roll out of the 100,000 Genomes project, which in the last year across the North West Coast geography, recruited more than 900 patients with cancer and 2000 patients with rare diseases, through 10 hospitals operating as Local Delivery Partners (LDPs) in our region.

All seven of the planned seven LDPs have go-live status to recruit rare disease patients to the project, with patient recruitment exceeding the expected trajectory for seven consecutive months. Cancer patient recruitment reached 92 per cent of trajectory this year with seven new cancer pathways going live and a further three hospitals in the process, ensuring that maximum coverage across the North West Coast, with the potential to improve outcomes for even more patients.

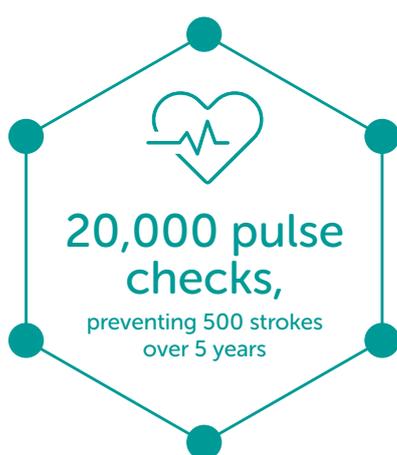
We are funding a Genomics Ambassador/ Project Manager post in the North West Coast Genomic Medicine Centre, who continues to support the addition of new cancer and rare disease specialties to the project.



Green Watch crew at Widnes fire station with a MyDiagnostick mobile ECG monitor

PREVENTING STROKES

The Innovation Agency's work to identify atrial fibrillation and prevent strokes has been a national exemplar over the last five years.



We have used a variety of approaches to increase identification of atrial fibrillation, leading to a trio of Showcasing Best Practice Awards at the international Heart Rhythm Conference in 2017.

We have distributed portable ECG devices in different settings, including Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service as part of their Safe and Well Visits to local residents, through a collaboration with NHS Halton CCG and Halton Borough Council's Public Health department.

We have been a partner in a pilot programme of genotype testing for prescribing individualised dosages of warfarin, led by the University of Liverpool's Wolfson Centre for Personalised Medicine, the NIHR NWC CLAHRC, three NHS trusts and international life sciences measurement and testing company, LGC.

North West Coast AF Collaborative

The Innovation Agency supported a regional NWC AF Collaborative which was part of a Joint Working Agreement with pharmaceutical company Bayer. We have been working with five CCGs and 75 practices to find more people with atrial fibrillation, and improve the treatment of existing patients in line with NICE guidance.

In the last year, more than 1,500 patients have been reviewed, preventing at least five strokes per CCG so far.

Self monitoring at home

After securing £100,000 to improve the pathway for people taking warfarin, we funded a programme for 250 patients in East Lancashire to self-monitor at home, using devices which can connect via an app to patient records in the hospital or GP practice. This is in partnership with Roche, INR Star and InHealthCare.



In the last five years we have distributed over 400 devices such as the AliveCor Kardia and the MyDiagnostick which have facilitated an estimated 20,000 screenings with an estimated 11,500 identified cases of atrial fibrillation – preventing a potential 500 strokes

AF Ambassadors



Kim Hughes, AF Ambassador

We have recruited 20 volunteer AF Ambassadors who have been trained in using devices and have tested the pulses of around 700 relatives, friends and colleagues – identifying 48 with atrial fibrillation.

AF Ambassador Kim Hughes, who survived a stroke and carries out pulse tests in hospital reception areas, said: "It's not easy getting over a stroke, so if I can help to prevent just one person having one, then it's worth it every time."

DIGITAL HEALTH

We established a digital expert steering group initially tasked with developing a digital health strategy for the North West Coast, including leaders from our Global Digital Exemplar trusts, STP leads, commissioners, clinicians and academics with expertise in digital health.

The vision is for the region to be the first choice for investment in health and care, due to pioneering advances in digital technologies and a collaborative approach across the North West Coast which leads to better patient outcomes.

