

Yorkshire

Investing together for a healthier economy



Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber

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MAYOR

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**West Yorkshire
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Tracy
Brabin
Mayor of
West Yorkshire

**YORK
& NORTH
YORKSHIRE
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**DAVID
SKAITH
MAYOR**

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Foreword from the White Rose mayors

As the mayors of West Yorkshire, South Yorkshire and York and North Yorkshire, we joined forces a little over a year ago to sign the White Rose Agreement.

Our landmark agreement aligns us around our greatest priorities, and is a foundation for us to work together and to champion Yorkshire both at home and overseas.

For close to a century Yorkshire has been at the cutting-edge of the health and life sciences sectors. Today, there is a new opportunity for us to reassert ourselves as a health and life sciences cluster that can rival anywhere in the world.

Yorkshire has long balanced the benefits of heritage and craft with innovation and technology. We have businesses that have existed for decades – centuries, even – collaborating with those that have spun out from universities in as little as the last 12 months.

We're a region of innovators and disruptors. The melting pot of insight and expertise is why our region is the perfect home for health and life sciences businesses looking at the UK market.

Yorkshire is synonymous with excellence in this sector – it is somewhere you can come to get the job done and get it done right.

Across our three mayoralities, we represent the interests of more than 4.5 million people. Those people are passionate about their towns and cities and the businesses that call them home.

Every single one of those 4.5 million people will see the positive impacts of the breakthroughs being developed here in Yorkshire – whether that's amazing new artificial intelligence, surgical techniques or technologies, vaccines or prostheses, and beyond.

There are currently more than 27,000 people working in the biopharmaceuticals and medical technology industries, and tens of thousands of graduates coming out of the region's universities every year providing a pipeline of talent for decades to come.

We are proud of Yorkshire. Our region has already achieved so much, but as we look to the future, we want more people and businesses to join us on our journey.

Introduction

As Chief Executive of Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, I am proud to introduce a region that is a globally significant exemplar in health innovation, scientific discovery and real-world impact.

At a time when the NHS faces extraordinary pressure, persistent inequalities, and the need for a fundamental shift from sickness to prevention, Yorkshire and the Humber offers one of the strongest, most mature environments in the UK to accelerate solutions that improve health outcomes and transform care for millions.

Our region brings together an exceptional combination of strengths: world-class academic institutions and research infrastructure, thriving health and life sciences industries, and a diverse population of more than 4.5 million people.

This creates an unparalleled ecosystem where innovation can be discovered, developed, tested and adopted at scale – and where partners have direct access to the clinical, academic and commercial expertise needed to deliver meaningful change.

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber plays a pivotal role in this landscape. Our mission is to connect industry, the NHS, academia and local leaders to ensure that innovations with real potential are evaluated robustly, implemented effectively, and spread at pace across our health and care systems. We help translate ideas into evidence-based solutions that improve people's lives, reduce pressure on frontline services, and support economic growth built on healthier, more resilient communities.

Our region is home to global leaders in orthopaedics, diagnostics, digital health, precision manufacturing and child health technology. From advanced research centres to cutting-edge digital hubs, thriving start-ups to internationally-recognised medical technology companies, Yorkshire and the Humber has developed the capability, scale and ambition to shape the future of healthcare – locally, nationally and globally.

At the heart of this offer is our people. The region's diverse communities, strong clinical networks and highly skilled workforce provide the foundation for innovation that truly reflects real-world needs and delivers impact where it matters most: improving outcomes, tackling inequalities and enabling more people to live healthier lives for longer.

As government reforms create new opportunities for digital transformation, prevention, and data-enabled care, Yorkshire and the Humber is ready to lead. I invite investors, innovators and partners to join us in shaping the next chapter of health innovation – one that drives prosperity while making a tangible, lasting difference to the health of our nation.



Tracy Brabin
Mayor of West Yorkshire



Oliver Coppard
Mayor of South Yorkshire



David Skaith
Mayor of York and North Yorkshire



Richard Stubbs
Chief Executive of
Health Innovation Y&H



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Yorkshire and the Humber

- Health, local authority and university institutions serving 5.4 million people
- £5bn - Turnover generated by life sciences companies
- £2.84bn - Total R&D expenditure in Yorkshire and Humber in 2024
- 27,000+ - Total employment at life sciences companies
- 12 universities, 225,000 students
- 46.4% of students studying sciences
- Over 600 life sciences companies
- 22 acute trusts
- 6 teaching hospitals
- 5 mental health trusts
- 770 GP practices
- Under 2 hours by rail to London

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York and North Yorkshire

- 1.7 million served by Humber & North Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership
- 255+ businesses in the life sciences cluster
- 7,125-strong life sciences workforce
- Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust - largest provider of community and children's services in England
- One of the most productive areas in the North



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South Yorkshire

- 1.39 million population
- 4,300+ life sciences employees
- 1,800+ wider health sector businesses
- Around 1 in 6 workers employed in the wider health sector
- £662m life sciences turnover



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West Yorkshire

- 2.4 million population
- 16,000 healthtech jobs
- 300 healthtech companies contributing £3.1bn to the economy
- 7 Universities teaching over 100,000 students
- £160m Investment Zone attracting £220m additional investment

