



Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber

Transforming Lives Through Innovation

Impact Report 2024-25



Foreword

Over the past year, we have seen a change in government and with it, a new political and fiscal landscape. Policy changes and announcements such as the NHS 10-Year Health Plan, the new Industrial Strategy and related sector plans which will outline strategies for economic growth and sectoral development, continue to shape the environment in which we operate. It is clear that innovation has a vital role to play in the vision the government has for our health service. The upcoming changes to how the NHS is governed and the significant financial constraints it is operating under mean our mission will remain the same and the work we do with our regional healthcare systems will be more important than ever.

Building an NHS that is fit for the future is one of the government's five missions. Its mandate to the NHS set out an ambitious plan to transform healthcare delivery and improve patient care, with an immediate focus on cutting waiting lists and driving productivity, echoed regionally in our Integrated Care Boards' (ICBs) priorities. Health innovation is the engine behind the transformation that is needed, not only because it improves service delivery – it also drives economic growth. But this is not an invention challenge. An NHS fit for the future must focus on adopting innovation that works, everywhere. But even more importantly, it needs to focus on implementation.

Our work over the 2024-25 period aligns with the government's three shifts for healthcare and its mission to drive economic growth. This report highlights some of the key pieces of work we have led this year to help support these priorities. We have continued to work with our health systems, innovators and academia to spread the adoption and implementation of solutions that can help to increase

NHS capacity and improve patient outcomes. Our innovation hub model ([see page 9](#)) allows us to adapt our approaches to effectively meet the needs of our three Integrated Care Systems (ICSs), supporting them in their ambition to drive and scale innovations that help address local priority areas and improve outcomes for local people.

Innovation can transform and relieve the pressure on high-volume care pathways at scale by enabling diagnostics, monitoring, self-management and treatment in other care settings or at home. In South Yorkshire, we are working with partners to deliver a real-world health economics evaluation of a ground-breaking digital therapeutic app. Daylight offers a structured cognitive behavioural therapy programme through a dedicated app, to help patients manage anxiety. This approach aims to improve access to anxiety treatment, reduce waiting times and the use of medication. To date, 1,436 people have signed up, with 884 enrolling and beginning first-line treatment as an alternative to medication ([see page 7](#)).

Foreword

By embracing and implementing digital health innovation at scale, we can build a more efficient, resilient NHS that not only reduces waiting lists and improves access to primary care, but also improves patient outcomes and moves the focus of care from hospitals into communities. Our PocDoc project, focused on preventing cardiovascular disease, has enabled people to access health checks within the community. These screening checks have enabled high-risk groups, who may have otherwise not been picked up by the system, to get their cholesterol levels tested in community settings. ([page 51](#)).

With public sector budgets continuing to be under enormous pressure, our work to drive economic growth in our region is more important than ever. This year we supported 545 companies, including providing our expert input for 55 grant applications. Of these, 10 were successful, leveraging investment of £5.1million into the region ([page 23](#)). Additionally, our Propel@YH digital health accelerator has now completed its sixth year. During that time, it has helped 70 innovators, driven £800k of investment into the local economy and created 52 jobs ([page 27](#)).

All of this positive progress is only made possible through the support and hard work of our staff and stakeholders, and we look forward to continuing to work closely together in the future.

Finally, we would like to say a huge thank you to our outgoing Chair, Professor Will Pope, for his outstanding leadership and dedication in the role since our inception and for all his contributions to the organisation. We are delighted that he will continue to support us as a non-executive director.

Richard Stubbs,
Chief Executive of Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber and
Chair of the Health Innovation Network



Christine Outram MBE,
Chair of Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber

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Empowering local places to improve health outcomes and tackle economic inactivity



Each article in this report includes icons that show how our work aligns with the government's three major strategic shifts to build an NHS fit for the future and drive economic growth.



Analogue
to digital



Hospital to
community



Sickness to
prevention



Economic
growth

Digital solution provides accessible mental health support



Building workforce capability to support digital transformation



Ensuring the voice of patients shapes AI solutions



A rapid test-and-treat flu pathway to ease winter pressures



Polypharmacy programme: getting the balance right



Bringing proven innovation to more patients



Quicker 'Healthy Heart' assessments in the community with PocDoc



Empowering local places to improve health outcomes and tackle economic inactivity



Actively supporting inclusive economic growth





Analogue
to digital



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Economic
growth

Building system capabilities



Celebrating the power of collaborative working



Understanding the challenges of our health and care partners



Using digital technologies to free up clinical time and reduce costs



Supporting innovators to drive economic growth and improve health outcomes



Stimulating growth in the HealthTech and life sciences sector



Turbo-charging digital health innovation



Identifying new innovations for our healthcare system



Using real-world evaluations to accelerate the adoption of innovation



Empowered by Innovation: Women shaping the future of HealthTech



Supporting the import and export of world-leading health innovations



Our Innovation Hubs

Support for innovators



Digital solution provides accessible mental health support

In South Yorkshire, 1,436 people are taking control of their anxiety and boosting their mental well-being, thanks to the pilot of Daylight, a ground-breaking digital therapeutic innovation we have been implementing with partners.

Anxiety is a significant issue for many people. Despite NICE recommendations for psychological interventions as a first line of treatment, many people find it difficult to access services.

Daylight is a digital therapeutic app developed by Big Health that provides a first-line digital treatment for generalised anxiety disorder. The app facilitates access to anxiety treatment in a flexible, digital format, reducing waiting times.

We have been working in

partnership with Big Health, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Primary Care Sheffield and the York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC) to deliver a real-world health economics evaluation of the solution. The evaluation will help demonstrate the impact of implementing Daylight at scale, including its effects on improving patient care outcomes and reducing reliance on medication.

This innovation showcases the power of digital technologies in shifting towards preventative



**Analogue
to digital**



**Hospital to
community**



**Sickness to
prevention**



care, offering early intervention, and reducing pressure on hospital services.

Since Daylight launched in South Yorkshire last September (2024), 1,436 people have signed up with 884 enrolling and beginning first line treatment as an alternative to medication. These figures highlight the potential for digital solutions to

engage patients effectively, provide accessible mental health support and reduce reliance on medication. This innovation showcases the power of digital technologies in shifting towards preventative care, offering early intervention, empowering people to manage anxiety, and reducing pressure on hospital services.

“**Our partnership with Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber through Primary Care Sheffield has been instrumental in helping over 800 patients access evidence-based treatment through Daylight. The early success of this project reflects not just the demand for accessible mental health treatments, but the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change. Together, we’re making a real difference in how anxiety is managed across the region, and we’re excited to see the continued and wider impact as the project grows.**”

Ian Wood, UK Medical Director at Big Health

Spread of the Daylight app in South Yorkshire:

1,436

people have signed up to the app



884

have enrolled to receive treatment



Supporting innovation in our health systems

Our Innovation Hubs are driving real change where it matters most, improving patient care, reducing health inequalities and creating meaningful partnerships.

By taking a unique approach that embeds our teams within local healthcare systems, our hubs are perfectly placed to tackle real system challenges and accelerate the uptake and implementation of the most effective innovations.

In this section we will explore how our Innovation Hubs work with the Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) across our region to gain a deep understanding of their priorities and unmet needs, and facilitate the co-production and adoption of the most appropriate solutions.





Actively supporting inclusive economic growth

Fostering inclusive economic growth is a central part of our strategic mission. Last year, the West Yorkshire Innovation Hub played a pivotal role in securing investment for the region. Notably, we contributed as a co-author to a successful Innovate UK proposal which secured £7.5m for the West Yorkshire area to advance HealthTech innovation. As a result, ten companies have been awarded a total of over £1.8m to develop their innovative medical, diagnostic

or digital health solutions to enhance patient care. One of these companies is MyOpNotes, which has been awarded over £98,000. MyOpNotes is a digital platform that streamlines the writing of operation notes and improves medical coding accuracy. The company was part of the 2023-24 cohort of innovators supported by our digital health accelerator, Propel@YH.

