



## Welcome

### Issue 2: July 2014

Welcome to the latest edition of the AHSN NENC newsletter. It has been a busy few weeks since our last issue and in this issue we'll update you on a few more projects being successfully undertaken within the AHSN NENC.

One of the highlights of the year is the annual Bright Ideas in Health Awards, which celebrates innovation within the regional NHS and recognises the hard work, ambition and dedication of the staff to make healthcare improvement a priority. You can read more about the winners below.

Moving forward, you will see from some of the highlights there are a significant number of activities and projects which have been mobilised and we will continue to report on their progress and successes via this newsletter, on our website and at our forthcoming stakeholder event on the 24th October 2014.



*Seamus O'Neil*

---

## AHSN NENC LATEST NEWS

### PROJECTS UPDATE

The AHSN NENC has invested over £3m to support a wide range of projects aimed at improving health outcomes for patients, supporting local healthcare businesses to create jobs and wealth in the region and addressing regional healthcare issues such as COPD, Telehealth, Respiratory and End of Life care.

Below is an update on a few of the projects and you can find more information on the full range of projects by visiting our website, [click here](#).

#### **Validating a regional model of Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) diagnostic and cascade testing**

FH is a genetic disorder characterised by high levels of low density lipoprotein cholesterol, causing premature

cardiovascular disease. Within the first few months of its initiation, this project, being implemented by The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and NewGene Limited, has made great progress around developing a testing service for the region as well as reviewing the clinical and economic evaluation leading to a best practice model for a long term delivery approach.

The British Heart Foundation has announced that they will invest £1 million to fund nurses so that this testing service can be delivered to eight NHS Trusts across England and Scotland, further details can be found [here](#). A further press release was made via the North, Midlands and East Communications Services which generated interest from regional press such as the [Sunderland Echo](#) and the [Northern Echo](#). In addition, Dr Paul Brennan spoke to Metro Radio to advertise this project which reached 417,000 listeners.

A Familial Hypercholesterolemia project meeting will be held on the 5th November 2014 at Hardwick Hall, County Durham – further details will be available on the AHSN website in due course.

To read the project synopsis please [click here](#).

### Commercialising a Novel Aid for Early Non-Invasive Diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease (PD)

Manus Neurodynamica Limited is developing an innovative product which offers a cost effective solution through the use of a wireless sensor pen to highlight patients who suffer from PD. Manus already have the pen in existence; however, the focus of this project is finalising the product design before freezing it, which will ultimately enhance the diagnostics process. Within the first few months of its initiation the project is progressing very well with the prototype sensor pen being developed further into a wireless sensor pen and efforts being concentrated upon seeking CE approval.

A press release was issued to capture the project's aims and objectives and the benefits this will bring in terms of health and wealth creation. To review the press release [click here](#).

To read the project synopsis please [click here](#).

### Creating standards of care for people with neurological conditions

Earlier this year Northern Neurological Alliance (NNA) announced that it had successfully secured funding from the AHSN NENC to create and test standards of care for people with neurological conditions who receive care in their home.

Since then, NNA has established a series of groups to help them deliver the project and you can read more about the progress [here](#).

---

## KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

### Collaborating for Better Care Partnership (CfBCP)

Following a series of stakeholder engagement events and research undertaken by NEQOS on behalf of the AHSN over the last six months, the Partnership's Steering Group, chaired by Mr Ian Renwick, Chief Executive of Gateshead Health NHS FT approved the overarching Partnership Delivery Plan for 2014/15 on 1st May. A detailed work programme is currently being developed, and the Partnership is currently in the process of identifying and recruiting individuals across the Network to take this work forward under the following Workstreams:

**Workstream 1:** Improving Technology Appraisal Update

**Workstream 2:** Reducing variation against implementation of Quality Standards for COPD

**Workstream 3:** Reducing variation against implementation of NICE Guidelines for the Frail Elderly (End of Life Care, Frail Elderly in Care Home Environments)

**Workstream 4:** Education, Leadership & Training

**Workstream 5:** Development & Promotion of Audit Support Tools

### Inaugural CfBCP Master Class

The CfBCP held the first in a series of participative Master Classes which the Collaborating for Better Care Partnership will be organising across the region. Professor Jeremy Grimshaw, an international expert in knowledge translation, led this workshop alongside local knowledge translation experts from the Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University.

Aimed primarily at health care providers and commissioners, the Master Class was filled to capacity. It focussed on Knowledge Translation theory and practice; understanding and overcoming the barriers to knowledge transfer; and, proven strategies which improve the effectiveness and efficiency of knowledge translation.

Following the success of this first Master Class, we are delighted to confirm that Professor Grimshaw will be returning to Newcastle to host a follow up Master Class on 1st September 2014, which will be held at the International Centre for Life. This will explore the practical application of implementation science in a work setting.

