

Annual report 2023-24

Transforming lives through
health and care innovation



Health Innovation
West of England



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Foreword

Welcome to the 2023-2024 annual report for Health Innovation West of England.

This past year has been a transformative period for us. Not only have we changed our name to better reflect our role as the innovation arm of the NHS, we have also co-created an ambitious five-year strategy setting out a clear roadmap for how we will discover, develop and deploy proven innovation to achieve better and fairer health outcomes for our local populations.

Our commitment to supporting a vibrant health innovation ecosystem has never been more evident. This year, we successfully supported 235 innovators, fostering exciting advancements with the potential to benefit patients and health systems alike. Our collaborative efforts across the national Health Innovation Network have resulted in £475.8 million being leveraged by innovators through grants and private investment, a testament to the robust support and guidance we provide and demonstrating the important role we play in driving economic growth.

We are particularly proud of the significant impact our programmes have had on patient care. The PreCiSSlon care bundle, which has now been used to treat 6,000 mothers following caesarean births in the

West of England, exemplifies our dedication to putting evidence into practice. Similarly, our non-invasive ventilation care bundle has saved at least 100 lives, highlighting our commitment to introducing effective, lifesaving innovations.

Our focus extends beyond immediate health interventions to include systemic improvements across various care pathways. The establishment of 84 communities of practice through our national Polypharmacy programme and the engagement of 98% of primary care networks in our lipid management programme are just two examples of how we are fostering a culture of continuous improvement and collaborative learning across the health and care landscape.

One of our proudest achievements is the ongoing success of PERIPrem. Since its launch, nearly 3,000 premature babies in the South West have benefited from this unique perinatal care bundle, which continues to reduce brain injury and mortality rates among preterm infants. Born in the West, this innovative approach is now being delivered across Wales and other parts of England.

Training and capacity building remain at the heart of our mission. Through our RESTORE2 programme, we have trained 3,217 care staff to better identify and respond to signs of deterioration. Our Black Maternity Matters community has grown to include 161 health and care professionals, all working together to improve maternal health outcomes for Black women and encourage anti-racist practice.

Engaging and collaborating with diverse communities is crucial to our approach, ensuring the needs and

insights of people with lived experience inform the development of innovation.

Over 900 secondary school children have shared their insights with the charity ERIC about living with bladder and bowel conditions, helping to inform better care practices and support systems for young people. Meanwhile, our South West Learning Disabilities Collaborative continues to grow, now encompassing 458 members dedicated to improving health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

As we look to the future, our vision remains clear: to increase the uptake of innovation across health and care services, driving forward improvements that have a positive impact on the lives of people in our communities. We are committed to growing a well-networked community of enthusiasts who bring fresh thinking and new ways of doing things, ensuring that the innovations we support are adopted widely and effectively.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated staff, partners, and the wider innovation community for your continued support, energy and collaboration. Together, we are transforming lives through health and care innovation, building a healthier future for all.



Steve West,
Chair of Health Innovation
West of England and
Vice-Chancellor of UWE

Natasha Swinscoe,
Chief Executive of
Health Innovation
West of England

2023-24: our year in numbers



235

innovators were supported by our industry and innovation team this year



98%

of primary care networks in the West of England engaged through our lipid management programme



£475.8 million

leveraged by innovators through grants and private investment with support from the national Health Innovation Network



161

health and care professionals have now joined our Black Maternity Matters community



6,000

mothers in the West of England have been treated to date using our PreCiSSIon care bundle following caesarean births



3,217

care staff received training in spotting signs of deterioration through our RESTORE2 programme, which completed in October 2023



100+

lives saved through introduction of our non-invasive ventilation care bundle



2,579

people attended our online and in-person events



554

jobs created and

755

jobs safeguarded
by companies
supported by the
national Health
Innovation Network



458

people are now
members of
our South West
Learning Disabilities
Collaborative



84

communities of practice
have been created across
England through our
national Polypharmacy
programme



4,708

people accessed support
and resources via our online
Innovation Exchange



4,357

views of our Academy
video resources
to date



2,749+

premature babies
have been cared for
in the South West
to date using our
unique PERIPrem
perinatal care
bundle



900+

secondary school children have shared
their insights to inform our report
with the charity ERIC about living with
bladder and bowel conditions



Discover

Identifying promising solutions
to meet health and care needs

Discover



Nurturing local networks

Innovation starts by thoroughly understanding the problems we need to solve.