“**The West Yorkshire Innovation Hub has been an invaluable partner in driving healthcare innovation across our region. They have provided vital support to the Innovate UK Launchpad project and HealthTech Cluster, both instrumental aspects in driving forward the region’s HealthTech Strategy. Throughout all these initiatives, they’ve proven themselves to be a reliable and effective point of contact, consistently delivering results that benefit our entire healthcare innovation ecosystem.”**

Dr Stephanie Oliver-Beech, HealthTech Regional Lead,
West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Funding secured for West Yorkshire:

£7.5m
Innovate UK
funding



including
£1.8m
awarded to
ten HealthTech
companies



Economic
growth



Analogue
to digital



Building system capabilities

Developed in response to requests for more opportunities to build connections, collaborations and a shared understanding of research and innovation priorities, our Innovation Hub in South Yorkshire has developed a series of themed Research and Innovation Forums. Held quarterly on behalf of the ICB, to date 275 professionals have attended these events sharing knowledge and expertise to explore new ideas for tackling regional health challenges including diabetes, cardiovascular disease and mental health. 71% of attendees reported having a better understanding of system priorities, while 94% said they made valuable new connections for their work.

Last year, our West Yorkshire Innovation Hub launched the Hive Network, bringing together senior leaders to explore the critical role of research and innovation in improving health and care across the region. In collaboration with the West Yorkshire ICB and the NIHR Yorkshire & Humber Applied Research Collaboration (ARC),

the Hive aims to bring together a diverse range of people from health and care, universities, industry and the voluntary sector to co-create and advance a shared research and innovation vision. The inaugural session sparked new collaborations including a pilot project between the University of Leeds and Leeds and York Partnership to enhance attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) assessment and triage. Find out more on [page 38](#).

Upskilling the digital capability of the workforce is a vital part of our work. The West Yorkshire Innovation Hub developed the Digital Ambassador Programme on behalf of the ICB and in partnership with the West Yorkshire Digital Primary Care Collaborative. To date, 163 professionals have benefitted from this programme, which has been so successful that it is now open to participants from across the North East as well as Yorkshire and the Humber. Find out more on [page 18](#).



**Economic
growth**



**Analogue
to digital**



Celebrating the power of collaborative working

Last November we brought more than 100 leaders and experts from across health and care, research and innovation together for the South Yorkshire Innovation Showcase. The event celebrated the region's achievements, shared best practices, and provided valuable networking opportunities. Most importantly, it served to illustrate the power of collaborative working. We received 75 submissions of innovative projects all supporting the four 'bold ambitions' of the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy. These were showcased in presentations on the day or highlighted in the documentation that accompanied the event. Feedback from the event showed that most attendees came away with a better understanding of innovation and partnerships in South Yorkshire. Specifically, 96% said they better understood local innovative practice, 92% gained insight into regional partnerships, and 83% felt clearer on how this work supports the ICS's bold ambitions.

The role of the hubs is essential in connecting stakeholders across our region and building strategic partnerships, especially when resources in our system are strained. By connecting stakeholders from all sectors across Yorkshire and the Humber, we ensure innovation grants and research projects address the needs of our diverse communities, and address the systems' inequality challenges. One example of this work is the Working Together in Research project, where the South Yorkshire Innovation Hub brought together the ICB, South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, and DiverseCity Development Trust to overcome barriers to inclusion in research. With NHS England funding, we have facilitated grants and paired organisations with researchers from Sheffield Hallam University to develop community-driven solutions.

One beneficiary of this project is Steel City Community Consultancy Ltd, an organisation supporting

underserved communities living in deprived areas of Rotherham. The project aims to gain a better understanding of the impact of menopause on women who are disadvantaged by poverty, language and culture by collecting data from those with lived experience.



Watch this video to find out more about the South Yorkshire Innovation Showcase



Analogue
to digital



Understanding the challenges of our health and care partners

Our West Yorkshire Innovation Hub has worked with colleagues across Wakefield to understand why people living in areas of high deprivation and poverty have a significantly higher demand on urgent and emergency services than those living in more affluent areas. By integrating data analysis, geographic mapping, and public engagement, we were able to uncover fresh perspectives on healthcare access within these communities.

Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach. Only by working as an integrated system, including organisations such as housing, transport and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprises (VCSEs), can we start to tackle the problems people face and our region's inequalities.

Our research has supported the development of a report outlining [seven recommendations](#). These

provide suggestions to enhance healthcare delivery, reduce inequalities, and improve health outcomes for the residents of Wakefield District, especially those in the most deprived populations. The recommendations have now been rolled out in Wakefield, and we are going to monitor their impact. There is also a plan to use this framework across other places in West Yorkshire.

Over the past few years, our South Yorkshire Innovation Hub has supported the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Cancer Alliance in overseeing the delivery of its Cancer Innovation Scheme. To date we have helped distribute £212,000 in funding to innovative projects that can improve care outcomes, accelerate diagnosis and tackle health inequalities.

Helping our ICBs to identify solutions to improve population health is at the core of our hubs'



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**Economic
growth**



**Sickness to
prevention**



**Hospital to
community**

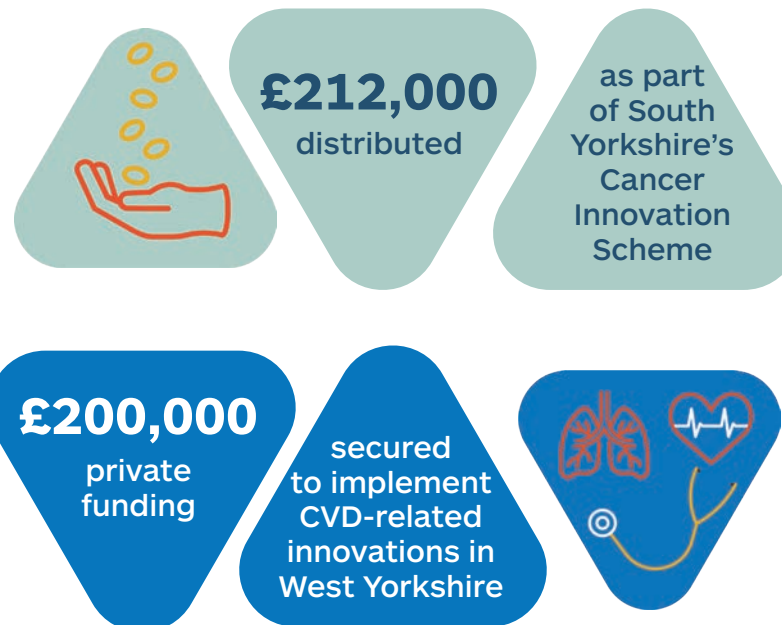


work. A key focus has been tackling some of the most pressing health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease (CVD). We have worked with the West Yorkshire ICB to secure £200,000 of private sector funding to build on our award-winning Healthy Hearts programme. The new initiative is designed to enhance the detection and management of cholesterol and atrial fibrillation. This funding has also enabled the implementation of two pioneering innovations – MyDiagnostick and PocDoc – further strengthening our commitment to improving health outcomes through targeted interventions. See [page 51](#) for more details.

“ Nexus works closely with the Innovation Hub to support our members, maximising the work they are doing, and the impact their research and technologies can have in the region. The access to the Innovation Hub team is invaluable, allowing us to recognise areas of need in the system, and work to identify and support technologies that align with these challenges.”

**Nathan Berry, Head of Collaboration,
Nexus at the University of Leeds**

Funding innovation through our Hubs





Tackling health inequalities

Health inequalities affect communities across the UK, leading to unfair and avoidable differences in health outcomes. System-wide changes are needed to address these challenges, and everyone has a part to play in addressing them. Small actions, from promoting healthy workplaces to ensuring services reach those most in need, all contribute to reducing inequalities and improving health for all.

We created a series of webinars, 'Learn, Connect, Empower', to foster a culture of innovation within the healthcare workforce across West Yorkshire. The aim was to inspire and equip attendees to embrace and drive forward innovation while tackling health inequalities, recognising that meaningful change requires a

collective effort and must be accessible to everyone within the partnership.

