



Welcome

Issue 4: December 2014

Welcome to the latest edition of the AHSN NENC newsletter. There has been a lot going on since our September edition, with 3 programme workshops taking place to follow on from our Stakeholder event held on 24th October. Overviews of the events are provided below.

The focus of the AHSN remains on our role as a facilitator and we only really know whether we are supporting the local system effectively if we can demonstrate impact on areas that matter to you. In this respect the projects and programmes we support are crucial; they are indicative of the impact we are trying to achieve and the Stakeholder event and Programme workshops were terrific in that respect. The posters at the Stakeholder event demonstrated that many of the ideas we funded last year are coming to fruition and the enthusiasm and critical mass apparent at the Programme workshops indicated that there is much to be gained by rolling out the practice that is proven to work in these areas. We are going to be doing a lot more work in this area over the next 12 months and, while we will not be holding a similar open project call, we will be investing in Programmes that roll-out of best practice in Respiratory Care; Atrial Fibrillation; Elderly Care; Mental Health; and Fractures. This is in addition to supporting cross-cutting themes such as Telehealth and Medicines Optimisation.

It is two years this week since the team came together to submit the bid for the AHSN and we have come a long way; I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support and hard work and hope that we can count on that continuing into another busy and exciting year. All the team here wish you well for the festive period, and look forward to working with you in 2015.



Séamus O'Neill

AHSN NENC LATEST NEWS

Please click on the links below to go directly to a section of the newsletter:

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STAKEHOLDER EVENT OVERVIEW

The AHSN NENC hosted the 7th stakeholder engagement event on Friday 24th October, which was held at Durham County Cricket Ground. The event brought together representatives from NHS foundation trusts, Clinical Commissioning Groups, Universities and a wide range of other stakeholders including companies, charities and Local Authorities. Over 100 delegates attended the event, which showcased the network [funded projects](#) via poster presentations (please [visit our website](#) to view the posters and project information) and short overview presentations provided by 6 of the project leads. A [national and regional overview](#) of the [Patient Safety Collaborative](#) was also provided by Tony Roberts (Interim Programme Lead) and Cate Quinn (Interim Programme Manager).

Feedback from delegates suggested that information provided on the wide range of activities of the AHSN NENC, and the networking opportunities presented by the event, were highly valued. The quality of the speakers, and the passion shown for their subjects, were praised. The next networking event will be held in late February/early March 2015, and will be communicated via the [AHSN NENC events web page](#) when the details are confirmed.

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PROGRAMME WORKSHOPS OVERVIEW

The AHSN NENC recently hosted workshops relating to project work under 3 key programme areas: [care homes](#) (5th November); [respiratory health](#) (11th November); [telehealth](#) (13th November). The well attended workshops, chaired by Professor Oliver James, provided an effective forum to showcase the activities being undertaken under each work programme, and acted as a fantastic networking opportunity for project leads and other stakeholders who attended the event. Presentations from the workshops have been up uploaded to the [AHSN NENC website](#).

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PROJECTS UPDATE

Over £3m has been invested by the AHSN NENC to support a wide range of projects aimed at improving health outcomes for patients and facilitating the creation of jobs and wealth in the region.

Below is an update on a few of the projects we have funded and you can find more information on the full range of activity within the [projects section](#) of the website.

Regional Back Pain Pathway

The work on this project to implement the [Regional Back Pain Pathway](#) has been moving at pace with a number of targets already being delivered, including: training leads and pilot sites identified; working group embedded; support secured from the National Spinal Cord Injury Database team; computer system for the project at the design stage; Care Pathways and Packages designed and financially reviewed; scoping of personnel and training requirements undertaken; design and scoping of major CPPP element complete.

The standardised care facilitated by the unified and comprehensive pathway will produce significant savings, reduce delays, eliminate ineffective therapies and improve patient outcomes with reduction of disability and ending of the 'postcode lottery' syndrome. The project team have recently produced a [newsletter](#) which has been sent out to all clinicians within South Tees CCG and Hambleton, Richmond and Whitby CCG localities who are participating in this pilot project.

Prevention of Hip Fracture Following Surgery Using High Dose Antibiotic Cement

This [project](#) aims to reduce the number of infections following hemi arthroplasty by around 40 cases per year. The research underpinning the study showed that use of high does antibiotic cement decreased infections after hip surgery from 5% to 1.7%, which translates to a potential cost saving of £692k per annum across NHS trusts in the region.