At Health Innovation West of England, we do this by embedding ourselves in and working collaboratively with our local health and care systems. By nurturing active networks and communities and learning from their insights, we can better understand and respond to their priorities for innovation and improvement.

Here are some examples of the networks we support:

Patient Safety Collaborative

We host and coordinate the West of England Patient Safety Collaborative (PSC), which oversees the delivery of all our patient safety work.

The PSC is made up of all the NHS providers and commissioners across the region, including hospitals, mental health and community organisations, the ambulance service, primary care and integrated care boards.

It brings together local patients and healthcare staff, all driven by a shared vision to bring about system-wide improvements to ensure the safety and wellbeing of people in the care of our health services.

South West Learning Disabilities Collaborative

Our original Learning Disabilities Collaborative was established in early 2019, and initially focused on using the National Early Warning Score 2 (NEWS2) and soft-signs tools such as RESTORE2, as well as increasing uptake of annual health checks and flu vaccinations.

After notable successes, the expanded South West Learning Disabilities Collaborative was created in 2022 to cover the entire South West region and now has 458 members.

The expanded collaborative, which is funded and delivered in partnership with NHS England South West, brings together health and care professionals, carers and people with lived experience driven by a shared ambition to improve health outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

Regional Perinatal Equity Network

The Regional Perinatal Equity Network was launched in 2021 by Health Innovation West of England and Health Innovation South West.

The network serves as the forum for those working within maternity and newborn services and related organisations, along with parents, to share learning and ideas, support the delivery of Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) equity plans, and hear from expert speakers on a range of relevant topics.

Articulating the need for innovation

Through our needs analysis activities, we engage with health and care professionals, networks and communities to gain their collective insights, providing tools and techniques to help them identify and describe the needs and challenges that would benefit most from new approaches.

ERIC Young Champions

Following on from our Voices for Change project in 2021/22 in partnership with Bristol Health Partner's Bladder and Bowel Health Integration Team (BABCON HIT), we have worked with the Bristol-based children's bladder and bowel charity ERIC to better understand the challenges faced by young people aged 11-18 affected by bladder or bowel conditions.

We funded the production of a report on a project carried out by the ERIC Young Champions, with the support of Participation People.

This project captured the experiences of over 900 secondary school aged young people to find out about their day-to-day experiences of living with

a bladder or bowel condition. The group worked with our team and the charity to agree some powerful problem statements.

The ambition is to open up conversations about what can be a very sensitive topic, laying the groundwork to initiate positive and enduring change with the potential to make a real difference to people's lives.

The report will be published in summer 2024 and we will share the key messages across health, education and industry to highlight the opportunities to make meaningful changes and drive innovative thinking to address needs.

"I was not able to finish at my primary school or to take my next steps by attending a secondary school because of the lack of support for children with bowel issues. We go through enough without people listening to us. We need our voices to be heard and for people to be more understanding of our needs."

Participant in the ERIC Young Champions project



Community waiting lists for neurodiversity pathways

As a result of the significant waiting times for children and young people being referred for autism or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) assessments, with a 350% increase in demand pre and post pandemic, Health Innovation West of England is working with partners across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) on transformation of the neurodiversity pathways.

This programme is being coordinated by the integrated care board's Transformation Hub team, working with stakeholders such as patient carer forums and Sirona. They began the work with a series of design-thinking workshops, employing techniques they had learnt through our Innovate Healthier Together Development Programme (see page 20).

These ideation exercises have resulted in a co-produced proposed interim model pilot. This will involve using a newly validated profiling tool for children and young people within school settings, which will help triage them across the pathway and ensure their specific needs are met.

Subject to the impact of the pilot, the long-term plan is for this new pathway to eventually integrate with the wider transformation programme. Health Innovation West of England will continue to input through exploring opportunities to partner with digital innovators to support children and young people and their families while they navigate this needs assessment.



Supporting and signposting innovators

Many innovations show early promise, and identifying and supporting those that can help address real needs is critical. As part of the national Health Innovation Network, we play a vital role in this.

Our team offers a range of support services and guidance to innovators who are developing products and services with the potential to improve patient outcomes, increase efficiencies and grow the UK health sector economy.

In 2023/24, we supported a total of 235 healthcare innovators, providing essential guidance and feedback, assessing market readiness and helping to develop value propositions.

Through this support, we have contributed to the Health Innovation Network helping companies to leverage £475.8 million through grants and private investment. This collective support has enabled these companies to create 554 new jobs and safeguard a further 755.