The series successfully delivered on its objectives, engaging 177 participants over four sessions. It provided practical insights into health inequalities and innovation, offering delegates the knowledge and tools to implement systematic change within their workplaces. Through expert presentations, real-life case studies, and interactive learning, the sessions stimulated collaboration among healthcare professionals, system leaders, and innovators. Additionally, the initiative generated positive feedback and interest in replicating the model in other parts of the country.





Innovation, Research and Improvement System

Building connections: a collaborative community for innovation

We have been supporting the Innovation, Research and Improvement System (IRIS) team at Humber & North Yorkshire ICB to develop a dynamic Innovation Community of Practice. This initiative creates a dedicated place where around 100 professionals from across the health and care system connect and share experiences, supporting them to drive innovation within their own roles and organisations.

The community was set up to establish a robust peer support network for professionals involved at every stage of the innovation pipeline. It brings together people from across the system who would not typically meet, facilitating the exchange of best practice and shared learning. It is made up of members from NHS trusts, local authorities, Innovate UK, academia, and other key stakeholders. The diversity of its members has been crucial in breaking down silos and driving

different approaches to problem-solving.

Throughout the year, our Innovation Community of Practice has hosted seven impactful and collaborative meetings including a highly successful face-to-face event. Our sessions have focused on helping partners to embrace and drive innovation within their organisations, with members sharing how they have developed supportive governance, innovation-focused training, and practical ways to apply theory and frameworks.

The community has been incredibly well received by its members, with sessions receiving average 'usefulness' ratings of 4.48/5 and a 4.13/5 likelihood of sparking follow-up conversations. Members have described the community as a "great opportunity to connect and learn from each other" and highlighted its role in "meeting new people and potential stakeholders for future projects."





Using digital technologies to free up clinical time and reduce costs

A pilot project that we have initiated with IRIS at Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust has shown that digital personalised videos sent to patients after surgery could reduce post-operative follow-up appointments by 67%, release 360 additional appointments per year, and achieve a 60% increase in cost efficiency. These potential benefits are based on findings from an evaluation of one clinic performing 450 knee arthroscopic procedures annually.

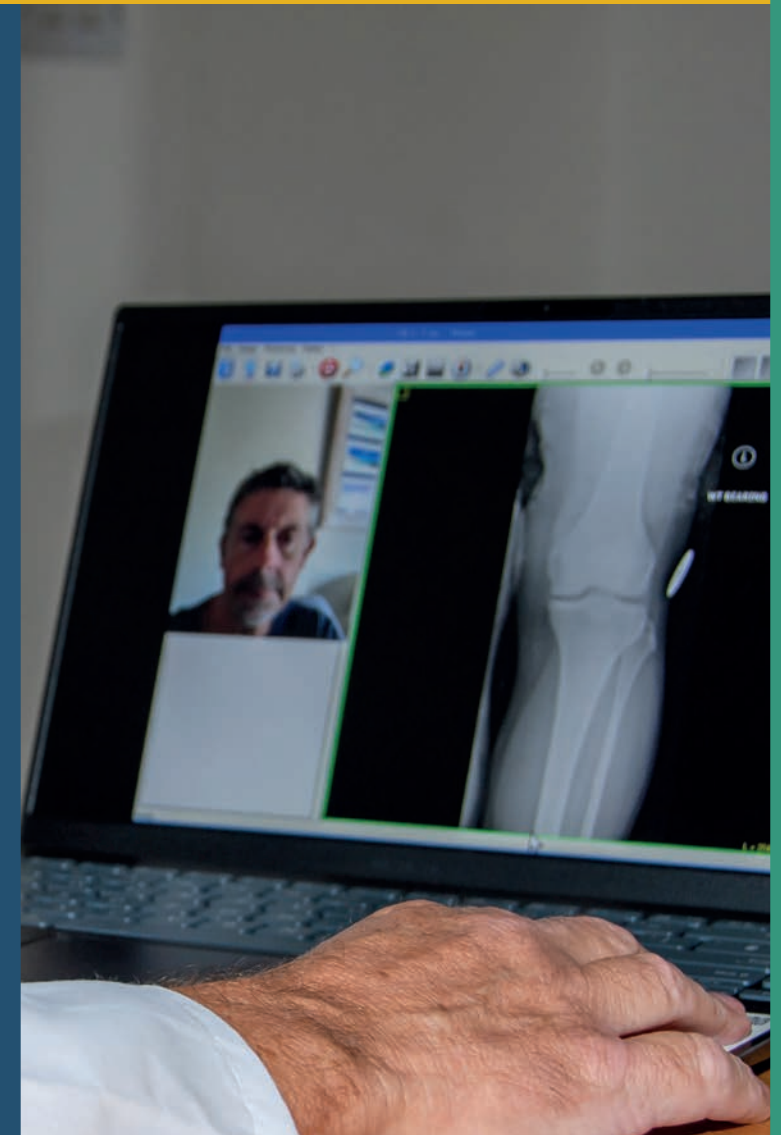
The health economics evaluation, conducted in collaboration with York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC), also showed cost savings per patient of £250, and an annual saving of £112,500, based on 450 patients per year.

The innovation was developed by a specialist knee surgeon at the Trust and provides patients with a multimedia report including a personalised video, FAQ videos, and annotated surgical images on the same day following surgery, with the intention of reducing

the need for follow-up appointments and increasing patient satisfaction and experience.

We have created a data metrics framework, shared with all adopting sites, to support data collection and a future evaluation, helping to build evidence for the digital personalised videos approach across different sites and clinical specialities. We have also developed an adoption and spread toolkit including a business case, value proposition, and detailed implementation guidance to support further spread of the innovation. All these resources are available online to help other trusts adopt this solution. We continue to work with IRIS to expand its adoption across our region and nationally.

The approach has been nationally recognised, winning the 'Supporting Elective Recovery through Digital' category at the HSJ Digital Awards for 2024.



**Analogue
to digital**



**Sickness to
prevention**



Building workforce capability to support digital transformation

163 healthcare staff have developed their ability to support digital transformation by taking part in our Digital Ambassadors Programme. The nine-week course is designed to strengthen the digital innovation, transformation, and improvement skills of the workforce so that they can implement digital innovation in their roles and create more efficient ways of working.

Our Digital Ambassadors Programme has been successfully delivered to four separate cohorts across our region with 145 participants completing the training since the programme started in 2023. Due to its success, two further cohorts totalling 18 participants from the North East and North Cumbria

region also completed the programme between February and April 2025.

The course is open to individuals working within primary, secondary, social, and community care and is aligned with the government's analogue to digital strategic shift. The



**Analogue
to digital**



programme contributes to a more efficient, innovative, and responsive health and care system.

Before and after programme self-assessments were used to evaluate individuals' progress, revealing a significant improvement in participants' understanding of digital innovation, confidence in leading digital transformation, and ability to share knowledge with colleagues. Feedback showed that:

- 89% of participants felt their awareness, skills, and confidence had increased after completing the programme.
- 35.5% reported increased confidence in identifying barriers to change, with 96.8% feeling confident by the end of the programme.

22.6% reported increased confidence in fostering a culture of innovation, with 79% reporting

overall confidence in applying their learning. These insights reinforce the programme's impact in fostering a digitally empowered workforce capable of driving meaningful change within health and social care environments.

Beyond the Digital Ambassadors Programme, the Workforce Challenge Hub, a joint venture between us and NHS England, continues to support transformation across workforce development, digital innovation, and service improvement. By working collaboratively with partners, we are driving initiatives that address workforce challenges and enhance patient care. Our work covers multiple areas, ensuring that health and care professionals are equipped to navigate change and implement sustainable solutions in an evolving landscape.



I was asked to serve as a facilitator for the Digital Ambassadors Programme in 2023. The programme provides a fantastic opportunity for inclusive engagement, allowing us to hear more about the challenges of digital from our frontline staff and to define digital capabilities that make life easier for them.