Project progress to date includes the following: filming and launch of a promotional video; promotional materials produced; NEQOS data produced for each trust; audit and Caldicott registration in all but 2 NE acute trusts. The project works with and supports the Collaborative Orthopaedic Research Network, which will help to extend the reach of the initiative, supporting other trials, audits and innovation. A [project poster](#) was presented at the recent stakeholder event.

Transforming Participation Partnership

The [Transforming Participation Partnership continues to gain momentum](#), with excellent progress across the work streams. Forum meetings are proving to be a success, with over 30 individuals from a wide variety of interests attending the 4th event held in November. The next Transforming Participation Forum will be held on the 20th March 2015. For further information in relation to the Transforming Participation Project or Forum or to share good practice examples please contact england.nursingandqualitycntw@nhs.net or 0113 825 3066.

New Chronic Fatigue Syndrome(CFS)/Myalgic Encephalopathy (ME), Fibromyalgia and Irritable Bowel Syndrome Project Launched

Northumbria University is partnering with the AHSN NENC and the Northern England Strategic Clinical Networks, in a [project which aims to study the patient pathways of people with Persistent Physical Symptoms](#), specifically those with CFS/ME, Fibromyalgia and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. If you are interested in participating in the project, or can share information on local support groups, please contact Joanne Smithson the Project Manager by e-mail joanne.smithson@northumbria.ac.uk or telephone 07568 096 316.

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KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

RTC North Celebrating 25 years

The AHSN NENC were delighted to sponsor an award at the event held on November 19th to celebrate [25 years of RTC North](#). The award for most innovative SME contribution to Healthcare went to [PolyPhotonix](#), who have developed a non-invasive light therapy treatment for diabetic retinopathy. Polyphotonix are based in Sedgefield and have received support from AHSN NENC including access to clinical insight and advice from staff in our Trusts. This is helping them take forward their innovative technology and develop new products. They are a great example of the ways in which, simultaneously, healthcare outcomes can be improved and economic growth promoted in the region. An honourable mention should also go to local entrepreneur Andrew Turner of Quality Hospital Solutions, linked to City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, who was runner up in the same category, and has designed [a range of innovations](#) to improve conditions for patients.

Collaborating for Better Care Partnership (CfBCP)

Technology Appraisals

With the support of the Pharmacy Lead for the Specialised Commissioning Team Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear Area Team NHS England, the Partnership has been able to identify on the initial Technology Appraisals on which to focus. Work has begun to look at the regional variation in implementation for a range of drugs. A regional group will be convened to identify how variation in uptake can be reduced across the region, complementing the work of other regional pharmacy groups. This will build on the work already undertaken by the North West AHSN, resulting in increased collaboration across AHSN regions.

If you would like to get involved in this piece of work, please email Sue Shilling at NEQOS sue.shilling@ntw.nhs.uk

Full details of which drugs can be found in the [Partnership's e-bulletin \(Issue 3\)](#).

Survey Reports: NICE Guidance Implementation

Following feedback and input for the AHSN NENC Board and the CfBCP's Steering Group, the Recommendations Report from the telephone survey of provider and commissioner organisations undertaken to identify how NICE guidance is currently implemented across the North East and North Cumbria has been completed.

[An in depth study of the implementation of NICE Guidance: Stakeholder report 2014](#)

Surveillance Reporting

NEQOS, on behalf of the NENC AHSN has developed a prototype report based on the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). The aim of this report is to identify where the AHSN NENC region stands in terms of health and healthcare against other AHSN Regions, in order that the AHSN can continually reassess its priorities, and that the most important healthcare issues are being addressed by its initiatives. Whilst the regions identified in the PHOF are slightly different to the AHSN footprints, it is possible to drill down to local authority level, and also show the North East compared to the rest of the country. The first report is available here:

[Population Health & Healthcare Surveillance: Intelligence for the North East & Cumbria AHSN, September 2014](#)

Master Class: 'Getting new ideas into practice: normalising the implementation of complex interventions across the Healthcare system', 23rd October 2014, St James' Park

Professor Carl May, Professor of Healthcare Innovation at Southampton University, joined Dr Tracy Finch and colleagues from the Institute of Health and Society at Newcastle University to deliver the third in the series of Master Classes on behalf of the Collaborating for Better Care Partnership. Oversubscribed, the Master Class, led by Tracy Finch, was aimed at anybody with a key role in practically implementing and integrating some form of innovation, within or across organisations and organisational boundaries.