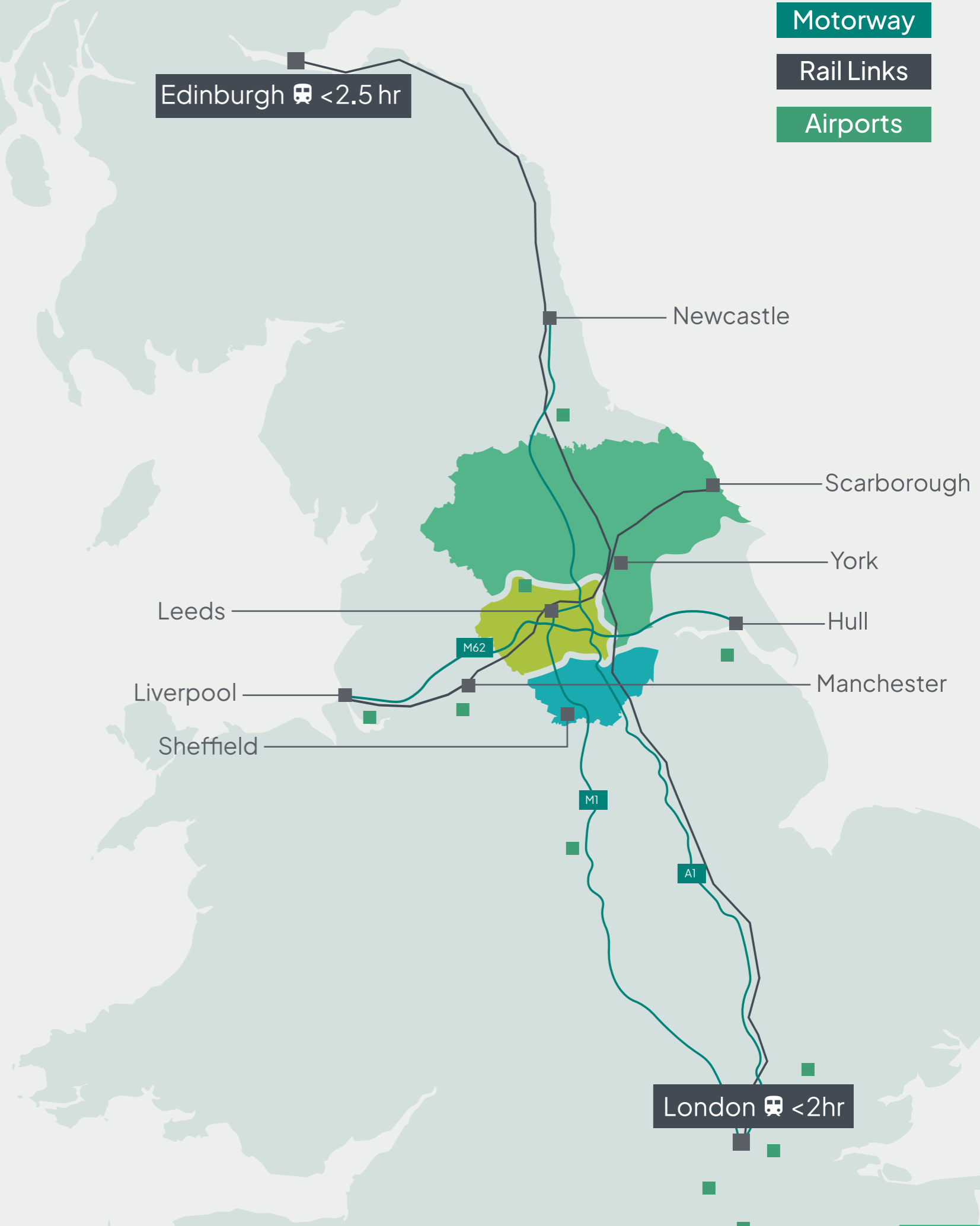


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West Yorkshire

Motorway

Rail Links

Airports



Introduction to Yorkshire

Yorkshire and the Humber is a region that's built for progress

Located at the heart of the UK, and **home to 8.2% of its population**, it brings together the perfect conditions for businesses to thrive. Big enough to provide market scale and diversity, yet practical enough to help firms find the right people and partners quickly.

It's no wonder **more than 600 health and life sciences companies** choose to be based here, in a region with the UK's second highest employment in medtech. Yorkshire is a place of action, where universities, NHS partners, innovators and industry specialists collaborate to address the challenges facing modern health and care.

First-class transport links keep this vibrant ecosystem moving. Strong road and rail networks make travel to cities like London, Manchester, Birmingham and Newcastle easy, while the capital is less than two hours away by direct rail. The region is also served by two operational commercial airports, with plans progressing to reopen another.

Further investment is on its way. The multi-billion-pound Transpennine Route Upgrade is already in motion, and the government is committing up to £45 billion for Northern Powerhouse Rail, strengthening links across the region and the wider North of England.

Yorkshire and Humber is known for its **academic excellence**. This creates a flow of graduates with health sciences, engineering, data science and related qualifications. Close links between academia, industry and healthcare ensure that talent is aligned with the skills businesses need to innovate and grow.

This is a connected region with complementary strengths and collaborative leadership that are enabling growth in each of our specialisms -

South Yorkshire: advanced manufacturing and clinical excellence

West Yorkshire: digital health, medical devices and system leadership

North Yorkshire: research and applied innovation

Yorkshire and Humber's health, local government and higher education institutions serve 5.4 million people, and include 22 acute trusts, six teaching hospitals, five mental health trusts and 770 GP practices.

Research strength is enhanced by a major National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) presence, including the NIHR Yorkshire and Humber Regional Research Delivery Network and NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber. This gives companies a trusted way to connect to NHS, academic and community partners, evidence generation, technology evaluation and adoption support.

Patient data assets include the Yorkshire & Humber Secure Data Environment, Yorkshire & Humber Care Record, and Connected Bradford, which provide secure access to linked health and care data, helping researchers and innovators develop solutions shaped by practical needs.

This research and data infrastructure is matched by a deep pool of talent spanning clinical research, medtech, digital health, engineering and data. Yorkshire and Humber accounts for **more than 22 per cent of the UK's digital health jobs**, and 24,495 people are employed at life sciences companies in the region.