The strategy is to accelerate improvements in health and care, linking national Five Year Forward View initiatives with local STP, CCG and trust related programmes. This builds on the transformational work already under way, to develop a reputation for the North West Coast as an exemplar for digital health care.

There is much to offer, with four Global Digital Exemplars; advanced work on interoperability within both transformation partnership areas, as well as expertise in the region's universities, clusters of innovative entrepreneurs and assets such as IBM Watson at the Hartree Centre in Daresbury.

Each quarter, we bring together stakeholders in our popular Digital Ecosystem events to explore latest developments, new products and approaches and examples of best practice. This is part of our commitment as a member of the European Connected Health Alliance and we have held a total of 15 Eco events, each attended by about 100 people from health, social care, university and industry partners.

Joe McArdle, Director of Health and Medical Innovation and Transformation at the University of Chester, said: "The digital expert group set up by the Innovation Agency provides a helpful forum for colleagues from across the region to consider how we collaborate and recognise our shared objectives and so create an environment and culture that is focused on the accelerated adoption of digitally led services that transform the experience of staff and public."



Our region is unique in having four global digital exemplar trusts as well as innovative clinicians, academics and businesses, many of whom are leaders in digital health."

Bina Rawal, Innovation Agency Non Executive Director

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



Digital Health North

A new partnership across the North of England is being led by the Innovation Agency, to develop a digital health powerhouse that will attract investment and boost the region's economy.

Digital Health North is a collaboration between the four northern AHSNs and the Northern Health Science Alliance.

The vision is for the North of England to be internationally recognised for ground-breaking, digital health innovation, research and co-creation of services that truly transform the health and care of citizens and communities.

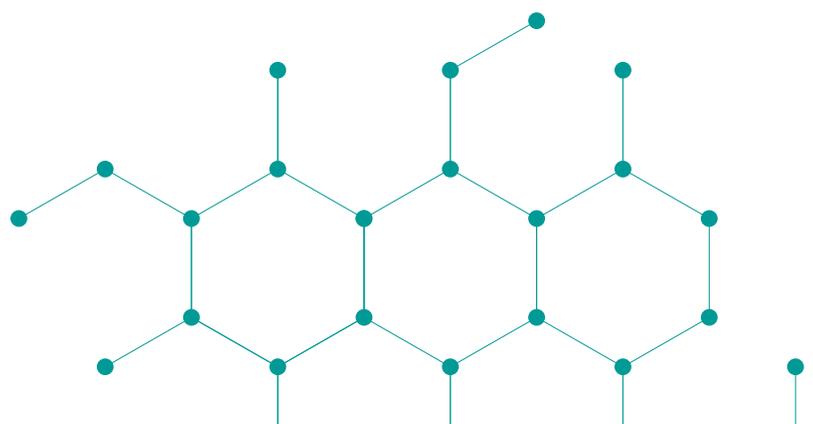
Our assets include innovation and incubation centres, university and science park assets, NHS Test Beds, Global Digital Exemplars, Connected Health Cities and a wealth of highly skilled SMEs working in the sector.

We will landscape, navigate, signpost, spread best practice, co-ordinate and innovate for the NHS, large corporates and SMEs.

We will support joint bids for funding digital health initiatives, building on our valued network of clinicians, academics and entrepreneurs; and identify opportunities for investment, to support economic growth across the North.

Director of Strategic Partnerships, Dr David Hughes, has been recruited on secondment from NHS Digital to lead the partnership, with a launch in summer 2018.

David said: "Digital Health North represents a unique opportunity to support the digital health economy to deliver transformative solutions to benefit the health and care ecosystem and the communities they serve. By enabling and inspiring our workforce and SMEs we can address the inequalities that exist in health, wealth and investment across the North of England."