This year, while speaking at a conference, I was approached by a member of the audience who remembered my workshop. They told me they'd been inspired to take the leap into digital transformation as a result of this workshop. Digital transformation is no longer driven solely from the IT room but from every NHS colleague across all care settings."

Natalie Schofield,
Head of Chief Digital Information
Programmes, West Yorkshire ICB

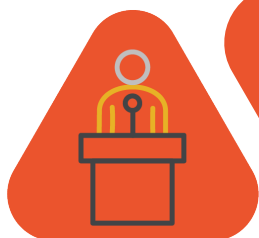


Our Adoption and Improvement service

We work with health and care systems to accelerate their workforce ambitions through the lens of innovation. As part of our Adoption and Improvement service, we deliver innovative projects in partnership with providers that improve the workforce experience in line with the aims of NHS England's Long Term Workforce Plan. Our extensive experience in workforce innovation and improvement including shared staff banks, skill mix, role redesign and pathway transformation means we can flex our offering to meet your needs.

If you would like to discuss how innovation can support your workforce needs, get in touch with our team info@healthinnovationyh.com

As a result of completing our Digital Ambassadors Programme:



89%
of
participants

felt their
awareness,
skills, and
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increased



79%
reported

overall
confidence in
applying their
learning



Ensuring the voice of patients shapes AI solutions

Our work to establish the National Pathology Imaging Co-operative's Patient and Public Advisory Group is empowering patients to actively shape how artificial intelligence is used to improve disease diagnosis.

The National Pathology Imaging Co-operative (NPIC) is a unique collaboration between the NHS, academia, and industry, which has been awarded over £35m of government and private sector funding to deploy digital pathology across hospitals in England.

Based at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, NPIC is a major health and life science asset for our region, employing over 60 staff. It develops and researches artificial intelligence (AI) tools to help improve pathology services and patient outcomes. The Co-operative aims to enable a more inclusive and informed approach that

safeguards people's rights, minimises bias and ensures the services it provides are widely and equally effective and accessible.

We were commissioned to lead NPIC's patient engagement strategy and have established and chair the Patient and Public Advisory Group (PPAG), which regularly reviews and advises on various aspects of the programme and research activities. Since 2022, we have hosted and supported 22 PPAG meetings, attended by NPIC's senior leadership team. The group plays a crucial role in ensuring that patient perspectives are integrated into



**Analogue
to digital**



NPIC's plans, placing the patient voice at the heart of service delivery. The PPAG's work in Yorkshire has helped to co-design digital pathology services that are now implemented in eight hospitals, and used by 150 pathologists and more than 350 system users.

In July 2024, we played a central role in developing a [paper](#), drawing on the insights gathered from establishing and leading the Patient and Public Advisory Group (PPAG) to illustrate how our work is shaping a patient-centred approach to diagnosing cancers more quickly and reliably. The impact of this work is reflected in recent advancements within the

national paediatric tumour network, with Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital becoming the first tertiary paediatric cancer centre outside Yorkshire to join NPIC.

Beyond engagement, we provide independent oversight and have established a fair, balanced and inclusive meeting structure where all voices are not just heard, but genuinely valued. We collaborate with the Oxford Centre for Ethics and Humanities, leading academics and industry partners such as Leica, HeteroGenius and Panakeia Technologies to lead and uphold the highest standards of public interest.

“ The Public and Patient Advisory Group have been so important to our NPIC programme. They give us guidance on what patients and the public would expect and want from digital transformation in the NHS, help shape our approach to patient data, and engage with researchers as they plan and design their work in artificial intelligence and cancer. Input from the PPAG is one of the most important parts of how we run the programme and we're very grateful to the team for their efforts.”

Prof Darren Treanor,
Director, National Pathology Imaging Co-operative



Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement service

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) is an essential part of the introduction of any new health innovation and we are committed to helping you ensure that they play an active role in shaping your work. As part of our PPIE service, we act as an independent broker, bringing together diverse perspectives from patients, families, carers, clinicians, and commissioners.

If you would like us to help you with your PPIE projects, get in touch with our team

info@healthinnovationyh.com



Supporting innovators to drive economic growth and improve health outcomes

The 545 HealthTech firms we supported over the last year have reported that we contributed to them securing £28.6m of investment, the creation of 25 jobs and the safeguarding of a further 32 jobs.

We engage with hundreds of companies each year. Our bespoke support to innovators includes evidence generation, market access, adoption strategy, evaluation and access to finance.

Over the last 12 months, we have provided over 7,000 hours of support to companies. The first point of contact for most of these innovators is through our Innovation Surgeries, which enable us to ensure that innovators are provided with rounded support from colleagues

across the organisation, as well as in partner NHS organisations where required.

Through our established company triage and engagement process, we meet with innovators to assess their innovation, understand its current stage of development and where it may fit within an NHS pathway. We provide advice, signposting and assistance with developing an understanding of the health and care system.

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Support for innovators



Economic
growth



The support that we have provided this year has led to ten successful grant funding applications. Furthermore, companies who have received support through our programmes reported having secured a combined investment of £28.6m in our annual economic growth survey, demonstrating the value of our company support to regional economic growth.

Across all our company support, we seek to identify those innovators who have solutions that can address local and national areas of need. Our thorough assessment and triage of innovations feeds into our horizon scanning programme, ensuring that we provide relevant information to NHS stakeholders who request information on solutions that meet their needs.

Our support for health innovators:



£28.6m

of
investment
secured with
our support



545
companies

supported
in 2024-25



7,000
hours

of support
provided



Stimulating growth in the HealthTech and life sciences sector

Ten companies were successful in their applications for grant funding as a result of our support this year, resulting in £5.1m investment being brought into the region.

We work with innovators who require funding for product development or clinical evidence generation to help them identify grant funding opportunities which are suitable for the business's stage of growth and the innovation's stage of development.

Our support ranges from offering advice to innovators on the structure of grant applications to a review service providing detailed feedback on drafts. We also assist innovators with identifying clinical partners for grant applications and with identifying evaluators, health economists and other stakeholders who could strengthen their project team.

This year we supported 55 grant applications to the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Innovate UK, SBRI (Small Business Research Initiative) and other regional and national funders. Of these, 10 were successful, leveraging a total of £5.1million in grant funding.

Highlights of successful applications this year include:

- Three companies on this year's Propel@YH digital health accelerator were successful in their applications to receive £30,000 each from the Centre for Process Innovation's MedTech Accelerator fund.



**Economic
growth**



- Tiny Medical Apps were successful in their application to phase 2 of SBRI Healthcare's child health call, receiving £800,000 to further develop their monitoring solution for children with epilepsy.
- Maxwell Health was successful in their application to phase one of SBRI Healthcare's Antimicrobial Resistance fund.

We advised on 35 applications to SBRI Healthcare's competitions this year, with a focus on innovations which address areas of need in child health, anti-microbial resistance, urgent care, mental health, and women's health. Of the 35 SBRI applications that we advised on, five were successful in receiving grant funding. Given the unprecedented number of applications to SBRI this year, this represents a good rate of success and demonstrates the benefit companies get from involving us in their applications. We have also supported a range of companies with applications to the Centre for Process Innovation's MedTech Accelerator and to the NIHR's i4i Product Development Awards.

In addition to supporting innovators with grant applications, we have also worked with SBRI Healthcare and the NIHR to assist with the shaping of funding calls.

Our support for health innovators:





Turbo-charging digital health innovation

Nine Leeds-based HealthTech companies and another 10 UK innovators gained £11.4m of investment during their participation in Propel@YH, which also saw us invest £240,000 directly into the local economy.

Propel@YH is our digital health accelerator providing companies developing digital health solutions with a six-month course of bespoke support and content aimed at enabling accelerated company growth and adoption. The programme also helps to ensure that our region’s population can benefit from new ideas and technology first.