Innovation Exchange

In addition to providing direct, tailored support to companies, our Innovation Exchange website is also designed to help innovators navigate the healthcare market. Last year, 4,708 people accessed our online support and resources, which includes:

- local and national funding opportunities
- a range of business support services and business development programmes
- toolkits and guides
- case studies on innovators we have worked with.

Find out more at

www.innovationexchange.co.uk

Building capability and sharing knowledge

An important aspect of our work is to help develop capability and expertise around the development and adoption of innovation.

We support our local health and care community to think and work innovatively and implement new ways of working using design thinking and quality improvement (QI) methods and tools.

West of England Academy

Our popular Academy offers a wide range of support and events, helping health and care professionals and innovators build their knowledge and essential skills for innovative thinking and working.

This year's webinars and training sessions included motivational coaching and evaluation theory and practice, as well as a bespoke 'Live QI' series for participants in our Black Maternity Matters programme (see page 15).

The Academy team also designed the development programme for Innovate Healthier Together (see page 20) and delivered training to the first cohort. This is a three-module accredited course to develop participants' skills in design-thinking, quality improvement and facilitation.

The Academy continues to expand its range of online resources. There have been 4,357 views to date of our Academy videos, while 1,777 people have accessed our learning and development resources this year.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/academy

Evidence and evaluation toolkits

This year we relaunched our online evaluation and evidence toolkits with an improved structure and design.

Created and managed in partnership with Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB) and NIHR ARC West, the toolkits aim to give people working in the health and care sector advice on running service evaluations and using evidence to inform service development.

Both toolkits include a step-by-step guide to the evaluation and evidence cycles, checklists and resources. They are a great place to start for anyone new to evidence and evaluation, or for people wanting to brush up on their skills.

Find out more at nhsevaluationtoolkit.net and nhsevidencetoolkit.net

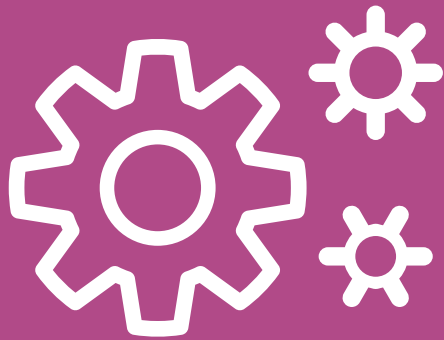
Evidence repository

Our online Evidence Repository is a portal for sharing non-peer reviewed documents not published elsewhere to promote a culture of shared learning and collaboration.

Hosted on FutureNHS and developed in partnership with local integrated care systems and hospital libraries, the ever-expanding repository supports rapid evidence sharing of grey literature.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/evidence-repository





Develop

Bringing together innovators and health and care providers to accelerate proof of value and market readiness

Develop



In this phase of the innovation journey, we bring together innovators, researchers, health and care professionals, patients and service users and other stakeholders to experiment, prototype, test and make a business case for new solutions and ways of working.

We work with innovators to refine their ideas and develop them into viable business propositions that could have a real impact on the health outcomes of our local communities.

And we work with health and social care providers to consider promising innovations and evaluate those with potential in real world settings, assessing the cost benefits and building an evidence base to facilitate wider adoption and spread.

Trialling AI-based optimisation technology in the homecare sector

Through our Domiciliary Care Workforce Programme, we have been trialling the use of artificial intelligence (AI) based optimisation technology in the homecare sector.

We have worked with two local authorities, Cornwall Council and Bristol City Council, to pilot the use of Procomp's Strategic Optimisation service.

Procomp is a Finnish company, which works with a third of the Finnish domiciliary care workforce. They use an AI-based solution to optimise planning, reduce mileage and improve carer utilisation.

We delivered the Domiciliary Care Workforce Programme in partnership with Health Innovation South West and NHS England Workforce, Training and Education South West (formerly Health Education England).

Our evaluation of the programme identified opportunities for local authorities and care providers to improve the planning of homecare, offering potentially significant benefits for care workers, service users and the social care sector as a whole.

Read the evaluation report at www.healthinnowest.net/domiciliary-care

"Integrated care plays a pivotal role in delivering high-quality services to the population of the South West. I'm genuinely enthusiastic about witnessing how AI technology can begin to positively influence the provision of domiciliary care, enhancing efficiency and enriching the experience for both care-providers and recipients within our communities."

Christian Brailsford, Regional Lead for Nursing, Midwifery and Social Care (Workforce, Training and Education) with NHS England South West

Speeding up clinical diagnosis of cardiac arrhythmias

We have worked with North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) to assess the benefits for patients and staff of a cardiac monitoring solution that is seen as a technological advancement from traditional electrocardiogram (ECG) Holter monitoring systems.