Connected Health Cities

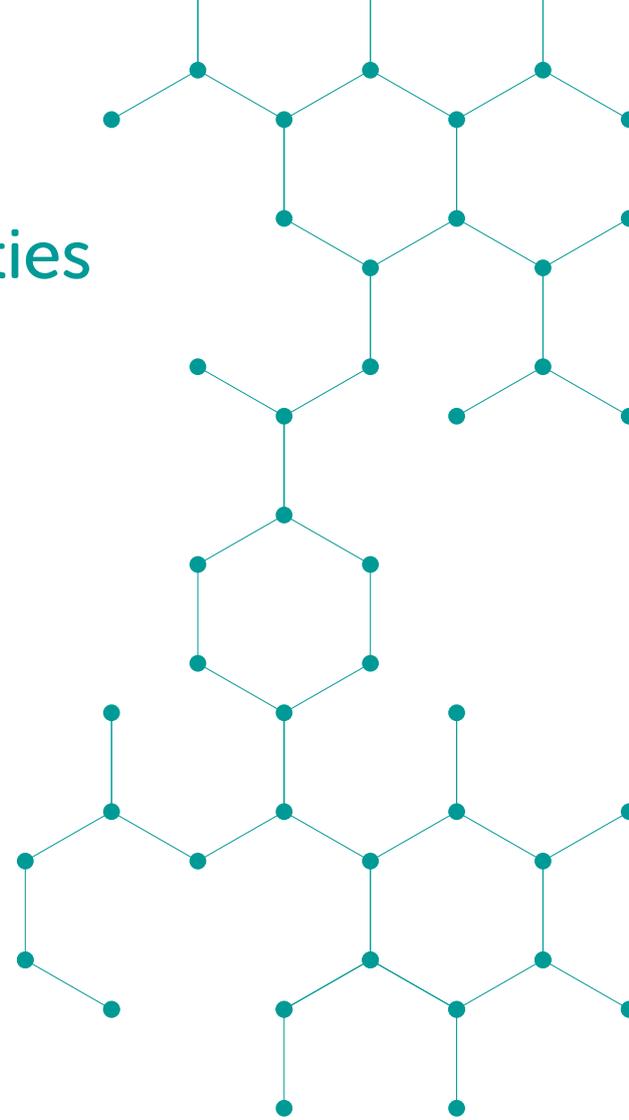
The Innovation Agency and our partners have been demonstrating how shared information can help commissioners and providers to improve services by targeting resources where they have most impact.

This is through the £20m Connected Health Cities programme which is delivered across the North of England in four different project areas which all show the potential benefits of shared data.

In the North West Coast, we are working with Lancaster University, the University of Liverpool and AIMEs Grid Services to show how linking different sets of information provides insight into the treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); alcohol related illnesses; and epilepsy.

We have linked data across three distinct datasets in our region – emergency, admitted patient care and outpatient departments. Using smarter algorithms, analytics and data visualisations we have developed bespoke reports which enable more precise targeting of interventions with different patient sub-groups or localities.

This provides valuable information for designing and commissioning services.



We are combining our academic and entrepreneurial assets across the North of England to build a digital health powerhouse."

Bruce Ash, Innovation Agency Vice Chair



PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

We organise a Public Involvement and Engagement Senate – PIES – to support our work on Connected Health Cities.

In the last year, members devised a survey for the public about whether they would share their patient information; and they designed a 'wizard' for healthcare apps, to capture consent for data sharing.

Patient advocate Kenny Lawler said: "I am very happy I got involved with the PIES group. It's opened my eyes to how much can be achieved with forward thinking and innovation in our health services. It's also given me the opportunity to do training and even be part of an interview panel when the Innovation Agency were interviewing for a post. That to me, shows great value in patients' and representatives' views."

Patient and public involvement is now at the centre of our work and Senate members are involved in a wide range of projects including patient safety, European funded collaborations and the testing of new technologies and apps developed by local businesses.



Public Involvement and Engagement Senate





Nicholas Gray of UKDI with the Recovery+ stretcher

SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES

Our role in boosting economic growth in the region was recognised with the Bionow Business Services Award.

This reflected a major expansion of our support for local small and medium size enterprises, after securing £3.5 million from the European Development Fund, matched by £3 million from partners; our partnerships with global companies; and success in leveraging additional funding.

