



Welcome to the First Issue of the AHSN Newsletter

Issue 1: May 2014

We are pleased to present our first Newsletter for the Academic Health Science Network for the North East and North Cumbria (AHSN). Going forward, the AHSN intends to generate further editions of this Newsletter on a regular basis, so that our stakeholders can remain up to date on progress, such as the delivery of our four Work Programmes, the associated initiatives, their impact on health improvement and wealth creation, and the demonstrated return on investment.

We encourage you to provide us with feedback regarding this Newsletter. Indeed, we need to remain responsive to our stakeholders and we want you to tell us what you would like to see covered and which work you believe we should be doing.

AHSN SUPPORTED PROJECTS AND WORK PROGRAMMES

Over £3m Invested by the AHSN to Improve Regional Healthcare

The AHSN has invested over £3m to support 45 projects specifically selected to improve health outcomes for patients as well as supporting local businesses involved in health technologies to create jobs and wealth in the region.

The projects are aimed at addressing identified regional healthcare priorities such as respiratory medicine, telehealth and care homes. The aims of this investment are to demonstrate a clear improvement in care pathways and patient outcomes and to support the development of products and services that are key to the NHS and which generate economic growth.

Two examples of associated press releases from local companies and groups in receipt of investment from the AHSN Project Call are outlined below:

>>>For more information on the projects please click on the relevant heading; SME Led, Respiratory, Telehealth, Care Homes, PPI, Patient Safety, Other Healthcare

Hart Biologicals Benefit from New Investment in Regional Healthcare

Hart Biologicals Limited are delighted to have been granted £120,000 of funding by the AHSN to support developmental work on their products which help reduce the risk of blood clots following orthopaedic surgery.

>>>For more information click here

University Leads Project to Improve Rural Health Services in Cumbria

A Cumbria-wide initiative to improve health services in rural communities is being launched by a consortium of organisations led by the University of Cumbria.

Cumbria Rural Health Forum (CRHF) has been set up to address some of the unique issues and challenges in delivering effective health and social care in a rural area.

>>> Please click here for more information

Elaros 24/7 to develop the Virtual Lower Urinary Tract Symptoms (LUTS) Assessment Clinic

An innovative new way of carrying out initial assessment, diagnosis and triaging of patients with lower urinary tract symptoms driven by Elaros 24/7 Limited, will centre on a hand held recording device (UroDiary®) that enables patients to monitor their

own health at home and on the move.

The system provides accurate data to clinicians which results in fewer visits to GPs, a reduction in unnecessary hospital referrals, faster assessment, improved patient experiences and significant cost savings. For rural patients, the ELAROS 24/7 service offers an alternative to timely hospital visits and trips to GPs delivered through a technology that does not require a smart phone or Wi-Fi.

>>>For more information click here

INNOVATION HEALTHCARE

NHS Innovations North Offers Bespoke Business Support Services to SMEs

If you are an SME based in the North East region, then NHS Innovations North can provide your business with bespoke support in a number of key business areas such as intellectual property assistance, expert peer reviews from specialists in their field, specialist market research and commercialisation support. In many cases, this advice can be provided to eligible SMEs under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Business Support Programme.

>>>For more information please click here

Bright Ideas in Health Awards

The Bright Ideas in Health Awards is an annual competition organised by NHS Innovations North in conjunction with the AHSN. The Awards celebrate the achievements of frontline NHS staff and CCG employees throughout all sectors of the service in the North East, who have risen to the challenge of highlighting how, and where, they believe that improvements to the service provided to patients can be improved, either through a technical innovation or through better service delivery.

This year's Awards ceremony will take place at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead Hotel on Thursday 19th June 2014.

>>>For more information please visit

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

NHS England Regional Innovation Fund

Deadline 30th May 2014

Regional Innovation Fund totalling £2.5m nationally has been made available this year to support and promote the adoption of innovation and the spread of best practice across the NHS.

The Fund is open to all NHS organisations as well as the Academic Health Science Networks across the UK. Allocations will be made to projects / initiatives that seek to deliver significant improvements in quality and efficiency in the NHS through innovation.

The closing date for submitting applications is 5pm, Friday 30th May 2014. All funding will be allocated by the end June 2014.

>>> For more information on the RIF competition process and to access the RIF application form and guidance, please visit [Innovation Exchange, NHS England's Innovation web-portal](#)

Health Foundation Funding Call

Deadline 16th June 2014

The Health Foundation, an independent charity working to improve the quality of healthcare in the UK has over £3 million of funding available for up to seven projects to take successful healthcare improvement interventions and deliver them on a larger scale.

Projects need to show how ideas, interventions and approaches that have been tested and shown to improve care at a small scale, can be delivered at a larger scale.

>>> If you are interested in applying please read the Call for applications on the Health Foundation website for further information

The deadline for the first stage of the application process is 12 noon, 16 June 2014.

EVENTS

Introduction to Telehealth for Nurses and Allied Health Professionals

The aim of this course is to provide nurses and allied health professionals with an overview of digital health and telehealth solutions and technologies. This will enable health professionals to manage interventions supporting long term conditions, and understand issues around patient self-management, ethical considerations, changes to the patient-professional relationship, as well as providing an understanding of how to design and deploy a telehealth service.

>>> Please click [here](#) for more information

NIHR Clinical Research Network: North East and North Cumbria PPI Working Group Patient and Public Involvement Day

4th June 2014 at Matfen Hall, Northumberland

This event is aimed at patient and public groups and individuals involved in PPI across the region, as well as other individuals that are interested in becoming involved.

>>> Please contact jill.bullimore@nhs.net for further information or to register your interest

AND FINALLY...

Keiro Group wins RICS Renaissance Award

Keiro Group, a regional SME with whom the AHSN has a long-standing relationship, has been going from strength to strength, delivering an innovative approach to neuro rehabilitation. The AHSN is delighted to announce that their development in Middlesbrough, The Gateway, has won two awards at this year's RICS Renaissance Awards, showcasing the most inspirational regional initiatives and developments in construction and the environment.

>>> For more information please click [here](#)

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