Our evaluation of NBT's implementation of iRhythm's Zio device shows it has successfully improved system efficiencies by increasing the number of patients completing the diagnostic pathway, decreasing waiting times for monitoring and identifying cardiac arrhythmias that otherwise would have been missed.

An important feature of the patch technology is the ability for longer monitoring periods and Zio can be used for up to 14 days. The evaluation demonstrated that high numbers of arrhythmias were identified using the Zio device after the five-day monitoring period traditionally carried out by Holter monitors. These would have gone undetected using the previous system or patients may have required the fitting of a repeat device, with the associated delay to treatment.

Read the evaluation report at www.healthinnowest.net/zio

"The Zio patch technology is making a real difference for our patients – providing timely and accurate diagnostics at the convenience of the patient whilst also releasing clinician time. This evaluation has demonstrated the scale of benefit of using these technologies and will support the NHS to accelerate rolling out these technologies."

Suzanne Hatfield, Cardiac Physiology Manager at North Bristol NHS Trust

Breastfeeding support for new mothers in Gloucestershire

Anya is a pregnancy, parenting, and breastfeeding support app that uses cutting-edge 3D interactive technology and AI intelligence to assist new mothers. We have supported Anya since its founder participated in our Health Innovation Programme in 2018.

We have partnered with Gloucestershire's Local Maternity and Neonatal System (LMNS) to pilot and evaluate the use of the app to increase breastfeeding initiation and continuation rates in younger and deprived populations.

We supported Anya in their successful bid for SBRI Healthcare funding to enhance the app

to ensure it was suited to a wide range of cultures and backgrounds and is accessible to all mothers.

Ahead of the pilot, we carried out a survey of maternity staff to understand their views, feelings and experiences around breastfeeding support and the use of technology. The insights from staff provided valuable groundwork to inform how we implement the mobile technology.

The evaluation report will be published in early 2025.

"Having identified the areas across Gloucestershire where outcomes in pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period are poorest, we've developed an equity plan to address improvements. This will involve midwives introducing the Anya app to patients during pregnancy, to prepare and support women to take up and continue to breastfeed. The aim of the project, which will be implemented and evaluated by Health Innovation West of England, is to improve breastfeeding rates across the county but, in particular, in the areas identified as having the lowest breastfeeding rates."

Dawn Morrall, Clinical Lead at Gloucestershire Local Maternity and Neonatal System

Improving care for NIV patients

While there has been a slight improvement in recent years, mortality rates for patients receiving non-invasive ventilation (NIV) in England remain higher than in many other countries.

To help address this, our Improving NIV Care programme is working with the six acute hospitals across the West of England to introduce a standardised NIV 5 care bundle, based on the British Thoracic Society's quality standards.

The aim is to reduce mortality rates to 10% or lower for patients who require acute NIV for type 2 respiratory failure. We are supporting implementation of the care bundle with quality improvement (QI) approaches and tools to ensure that the right support is given to clinicians.

In 2023 at least 100 lives have been saved across the West of England through the introduction of the NIV care bundle.

This programme is due to complete in autumn 2024 and we will share our evaluation report and lessons learned.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/NIV

PreCiSSlon

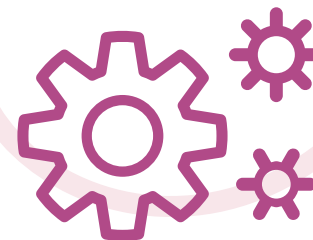
Building on the success of our award-winning PreCiSSlon project to reduce surgical site infections (SSI) after elective colorectal surgery, we launched a successor project working with six acute hospitals and maternity units to reduce SSIs following caesarean births, using an evidence-based care bundle of four elements.

This has been supported through the use of a bespoke digital reporting tool provided by Cemplicity, making it easier for patients to provide feedback following caesarean surgery.

6,000 mothers in the West of England have been treated so far using the PreCiSSlon care bundle.

Analysis of data to date has shown that women with a higher body mass index (BMI) at booking are at increased risk of an SSI, so the next phase of the PreCiSSlon programme is for a six-month trial using negative pressure dressings with women with a BMI of 35 or over, in addition to the rest of the care bundle.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/caesarean-ssi





(L-R) Katie Donovan-Adekanmbi, Sonah Paton and Karen Joash at our celebration event

Black Maternity Matters

Black women face significant disparities in maternal health outcomes, with higher mortality and stillbirth rates compared to white women. The root causes are attributed to systemic biases, structural racism, and a lack of racial literacy and anti-racist theory and practice within healthcare services.