Over the last two years, a dedicated Business Connect team has worked with partners in three programme areas - Lancashire and South Cumbria; Cheshire and Warrington; and Liverpool City Region, providing a complete package of business support.

Over the last five years our Business Connect team has provided bespoke support to 81 companies, leading to:

- 84 jobs created
- 95 new products or services introduced
- Further investment leveraged of over £7m

Our delivery partners in the ERDF programmes are Lancaster University, Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership, AIMES, Liverpool John Moores University, Liverpool Clinical Commissioning Group, Alder Hey NHS Foundation Trust, Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust and Health Innovation Manchester.

We also enjoy fantastic support for our ERDF programmes from our Local Enterprise Partnerships (Liverpool City Region, Lancashire; Cheshire and Warrington) who are also driving job creation through SME support programmes.

In 2017-18 we supported 67 small and medium size enterprises (SMEs). This led to the creation of 14 jobs and the introduction of 19 products into the NHS and social care market, with 14 companies actively developing new products.



Securing funding for health businesses

In 2017 our jointly funded post with the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership led to a business investment of £40 million into the region by vaccine manufacturer Seqirus, creating 100 jobs; and a £35 million proton therapy centre.

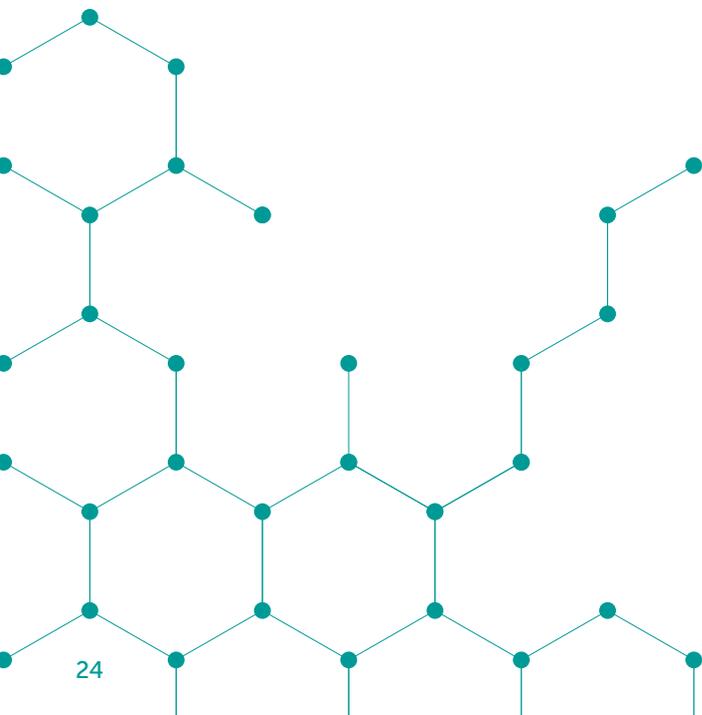
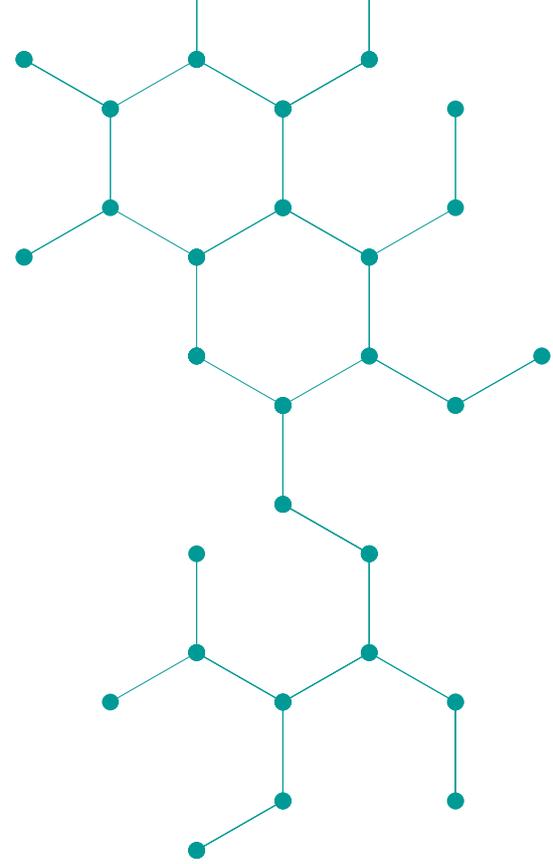
In the last two years, we supported small businesses to leverage more than £7 million of investment.