Normalization Process Theory (NPT) informed the core content for the day, a tool kit which is intended to support the work of implementation and evaluation. Participants pre-selected one of three parallel themed workshops- focusing on the Partnership's 3 health priorities: COPD, Frail Elderly and End of Life Care. The workshops looked at when, how and why to apply Normalization Process Theory in an implementation/ innovation setting.

Delegates completed a pre- NPT Master Class survey, and the results from this were used as an aide for the facilitators to help them to understand the key issues and challenges of the delegates on the day. Whilst the evaluation is underway, anecdotal feedback received on the day was very positive and delegates could see how this model would be of real benefit, particularly in the planning stages of implementation and / or change.

Resources and materials from the event can be found here: [NPT Master Class presentation 'Getting new ideas into Practice: normalising the implementation of complex interventions across the healthcare system'](#)

'Putting evidence into practice' Master Class with NICE: 25th November 2014, Durham County Cricket Club

In response to stakeholder's feedback, Dr Stephen Stericker (PhD), Implementation Consultant - North of England, National Institute for Health and Care Excellence led this half day Master Class on behalf of NICE. The purpose of this event was to support local stakeholders to implement NICE guidance more effectively, in particular focussing on:

- Effectively using NICE Implementation tools & resources
- Quality improvement and Quality Standards
- Successfully implementing NICE guidance
- Sharing achievements

Delegates attended two out of three pre-selected workshops to explore specific tools, resources and support available from NICE. Full details and materials will be available in 'Issue 4' of the Collaborating for Better Care Partnership's e-bulletin.

Sign up for the 'Collaborating for Better Care Partnership's e-bulletin- to keep up to date with our progress and enable them to access a suite of on-line resources, such as presentations and video footage from the Master Classes.

Issue 3 is available on-line here: [Collaborating for Better Care Partnership E-bulletin \(Issue 3\)](#)

To sign up for the Partnership's e-bulletin, please contact katherine@yellowbrickroadltd.co.uk.

For further information on the Collaborating for Better Care Partnership and the work programme, please contact Sue Shilling, Project Manager Sue.Shilling@ntw.nhs.uk

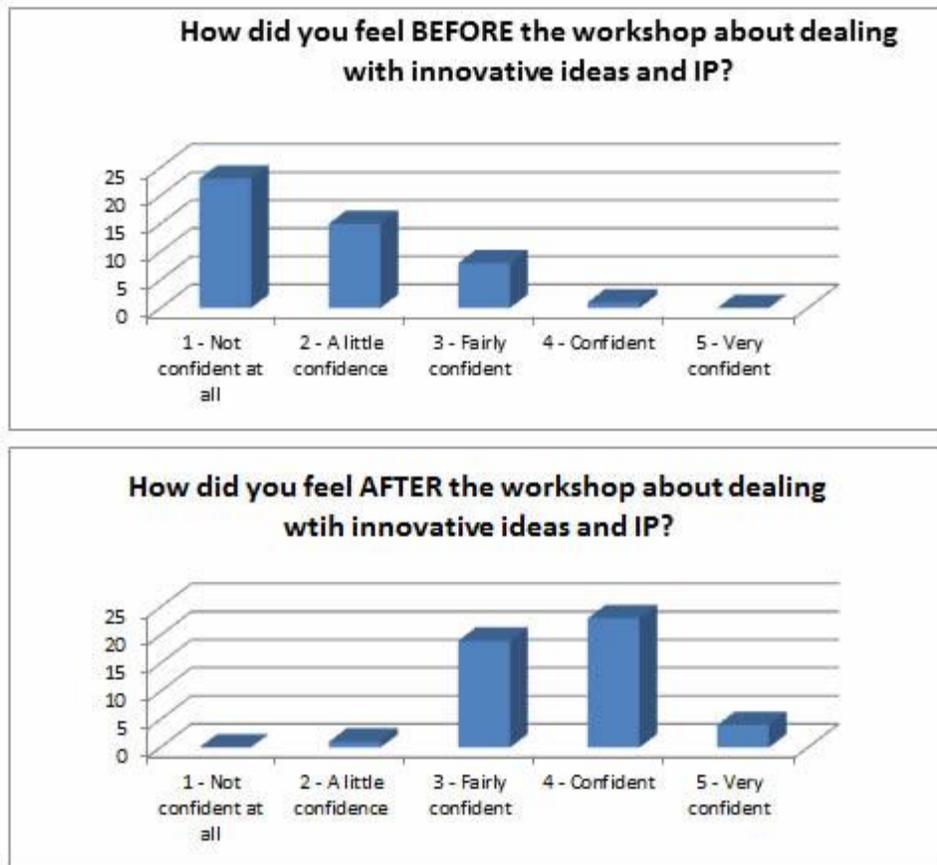
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INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND WEALTH CREATION PROGRAMME

