



**Health
Innovation
Network**
Local change, national impact


**Office for
Life Sciences**



**Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber**



Impact Report 2025/26

Transforming lives through innovation



Contents

Foreword	3
How we work	6
Our impact in metrics 2025-26	8
Analogue to digital	10
Sickness to prevention	14
Hospital to community	18
Economic growth	20
Securing investment in our region	28
Real-world evaluation	30
Involving and engaging local communities	32
Improving patient safety	34
Strengthening skills, networks and system-wide collaboration	38
Part of the national Health Innovation Network	44

Foreword

Innovation has a vital role to play in shaping a healthier population, a more sustainable NHS, and a stronger economy for the future.

The challenge is not invention, it is adoption at scale, moving beyond isolated pilots to bring the best solutions into everyday practice, improving outcomes for patients throughout the NHS and driving a vibrant health and life sciences sector.

As one of 15 health innovation networks we are the health innovation adoption experts. We find, test, implement and scale innovations with the potential to tackle the NHS’ greatest challenges and ambitions, including the ‘three shifts’, and improving NHS productivity.

Embedded within local systems and connected nationally, our work is improving population health, strengthening workforce wellbeing and productivity, and reducing pressure on the NHS through fewer hospital admissions, more efficient care pathways, and shorter waiting times.

In the pages that follow, you will find highlights from the past year that demonstrate the impact of

this work. From improving access to earlier diagnosis and life-changing treatments, to generating the evidence needed to support adoption and scale, our focus remains on delivering measurable benefits for patients, healthcare systems and the wider economy.

Innovation also depends on attracting investment to turn promising ideas into solutions that can be adopted at scale. As part of the national Network, we have helped to leverage **£1.5 billion** of investment into the national health and care innovation ecosystem, accelerating the development, evaluation and spread of innovations that improve patient care and strengthen the UK life sciences sector.

In Yorkshire and the Humber, we secured significant investment to help bring innovative technologies and services into routine care. Prostate cancer is the most common cancer in men in the UK, with around 52,800 new diagnoses and over 12,000 deaths each year.



We helped to secure **£2.25 million** to accelerate the adoption of Lucida Medical's Prostate Intelligence AI, an artificial intelligence-powered tool that supports the identification of cancer from MRI scans. By improving diagnostic accuracy and reducing unnecessary biopsies, this innovation has the potential to improve patient experience while enabling more efficient use of NHS resources ([page 12](#)).

Over the past year, we achieved a major milestone in improving access to care for people with sickle cell disease. Sickle cell is a debilitating condition causing painful crises, reducing life expectancy and profoundly impacting the lives of those affected.

In England, there are around 17,000 people living with this condition, with 250 new cases a year. As the national lead for this programme, we were instrumental in securing **£9 million to expand access** to automated red cell exchange services across England. This will help more people access effective treatment closer to home, improving outcomes and quality of life for thousands of patients (find out more on [page 16](#)).

Generating real-world evidence is essential to turning promising innovations into proven solutions.

By demonstrating what works, for whom and in what context, evaluation helps healthcare systems make informed decisions about adoption, implementation and scale.

Early findings from one evaluation show that a pilot project delivering X-ray services in the community can reduce costs by around **£1,600 per patient**, compared with hospital-based imaging, reducing unnecessary hospital attendances and admissions and releasing capacity within acute and ambulance services.

Innovation has a crucial role to play in addressing longstanding health inequalities. The publication of the renewed Women's Health Strategy, as part of the Government's 10-Year Health Plan, reinforces the importance of supporting innovations that improve outcomes for women and ensuring women are represented within the health innovation ecosystem.

We are proud to **champion gender equality** through initiatives such as our new Springboard programme for female innovators. This programme addresses structural barriers like limited access to capital for female-led ventures and helps female founders gain the confidence, skills and networks needed to make a real impact in health innovation ([page 27](#)).

Alongside supporting adoption within the NHS, we are helping to build a thriving innovation ecosystem that can deliver future health and economic benefits.