This included 3D Lifeprints from Liverpool who secured £500,000 of venture capital investment.

Company Chief Executive Henry Pinchbeck said: "3D LifePrints is indebted to the support from the Innovation Agency and wider NHS network. The Innovation Agency has helped with introductions to relevant institutions through their Innovation Scout network and supported our expansion into the Royal Liverpool Hospital and Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital through their match-funded grant scheme."

SBRI

We help the AHSN Network to deliver the NHS England-funded Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthcare funding programme. This operates by setting a particular health care challenge in each round of funding, for businesses to develop innovative solutions. The awards result in fully funded development contracts between the NHS and the awarded company and in the past five years 12 businesses in our region have won a total of £8.2 million.



*Mike Richards
of 3D LifePrints
and Alder Hey
Clinical Director
of Innovation Mr
Iain Hennessey*



EUROPEAN COLLABORATIONS



Members of the Ormskirk-Aughton U3A Group try out a system integrating sensors with mobile phone technology to prevent falls, part of the European funded ENSAFE project

In addition to our ERDF funding for business support, we have delivered against five European Union (EU) funded projects, having secured a further €2.1million over the last four years for roll out of technologies to our residents and partners.

We play an active role in European partnerships as a Core Partner of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health Knowledge and Innovation Community; and as a member of the European Connected Health Alliance. We are also one of 74 reference sites in the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, a network of leading organisations working to advance innovation for active and healthy ageing across Europe.

The EIT partnership gives us access to multi-national partners; funding to implement innovation and to improve health in our region; and funding for SMEs we support.

We have a European programme manager focused on supporting SMEs and public sector partners to access EU funding and identify collaboration partners. In the last two years, this has led to two SMEs each receiving €50,000 from the EIT to fund commercialisation; and two public sector partners each being awarded around €1m to procure innovative technologies - Liverpool City Council, for the implementation of novel assistive technologies in people's homes; and Liverpool Heart and Chest NHS Foundation Trust to develop an innovative remote monitoring service for elderly people with bradycardia.

NATIONAL COLLABORATIONS

We collaborate with the AHSN Network to spread innovation and best practice at greater speed, across the country. This is through events, introductions, the online AHSN Network Atlas of Healthcare Innovations and our shared programmes and national NHS initiatives, some of which are below.

Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear is a member of the National Accelerated Access Collaborative Board, which will select a number of transformative innovations to be rolled out across the NHS. Liz worked on the Accelerated Access Review to secure £39 million for AHSNs to run Innovation Exchanges, to identify and progress a range of innovations including digital, diagnostic and medtech innovations.

In the last five years, several members of our executive team have taken on additional national roles with the AHSN Network. Dr Liz Mear chaired the AHSN Network for 18 months up to September 2017, raising awareness of the work of AHSNs in presentations at numerous national and international meetings and events.

Our Chief Operating Officer and Commercial Director Lorna Green currently chairs the forum of AHSN Commercial Directors. Alan Davies leads on the AHSN Network digital and artificial intelligence workstream, working closely with NHS Digital. Communications Director Caroline Kenyon led on communications for the national Patient Safety Collaborative for two years up to spring 2018.