In partnership with Black Mothers Matter, Representation Matters and BCohCo, we launched the Black Maternity Matters project in 2022 to tackle these issues by providing targeted anti-racism education, peer support, and QI transformation projects.

Informed by the evaluation of the pilot phase, the Black Maternity Matters collaborative delivered two further programmes of the training between May and December 2023 in Bath and

“Truly inspiring to see the work that’s being done to ensure that health inequities are reduced and health rights are restored. It is a civil right for all to have access to healthcare that listens, learns and grows.”

Dr Karen Joash, Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, speaking at the Black Maternity Matters celebration event in December 2023

North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, and in Gloucestershire, as well as another programme in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

There are now 161 health and care professionals from across the West of England in our Black Maternity Matters community.

We are continuing the programme in 2024/25 and running further cohorts to reach more maternity and neonatal staff across the West of England. In addition, we have expanded our focus by creating a new Senior Leaders cohort, including chief executives, chief nursing officers, medical directors, heads of midwifery, and ICB leads across the wider South West region.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/black-maternity-matters

Living Well with COPD

The Department of Health and Social Care and NHS England have launched a new investment of £30 million through the Health Technology Adoption and Acceleration Fund (HTAAF) to propel innovative medical technologies that have received a NICE Early Value Assessment more quickly into patients’ care pathways.

Through this programme we are supporting Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB) to develop and deliver the Living Well with COPD project.

This is a service model that provides digitally enabled care using specialist applications and remote monitoring equipment to empower people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to take control of their health, while reducing calls to GP practices and admissions into local hospitals.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/living-well-with-copd

“Health Innovation West of England provided key project management support to help us introduce the digital solution for the Living Well with COPD scheme. Working collaboratively with us and our digital providers, Doccla and myCOPD, their skills and experience have proved invaluable in rolling out this large-scale programme for local people with COPD.”

Seb Habibi, Deputy Director of Transformation at Healthier Together

Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme

NHS England's Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme (InHIP) aims to increase awareness and adoption of evidence-based innovations that can reduce healthcare inequalities, improving access, experience and outcomes for Core20PLUS5 populations.

We have supported two InHIP projects in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, both of which focused on lipid optimisation for patients with raised cholesterol in the most deprived areas.

We have completed an evaluation of these projects, revealing a range of valuable learnings around targeting CVD related health inequalities in deprived areas.

The evaluation of all InHIP projects around the country will form an impact and learning report to ensure collective insights inform the development of Wave 2 projects, which will be undertaken during 2024/25.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/inhip

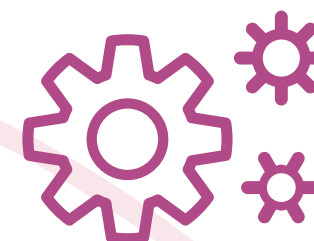
Testing innovative approaches for post-pandemic healthcare

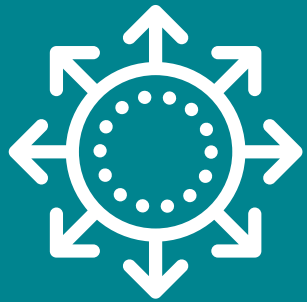
The NHS Insights Prioritisation Programme was launched in 2021 to contribute to the recovery from COVID-19, build resilience and deliver benefits to patients.

The Health Innovation Network and the NIHR Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs) teamed up for the projects, benefitting from each other's unique skills and links with system partners. Each project received a share of £4.2 million funding from NHS England and the Accelerated Access Collaborative.

The local collaboration between NIHR ARC West and Health Innovation West of England focused on the Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme. The scheme funds non-GP healthcare professionals, such as physiotherapists and paramedics, to work in primary care.

Read the evaluation report at www.healthinnowest.net/NIPP





Deploy

Supporting the health and care system to adopt and spread proven innovations

Deploy



As innovations develop into real world solutions and services, our role moves to identifying and supporting those with the greatest potential to improve health and care across the West of England and beyond.

Our focus is on selecting innovations and innovative practice with a proven clinical evidence base to spread more widely across our local systems. We act as a facilitator or guide in encouraging adoption and spread, using quality improvement approaches to continue testing, learning, adapting and refining.

Polypharmacy: getting the balance right

In England, NHS primary care dispenses more than a billion prescription items every year. As more people live longer with multiple long-term health conditions, the number of medicines they take often increases.