The appeal is not just commercial. Across its major cities, market towns, rural communities and coastline, the area offers the choice, culture and quality of employers needed to attract and retain great people.

For health and life sciences businesses looking for the right place to grow, Yorkshire and Humber is ready to make it happen.

Together, South Yorkshire, West Yorkshire and York and North Yorkshire form a unified, globally competitive health and life sciences super cluster—ready to shape the future of healthcare.



South Yorkshire focus



South Yorkshire is a diverse and highly connected economy, spanning the dynamic cities of Sheffield and Doncaster, the towns of Barnsley and Rotherham, and outstanding countryside. Rotherham is recognised as one of the UK's fastest-growing sub-regions for productivity, while Sheffield is one of the country's standout core cities.

The region is home to **one of the UK's largest clusters of orthopaedic and medical device companies**. From paediatric, child and adolescent health to prevention, healthy ageing, rehabilitation and long-term condition management - with specialist capability in neuroscience, gene therapy, advanced biosciences, medtech, diagnostics, orthopaedics, digital health, photonics and biomedical imaging.

World-renowned healthcare technology companies already rooted here include Swann-Morton, global leader in the manufacture of surgical blades, scalpels and handles since its foundation in 1932, and Sheffield Precision Medical, the UK's foremost independent orthopaedic contract manufacturer.

It is a key UK incubator for deep tech start-ups operating in the life sciences sector such as Exciting Instruments, Unicorn Biotechnologies, MetalloBio, and Rinri Therapeutics. This fast-growing element of the local economy is being supported by South Yorkshire's Investment Zone, ensuring high potential companies have the backing to scale quickly.

The area is also home to major names such as B.Braun and JRI Orthopaedics, alongside wider health technology assets including the Canon Medical Arena. Part of Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park and popular as a venue for netball, basketball and boxing, the Arena includes a medical diagnostics centre tailored to meet the needs of both elite athletes and the general NHS patient population.

South Yorkshire's health and care system is built around regional partnership, addressing health inequalities and wider determinants of health. Its **Integrated Care System covers more than 200 GP practices, six acute trusts, nine NHS trusts, four local authorities, three community and mental health trusts, one ambulance trust and more than 6,000 VCSE organisations**.

South Yorkshire benefits from the scientific expertise of Sheffield's two universities as part of a strong, collaborative research and innovation ecosystem through South Yorkshire Health Partners.

The unique mix of specialist acute, children's, mental health and community NHS trusts, research teams and system-wide support from the ICB-based South Yorkshire Innovation Hub is enhancing collaboration, research, testing and adoption across the region. The private sector is also mobilising through the Sports Legacy Institute, Westfield Health and Partners have launched a new, world-first initiative that will put South Yorkshire on the map as a **global leader in preventative health and wellbeing**.

Key recent developments in South Yorkshire have been their trailblazing activity around economic inactivity due to ill health through Pathways to Work; the reimagination of community care through Barnsley's Health on the High Street; the construction of the world's first National Centre for Child Health Technologies; and South Yorkshire's health devolution deal, which will support a greater focus on preventative health in the coming years.

Additional momentum is coming from transport and AI. Doncaster Sheffield Airport is progressing towards reopening, while **Barnsley was named the UK's first government-backed Tech Town in 2026**. As part of that designation, local schools, colleges, businesses, the NHS and other partners are set to receive bespoke government aid to unlock AI opportunities, with Microsoft, Cisco, Adobe and Google among the major firms backing plans to improve access to jobs of the future. For health, this will be important in enabling digital transformation to support improved health and care delivery across the system.

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West Yorkshire focus



West Yorkshire is one of the UK's largest and most diverse regional economies, with major centres including Leeds, Bradford and Huddersfield. It has established itself as a national leader in digital health, patient-focused innovation and health system transformation.

An entrepreneurial private sector and enviable digital infrastructure have helped establish the region as **one of the UK's most important places for patient-focused innovation**.

Leeds has been a world leader in the sector since the 20th century. The city is home to DePuy Synthes, part of the Johnson & Johnson Group, which employs more than 600 people and specialises in orthopaedic and neuro products and services.

Steeper Prosthetics has been a pioneer in prosthetics, orthotics and assistive technology since 1921, while Surgical Innovations develops sustainable, effective solutions for minimally invasive surgery.

One of the major research and innovation anchors is Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, which has a track record of medical firsts – including the first procedure using non-invasive sonic beam therapy to destroy tumours. In 2022, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust undertook the world's first double-hand transplant for scleroderma. The trust is visited by leading overseas clinicians for the depth of expertise in this field of medicine.

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust's Innovation Pop Up, a pioneering approach, unmatched in the North of England, connects industry innovators with the NHS. Its planned Hospital of the Future will include new adult and children's hospitals and one of the UK's largest single-site maternity and neonatal centres.

West Yorkshire benefits from nationally significant health and digital infrastructure. **Four out of five NHS national offices are based in Leeds, alongside a major Department of Health and Social Care presence**, while the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's specialist digital hub has recently located in the city, adding capability in digital delivery, software development and data science.

More than 90 digital health companies, including the two largest GP EPR companies: Optum and TPP, call the region home. NHS England has a major base at Wellington Place, neighbouring the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency's new digital hub at the site.

Start-ups and high-growth companies, such as Radar Healthcare and Aire Logic are building on these strengths. Neotherix and Avacta are among the firms helping to shape emerging areas such as biological materials.

This business base is boosted by a highly connected innovation ecosystem. **The West Yorkshire Investment Zone is utilising £160m of public funding to unlock £220m of additional investment**. Focused on Bradford, Huddersfield and Leeds – including Huddersfield's National Health Innovation Campus and Leeds' Innovation Village – it will help businesses engage with universities and the NHS to commercialise new ideas.