Programmes such as our accelerator **Propel Healthtech** create the conditions for innovators to thrive while building the foundations for adoption at scale. Last year, we secured **£4.5 million to expand this programme** as part of the West Yorkshire Mayor's Investment Zone. Over the next four years, **up to 240 businesses** will receive intensive support and masterclasses, helping them navigate regulation, access new markets, and overcome barriers to growth ([page 20](#)).

With public sector budgets under increasing pressure, supporting economic growth remains an important part of our mission.

This year alone, we supported **more than 500 companies** with **7,000 hours** of tailored expertise, helping them to bring their transformational innovations into the NHS. Our work contributed to the creation of **42 jobs** and **safeguarded a further 124 jobs** across the region ([page 25](#)).

Innovation is a team sport. Reducing the barriers and friction to implementation and scaling is a collective challenge and opportunity. We work in partnership across our region and without the support of our NHS colleagues, our innovators and industry partners, our regional mayors and our national commissioners none of the impact within this report would be possible. Thank you to everyone who has helped us to deliver real change in Yorkshire and the Humber over the last 12 months.



Richard Stubbs,
Chief Executive of Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber



Christine Outram MBE,
Chair of Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber



How we work

This report illustrates how we operate, connecting the health and care system with innovators, academics and local communities. We perform a unique role, combining deep knowledge and skills with strong connections nationally and internationally to benefit our region.

This leads to collaborations which deliver real impacts for our region – a selection of which are highlighted in the following pages.

From AI-enabled diagnostics to technologies supporting more personalised and preventative care closer to home, innovation is essential to delivering the NHS three strategic shifts, and improving productivity, outcomes and sustainability across the NHS.

As one of 15 local organisations that make up the Health Innovation Network, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber is embedded

within the local health and care system, bringing together the NHS, industry, academia, local government, charities and communities to find, test, implement and scale innovations that can improve patient outcomes, increase productivity and drive economic growth.

We work closely with fellow health innovation networks around the country, to surface and spread the best innovations, working in collaboration and involving regional, national and international partners to achieve our ambitions.

There is no shortage of invention, the real challenge lies in scaling up the adoption of innovation, moving beyond isolated pilots to bring the best solutions into everyday practice.

Our role is solving that problem systematically across the NHS in England.

If you're not already working with us and this support is what you need, please get in touch at: info@healthinnovationyh.com

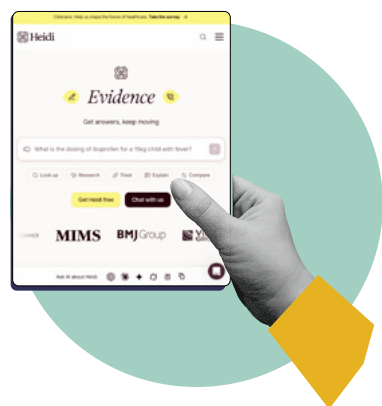


Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber moved into a new home, the National Health Innovation Campus at the University of Huddersfield.





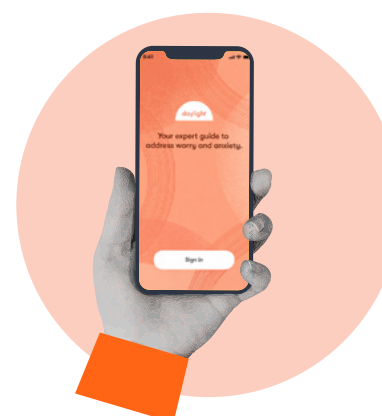
Our **impact** 2025-26



3,942 hours on admin saved per year using AI scribe Heidi, releasing clinicians in Hull for additional work or training and preventing burnout



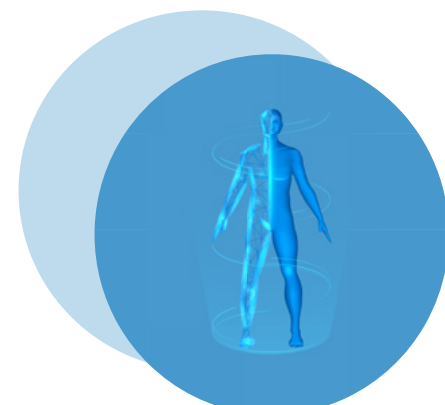
10 trusts nationally now piloting AI prostate cancer test Lucida PI after we helped secure **£2.25m**



81% of 1,843 Daylight app users reported a reduction in anxiety and increased mental wellbeing



As part of the national Network, we have contributed to the leveraging of **£1.5bn** of investment into the national health and care innovation ecosystem.