Whilst medicines of course bring many benefits, we also recognise that this can create a significant burden for people trying to manage multiple medicine regimes and, in some cases, it can cause harm. We refer to this as problematic polypharmacy.

Problematic polypharmacy adds a cost to the healthcare system and diminishes quality care for patients. Much of this is preventable.

On behalf of the Health Innovation Network, we have led the national Polypharmacy Programme since 2022 to help address these issues.

We have set up communities of practice across England, attended by over 2,500 stakeholders. These support local systems to showcase good practice and work together collaboratively to share ideas on how to address problematic polypharmacy locally.



The national Polypharmacy Programme team (L-R) Clare Howard, Clinical Lead; Natasha Swinscoe, Senior Responsible Officer; Amy Semple, Programme Manager.

The programme focuses on three 'pillars' to drive change at a national and local level.

Pillar one – population health management

1,247 health and care professionals have attended our popular webinar series for support in using data from the NHSBSA Polypharmacy Prescribing Comparators to understand risks and identify and priorities patients for structured medication reviews.

Pillar two – education and learning

We have delivered 24 national Action Learning Sets with 928 GPs and pharmacists. These are an evidenced-based education approach to upskilling primary care professionals, using a structured method to enable small groups to explore complicated issues around problematic polypharmacy by meeting regularly and working collectively.

We have trained 33 polypharmacy educators through our train-the-trainer model, who have since delivered bespoke polypharmacy education locally to 1,175 GPs, pharmacists and other health professionals.

In the West of England we have designed and delivered our own bespoke Action Learning Set and masterclasses around local priority areas.

Pillar three – changing public behaviour

In September 2023, we launched a range of evidenced-based resources in a number of community languages to support and help prepare people invited for a structured medication review (SMR) with their GP, pharmacist or other healthcare professional. We collaborated with a range of academic, clinician and patient innovators to develop the resources, combined with a phased user testing approach.

Packaged to support easy adoption, the resources include implementation guidance for GP practices, a patient SMR invitation letter, example questions and leaflets encouraging patients to think about their medicines and raise concerns with their health professional. They are available in print, digital and read-aloud formats.

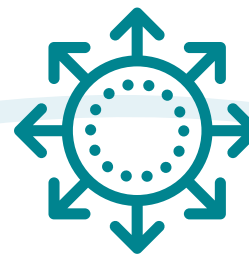
In November 2023, GPs, pharmacists and geriatricians from across the country, gathered at the Royal Pharmaceutical Society in London to celebrate the achievements of the Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets. Here we launched the Health Innovation Network's 'state of the nation' report, showcasing the impact and learning from our Action Learning Sets and providing recommendations for continued change.

Find out more at

www.healthinnowest.net/polypharmacy

“As a GP partner with a significant number of elderly and vulnerable patients under my care, I found the Action Learning Set invaluable for building confidence in working with patients to tackle polypharmacy. This includes the provision of patient support aids and approaching difficult ‘de-prescribing’ conversations with more structure and clearer objectives.”

GP, Winchester



Innovate Healthier Together

In October 2023, we launched the exciting new Innovate Healthier Together programme, working in partnership with Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care Board (ICB).

This 12-month programme aims to understand the opportunities and barriers to accelerating the adoption and spread of innovation across Healthier Together – the local integrated care system (ICS).

We have partnered with NIHR ARC West to carry out baseline research with leaders from across the ICS landscape on attitudes to innovation and we will use this intelligence to inform leadership engagement sessions.

Through our Academy (see page 10), we have designed the accredited Innovate Healthier Together development programme to resource ICS colleagues with techniques and tools to support innovative and creative thinking.

We are working with experts to understand how procurement practices can facilitate the introduction of innovations into health and care.

In collaboration with a range of ICS groups, we are exploring how we can accelerate innovation into practice. One example is facilitating the multi-disciplinary Living Well with COPD project team (see page 15), and we are also leading design-thinking and innovative idea creation sessions across locality partnership groups



“It is our vision to increase the uptake of innovation and innovative ways of working across health and care services.

“By growing a well-networked community of enthusiasts who bring fresh thinking and new ways of doing things, our latest programme will accelerate innovation into services that positively impact the health of our population and beyond.”

Professor Sir Steve West CBE, Chair of Health Innovation West of England and Vice-Chancellor of UWE

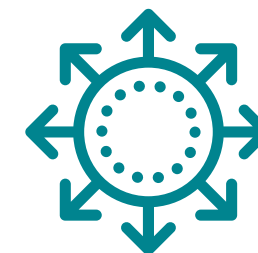
working directly with communities, as well as ICS-wide groups and those focussed on clinical pathways.