West Yorkshire's healthtech strategy brings partners together to drive prosperity, improve outcomes and reduce duplication. Several programmes within the region are leveraging investment from UKRI and Innovate UK to give businesses and entrepreneurs access to expertise, connect with NHS stakeholders and accelerate commercialisation.

West Yorkshire's connectivity strengthens this investment proposition. Leeds Bradford Airport's recent terminal expansion is improving international links, while Leeds is one of the UK's busiest rail hubs in the country, with journeys to London taking just over two hours.

Bradford's young population, with more than a third of residents under 25, adds to the region's future workforce strengths. **With the UK's highest proportion of bioscience undergraduates**, one of the largest concentrations of healthtech employees, and a top-ranked university for health and care research, Leeds is a magnet for world-class talent.

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York and North Yorkshire focus



York and North Yorkshire is renowned for its history, heritage and breathtaking scenery, but look beyond the surface and the region has embraced health industries and life sciences to be a national leader.

York and North Yorkshire covers a large geography and has a unique rural and urban setting, from the historic city of York to Skipton, Harrogate and the coast, the area is setting its own agenda to help new industries and scale-up businesses, while also empowering and staying true to its varied communities.

The region boasts a **rich and diverse Life Sciences ecosystem**, underpinned by a powerful blend of global industry leaders, research facilities, system partners and academic excellence.

With 23.5% of residents aged over 65, well above the England average, the region has a clear local context for health innovation.

The region has a well-established business environment, from spin-outs to global brands, with major operations here, including ACM Global, York Bioanalytical Solutions, Inhealthcare and Scapa Healthcare, which has invested heavily in its European Turn-Key Center of Excellence, and Labcorp.

The latter supported the development of each of the top 50-selling drugs globally and typically is involved in 80% or more of annual approvals by the US Food and Drug Administration.

The region has extensive research and development assets, health networks and partners. It benefits from the regular flow of highly skilled graduates coming from the region's universities. Additionally 48% of the working population is educated to NVQ Level 4+, outperforming the national average.

University of York and York St John University add further depth to the region's capability, combining University of York's strengths in health economics, mental health, biomedical science and data, with York St John's focus on health, care and community partnership.

York Biotech Campus has been enabling scientific discovery, innovation and application for more than 20 years. The campus provides 260,000 sq ft of office and lab space for entrepreneurs and start-ups, through to scale-ups and established organisations, in a flexible and unique scientific environment.

The Humber & North Yorkshire Integrated Care Partnership is the second biggest integrated care system in the country, **covering 4,000 square miles, 7 NHS Trusts, 42 Primary Care Networks, and over 550 care homes**, while Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust is the largest provider of community and children's services in England. Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust's Healthcare Innovation Hub provides a dedicated front door for engagement with external organisations.

On a similar scale, **York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust covers 3,400 square miles**, delivering a comprehensive range of acute hospital and specialist healthcare **services for 800,000 people**. It operates a dedicated Research and Innovation department and partners closely with Hull York Medical School.

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Universities and academic strength

Yorkshire and the Humber is home to one of the UK's largest and most diverse academic communities, with 12 higher education institutions, more than 196,000 students and over £150 million in collaborative research funding.

This presence is a major economic force, spending £250 million through local supply chains. Unlike a single-city cluster, the region offers a wider network of connected academic centres, giving companies more than one way into specialist knowledge, skilled graduates, clinical partners and commercial collaboration.

Internationally recognised specialisms

Yorkshire and the Humber's universities form a powerhouse in the fields shaping the future of health and life sciences.

The University of Leeds shines in orthopaedic engineering, surgical tech and digital pathology, backed by impressive resources like Nexus, the Leeds Institute for Data Analytics, and the expansive Leeds Innovation Arc. With over 150 academics working on medical technology, one fifth of all research at Leeds University relates to medtech.

With the largest number of AI and data analytics postgraduate students in the UK, the University of Bradford is a major centre for digital skills, while the University of Huddersfield carries out world-leading research in biomedical sciences and is home to the National Health Innovation Campus. Leeds Beckett University is a leader on sports and exercise science, with the Carnegie school of sport listed in the top 100 Sport Science Schools in the world.

The University of Sheffield is recognised for its work across translational neuroscience, infection, antimicrobial resistance, advanced manufacturing and healthcare technologies. Sheffield Hallam University adds applied capability in physical activity, prevention, rehabilitation and wellbeing through the Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre, which brings together specialists across health, engineering, robotics, software design, psychology, design and the arts.

Ranked 10th in the UK for research quality, the University of York is one of only four UK universities to be rated both 'Gold' for teaching and top ten for research in the latest national assessment exercises. It has an established research profile in health economics, mental health, clinical trials,

biomedical science, skin health, data science, robotics, autonomy and healthcare engineering. Some 53% of the University's research was rated world-leading, and 40% internationally excellent.

Its York Trials Unit is home to a dedicated team of 120 professionals who design and conduct trials across health, care and broader wellbeing. Additionally, the York Biomedical Research Institute employs over 100 principal investigators focused on areas like molecular and cellular medicine, immunology, haematology, infection and neuroscience.

In 2023, York St John University launched The Institute for Health and Care Improvement, with the aim of enhancing health and care for communities by bringing together academics, clinicians, patients and industry partners. From disease detection and prevention to physical activity, rehabilitation and health promotion, they are working to improve lives regionally, nationally and globally.

With Hull York Medical School, Leeds Trinity University and other higher education partners, this adds up to a **region-wide capability across research, clinical education, applied learning and specialist skills.**



A pipeline of talent

This concentration of higher education provision provides a varied and skilled talent pool. Employers looking to build teams with the right technical and commercial capabilities will find a steady flow of graduates trained in the disciplines driving health and life sciences forward.