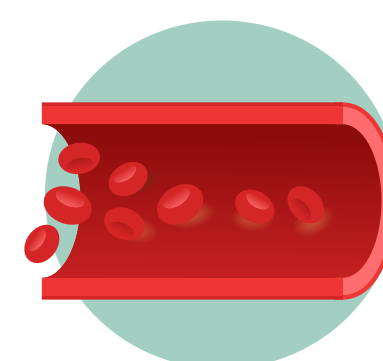
International recognition received for our groundbreaking collaboration to create the world's first population health **Digital Twin**



All 13 acute trusts in the region supported to implement Martha's Rule



Over 500 healthtech firms supported with **7,000** hours of tailored expertise, helping them to bring their transformational innovations into the NHS



£9m secured to expand services for people living with sickle cell disease, in a national programme led by us, enabling more people to benefit from life-changing treatment



£4.5m secured for Propel Healthtech West Yorkshire **supporting 240 innovators over four years**



30 Propel innovators now ready to either access or scale-up in the NHS

Analogue to digital

We work with the NHS to find, test and implement digital technologies with the potential to deliver faster, more efficient and more personalised care. By putting digital tools at the centre of care delivery, patients will get the right support more quickly and staff will have more time to focus on what matters most.

AI scribe is a 'game changer' for clinicians

An ambient AI scribe, Heidi, is helping clinicians at the Jean Bishop Integrated Care Centre in Hull improve note accuracy and reduce time spent on documentation, enabling more quality time with patients.

We commissioned an independent evaluation for the Centre which found Heidi saves around **3,942 hours on admin annually**, equivalent to an estimated **£313,484 in staff time per year**.

Time saved is being invested in proactive staff training, while staff are finishing the working day on time.

[Read More](#)

"You can get validation from customers and people who love the technology; but it's another level to have an independent organisation review how the system operates, what is changing, what are some of the unseen benefits or consequences."

Heidi's UK and Ireland Director Raghav Sharma



Heidi team at the Jean Bishop Centre
(Dr Andy Noble, Susan Weeks and Raghav Sharma)

Impact

AI scribe tool Heidi evaluated as saving the cost equivalent of **£313,484 in staff time per year**





Supporting trials of AI in prostate cancer testing

An artificial intelligence-powered tool which could revolutionise prostate cancer diagnostics **secured £2.25 million funding** with our support.

In Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, the aim is to carry out key tests including biopsies, on the same day, using Lucida Medical's Pi™.

It is being **piloted in ten trusts** nationally, potentially reducing unnecessary biopsies by around **20 per cent**.

We helped secure funding from the Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) Healthcare, which helped to secure a **further £8.7 million investment** to advance spread into different cancer types.

[Read More](#)

“Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber have provided us with invaluable support through identifying funding opportunities, pilot sites and key stakeholders and decision-makers within the region.”

Lucy Davies, VP Clinical at Lucida Medical

Digital app helps patients quit smoking

More than **700 patients** are benefitting from a new app that supports them to quit smoking.

The Smoke Free app, now available across **13 trusts** in the North East and Yorkshire, is offered to patients during their hospital stays and continues to support their quit journey once they return home.

We helped bring the project together, kept delivery on track, and designed how its impact would be measured.

[Read More](#)

“Having support available at any time was important for me. Anxiety doesn't work to a schedule, and things can come up at any point in the day. Knowing the app was there, no matter what else was going on in my life, made it easier to keep going.”

Carlos, a patient at the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust



Impact

From April 2025 to May 2026

- More than **700 patients** accessed the **Smokefree app**
- **241 patients** managed to quit

Sickness to prevention

As healthcare shifts from treating illness to preventing it, our team has supported innovations that enable earlier diagnosis and intervention, while addressing health inequalities and improving access to care.