Clinical Entrepreneurs

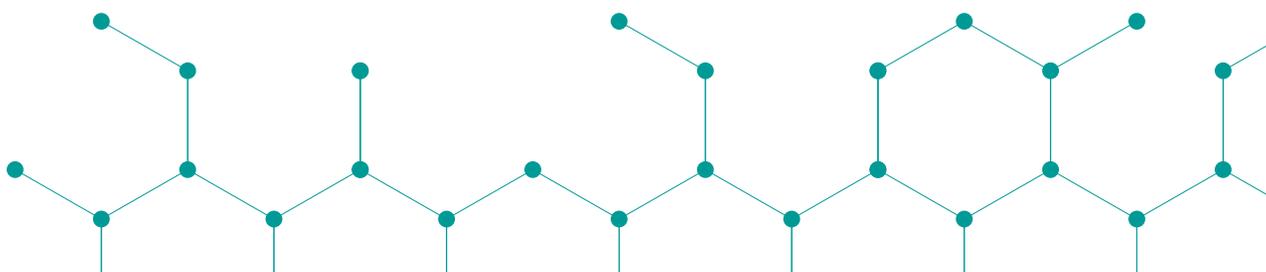
We continue to support entrepreneurial junior doctors and in 2017 we were delighted to welcome a new clinical entrepreneur in our region to the NHS programme, Consultant Immunologist Dr Anthony Rowbottom of Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. We have hosted events, offered mentorship and made introductions for the entrepreneurs with potential collaborators.

King's Fund report

We were one of six AHSNs to commission a report from The King's Fund, 'Adoption and spread of innovation in the NHS', charting the journeys of eight innovations from creation to widespread use and exploring the barriers and the enablers to their success.

Our comprehensive programme to detect atrial fibrillation and prevent strokes was one of the featured case studies.

Author Ben Collins identified key factors as supportive leaders; local freedoms; and 'boots on the ground' with support from AHSNs making the difference with helping adoption of an innovation.





Innovation and Technology Tariff

We have played an active role in promoting the Innovation and Technology Tariff, offering six themes of products to our NHS partners, at zero cost. One of the innovations, Urolift, has been adopted by three trusts in our region, including Aintree University Hospital.

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Urolift has enormous benefits for patients as they are treated as day cases with the procedure carried out with sedation and local anaesthetic, so they go home the same day.

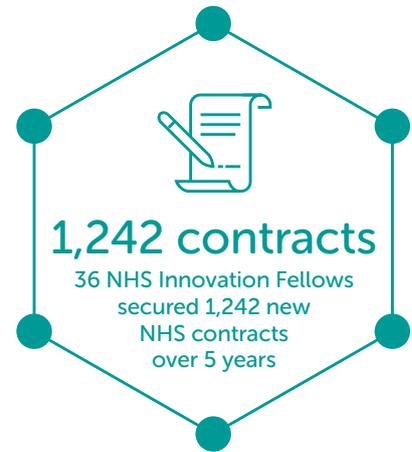
The results have been excellent with high patient satisfaction rates and immediate improvement in quality of life for our patients. Also, it has reduced theatre time and freed up beds, improving efficiency.”

Mr Marc Lucky, Consultant Urologist at Aintree

NHS Innovation Accelerator

In the last year, two new Innovation Fellows from our region secured places on the NHS Innovation Accelerator, to help their products spread. We have supported both Fellows over the last five years; Dave Burrows of Liverpool-based Damibu with their app CATCH - Common Approach To Children's Health; and Liz Ashall-Payne of ORCHA, a health app finder platform provider, based in Daresbury.

The Accelerator, a joint programme between the AHSN Network and NHS England, has helped 36 Fellows to raise a total of £40million external funding; create 116 new jobs; and spread their products to 964 additional NHS providers and commissioners.



The Damibu team are really excited about the possibilities that joining the Accelerator family has to offer.

Being selected for the NHS Innovation Accelerator gives us a springboard to spread our innovations nationally. We intend to make the most of this unique opportunity."

Dave Burrows , Damibu Chief Executive



Just as ORCHA helps match people and patients with the best health apps for their needs, being part of the NIA has helped us to better match our innovation with need in the NHS. Because of this, since joining the NIA we've seen the number of health care organisations and professionals using our services to prescribe the best apps rise dramatically."

Liz Ashall-Payne, ORCHA Chief Executive.