Around 46% of Yorkshire and Humber undergraduates study science subjects, while 17,000 research staff are employed in the region's higher education institutions, giving the region a sizeable share of the UK's university research workforce. That student, graduate and research base helps sustain an established healthtech and life sciences labour market that gives companies access to skilled people at a more competitive cost base than London and the South East – the median annual salary in Yorkshire and the Humber is £35,682 compared to £49,692 for London.

Opening up opportunities

For health and life sciences companies, Yorkshire and Humber's universities offer more than academic expertise. They provide practical routes into specialist knowledge, skilled graduates, applied research, health economics, data capability and commercial collaboration.

That fits closely with the UK Life Sciences Sector Plan, which stresses the need to connect discovery, commercialisation and deployment. Across Yorkshire and Humber, universities are helping to turn that ambition into practical advantage – linking research strength with the people, partnerships and facilities businesses need to develop, prove and grow new ideas.



A place to innovate, invest and grow

Across the region, universities are making their expertise easier to access through innovation hubs, applied research centres, consultancy services, knowledge exchange teams and specialist facilities.

These channels help companies find the right partners for product development, validation, skills, commercialisation and market readiness.

The link between academic strength and market activity is clear, with medtech companies concentrated close to universities and biomedical research centres.

A joint effort by Leeds Beckett University, the University of Leeds, the University of Bradford and the University of Huddersfield, In-Path is an academic brokerage service for West Yorkshire. It supports health, wellbeing, innovation and digital businesses at all stages.

Spinouts underline this commercial strength.

Mesenbio emerged from the University of York in 2024 and has since raised £1.4 million to advance its engineered human stem cell-based platform.

Developing cutting-edge technologies, Exciting Instruments began life at The University of Sheffield and is making single-molecule fluorescence spectroscopy accessible to a wider range of researchers.

Tissue Regenix, spun out of the University of Leeds in 2006, now has around 60 employees and a market value of around £140 million.

Supporting Research & Development

Yorkshire and the Humber is a hotbed of health and life science innovation, part of a northern life science economy worth £13.4 billion a year and accounting for 22% of the UK's total life science employment. Its huge range of assets and anchor institutions offers a research and development environment built around purposeful collaboration, where universities, NHS organisations, industry partners, local leaders and innovation bodies work together to deliver meaningful change.

The region offers a compelling value proposition for health and life sciences partners: a mature data environment, region-wide infrastructure, and a strong platform for real-world evaluation and innovation at scale. Across North, South and West Yorkshire, the region has invested in data architecture and partnership models that support secure access, meaningful linkage, and a practical route from research insight to service improvement. For organisations looking to collaborate with the NHS, test new solutions, generate robust evidence, or build scalable research programmes, Yorkshire provides both the breadth and depth of assets needed to deliver confidently and efficiently.

NIHR research delivery and healthtech evaluation

The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) is England's largest public funder of health and care research, investing in the infrastructure needed to improve patient outcomes, enhance services and generate evidence for everyday practice.

Yorkshire's NIHR offer combines delivery capability, applied research and HealthTech evaluation capacity in one connected region. This supports faster collaboration, robust evidence generation, and the ability to evaluate innovations in real-world settings, strengthening the route from product development to adoption at scale.

The NIHR Yorkshire & Humber Regional Research Delivery Network assists research across health and care settings and helps studies run effectively in frontline services.

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire & Humber speeds up the process of getting research evidence into practice, creating system-wide change across challenges affecting families, older people, mental health and urgent care. To date, it has recruited more than 50,000 participants and collaborated with over 40 partner organisations.

For medtech businesses, the NIHR HealthTech Research Centre – Devices for Dignity provides expertise to help de-risk the commercialisation of new ideas, address barriers to adoption and connect partners with clinical, NHS, industry and

lived-experience networks. Its work focuses on technologies that help people live well with long-term conditions.

In Sheffield, The National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) HealthTech Research Centre (HRC) in Paediatrics and Child Health is transforming the health and wellbeing of children, young people, and their families.

The NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Accelerated Surgical Care works with medical device, diagnostic and digital health companies to develop, evaluate and validate new medical technology and diagnostics, for quicker diagnosis and treatment of surgical conditions with safe, early recovery in the community.

The region also convenes national healthtech networks, including the SurgTech community and event series, supporting the journey from clinical need to adoption.

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber acts as a bridge between healthcare providers, commissioners, academia and industry, building a pipeline of solutions from research and product development through to implementation and commercialisation. This includes our Propel HealthTech Accelerator, a structured programme aimed at start-ups and scale-ups, offering support and guidance to break into new markets and overcome barriers to growth.

Specialist research and innovation assets

The same connection between research and practical health need is visible in assets such as the South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub, led by the University of Sheffield in partnership with Sheffield Hallam University. Focused on tackling healthcare inequalities and transforming patient treatment, it is partnering with Google and using cutting-edge research to develop digital technologies for disease diagnosis.

Due for completion in 2026, the University of Sheffield's new £24 million Institute for Translational Neuroscience will double its research capacity, accelerating treatments for neurological diseases including Alzheimer's, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's and motor neurone disease. The Florey Institute is taking a holistic approach to accelerate research and medical practice into infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance.

The Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (AMRC) and Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre (AWRC) play crucial roles in the health industry. The AMRC connects academia and new thinking to organisations of all sizes, from major pharmaceutical and medical device companies to SMEs, charities and the NHS. The AWRC adds multidisciplinary expertise, commercial partnerships and community insight, developing innovations that help people move and adopt healthier lifestyles.