The programme is supported by our commission from the Office for Life Sciences and this year we won additional funding for Propel@YH from our long-term partners, Leeds City Council and the Shared Prosperity Fund. This investment enabled us to

recruit an additional nine Leeds-based HealthTech startups and scaleups to join the cohort. Thanks to this funding, we have been able to support a total of 19 HealthTech innovators in 2024-25.

The innovators on the programme this year were:

- **Aire Innovate** – AireConsult is a digital innovation powered by contactless vital sign observations delivering enhanced patient care through online consultations.
- **MiiCare** – Transforming care services across the country by keeping older adults healthier at home.



Support for innovators



Analogue
to digital



Economic
growth



Sickness to
prevention



- **Healthlinx** – One platform and one database, offering multiple healthcare solutions for patients and practitioners.
- **MED Frontier** – Transforming medical diagnostics with AI: enhancing clinical decision speed and accuracy and optimising patient care.
- **Fix your Future** – Empowering domestic abuse survivors with innovative VR therapy and self-help programmes for healing.
- **Asclepius MedTech** – Helping hospitals transform surgical pre-operative assessments to drive hospital efficiencies and improve patient outcomes.
- **Ibox Healthcare** – An acute health platform for real-time actionable insights and data driven decision making.
- **PD2X** – Providing tailored software and flexible, end-to-end data solutions.
- **Accessercise** – Fitness mobile application designed for people with impairments intended to change the way the disabled community lives active lifestyles.
- **Agenly AI** – Transforming healthcare efficiency with multilingual AI employees that automate complex workflows and enhance patient engagement.
- **Carly Walters Coaching (NOVA)** – N.O.V.A revolutionises hormonal and mental health management for neurodivergent women with AI-driven, personalised support.
- **Get into Gear** – The app helps people to improve their productivity and mental health.
- **ASAP Analgesia** – Provides support to pre/post operative patients who require timely, strong oral pain relief.
- **My Amber** – The first wearable treatment device for endometriosis.
- **OSHI** – OSHI is a digital platform that connects hospital patients with community-based support.
- **QDR Health** – Empowering heart failure management with predictive technology.
- **Strolll** – A revolutionary all-in-one digital therapeutic software solution.
- **Third Age Therapeutics** – A clinically-proven programme to

combat loneliness and enable older adults to live life to the full.

- **Jam Up** – Empowering autistic children with everyday tasks.

Our Partners

Our delivery partners use their specialist expertise to support the innovators with their journey into the NHS.

We also work closely with national and local government organisations including:

- The Department of Business and Trade
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- Leeds City Council.

“
**Absolutely astounding!
Sensational opportunities flowing
from the master-classes that
have led to an early-stage pilot
project with a regional NHS trust.
Couldn't recommend more highly.
Get yourself involved!”**

James Halls, Founder, OSHI



This year, we funded six months of support from Nexus at the University of Leeds for all 19 innovators and funded seven SMEs for innovation support via the Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust's Innovation Pop Up.

Supporting and working in partnership with our local NHS system has also been enhanced through collaboration with our local Integrated Care Boards via our Innovation Hubs and the Humber and North Yorkshire Innovation, Research and Improvement System (IRIS) initiative.

“ The first three months at Propel@YH have been incredibly valuable. As a digital health entrepreneur, I've gained clear, practical insights into starting a business in Yorkshire, bringing together bits of information I previously had in a much more structured way. Propel@YH has been a great guide through the healthcare ecosystem, which I truly appreciate.”

Anonymous Propel@YH participant

To find out more about our partners and the programme please visit [our website](#).

Propel@YH Boot Camp

We delivered two week-long boot camps supporting 12 international health innovators in 2024-25. One for Canadian and one for Nordic SMEs. Find out more about this in our section on supporting international innovators on [page 37](#).

Accessercise: Promoting health equality for the disabled population



Accessercise aims to enhance accessibility for individuals with physical disabilities by offering tailored workouts and resources. The app promotes overall health and well-being, helping to reduce the strain on NHS services associated with sedentary lifestyle-related health issues.

The company participated in the 2024 Propel@YH programme. To further accelerate the innovation, Propel@YH funded a six-month period of occupancy at the Nexus incubator in Leeds, providing a physical base and tailored support. Additionally, the programme has funded a year of support through the Leeds Teaching Hospital Trust's Innovation Pop Up to aid Accessercise in clinical engagement and integration into the NHS.

Accessercise is also making significant strides in addressing health inequalities for the disabled population, fostering a more inclusive and healthier community. The company's ambitions extend beyond the UK, and they have initiated an international strategy to make their platform accessible worldwide.

To find out more about other companies we have supported, please visit the 'Success Stories' section on [our website](#).



“

We have really enjoyed supporting Propel@YH again and all the wonderful innovators. They were all so engaged and filled with the desire to get compliant and get their innovation into the NHS and the hands of those that need it. We are super privileged to be part of this fantastic initiative, providing education and raising awareness as well as providing our expert support.”

Rebecca Wilson, Founder,
DigiSafe (a Propel@YH partner)

Propel@YH in 2024-25:



19
companies
participated

£11.4m

of
investment
raised
during their
participation



£240,000
invested

directly
into the local
economy



Identifying new innovations for our healthcare system

In 2024-25, we delivered 28 horizon scans, showcasing 350 high-impact, proven innovations that support NHS priorities and address specific healthcare challenges for the three Integrated Care Systems in our region.

Each year, we provide bespoke horizon scanning and demand signalling activities for NHS partners across the region. This work enables our team to identify, validate, and showcase high-impact innovations.

By leveraging our comprehensive innovation pipeline and that of the wider Health Innovation Network, we develop targeted horizon scan outputs and consolidate proven innovations to address specific healthcare challenges. This approach ensures that NHS partners

have access to evidence-based, scalable solutions that can drive meaningful change.

These requests come from a range of stakeholders and organisations and support strategic planning, building the case for change, procurement processes, market assessments, due diligence, and funding opportunities, and ensure that innovations are implemented effectively and sustainably within the healthcare system.



Support for innovators



Economic growth



Analogue to digital



Our approach this year has focused on delivering high-impact horizon scans that provide real value to NHS stakeholders. We take a collaborative approach with NHS partners – from identifying a problem to conducting a horizon scan, facilitating workshops, and hosting innovation showcases – ultimately aiming to drive projects, pilots, or meaningful change.

Our horizon scanning and demand signalling activity in 2024-25 included:

- 28 horizon scans produced
- Over 350 innovations showcased
- All three of our ICBs have benefitted from horizon scans

- Delivered scans for 20 different teams or individuals including our Cancer Alliances, many of our Acute Trusts, NHS Providers, ICBs and NHS England Regional Teams.

Themes have been wide-ranging and varied but some examples include:

- Workforce solutions
- Drone technology – transporting pathology samples
- New hospital build support – wayfinding and digital dictation insights
- Ward hydration aids.

By fostering collaboration across healthcare, industry, and research, we aim to drive solutions that improve patient outcomes, enhance system efficiencies and align with NHS strategic priorities.



The Cancer Alliance works with Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber to identify emerging innovations aligned to cancer pathway priorities. They listen closely to the brief and embark on a horizon scan for new innovations to translate into clinical practice.”

**Helen Ryan,
Innovations Programme
Manager at West Yorkshire and
Harrogate Cancer Alliance**



West Yorkshire Cancer Alliance horizon scan

An example of this work in West Yorkshire is the Horizon Scan of 'Top 20' Cancer Innovations, conducted to support the West Yorkshire Cancer Alliance Innovation Funding Programme. By identifying and evaluating the most promising cancer-related innovations, we helped inform funding decisions and strategic priorities.

Following the horizon scan, inclusion at an Innovation Review Panel, and conclusion of the funding call, Careology (a digital cancer support platform) successfully secured funding to advance a project aimed at enhancing cancer patient support across West Yorkshire.

Implemented in March 2025, patients at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust will be the first in the North to be offered this pioneering new digital innovation, connecting patients to their healthcare team. The trust will share evaluation data as the implementation progresses.