Collaborating on a world-first Digital Twin

A disease-agnostic Digital Twin has been developed from an idea to a programme of national and international significance in the last year. Using digital replicas of physical healthcare systems, processes, assets and patients, the programme will allow healthcare organisations to test scenarios, predict outcomes, optimise services, and improve decision-making.

The SYNTHEKID testbed used in our region is the world's first population health digital twin registered with the Digital Twin Consortium. Its first project will focus on improving the outcomes of chronic kidney disease. Partnerships have been formed with West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board, Kidney Research UK and AstraZeneca, along with a coalition of universities and innovators.

[Read More](#)



Launch of Digital Twin project



Investing in the expansion of sickle cell services

Access to automated red cell exchange services for people living with sickle cell disease was expanded following a national programme led by Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber.

We helped to secure **£9 million investment** from NHS England to address health inequalities experienced by West African and Afro-Caribbean communities disproportionately affected by this condition. By bringing together key stakeholders across the system and using evidence-based data to target areas of greatest need, we secured funding for 25 additional devices across 22 NHS trusts in England, bringing services closer to people's homes.

Around 15,000 people in England are living with sickle cell disease, with about 10 per cent eligible for this treatment on the NHS. Investment in the rollout of this technology could enable up to 10,000 additional apheresis procedures each year.

[Read More](#)

Impact

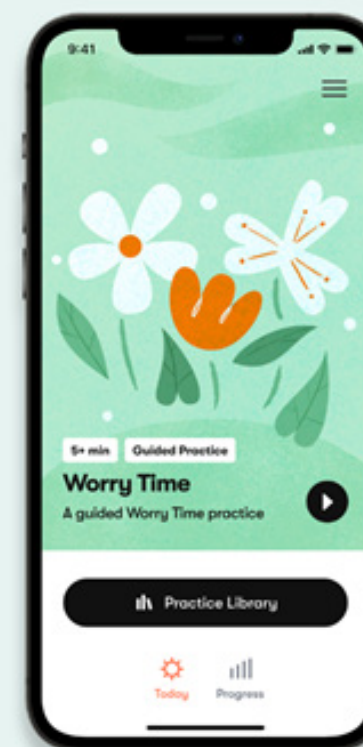
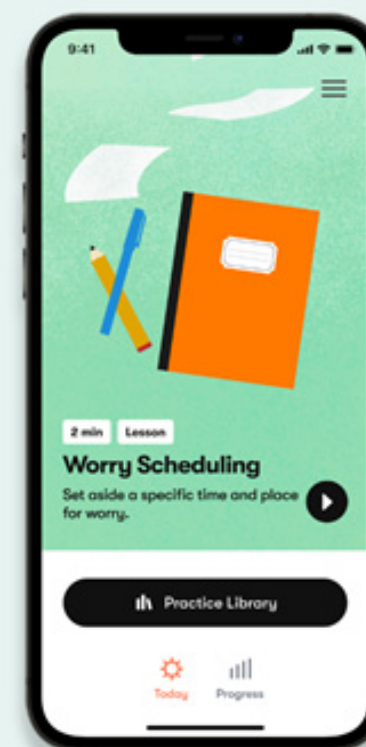
- 81% of patients reported reduced tension
- 67% used Daylight's techniques in everyday life
- 7,500 GP appointments saved



"Sickle cell disease has affected me in every way: mentally, physically, socially, financially. I'll never stop thanking the NHS, my haematology team, blood donors, and everyone who makes safe blood available for me."

Solome Mealin, from Leeds, is a lifelong sufferer of sickle cell disease

daylight



Improving mental wellbeing through digital solutions

An app to support people with anxiety has been made available to everyone who needs it in South Yorkshire, with **1,843 people using it in the last year**.

Daylight is a digital mental health treatment developed by Big Health, providing personalised cognitive behavioural therapy without a GP referral.

Our real-world evaluation showed **81 per cent** of patients reported reduced tension after a single Daylight technique, while around **7,500 GP appointments** were avoided.

Full results are expected later in the year.