The York Health Economics Consortium provides consultancy services to the NHS, pharmaceutical companies, health technology organisations and the voluntary sector.

The University of York's Institute of Mental Health Research is generating insights into how mental health problems emerge, persist and resolve, with the aim of informing more effective prevention, treatment and recovery. It collaborates with external partners across the NHS, social care, education, academia, the justice system, industry, charities and communities.

Over the past five years, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has recruited more than 114,000 participants into research studies, generated £140 million in external research funding and has been involved in more than 1,460 projects, including 487 with healthtech and life sciences companies.

Based out of the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the National Pathology Imaging Co-operative is pioneering the use of artificial intelligence research in cancer diagnosis. Led by a partnership of world-leading innovators and experts in digital pathology, it is transforming outcomes across the UK.

The Yorkshire & Humber Policy Engagement and Research Network (Y-PERN) is creating a step-change in how universities and policy-making organisations collaborate to shape inclusive, place-based policies. First established in 2022 through Research England funding, it is a partnership between the 12 universities and 18 local and combined authorities in Yorkshire.

Across Yorkshire and Humber, companies can access 22 business incubators and accelerators and eight science parks, creating further routes into research, innovation and commercial growth.



Access to data

Yorkshire and the Humber's interconnected health landscape gives life sciences organisations access to the data, NHS insight and real-world evidence needed for growth.

Far from being confined to one dataset, the region houses a well-established network of organisations, platforms and partnerships that use health information across care, research and service improvement.

TPP is the healthtech company behind SystmOne, a major UK electronic patient record platform. SystmOne makes 61 million electronic health records securely available across the NHS, giving Yorkshire a major commercial anchor in connected care and digital healthcare. Similarly, Optum provides healthcare professionals across the NHS with instant access to electronic patient records, from its office in Leeds. Its technology is used by over 10,000 healthcare organisations from GP practices to hospitals, pharmacies to community services

Such an environment makes collaboration more efficient across multiple NHS settings, while flagship assets provide the longitudinal depth and system insight required to produce high-quality evidence.

This makes Yorkshire and the Humber attractive for partners seeking to answer complex questions about prevention, diagnosis, treatment, outcomes and population health, where linking data across services, following patients over time, and evaluating impact is essential. For industry, that creates a more confident basis for investment – helping companies develop solutions around NHS priorities, demonstrate impact and build a stronger case for adoption.

Secure infrastructure at regional scale

At the heart of this infrastructure is the Yorkshire & Humber Secure Data Environment, a governed platform for approved analysis of de-identified health data.

Its footprint spans the area's health system and supports large-scale analysis across primary, community, urgent and hospital services.

The Health Data Research Gateway provides a clear way in, allowing users to search and discover health datasets, tools, software, publications and projects.

The ecosystem also benefits from the Yorkshire & Humber Care Record. This digital solution provides an important backbone for integrated services by enabling relevant healthcare information from multiple sources to be accessed securely by appropriate professionals at the point of care.

This demonstrates the region's ability to collaborate on information sharing at scale and underlines Yorkshire and the Humber's role in research, analytics and the translation of improvements into everyday care.

A representative testbed for UK-wide adoption

Because Yorkshire and the Humber's people and geography reflect many of the challenges seen across the UK, it is undoubtedly a strong place to generate evidence. The region includes major urban centres, smaller towns, rural and coastal communities, different levels of deprivation and culturally diverse populations. An FOI by the University of Leeds found that there are more than 170 languages spoken in Leeds alone.

This mix of communities and care settings allows new ideas to be tested in live settings. If a health innovation works well here, there is a strong case that it will work elsewhere.



Deep datasets for prevention, pathways and population health

Nationally significant longitudinal and linked datasets mean academic and industry partners can look beyond snapshot outcomes.

Born in Bradford is a world-leading programme tracking the lives of 60,000 people to explore why some families stay healthy while others fall ill. Its BiB4All maternity and early years cohort adds linked mother-and-child insight, while the MIREDA partnership connects birth cohorts through a harmonised model that aids wider comparative analysis.

Yorkshire and the Humber also offers rich insight through the University of Sheffield-led CURED+, which links urgent and emergency care information across the region, including NHS 111 calls, ambulance dispatch and hospital activity. This enables analysis of demand, triage, patient flow, response, service use and outcomes across the urgent care system.

Connected Bradford provides linked health, education and social care datasets across Bradford and Airedale for researchers holistically examining how people move through different services and evaluate care models.



Specialist access points for focused research and evaluation

Yorkshire and the Humber also has specialist capabilities for focused studies and evaluation. Leeds Teaching Hospitals' Research Data Access service, known as R-DIT, provides a structured pathway to de-identified hospital datasets and analytics support within one of the area's major teaching hospital trusts.

Leeds also contributes to DATA-CAN, the UK's cancer data hub, strengthening the region's offer in oncology, outcomes insight and clinical data-led innovation.

The University of Sheffield's Data Connect backs collaboration linked to the Yorkshire & Humber SDE, while the University of Hull's Data Safe Haven offers additional secure data environment capability.

Supporting the journey from concept to adoption

For organisations looking to collaborate with the NHS, test new solutions or build scalable programmes, these assets provide a foundation for validation. Partners can identify suitable patient populations, evaluate care models, understand inequalities and monitor long-term outcomes, while generating practical evidence in relevant health and care settings. Leeds Innovation Pop-Up is a good example of an accessible front door for innovators looking to collaborate on research and development.

This is particularly valuable for companies developing AI tools, diagnostics, digital health platforms, clinical decision support, prevention models or population health solutions. Yorkshire and Humber offers the infrastructure, analytical depth, research partnerships and real-world complexity needed to move from concept to validation, and from validation to adoption.