This example demonstrates how structured horizon scanning, demand signalling, and collaboration can directly enable innovation adoption, ensuring that cutting-edge solutions reach the patients who need them most.





Using real-world evaluations to accelerate the adoption of innovation

We have supported six companies with real-world evaluations to help them assess the effectiveness of their innovations and build their evidence-base for adoption, so that their solutions can be spread more easily across the NHS.

Our real-world evaluation projects help to accelerate the adoption of innovative healthcare technologies by collaborating with innovators and NHS organisations to carry out independent evaluations of new healthcare technologies in a real-world setting. This supports the spread of proven, evidence-based solutions which will improve health outcomes in the NHS.

Real-world evaluations are conducted to ensure that innovations are clinically effective when trialled by patients,

and to understand the cost-effectiveness of a solution. Our work helps innovators to build their value proposition and also contributes to the economic growth of the region.

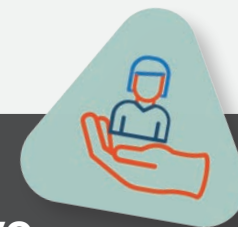
By bridging the gap between innovation and NHS adoption, our real-world evidence programme plays a crucial role in improving healthcare delivery and outcomes in the Yorkshire and Humber region.



Sickness to prevention



Economic growth



Reducing postoperative infections with Steriwave

Postoperative infections are a major problem for hospitals, harming patients and incurring significant care costs to the NHS.

Steriwave is a new alternative to antibiotics. It uses red light to kill germs in the nose before surgery, preventing infections without contributing to antibiotic resistance. Mid Yorkshire Teaching NHS Trust successfully trialled Steriwave for hip and knee surgery patients and has now adopted it as standard care.

We supported an independent economic evaluation of the Steriwave pilot, which was undertaken by York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC), the results showed:

- Potential savings of £86,650 per 1,000 hip surgery patients.
- Potential savings of £84,430 per 1,000 knee surgery patients.
- Overall potential savings of £38,180 per 1,000 patients.



Empowered by Innovation: Women shaping the future of HealthTech

Despite making significant contributions to the sector, women-led start-ups receive less than 2% of health-focused venture capital funding.* To drive meaningful change, we convened over 50 key stakeholders across healthcare, academia and industry to launch a conversation that has now evolved into sustained action.

Women continue to face systemic barriers in health technology and innovation, particularly in securing funding, accessing mentorship, and overcoming gender biases. Addressing these disparities is not just about equality – it is about unlocking the full

potential of innovation in healthcare.

Our event brought together innovators, investors and healthcare leaders to explore solutions, share best practices, and establish concrete steps to better support women

*Source: [UK Business Angels Association, Dec 2024](#)





in health innovation and technology. One of the most significant outcomes of this initiative has been the formation of Women in Health Innovation and Technology (WHIT) network – our first formal network dedicated to supporting and advocating for women in this space. WHIT will serve as a platform for peer support, mentorship, and collaboration, ensuring that the momentum generated by our opening event continues to drive lasting change.

Our [post-event report](#) outlines central findings and system-level recommendations. This publication marks the beginning of our long-term commitment to shaping policy, influencing investment decisions, and strengthening partnerships to create a more equitable HealthTech innovation ecosystem. Through WHIT, we will continue to advocate for structural change, working with investors, policymakers, and industry leaders to ensure women in health innovation and technology not only enter this sector, but lead it.

We're committed to driving equality by fostering collaboration and amplifying women's voices to ensure that they have the same opportunities to lead, innovate, and shape the future of healthcare.



Watch this video to find out more about our 'Empowered by innovation: Women shaping the future of HealthTech' event.



Supporting the import and export of world-leading health innovations

So far 18 international companies have launched their innovations into the UK market, creating 49 jobs and driving £8.6m into the region as a result of participating in our Propel@YH international boot camps.

Our impact and activities with health innovators reach beyond our region, and our international work exemplifies this.

We recognise the positive impact which innovators from overseas can have on patients, the health and care system, and our regional economy. This drives our work with overseas territories, working alongside trade organisations and governmental departments to bring cutting-edge innovations to our region

and support their entry into the UK market right here in Yorkshire.

Similarly, we recognise the vast pipeline of innovations we have in the UK and their potential for growth and positive impact on patients and health systems overseas. We regularly work on export programmes designed to spread system and patient impact further afield as well as driving economic growth in the UK.



Support for innovators



**Sickness to
prevention**



**Economic
growth**



**Analogue
to digital**



Opening doors for innovators from overseas

Our flagship international offer, the Propel@YH Boot Camp, champions high-value innovation and supports entry into the UK healthcare market. It provides innovators with expert masterclasses, 1-2-1 coaching and support, and access to a vast network of supporting partners and NHS stakeholders in our region. During 2024, we held two Boot Camps and supported 12 international innovators from the Nordic region and Canada.

Our 2024 Nordic boot camp is the second time we've worked in partnership with Norway HealthTech. Since the programme, four of the innovators have set up a business in the UK, nine jobs have been created, and £2.8m of investment has been raised and brought into the region. One company, Peili Vision, has established a base within the University of Leeds' Nexus building, hired a UK manager, and secured a contract to provide its Children's ADHD digital solution to all the schools in Leeds.



Boot Camp helps Nordic company to expand into the UK

Peili Vision is a software company specialising in neurological assessment tools. Its product EFSim is a web-based simulation game that assesses the executive function skills of 8-13-year-olds linked to ADHD.

The company joined eight small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as part of our fifth international Propel@YH Boot Camp which seeks to bring the best health innovations from around the world into the UK, so that the Yorkshire and Humber region can be the first to benefit from them.

Peili Vision has now opened an office in Leeds, in the very same Nexus building where Propel@YH was delivered. The company has received Launchpad funding for West Yorkshire and has started school pilots in Leeds. Currently, they are in discussions with various contacts within the region, including the Integrated Care Boards, with the ambition to broaden their services for child and adolescent mental health.



Exporting high-value UK innovations

In partnership with the Nordic Proof Network, we established a first of its kind export programme designed to create a seamless pathway for UK HealthTech SMEs to export their innovations into the Nordics and engage with the Nordic health ecosystem.

Following a series of online briefing and promotion sessions, we identified 34 UK innovators eager to engage with the Nordic region. These innovators are now benefitting from market insight and testing support and are paving the way for promising delivery projects between the Nordics and the UK innovators.

This kind of support is part of our mission to bolster the spread of innovation and drive economic growth in the UK HealthTech sector. The Nordic market offers UK innovators access to a thriving ecosystem which feels familiar to the UK and provides a springboard for those who have ambitions to grow into a wider European market.

As a result of these high impact outcomes, our relationship with overseas territories such as the Nordics continue to flourish. We have been commissioned to deliver another Propel@YH Boot Camp for Nordic innovators and another Nordic export programme for UK innovators in 2025. These programmes, along with our other international work planned for 2025, will continue to drive innovation and economic growth in Yorkshire and the Humber, improve patient outcomes for our region's citizens, and leverage health system efficiencies on an international scale.



Our international innovator support service

We work with UK innovators to export their products into global health markets, as well as with international companies to import their solutions to our region. This actively contributes to the region's economy and further develops the HealthTech and life sciences industry.

We offer the following support services to innovators:

- Identifying and attending trade missions and trade shows
- Liaising with buyers and distributors
- Identifying priority target territories
- Refining value propositions and business cases
- Market opportunity and competitor analysis
- Procurement advice and support
- Real world evaluation and health economic analysis
- Funding and investment advice and support.

Contact our team if you would like us to help you with the export or import of your health innovation
info@healthinnovationyh.com



A rapid test-and-treat flu pathway to ease winter pressures

25.4% of patients avoided being prescribed unnecessary antibiotics in a ‘test and treat’ influenza community pathway we have piloted across 21 sites in Yorkshire. This pilot research has been conducted as a collaborative working agreement between ourselves, Roche Diagnostics Ltd and Roche Products Ltd.