[Read More](#)

"This app has been really easy to use and has helped me a lot. It has taught me many ways to manage my anxiety, and I now use these methods in my everyday life."

Daylight user, 20s, South Yorkshire



Hospital to community

Delivering care closer to people's homes enables the healthcare system to intervene earlier, improve patient outcomes, and potentially reduce the need for hospital admissions.

Improving asthma diagnosis and care in South Yorkshire

A new project in South Yorkshire to improve asthma care has led to **115 people** reporting a better quality of life.

We supported five GP practices in one of the country's most deprived areas to introduce testing with fractional exhaled nitric oxide (FeNO), a NICE-recommended diagnostic tool.

We also provided project management and evaluation services to support the efficient delivery of the project.

[Read More](#)



Impact

- 218 patients assessed, including 62 children and young people
- Referrals to paediatric respiratory services have fallen by 53%

"Setting up this FeNO testing clinic in our PCN has made a real, impactful, positive difference for our patients with asthma. Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber has supported with the project management and delivery of the programme, which has been invaluable for busy clinicians who wouldn't have had the time or expertise to do this."

Dr Frances Cundill, Chair, South Yorkshire Greener Practice

Knee patients avoid surgery thanks to innovation adoption

A NICE-approved, non-surgical option for managing knee osteoarthritis is helping patients reduce pain, improve movement and confidence – and avoid knee replacement.

Adoption of personalised foot-worn device Apos at The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust has been supported by patient engagement delivered by Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, as part of the NHS MedTech Funding Mandate programme.

This provided insights into how non-surgical options can be embedded within existing orthotics services to improve pain, function and confidence for patients.

[Read More](#)

Impact

- All 23 patients reported improvements
- £40,500 cost savings in first year



"The pain was shocking with osteoarthritis in both knees, and I had to leave my job as a granite fitter.

"After being fitted with Apos I can now help a little more around the house doing light chores at a slow pace. I must take my time as I still get pain but not as intense as it used to be."

Wayne Booth, 56, of South Yorkshire - Apos user since early 2025



Economic growth

We support the acceleration and spread of healthtech innovations across Yorkshire and the Humber and beyond, while leveraging extra investment to drive regional economic growth, creating jobs as a foundation of good health.

A landmark year for Propel Healthtech

Our flagship accelerator Propel Healthtech **secured £4.5m** from West Yorkshire Combined Authority via the UK Government's Investment Zone, marking a milestone year.

The funding is helping **240 innovators over four years**, expanding Start-Up and Scale-Up programmes and launching Propel Connect, the UK's first digital platform designed to connect innovators with partners working across health innovation.

The first cohort of **30 innovators** is already driving solutions across healthcare, strengthening the region's position as a leading healthtech hub.

[Read More](#)



Impact

An additional
£335,000 was
leveraged by three
Propel innovators.

“Joining the Propel Healthtech accelerator has been a transformative experience for both myself and Lotessa Digital Health. From the moment I stepped into the programme, the calibre of mentorship, peer cohort, and industry-relevant insights has elevated how I think about my product strategy, commercialisation, and scaling in digital health.”

Tsitsi Chinyandura, Founder at Lotessa Digital Health, Propel Start-Up programme





Bringing global innovation to the UK market

Over the last 12 months, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber's Propel International programme has supported **67 healthtech companies from across Europe, Asia and North America**, to take practical steps towards entering the UK healthcare market.

This builds on the success of the last three years, in which we've supported **23 companies** to establish a base in the UK.

The programme supports innovators to understand how the NHS operates, build relevant connections and identify next steps for market entry.

[Read More](#)

Impact

Over the last 12 months we have supported companies from:

- Norway
- Poland
- Korea
- USA
- India
- Denmark

and a delegation of 35+ participants from Bulgaria, Croatia, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Austria and Romania





Responding to the needs of NHS partners

Supporting NHS partners looking for solutions to address unmet needs, we carried out **20 horizon scans** and presented more than **200 relevant innovations** across respiratory care, addiction services, asthma, maternity services, and AI tools in chest x-ray.

We also helped NHS organisations validate high-impact innovations to drive service improvement and transformation.