Life sciences in focus

Life sciences is a hugely important sector for Yorkshire and the Humber. Spanning medtech, diagnostics, digital health, health data, specialist manufacturing and other health-related innovation, the area has the sector's joint fifth-largest concentration of companies across the nine English regions, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

These businesses generate annual turnover of £5 billion. At a national level, life sciences is seen as one of the most important growth sectors, described as "one of our greatest national assets" in the Government's Life Sciences Sector Plan. Published in July 2025 as part of the UK's Modern Industrial Strategy, it sets out a 10-year approach that positions life sciences as a driver of jobs, investment, innovation and better health outcomes.

Aligned with wider NHS priorities [see pages 20–21], the strategy is being assisted by more than £2 billion of government funding over the current Spending Review period, alongside funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR).

The Government's three priorities

The Life Sciences Sector Plan has three core, interconnected pillars.

The first is **allowing world-class research and development to take advantage of, and build on, the UK's historic scientific strengths**. There is a focus on investing in discovery and curiosity-driven science, as well as delivering applied research and enabling companies to invest in R&D at scale. The Government is also substantially enhancing the UKRI and NIHR offer to biotech and medtech SMEs to develop and evaluate high-value innovation.

The second is **making the UK an outstanding place in which to start, grow and invest**. The aim is to scale brilliant ideas into multi-billion-pound companies, helping the manufacturing sector to thrive and attract foreign direct investment. This will involve working with the British Business Bank and UK Export Finance to increase funding and direct investment for high-growth life sciences companies, while developing dedicated support for firms wishing to export.

The third is **driving health innovation and NHS reform**. This focuses on helping patients get rapid access to the most clinically effective and cost-effective new technologies and enabling the shifts from sickness to prevention, hospital to community, and analogue to digital.

The vision

The Government's ambition is that the UK will be:



By 2030, the leading life sciences economy in Europe



By 2035, the third most important life sciences economy globally, behind the US and China only

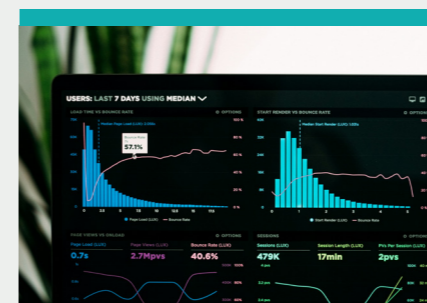


Realising the potential of life sciences city regions and clusters

The Government's plan is to grow the economic and health impact of the sector nationally, while also working in deeper partnership with regions like Yorkshire and the Humber to unlock their growth potential.

This includes continued backing for Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, and the Life Sciences-focused South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire Investment Zones, as well as establishing Regional Health Innovation Zones to enable large-scale development and implementation of innovation, for scaling across the health and care system.

Major investment will be backed through the new Life Sciences Large Investment Portfolio, a bespoke route for projects worth more than £250 million, designed to strengthen the UK's competitiveness for large-scale, globally mobile investment.



Creating a Health Data Research Service

Aiming to build the world's most advanced secure, AI-ready health data platform, uniting genomic, diagnostic and clinical data to attract global trials and AI investment.



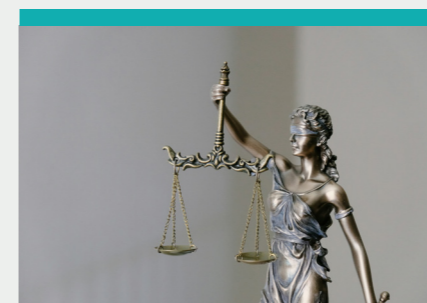
Cutting clinical trial set-up times to under 150 days

Reducing delays that deter investors and aiming to double commercial interventional trial participants.



Backing life sciences manufacturing with up to £520 million

Using the Life Sciences Innovative Manufacturing Fund to attract major manufacturing investment and strengthen UK capability.



Streamlining regulation and market access

Supporting the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to become faster and more agile, with easier routes to market through joint advice and approvals with the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE).



Making NHS procurement easier to navigate

Creating clearer, less bureaucratic procurement through a Rules-Based Pathway for healthtech and an NHS Innovator Passport.



Partnering with industry to drive growth and innovation

Securing at least one strategic partnership annually with leading life sciences companies and assisting 10–20 high-potential companies to scale, attract investment and remain headquartered in the UK.

Fit for the Future:

10-year health plan for England

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber's work in our region is taking place within the overall picture of reform in the NHS. Fit for the Future: 10 Year Health Plan for England was launched by the Government in 2025.

The Fit for the Future plan states "As a partner in innovation, the NHS will not only set aside funding for transformation but will support and invest in the most promising interventions, for example, by providing public sector capital for equity stakes in the start-ups that promise to best transform healthcare. The NHS will not just benefit from markets but will actively shape them. Health will stop being solely a driver of higher government debt and start being considered an asset to drive growth"

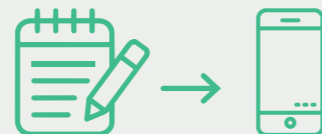


From hospital to community: the Neighbourhood Health Service

A core concept of the new plan is the Neighbourhood Health Service, shifting the NHS from a hospital-centric system to a model more able to provide continuous, accessible and integrated care within communities.

The basics are that care should happen:

- As locally as it can
- Digitally by default
- In a patient's home if possible
- In a neighbourhood health centre if needed
- In a hospital if necessary



From analogue to digital: power in your hands

The NHS app will be a cornerstone of modern healthcare in this country, a 'doctor in their pocket' for patients, liberating staff from a burden of bureaucracy and administration.

For the first time ever in the NHS, patients will gain real control over a single, secure and authoritative account of their data - their patient record - to enable more co-ordinated, personalised and predictive care.