The local insights gained from this work will be translated into a playbook, sharing the known or recommended key ingredients to being a pioneering innovative health and care system.

We are also creating the Innovate Healthier Together Fellowship, a new community of innovation pioneers and change-makers from across BNSSG. The aim of the Fellowship is to provide a space to come together, build a community, share knowledge and learn from one another in how to ensure innovations

are adopted and spread successfully, with the ultimate aim of co-designing a Healthier Together Innovation Charter.

Find out more at www.bnssghealthiertogether.org.uk/staff-and-partners/innovate-healthier-together-programme



PERIPrem: Perinatal Excellence to Reduce Injury in Preterm birth

Launched by Health Innovation West of England and Health Innovation South West in April 2020, PERIPrem (Perinatal Excellence to Reduce Injury in Premature Birth) is a unique perinatal care bundle of 11 interventions that demonstrate a significant impact on brain injury and mortality rates amongst babies born prematurely.

Babies born prematurely are at risk of lifelong brain damage, disorders and death. Brain injury caused by prematurity is the single biggest cause of cerebral palsy, and prematurity is the biggest cause of infant mortality in England.

PERIPrem also forges new ways of working, where clinicians from obstetrics, midwifery and neonatal join to drive forward and revolutionise care for preterm babies.

We have implemented the full care bundle across all 12 hospital trusts in the South West of England. To date, at least 2,749 premature babies have been cared for in the region using the PERIPrem bundle.

We have supported the spread of the programme into Wales through PERIPrem Cymru, and to Health Innovation Networks

in West Midlands and East Midlands. PERIPrem offers an enhanced level of support to areas where there is high deprivation and high infant mortality, enabling a targeted approach to tackling health inequalities.

The evidence base for the bundle elements shows a potential improvement in brain injury and mortality by 50%. The South West has demonstrated a reduction in preterm mortality and brain injury following implementation of PERIPrem (Luyt, 2024). A mixed methods evaluation demonstrated significant improvement in adherence to the complete care bundle and improvements in perinatal team function and situational awareness.

In February 2024, Dr Sarah Bates, the programme's Operational Clinical Lead and Consultant Paediatrician and Neonatologist at Great Western Hospital in Swindon, was invited to give evidence to the House of Lords Preterm Birth Committee on the impact of PERIPrem. The Committee was appointed by the Government in January to consider the prevention and consequences of preterm birth in England.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/periprem

“When you put core interventions together in an optimisation care pathway, so place of birth, well-timed antenatal steroids, magnesium to reduce the risk of cerebral palsy, delayed cord clamping, keeping a baby warm and offering them early maternal breast milk, with some other interventions after that, this is a really powerful way of not just altering survival significantly, but altering that long-term trajectory.

“That is a very cost-saving endeavour for a country because neonatal illnesses are by far the leading cause of life years burdened by disability. So if we can put these very simple and low cost interventions in at the time of a preterm birth, we will make an enormous difference.”

Dr Sarah Bates, Operational Clinical Lead for the PERIPrem programme, in her evidence to the House of Lords Preterm Birth Committee

CVD and lipid management

During 2023/24, we have supported several important initiatives to help prevent the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) for people with high cholesterol.

We run regular lipid management educational webinars for colleagues across the West of England and offer additional support for the targeting and appropriate optimal treatment of patients with high cholesterol.

We have worked with primary care settings to increase their use of NICE-approved lipid management medicines, such as Inclisiran.

Across the West of England all primary care networks (PCNs) are now prescribing Inclisiran to eligible patients, with both Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire (BSW) and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) exceeding their prescribing trajectories. In addition, there has been a 77% uptake of high intensity statins as a proportion of all statins being prescribed in the West of England, which is on track to meet NHS England's national ambition of 80% by 2026.

We are running a project within BNSSG to support the implementation of the UCLP Proactive Care Frameworks in primary

care with a focus on lipid optimisation for high-risk patients. This project has been funded as part of the Collaborative Lipid Fund, which is part of a wider national programme of work around secondary prevention lipid optimisation, supporting patients who have already had a cardiac event.

Five PCNs and associated practices have been identified as having a treatment gap for cholesterol management, combined with high levels of local deprivation, and are now receiving enhanced support from Health Innovation West of England. This includes a funding allocation to support knowledge development, patient management, and optimisation of the NICE lipid management pathways. The project will be evaluated in December 2024 and will explore the impact of this approach on sustainable lipid optimisation.