Horizon scanning activity supports better decision-making, improving pathways, and enhancing safety across the region.

[Read More](#)

Impact

Our annual economic growth survey indicates that Health Innovation Network activity nationally has led to:

- **Investment of £1.5 billion** into the health and care innovation ecosystem.
- **Creation of 579 jobs**, 42 of which are in Yorkshire and the Humber
- **Safeguarding of 1,064 jobs**, 122 of which are in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Supporting the innovation journey

We worked with more than **500 healthtech firms**, delivering **7,000 hours of tailored support** over the last year.

This is part of our commission from the Office for Life Sciences (OLS); through our triage process, we meet innovators to assess their solution, understand its stage of development, and identify how it may fit within an NHS pathway. This enables us to provide tailored advice, signposting, and coordinated support from across our organisation and NHS partners.

[Read More](#)

“Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber’s collaboration has been instrumental in helping us explore innovative approaches to better support families who rely on interpreting and translation services within maternity care.”

Jenny Roddy, Consultant Midwife
Health Equity, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

“We have been really fortunate to benefit from the active support of Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber as we developed, validated and deployed the PinPoint Test Suite.

“They have played an active role in accelerating our progress in the Yorkshire and Humber region and beyond.”

Rosie Ferguson, Chief Operating Officer, Pinpoint Data Science





Innovations adopted across the region

During 2025-26, our Office for Life Sciences-commissioned innovator support led to the adoption and spread of **eleven innovations** across healthcare, education and independent healthcare settings in Yorkshire and the Humber.

Innovations include Peili Vision, a digital ADHD support platform that has been rolled out across Leeds schools with plans to expand across the wider region.

[Read More](#)



“We have really appreciated Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber’s support for our pilots in the Yorkshire area. They not only provided us with incredibly helpful introductions but were also incredibly useful in helping us refine our offer and ensure that it fit well into the necessary care pathways.”

Ari Billig, UK Country Lead, Peili Vision

Accelerating women-led health innovation

Ten women innovators joined our inaugural Springboard programme, delivered with Amazon Web Services and Nexus.

The programme was created to address the underrepresentation of women in health innovation, supporting women to develop early-stage ideas into solutions that address health and care challenges.

Two innovators from the Springboard programme have been accepted onto our Propel Healthtech accelerator to take their ideas to the next level.

[Read More](#)



“This programme enabled me to build meaningful connections, strengthen my understanding of health equity, and gain confidence in clearly defining problems. It also empowered me to seek guidance from others, present my ideas to diverse audiences, and cultivate the motivation and passion to take the idea forward.”

Amutha Balasubramanian, Founder, PenmaiCare, Springboard Programme





Securing investment in our region

Boosting the West Yorkshire Launchpad

As the cluster lead for the West Yorkshire Health Technologies Launchpad, we have supported companies to access Launchpad funding and infrastructure, help raise the international profile of West Yorkshire’s healthtech sector and provide bespoke support to innovators.

By strengthening the regional ecosystem we are attracting new

businesses, retaining local talent and ensuring our communities benefit first from cutting-edge innovations.

Over **£5.5 million additional private investment and 22 full time roles** were created through Launchpad funding in the last year.

[Read More](#)

Impact

- Over £5.5m additional private investment and 22 full time roles created through Launchpad funding
- Direct support for more than 46 companies

“Our partnership with Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber has been crucial to the early success of the West Yorkshire Investment Zone.

“As part of the Cluster Group for the regional healthtech sector, the Network has offered in-depth market knowledge, a strong ability to convene stakeholders and a great track-record in organising events.”

Felix Kumi-Ampofo Director of Inclusive Economy, Skills and Culture, West Yorkshire Combined Authority

Driving investment and growth

As part of the national Network, we have contributed to the leveraging of **£1.5 billion of investment** into the national health and care innovation ecosystem.

Over the last 12 months we worked with NHS, industry, local government, academic and other partners to submit **16 grant applications**, including successful bids to the British Heart

Foundation to undertake a CVD prevention programme in the region, and successful funding for the development of a theatre scheduling solution.

In addition, **£8,097,470** was secured from **10 successful bids** submitted the previous year.