Flu-related illnesses can occupy approximately 5,400 hospital beds daily and consume over 100,000 [bed days in a single month](#). This burden is highest in colder months when influenza is more prevalent, making it a major contributor to NHS winter pressures.

Distinguishing between influenza, COVID-19, and chest infections can

be challenging without [additional testing](#). Flu diagnosis often relies on lab-based throat swabs, but delayed results can prevent timely antiviral treatment. While waiting, patients may receive [unnecessary antibiotics](#), contributing to antimicrobial resistance. Diagnosis delays also hinder infection control in hospitals and care homes, limiting [timely isolation measures](#)



**Hospital to
community**



**Sickness to
prevention**



and hindering patient flow, for instance from hospital back to care homes.

We secured funding from Roche Diagnostics and Roche Products to implement a ‘test and treat’ flu community pathway pilot and provided project management for the delivery of the project as well as developing the necessary data sharing agreements and evaluation methodology.

The evaluation found that the rapid diagnostic test altered prescribing decisions in 21 of the 59 cases, with 6 out of the 9 cases (66.7%) that tested positive for flu being prescribed antivirals, and zero patients attending the emergency department within 30 days due to flu symptoms. The results are encouraging, suggesting an increased number of people received antiviral treatment compared to values [previously reported](#) in the literature, which can average 19% and rise to 35% of cases, when there is access to testing. The outcomes also suggest the pathways could avoid hospitalisations.

We provided qualitative data collection and analysis expertise via an anonymous survey and structured interviews, to capture the experiences of the workforce

across all implementation sites. This identified several positive themes including:

- 100% of surveyed staff indicated the benefit of having the test, with 78% rating its usefulness as 5 out of 5.
- 61% of responses were positive as to whether it helped guide the prescribing decision, and 66% said it increased the patient’s confidence in the decision.
- 72% of responses were positive that it prevented unnecessary patient isolation.

This initiative aimed to determine whether fast, community-based diagnosis and treatment pathways that incorporated a rapid point of care test could help health care professionals make informed clinical decisions and provide appropriate treatment, potentially reducing deterioration and easing pressure on the health and care system.

Together with NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, we forged a dynamic multi-organisational team that combined resources and expertise



For those patients who are vulnerable, it just means that we can nip it in the bud sooner rather than later and avoid any unnecessary secondary care admissions.”

“It helps the staff to encourage the person to isolate as well. They might think, ‘oh, I don’t really want to ask them to stay in the room, they’re all right.’ But actually, if they can see a result straight away [it takes away the uncertainty].”

Quotes from healthcare staff involved in the pilot



to accelerate project delivery. This included West Yorkshire community services, regional infection prevention and control (IPC) teams, and implementation sites including South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SWYPFT), the Mount at Leeds & York Health and Care Partnership, Recovery Hubs and alliance beds at Leeds Community Healthcare, and the GP practices of Oaklands Health Centre and Slaithwaite Health Centre. York Health Economics Consortium (YHEC) and Health Call Solutions were also commissioned to provide independent evaluation and digital technology solutions respectively.

This project was in direct alignment with last year's report from Prof Lord Darzi which highlighted the benefits that a tilt towards technology and a shift towards more proactive care in the community could unlock productivity within the NHS. Focusing on detecting the disease early and in the community to reduce the burden of illness and mitigate the impact on hospitals also matches two of three shifts expressed by the UK Health Secretary Wes Streeting, for a move towards preventative care and a shift in healthcare delivery to the community. These positive outcomes and lessons learned are driving the spread of the flu 'test and treat' pathway. By presenting our findings at key events, we have generated interest from NHS ICBs and UK Health Security Agency (HSA) representatives, paving the way for wider adoption.





Polypharmacy programme: getting the balance right

1,500 primary care clinicians have been supported by our polypharmacy programme leading to a reduction in the amount of inappropriate medication prescribed to patients.

The Health Innovation Network's national Polypharmacy Programme aims to support local systems and primary care networks (PCNs) to identify patients with problematic polypharmacy through Structured Medication Reviews (SMRs). SMRs are comprehensive reviews of a patient's medication, considering all aspects of their health. The clinician and the patient agree on the best course of treatment and look at how to reduce the number of medications a patient

takes without compromising their health.

In our region we have worked with the West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care Boards (ICBs), to support a number of task and finish and medicine optimisation groups promoting the programme and tackling this issue.

We were instrumental in developing, promoting and supporting primary care clinicians across our region to



**Hospital to
community**



**Sickness to
prevention**



access the resources and training material available through this programme. Over three years, we have reached 1,500 clinicians through a combination of masterclasses, clinical training sessions, polypharmacy action learning sets and foundation courses, data training and a Community of Practice.

The masterclasses and clinical training sessions were developed with ICB stakeholders to support local priorities. We facilitated a community of practice that to date has met eight times with representation from ICBs, PCNs, secondary care, primary care, academia and patients.

We created a video to show patients what they can expect from an SMR and encourage them to articulate their needs, preferences and circumstances as part of a shared decision-making process. Another video was developed to support the education of clinical teams who are less experienced or new to conducting medication reviews in general practice. The videos have been well received with approximately 1,500 views in total to date.

The polypharmacy programme closely aligns with the government's three shifts, including moving from sickness to prevention by reducing the risks of problematic polypharmacy as well as from hospital to community by encouraging shared decision-making within SMRs and reducing the risk of adverse drug reactions.

“ The whole premise of this work has been to empower patients and clinicians to have better shared-decision-making conversations around medicines to make sure they are working well for people and improving their outcomes. This work also reduces potentially inappropriate or unwanted medicines benefiting the environment by reducing medicines waste.”

Heather Smith FFRPS FRPharmS,
Consultant Pharmacist: Older People
West Yorkshire ICB

“ For me, the key was being invited to be involved, having the opportunity to share my experiences, connect with others, and have a voice in shaping ideas and opinions. It's important to share and to consider the bigger picture. I found the experience insightful and engaging. What you have accomplished is truly commendable, impactful, and will make a real difference.”

Patient on a Polypharmacy focus group



Watch our educational video for clinicians



Watch our video for patients explaining what they can expect from a Structured Medication Review



Using patient insight to drive innovation adoption

We are putting patients at the heart of healthcare transformation through the creation of an innovation framework, which is an essential tool to co-design effective innovative services. It provides a clear route map and actionable insights for those driving innovation in their organisation.

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) recognises healthcare innovation as a critical driver to help improve the lives of our diverse populations. However, the pace at which innovation is adopted often does not match expectations.

To address this, we embarked on a project on behalf of the Accelerated Access Collaborative to develop a framework that helps innovation teams to integrate patient insight into their spread and adoption plans.

The result, ['A framework for driving innovation adoption through patient insight'](#), is a practical tool designed around patient experiences rather than system processes. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 29 patients who had first-hand experience of using five different innovations under the MedTech Funding Mandate policy and Rapid Uptake Products. We consulted with health and care professionals across the system to help refine our approach to capture patients' individual and





collective experiences of using these technologies. These insights, combined into a comprehensive report, formed the foundation of the framework, a step-by-step guide outlining seven critical stages of the patient care journey.

The framework helps anyone interested in developing an innovation adoption plan to:

- Understand what patient insight and information is already available about an innovation
- Identify what we should still ask patients to better understand and meet their needs and expectations
- Describe how these insights can guide the responsibilities of each stakeholder
- Inform the actions each stakeholder can take to better support patients through their care journey
- Create an evidence-based and co-produced action plan.

A practical example of how the framework can support innovation leads is Health Innovation Manchester's use of it in a project aimed at helping families in highly deprived areas who have children with asthma. The framework provides useful tools to help co-design a set of assets that are easily understandable for families to support asthma management.



This new resource places patients at the heart of healthcare transformation. If we are truly to bake innovation into the NHS, authentic co-production with patients and carers who use our services is invaluable. The patient insight framework provides a route map and actionable insights for use by innovation project teams to collaborate effectively with multiple stakeholders when designing effective adoption and spread plans."