Innovation Scout Scheme

The scheme allows nominated healthcare professionals who are embedded within NHS organisations in the region to become innovation scouts, with the aim of helping to support a culture for innovation, leading to increased innovation flow as well as an increased awareness of the importance of intellectual property. The innovation scouts will help to uncover and identify new NHS innovations for further assessment and potential development.

The AHSN NENC delivered a training course with assistance from NHS Innovations North and the Clinical Research Network in November 2014 which enabled scouts to be trained on the essentials of understanding and managing intellectual property. This training session was well received with scouts acknowledging this was a "very good and informative session" whilst "looking forward to the follow up session in March 2015". The graphs below indicate how scouts found the session very useful, with much being gained from the training.



Now that this scheme has been launched, we are very much looking forward to the outcomes from the network over the forthcoming months. The innovation scout network will continue to deliver updates via the AHSN newsletter.

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EVENTS

SBRI SPARK Showcase 2014

Further information on plans for this event on December 10, including the agenda, is now available on [the SBRI website](#). AHSNs are encouraged to continue promoting the showcase event to their network.

SBRI Healthcase competition - one week left for applications

The latest SBRI competition closes on December 9. The £2.5m funding round is focusing on Brain Injury; Child and Adolescent Mental Health; Diabetic Foot Ulcers; Imaging; and Outpatient Services.

Bright Ideas in Health Awards 2015

The Bright Ideas in Health Awards is an annual competition organised by NHS Innovations North in conjunction with the AHSN NENC.

Further to yet another successful competition in 2014, we are delighted to announce that next year's award ceremony will be held at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead Hotel on Thursday 21st May 2015 so make sure you save the date!

For more information about the Awards please visit <http://www.nhsinnovationsnorth.org.uk/biha/>

Announcing the 1st North of England Falls Summit (#1noefs)

The North of England Falls Network, in collaboration with the Improvement Academy and North East and North Cumbria Patient Safety Collaborative (allied to NENC AHSN), are pleased to announce the [1st North of England Falls Summit](#) to be held on Monday 16th March 2015 at the Queens Hotel, Leeds. The summit will concentrate on three key themes with key note speakers and best practice presentations on each topic, with additional presentations from the North of England Patient Safety Collaboratives and the PreFIT Research Team.

The key themes and speakers will be:

Exercise and Falls Prevention

Professor Pam Dawson, Dean Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, York St John University

Multi-disciplinary Falls Prevention

Dr. John Davison, Consultant Physician, Falls and Syncope Service, Newcastle upon Tyne

Patient Safety

Julie Windsor, National Patient Safety Lead Older People and Falls, NHS England.

There will also be the opportunity for delegates to present work related to the key themes in poster format. The summit is intended for clinicians and decision-makers of all disciplines working in falls prevention in the North of England. RCP and RCN accreditation is being sought. There is no charge for this event. For further information please contact Louise Barber: e-mail academy@yhahsn.nhs.uk, t: 01274 383926.

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FUNDING

European Commission innovation procurement funding

The NHS European Office has identified current EU funding pots resulting from Horizon2020, which can assist local health commissioners seeking to procure technology enabled health/care solutions. Relevant to NHS England's Technology Enabled Care Services programme, the funding opportunities cover both:

- Pre-Commercial Procurement – the procurement of research and development of new innovative solutions before they are commercially available
- Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions – the purchase of innovative solutions for unmet needs which are already commercially available but have not yet been deployed on a large scale

The calls vary in size from c. €1-5m per project and close in April 2015. The European Commission has recently published a [brochure](#) giving an overview of EU funded innovation procurement projects in the ICT domain. If you would like more information please contact Michael.Wood@nhsconfed.org

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If you have any feedback or would like to submit an article for our future newsletters please email: kirstie.taylor@ahsn-nenc.org.uk