[Read More](#)





Real-world evaluation

Digital support for young people with anxiety

A NICE-approved digital solution, LumiNova was offered to **239 young people** in **North Yorkshire** to help them with anxiety and depression, with **92 per cent uptake over two years**.

A mixed-methods evaluation of the tool by Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber and the Humber and North Yorkshire ICS Innovation Research and Improvement System (IRIS) explored the impact on wellbeing and on reducing waiting lists for treatment for 9–12-year-olds.

[Read More](#)

“Digital support options can help improve accessibility and provide children, young people and families with more flexible ways to engage with support.”

Zoe David, Service Manager at Compass Phoenix

Impact

The digital solution reduced waiting lists, with local target of missed 28-day referral falling from **97% to 26%**

Community-based X-ray services

Initial findings from our evaluation show that a pilot project delivering X-ray services in the community can reduce costs by **around £1,600 per patient**, compared with hospital-based imaging, primarily through reduced admissions.

The project delivered by Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, explored whether community-based imaging could provide a safe, effective alternative to standard hospital pathways.

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber funded the evaluation, which was undertaken by the York Health Economics Consortium.

[Read More](#)

Impact

Patients receiving community X-ray had a hospital admission rate of **11.36%**, compared with **76.39%** under standard care.

“The community X-ray project has transformed access to diagnostic imaging for care home residents in Rotherham.”

“The evaluation highlights significant potential cost savings for NHS services. Most importantly, it shows the substantial benefits for patient care in the community.”

Katie Martin, Clinical Lead for Plain Film, Fluoroscopy & Dental Clinical Radiology, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust





Involving and engaging local communities

Our team engages with patients and the public to co-design and shape patient-centred innovations and healthcare services.

Improving mental health, supporting disabled people to work

A digital tool to help manage anxiety, depression and stress was co-designed with people with lived experience, with the aim of supporting disabled people to enter or remain in meaningful work.

Our team managed a structured approach in which a public advisory group was embedded throughout, shaping what was built - and how it felt for users.

The Be Mindful - Workplace programme provides extra flexibility and accessibility and is now available nationally.

Impact

- Co-designed with 11 people with lived experience
- Tested by 296 people with lived experience

[Read More](#)

“We were co-creating a new version of the programme; it wasn’t something being rubber stamped, so we felt we were really making a difference.”

Linda Cole, Public Advisory Group member





Improving patient safety

Working in partnership with the NHS, our Patient Safety Collaborative leads on local delivery of national programmes to improve patient safety across the region.

Martha's Rule implemented across the region

All 13 acute trusts in Yorkshire and the Humber have been supported to implement Martha's Rule, through our Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Collaborative.

Martha's Rule supports the early detection of deterioration by ensuring the concerns of patients, families, carers and staff are listened to and acted upon.

In addition, we are leading a national pilot of Martha's Rule in nine emergency departments across the country.

[Read More](#)

Impact

- All 13 acute trusts using Martha's Rule
- Leading national pilot in 9 emergency departments

“Working with the Yorkshire and Humber Patient Safety Collaborative has been nothing less than a compassionate, innovate and collaborative experience for me as a consultant leading the regional pilot for implementation of Martha's Rule in paediatric medicine.

“Lizzie and her colleagues have been invaluable and key to the successes we are already seeing.”

Dr Ben Richardson, Consultant Paediatrician and Clinical Lead for Yorkshire and Humber Paediatric Critical Care ODN pilot





Improving care for vulnerable adults

Interviews with care staff and conversations with service users in West Yorkshire have helped shape ideas to improve medicines safety.

The programme supports people with learning disability at risk of behaviour that challenges, to avoid harm from psychotropic medicines.

Our mapping of pathways and services along with gathering input from support workers and service users in the Leeds area have provided a strong evidence base for improvements. Next steps are action planning with system partners.

[Read More](#)

“Excellent day, really valuable resources, supportive faculty.”

Professional Development Midwife, Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Avoiding Brain injuries in Childbirth (ABC)

Our support for maternity clinicians to reduce avoidable brain injuries in childbirth received a 100 per cent positive response rate.