**Verena Stocker, Director of Innovation,
Research, Life Sciences and Strategy,
NHS England**



“ The patient insight framework will be helpful for future MedTech product leads. The steps and stages help to create a timeline of activity for future programmes. I also really appreciated the use of the appendix to bring to life how this framework can be used to help understand the patient journey in accessing the Medtech Funding Mandate technologies or Rapid Uptake Products through individuals’ own words and experiences.”

Sophie Mason,
Senior Lead – Innovation and Improvement Projects,
Health Innovation East Midlands

“ I am really happy to know about the outcome. It’s really exceeded my expectations! The report and accompanying framework will help to further the working relationship between patients and their families, with their health care providers thus providing better opportunity for patient involvement. This truly helps make care more patient centred.”

Patient living with Sickle Cell disease



Our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement service

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) is an essential part of the introduction of any new health innovation and we are committed to helping you ensure that they play an active role in shaping your work. As part of our PPIE service, we act as an independent broker, bringing together diverse perspectives from patients, families, carers, clinicians, and commissioners.

If you would like us to help you with your PPIE projects, get in touch with our team

info@healthinnovationyh.com



Bringing proven innovation to more patients

With our support, a pioneering new dashboard is delivering real-time insights into patient waiting times and treatment volumes, empowering clinicians and driving improvements in care across the region.

Better prostate care means earlier detection, faster treatment, and a better experience for patients. With the right innovations, patients can receive more accurate diagnoses, access less invasive treatments, and recover more quickly, reducing anxiety and improving quality of life. By making care more efficient and accessible, we can help more people get the support they need, when they need it.

We play a central role in helping trusts across our

region in the implementation of the Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia surgical technologies under the MedTech Funding Mandate (MTFM) policy, including solutions such as GreenLight Laser, Rezum, UroLift and the PLASMA system. This means that patients have access to a wider range of prostate treatments, empowering them to make more informed decisions.

In South Yorkshire, we supported the South Yorkshire Acute Federation



**Analogue
to digital**



with a pilot to not only implement these new technologies across all four trusts in the area, but also improve the management of waiting lists. Working with these trusts, we created a Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia dashboard that specifically examines waiting times for operations. Clinical teams use the dashboard to understand where Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia surgeries are taking place within the four sites, providing real-time waiting times for each surgery, something that was not routinely available before.

This also means that once a consultant has agreed with a patient on the most suitable treatment for their needs, they can look at the dashboard to check where surgery can take place and what the realistic waiting time is. This helps patients and clinicians to make more informed decisions and manage patients' expectations. It also helps to manage capacity across all sites reducing the risk of overbooking procedures at the same trust.

“ I engage with several health innovation networks, but the proactive approach by Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber truly stands out.

Men in South Yorkshire now have greater access to BPH treatment options. The UroLift launch at Sheffield under the MTFM policy is a proof of how our collaborative working and persistence can lead to success despite complexities of NHS finance modelling.”

Laura Bell, Territory Manager - North East and Yorkshire, Interventional Urology, Teleflex (UroLift)



Quicker 'Healthy Heart' assessments in the community with PocDoc

People across West Yorkshire have been seen via Healthy Hearts screening using PocDoc technology. Hosting these checks in the community has meant people most at risk received quicker, more efficient care, with 99% of those tested saying it was easier than going to the GP.

Over the past year, we have been working alongside West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership to launch an innovative cardiovascular disease (CVD) screening programme to help people in local communities live longer, healthier lives. Using cutting-edge app-based technology from PocDoc, the test provides quick and comprehensive heart health assessments,

including cholesterol levels, BMI, heart age, and a ten-year risk estimate for heart attack or stroke, all within minutes.

Over the past five months, 88 people across West Yorkshire have been screened for cardiovascular disease (CVD) through the Healthy Hearts screening programme using PocDoc. Alarming, 61% of those tested had never



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to digital**



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community**



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had their blood cholesterol levels checked before, emphasising the urgent need for accessible, community-based screening.

The impact has been immediate, as 99 per cent of participants found the screening more convenient than visiting their GP, ensuring that early detection is both easy and effective. Among those screened, 60 per cent had high total cholesterol, 23 per cent had high triglycerides (fat levels found in the body), and 16 per cent had high non-HDL cholesterol, all key risk factors for heart disease and stroke.

Crucially, the programme prioritises reaching those most at risk, including people from Black and South Asian communities, individuals with severe mental illness or learning disabilities, those in deprived areas, and men aged 40-59 and women aged 35-55. By seeking out these demographics in the community, we are bringing healthcare to them, accessing people who wouldn't have been screened without this innovation and relieving pressure on primary care services.

Our role has been to fund some of the point of care tests, ensuring immediate results, working with local Primary Care Networks to identify potential sites for further screening rollouts and facilitating discussions with the West Yorkshire ICB to align with regional strategy.





Empowering local places to improve health outcomes and tackle economic inactivity

We drive better health and economic growth across our region by leveraging the power of innovative ideas and addressing deep-rooted challenges and inequalities, creating lasting impact for the communities we serve.

Our [YHealth for Growth](#) initiative highlights the region's significant health disparities while showcasing ongoing efforts to improve health and economic outcomes. Despite deep-rooted challenges, the region has the potential to be a national example of how cross-organisation and cross-sector collaboration can drive meaningful change.

The urgency of this work is clear. Yorkshire and the Humber has the third lowest life expectancy

in England for both men and women, dropping by two years for every mile in some parts of the region, and one of the lowest employment rates in the country. Access to health and employment opportunities should not be dictated by postcode, yet inequality remains a defining factor in our region.

Through YHealth for Growth, we have reinforced the cyclical relationship between health and the economy. It is no surprise





that Yorkshire and the Humber also has the third lowest employment rate in England, with a record 2.8 million people out of work due to long-term sickness. This link is critical: good health supports economic activity, just as being in work improves health and wellbeing by reducing financial strain and providing social and psychological support. Beyond individuals, good work strengthens families and communities, driving both health and wealth at a societal level.

Our health inequalities portfolio is delivering projects and programmes in partnership with the health and care system to tackle both the impact and root causes of these regional challenges. In parallel, YHealth for Growth plays a crucial role in raising awareness, amplifying the work already underway, and advocating for policy changes at both local and national levels.

Last year, we took this message to the national stage at a parliamentary event sponsored by Fabian Hamilton, MP for Leeds North East, to launch our white paper 'Empowering Local Places for Health and Prosperity' developed with NHS Confederation and Yorkshire Universities. The event brought together leaders from civic, business, NHS, and university sectors. Stakeholders heard

how Yorkshire can provide a blueprint for national policy, offering solutions for the Labour government, regional mayors, and businesses to tackle the health and economic inequalities that cost the UK at least £180bn per year. It was also a chance for national policymakers to see first-hand how collaborative, cross-sector approaches in Yorkshire and Humber are already making a difference.

The event served as a renewed call to action amongst regional and national leaders, as despite encouraging signs and the prior firm commitment of regional partners, health and economic disparities between our region and the UK average continue to grow.

The importance of this work is further highlighted in the government's Get Britain Working White Paper, announcing wide-ranging measures to tackle economic inactivity. As part of this, the three Yorkshire mayors will each receive up to £10M as an initial allocation to run schemes which will mobilise local work, health and skills support. This includes an NHS accelerator to stop people falling out of work completely due to ill health, which will be piloted by South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and York and North Yorkshire Combined Authorities. As part of our continued work in this space, we will work

in close partnership with the region's mayors and their Combined Authority teams to generate the greatest possible impact from this important investment into the region.

Urgent action is needed against this important topic, and we remain committed to working closely with national, regional and business leaders to take advantage of accelerated devolution, growth investment, and proposed health service reforms. We will continue our important work to highlight the challenges facing the region, to drive forward the white paper's recommendations and stimulate further cross-sector action against this important topic area. By working in partnership, we can begin to turn the tide on the region's health and wealth divide and create a blueprint for other regions across the country.



Read our
YHealth for Growth
white paper



Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

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