By harnessing the digital revolution, the NHS will be able to:

- Ensure rapid access for those in generally good health
- Free up physical access for those with the most complex needs
- Help ensure the NHS's financial sustainability for future generations



From sickness to prevention: power to make the healthy choice

Health inequality is a major issue facing the country at the moment and this plan's overall goal is to halve the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest regions, while increasing it for everyone, and to raise the healthiest generation of children ever.

This will be achieved by harnessing a huge cross-societal energy on prevention, working in partnership with businesses, employers, investors, local authorities and mayors to create a healthier country together.

Targets will include:

- Ensuring this generation of children can never be legally sold tobacco
- Ending the obesity epidemic
- Expand free school meals
- Launch a new health reward scheme to incentivise healthy choices
- Create joined-up support, working with ICBs to establish Health and Growth Accelerator Models



Powering transformation: innovation driving healthcare reform

This transformation of the NHS aims to be the biggest industrial revolution since the 19th Century. Utilising data, AI, genomics, wearables and robotics to personalise care, improve outcomes, increase productivity and boost economic growth.

Steps being taken to drive this forward include:

- Creating a new Health Data Research Service in partnership with the Wellcome Trust and backed by up to £600 million of joint investment
- Making the NHS the most AI-enabled health system in the world with AI seamlessly integrated into clinical pathways
- Making wearables standard in preventative, chronic and post-acute NHS treatment by 2035
- Expanding surgical robot adoption in line with NICE guidelines - something Yorkshire is leading in.



Forward look and future opportunities

Backed by major facilities, R&D investment, talent and collaborative ambition, Yorkshire and the Humber has the ingredients to become one of the UK's most important testbeds for health innovation.

Health and life sciences businesses here are supported by the networks and expertise needed to develop, test, evaluate and scale ideas in real-world settings, drawing on NHS insight, university expertise, industry capability and a diverse population.

And with several major developments now under way, the opportunities available to investors, innovators and partners are set to grow even further.

Leeds Innovation Village

Transforming five hectares of land in Leeds city centre, the Innovation Village is destined to be a global centre of research, innovation and technology in health and life sciences.

A flagship site within the £2 billion Leeds Innovation Arc, the development will provide co-working space, meeting rooms, event areas, offices and laboratories – creating one of the UK's most ambitious health innovation districts and the ideal collaborative environment for clinicians, academics, researchers and entrepreneurs.



Centred around the historic Old Medical School and located next to the city centre campuses of both the University of Leeds and Leeds Beckett, the Innovation Village will give access to world-class talent, clinical expertise and research capability. It is expected to create 4,000 new jobs in health and life sciences, deliver more than 500 new homes and contribute around £13 billion to the regional economy.

The project is being delivered through a strategic partnership between Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the University of Leeds, Leeds Beckett University, Leeds City Council and the private sector, underlining the strength of Yorkshire and the Humber's joined-up approach to health innovation and research commercialisation.

Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park

Inspired by London 2012, the only Olympic legacy park ever established outside of a host city is improving physical and mental health and wellbeing, and harnessing the power of research and innovation.

The National Centre for Child Health Technology (NCCHT) will join a growing cluster of organisations and facilities focused on prevention, performance, food, health technology and active lives.



These include:

- The Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre
- The National Centre for Sports and Exercise Medicine
- The National Centre of Excellence for Food Engineering
- The Canon Medical Arena

National Health Innovation Campus (NHIC)

The NHIC at the University of Huddersfield is a transformative project for the people of the region, designed to improve health outcomes and lead healthcare innovation across the North, the UK and internationally through strong public-private partnerships.

Located on a seven-acre site at Southgate in Huddersfield town centre, the campus has ambitions for seven buildings offering 75,000 sq m of space contributing to the University's track record in professional health courses, pioneering research and partnerships with leading health and care organisations.

The NHIC's first building opened in September 2024 and was named after Daphne Steele, Britain's first Black matron. The second opened in 2026 and bears the name of Emily Siddon, a lifelong advocate for equality and improved healthcare. The Emily Siddon Building boasts a state-of-the-art Community Diagnostic Centre which will provide access to thousands of diagnostic tests for the people of Calderdale and Kirklees, including MRI and CT scans.

Providing exciting investment opportunities, the completed site will bring together public-facing facilities including student-led clinics with space for research, innovation and entrepreneurial activity.

National Centre for Child Health Technology

The NCCHT at Sheffield Olympic Legacy Park will put new healthcare technologies at the heart of care delivery, shaping a healthier future for children and young people.

Fully integrated with existing healthcare provision, it will tackle major health challenges facing children, such as obesity, mental health, disease prevention, disabilities, cancer, and wider maternal and child health inequalities.

A UK first in paediatric healthcare, the centre will combine clinical care with research, innovation and technology development. Its state-of-the-art facilities will include specialist gait and movement labs, a virtual reality suite, simulated hospital and home environments, remote care facilities, exhibition space, a business suite and clinics.

As well as supporting more than 200 patients a day, the NCCHT will give researchers and industry partners live care environments to test, evaluate and refine new technologies. Engineers, innovators and designers will work alongside clinicians, children and young people to develop prototypes and co-design healthcare solutions.

Collaboration spaces will bring together clinicians, researchers, academic institutions and healthtech innovators, accelerating new approaches to treatment, remote monitoring and paediatric care. This includes commercial partnership activity linked to developments such as an Advanced Telecommunications Hub using sensor technologies for remote care.

Yorkshire and the Humber is moving with purpose, investing in the next generation of campuses, innovation districts, digital platforms and specialist facilities. For businesses looking to develop, validate and grow new healthcare solutions, it is becoming one of the UK's most compelling places to be.

Yorkshire

Investing together for a healthier economy

Get in touch

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Health Innovation
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