Part of an NHS England patient safety programme, ABC, the aim is to help maternity staff better identify signs that a baby is in distress during labour.

Four training days were attended by **59 clinicians from 13 trusts** – midwives, obstetricians and anaesthetists. All those trained are educators, who are sharing their knowledge and skills with colleagues across their maternity teams.

[Read More](#)

Impact

100%
of attendees reported
increased confidence





Strengthening skills, networks and **system-wide collaboration**

Improving skills and sharing learning has received positive feedback from all participants, building networks and creating new collaborations.

Empowering digital champions in healthcare

Our Digital Ambassadors Programme supported **120 participants** in 2025-2026.

The programme strengthens the skills of the health and care workforce in digital innovation, transformation and improvement across the North East and Yorkshire.

Increased knowledge and confidence gained from the learning is supporting the adoption of digital solutions across primary, secondary, community, and social care settings, enabling more efficient ways of working and contributing to the NHS shift from analogue to digital systems.

[Read More](#) 

“The programme sharpened and refreshed practical thinking on inclusive digital transformation, digital innovation, governance, and measuring impact, all grounded in real-world health and care delivery.

“It also reinforced something I care a lot about; that digital change only counts if it improves access, experience and outcomes for the people who rely on our services.”

Amanda Coates, Director of Digital and Innovation, Northpoint



INNOVATION
STARTS WITH
CONVERSATION





Shaping the future of digital health

With more than **700 attendees** and **20 national and international expert speakers**, the West Yorkshire Distinguished Lecture series provided a valuable platform for sharing learning and insights to drive digital health transformation across our region.

Led by our West Yorkshire Innovation Hub, each session was designed to be practical, drawing on real examples of what is working and the barriers that remain, providing evidence-based insights to support delivery in the West Yorkshire health and care system.

[Read More](#)

“We are shaping the future of digital health in our region. The promise of the use of digital twin technology (see [page 14](#)) is that we can move from reacting to anticipating and simulating what’s likely to happen and intervening before it does. West Yorkshire is proving that it’s not a distant ambition and we are leading the way, working across boundaries to make a real difference for patients, communities, and our workforce.”

**James Thomas, Medical Director,
West Yorkshire ICB**





Fostering collaboration across South Yorkshire

Our South Yorkshire Innovation Hub delivered **19 Bitesize** webinars to share research and innovation best practice and strengthen collaboration across the region.

Launched in September 2025, the series brought together partners from health and care, academia and industry to share learning and explore solutions to challenges including cancer, prevention, workforce development and the economy.

These priorities align with the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Strategy and support delivery of the Government's 10 Year Health Plan.

Watch the webinars



"The Bitesize series, delivered by Health Innovation Yorkshire and Humber, has created a practical platform to share evidence, insight and innovation that supports real improvements in services across South Yorkshire."

Dr David Crichton, Chief Medical Officer, South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Improving the diagnosis and care of heart failure

The Heart Failure Academy, supported by Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, delivered 10 events, with **more than 800 registering** for a webinar or study day since its launch in April 2025.

The Academy plays a vital role in equipping healthcare professionals across the region with the knowledge, skills and practical tools to identify the early signs of heart failure, ultimately improving timely diagnosis and ensuring patients receive the right treatment at the right time.

Visit the Heart Failure Academy website



"A really educational and collaborative event which will improve my practice. Really useful online resources."

Dr Amy Atkin, GP



Part of the national Health Innovation Network

We are part of a national Health Innovation Network of 15 organisations embedded in health and care systems. We work locally with the NHS, industry, academia, local government, charities and communities and we work collectively to achieve a greater impact nationally, scaling up the spread of innovations that can improve patient outcomes, increase productivity and drive economic growth.

- More than **7m patients** have benefited from our national and local programmes since 2020
- More than **740k hours** of healthcare staff capacity have been released through our programmes and initiatives since 2020
- More than **£4.4bn** contributed to the UK economy through our innovator support since 2018.
- More than **12,600 jobs** created or safeguarded through our support to innovators since 2018.
- Our Innovator Offer delivers a **3:1 return on investment** (using Treasury Green Book methodology)





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