### Ongoing engagement with stakeholders – the Partnership’s e-bulletin

The CfBCP is committed to keeping partners and stakeholders updated with the progress of the Partnership and enabling access to a suite of on-line resources, such as presentations and video footage from the Master Classes. A fundamental tool to help achieve this is through the e-bulletin, which was launched in late May ([Issue 1](#)). The Partnership will be using the e-bulletin to sign-post you to valuable resources and materials.

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](mailto:Sue.Shilling@ntw.nhs.uk)

To sign up for the Master Class or e-bulletin, please contact [katherine@yellowbrickroadltd.co.uk](mailto:katherine@yellowbrickroadltd.co.uk) .

---

## PATIENT, CARER & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT & ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

### Patient, Carer & Public Involvement and Engagement (PCPIE) Conference

The regional PCPIE team has had a very busy few months implementing a range of activities to support the Clinical Trials Week ([click here for more information](#)) in May followed by the delivery of a very successful conference at Matfen Hall Hotel, on June 4th 2014. The conference was aimed at patient and public groups and individuals working with the team across the whole of the North East and North Cumbria Region, and those interested in becoming involved.

The event included exceptional talks by patients who shared their research experiences. We were incredibly fortunate to have a workshop led by NIHR PCPIE Lead Derek Stewart OBE and the feedback has been very positive. For more information [click here](#).

---

## INNOVATION, INDUSTRY AND WEALTH CREATION PROGRAMME

### Bright Ideas in Health Awards 2014

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

This year’s awards ceremony was held at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead Hotel on Thursday 19th June and celebrated the achievements of regional NHS and CCG employees who have devised creative ideas to improve the service provided to patients, either through a technical innovation or through better service delivery.

Huge thanks go to the NHS Innovations North team for another successful event and particular congratulations go to the winners; David Bramley and Andrew Turner, winners of the Innovative Technology or Device category and Catherine McShane, Rachael Masters, Jeannie Hardy, Ian Dove and Richard Quinne, winners in the Service Improvement category. We look forward to working with them, and the other winners, and we’ll keep you updated on their progress.

The event has received great press and social media coverage, for more information visit [click here](#). For more information about the Awards please visit <http://www.nhsinnovationsnorth.org.uk/biha/>

---

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### The North of England EU Health Partnership (NEEHP)

NEEHP is currently calling for project ideas that fall under the Third EU Health Programme. In line with stakeholders’ priorities for 2014/15 the focus is on the following four individual topics, namely:

- Innovation to prevent and manage chronic diseases
- Early diagnosis and screening of chronic diseases
- Professional reintegration of people with chronic disease
- Adherence, frailty, integrated care and multi-chronic conditions

**The deadline for submission is 25 September 2014.** For more information about the funding call please [click here](#) or to discuss the opportunity please contact [Nicola.Wilson@neehp.eu](mailto:Nicola.Wilson@neehp.eu) or Kirstie Clegg ([Kirstie.Clegg@neehp.eu](mailto:Kirstie.Clegg@neehp.eu)).

**In addition, there is a small amount of money available outside of the Health Programme** to support interventions related to healthy diet in early years and ageing population. The following three priorities have been identified:

1. Promoting a balanced diet and adequate nutrition status in all ages
2. Screening for nutritional status in older people.
3. Implementation of good practices in nutrition management in clinical and community setting

This call allows single partners to bid and has a deadline of 14 August 2014. If you are interested in submitting a bid NEEHP can assist in making sure that it has strong EU policy relevance. Further details are available [here](#).

### **Insight 2014: open call for original research ideas on informatics in health care improvement**

The Health Foundation has launched an open invitation to researchers calling for ideas on how new technologies and data can best be used in practice to increase the safety, efficiency and overall quality of health and care services in the UK.

The Insight 2014 fund will enable The Health Foundation to work with experienced research teams and service providers to understand how informatics can be used to improve health care quality. It is hoped that the research supported through this programme will provide powerful lessons and examples for change, and which impact on thinking, planning and implementation work in health technology and data use in the UK.

There are four key priority areas for this programme:

- Uptake and spread: understanding and improving adoption of advanced ICTs and data analysis in health care
- Informatics and integration: of data, of systems, of services.
- Data and care quality: informatics supporting safety and efficiency.
- Better living through information: informatics bringing people and health services together.

**The deadline for research proposals is midday on 28th July 2014.** For further information [click here](#).

---

## **EVENTS**

### **Stakeholder Event**

You are invited to join us at our next Stakeholder event, to be held at the **County Durham Cricket Club at 9.00am on Friday 24th October 2014**, to hear about the progress being made within the AHSN NENC.

There will be an opportunity to meet many of the funded project Leaders, learn how the AHSN NENC is working with partners to improve health standards and create wealth in the region and to network with other Stakeholders.

To register your attendance at the event please e-mail [sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)

---

If you have any feedback or would like to submit an article for our future newsletters please email: [kirstie.taylor@ahsn-nenc.co.uk](mailto:kirstie.taylor@ahsn-nenc.co.uk)

---

To unsubscribe from our mailing list please contact [sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk](mailto:sarah.black@ahsn-nenc.org.uk)