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*Dedicated to improving healthcare and driving economic growth through innovation*

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November 2016

## Welcome



It is, as the proverb goes, an interesting time: 2017/18 will be the last year of our initial 5 year licence and the relicensing process is under way. The future shape of the AHSNs locally and nationally is being informed by both national context such as the need to support STPs and deliver the Accelerated Access Review, but also by local imperatives.

Through either lens, local or national, we are confident that the work done with all of you on adoption and dissemination of innovation and being receptive to approaches from Industry that will improve the care of patients and provide system efficiencies across NENC.

The recent and imminent examples below, along with many others that we have featured previously, illustrate how we are not only supporting the transformation and 5YFV agendas but also already doing much of what the Accelerated Access Review proposes.

- 300+ of you have registered for the [North East Frailty Summit](#), being held in collaboration with the Newcastle Gateshead CCG Care Home Vanguard on the 5th December. Commissioners, providers, academics and industry will come together to network, share best practice and drive both improvements and efficiencies.
- Over 200 healthcare professionals gathered at the [Patient Safety and Quality Improvement event](#), on the 5th October. At the event Jim Mackey, Chief Executive of NHS Improvement, described the AHSN as: “a driving force and perfect example of how removing organisational boundaries can deliver significant evidence-based improvements to patient safety and quality improvement.”
- Our [Mental Health Summit held in early November](#) focussed on the role of primary care in improving mental health and wellbeing.
- The [Transforming Regional Care – Connected Health Cities and the Great North Care Record](#) event showcased the fabulous work that is being done to integrate patient data across the region to improve care provision, care planning and research.
- Our support of innovation within Trusts, CCGs and Universities continues through the Innovation Scouts Scheme, which jointly hosted [an innovation sharing event with the Yorkshire and Humber AHSN and Medipex](#) last month.
- I am also delighted to be able to use this newsletter to launch our [Innovation Exchange](#). Future newsletters will link to case studies from the NHS and Industry each month and the portal will help disseminate and promote innovations from across NENC and beyond.

The last piece of the jigsaw is the most important, to **remain relevant to and valued by our stakeholders in the region**. So we are delighted that the [annual NHS England/YouGov survey results for 2016](#) give such strong feedback on what we are doing and the way we go about it. 2015 was great but this year's return is even stronger and three times as

many of you filled in a return. Thank you, it really is appreciated by all the team.

Please be assured that throughout the relicensing process we will strive to retain your confidence and support and we will also do our very best to ensure that the great work and collegiate ethos in NENC informs the national agenda.

With sincere thanks,



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