REGIONAL COLLABORATIONS



Speakers at a Northern Health Science Alliance event at Westminster, from left to right: BioNow chairman Sir John Stageman, Acting Chief Executive of Newcastle Hospitals Louise Robson, Innovation Agency Chief Executive Dr Liz Mear, NHSA Chair Professor Ian Greer, NHSA Chief Executive Dr Hakim Yadi, Health minister Lord James O'Shaughnessy, Political commentator Steve Richards

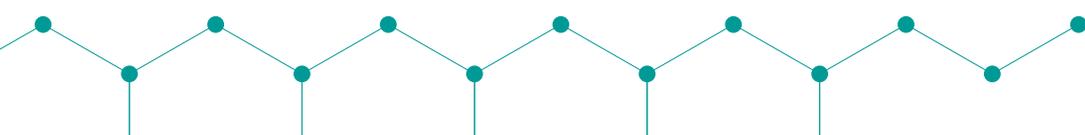
All our work is undertaken in partnership – with the NHS, local authorities, charities, universities, businesses and other organisations, locally and nationally.

Across the North we work closely with the Northern Health Science Alliance on initiatives including Connected Health Cities; a European reference site for Active and Healthy Ageing; and in a new collaboration to establish Digital Health North.

Other networks include North West Procurement Development, who champion efficient and value-based procurement skills and functions. Dr Liz Mear is Chair of the group and the Innovation Agency partly funds their activities and provides communications support for their annual Excellence in Supply Awards.

The Excellence in Supply programme is now moving to a Northern footprint with funding nationally and from three AHSNs.

We support Well North in their work to help ten communities including Halton, Skelmersdale and Sefton and have played an active role in their projects and events.



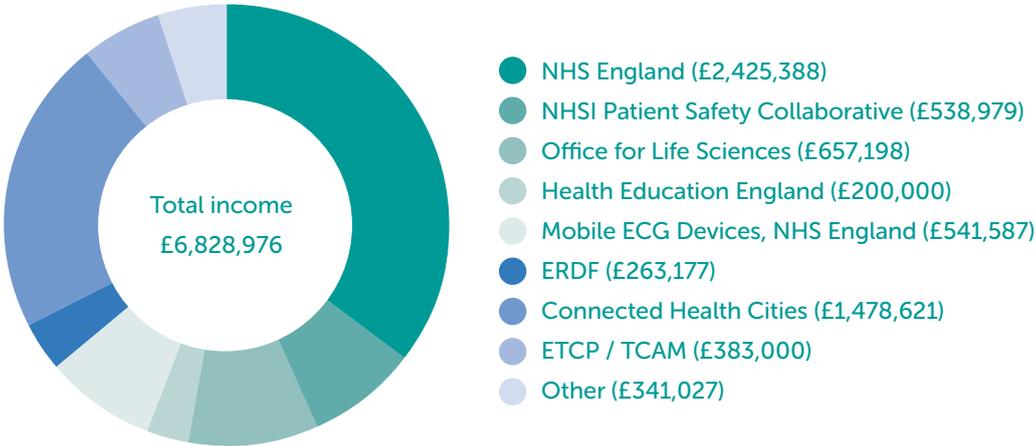
FINANCE REPORT

Our income for the year was circa £7.2 million. This was made up from a variety of sources including NHS England, NHS Improvement, Office for Life Sciences, Department of Health, Health Education England plus a range of grants we have secured from a variety of sources including the EU, Pfizer, Diiachi Sankyo, Health Foundation.

In addition we have secured funding for local partners from a range of sources. For example £1 million was secured for Liverpool City Council to deploy innovative technology at scale and £1 million for one of our local hospital trusts for the use of innovative surgical medtech products.

We have used the income that has been paid to the Innovation Agency for the adoption and spread of innovation across the five goals agreed by our Board: System Transformation, Supporting Health Care Businesses, Digital Innovation, Patient Safety; and Adoption and Spread of Nationally Sourced Innovations. This has included recruiting staff to work within our two Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships.

Innovation Agency income 2017/18



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