We have also supported the national Child Parent Screening pilot to recruit local primary care practices to undertake screening to identify children with Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH). 15 practices across the West of England are now actively screening patients. The West of England ranks number one across all Health Innovation Networks, with over 500 patients screened to date.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/lipids

We also supported BNSSG and BSW with their local projects as part of the Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme (InHIP) – see page 16, which explored different ways to target CVD prevention for people in traditionally underserved and marginalised communities.

The approaches engaged 43 people from within these communities, 21 of whom commenced NICE approved, lipid lowering medications, reducing their non-HDL cholesterol to a safe target.

Reducing harm from opioids

As part of NHS England's Medicines Safety Improvement Programme, we are working with local systems to improve the care of people living with non-cancer chronic pain by reducing the prescribing of high-risk opioids.

In 2023-24 we helped to achieve a continued reduction in prescribing for patients on high dose opioids (over 120mg of morphine or the equivalent per day), as well as a reduction in prescribing for patients using opioids for more than four months. This was reflected in the data at ICB and regional level, as well as nationally overall.

Using the Live Well with Pain approach, we have trained 115 healthcare professions across the West of England, including pharmacists, GPs, social prescribers and wellbeing workers, who work with patients to help them manage chronic pain using a biopsychosocial approach.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/medicines-safety

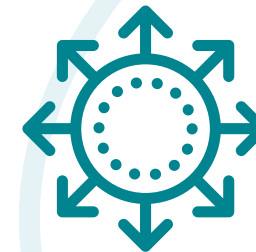
Reducing restrictive practice

As part of our local delivery of NHS England's Mental Health Safety Improvement Programme, we focused on reducing restrictive practice in inpatient mental health, learning disabilities and autism wards.

We worked with two mental health trusts, Avon and Wiltshire Partnership and Gloucestershire Health and Care, to develop and test a range of change ideas with patients and experts by experience.

This has included reviewing and reducing unnecessary blanket restrictions in mental health wards, developing new discharge processes for patients with a learning disability, and using quality improvement approaches to improve inpatient experience.

Find out more at www.healthinnowest.net/mental-health



About Health Innovation West of England

As a network organisation, Health Innovation West of England brings together all the key players involved in the planning and delivery of local health and care services, along with universities, research and industry partners, and clinical and commercial innovators.

We were established by NHS England in 2013, originally as the West of England Academic Health Science Network. We are one of 15 Health Innovation Networks across the country.

We have a rich history of research and innovation in the West of England, and our organisation has a strong track record not only in deploying innovations to improve health and health services locally, but also for exporting innovations across the wider South West region and nationally.

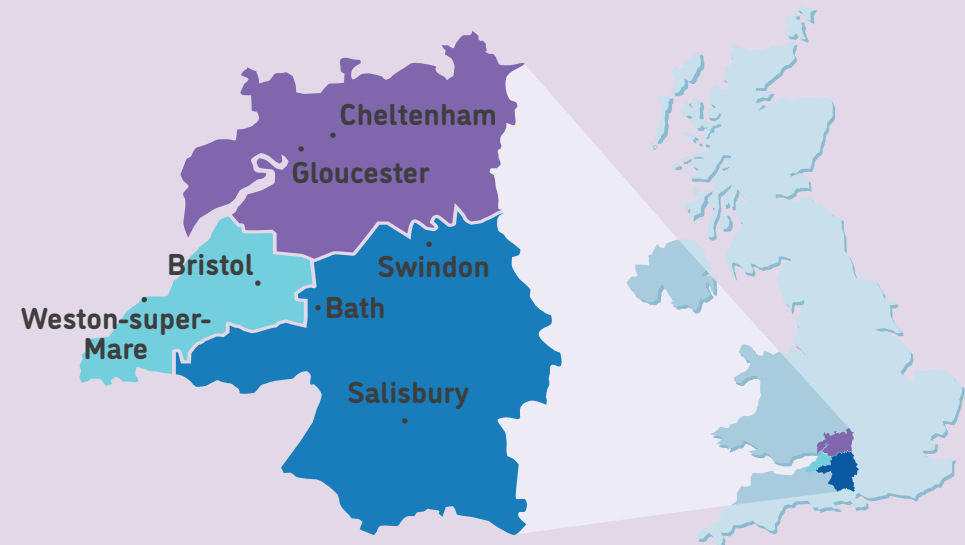
Each of our local integrated care systems recognise innovation as a significant enabler for achieving improved outcomes for their populations and value the role we play in supporting their capacity and capability around innovation.

In our first ten years, in collaboration with our member organisations and local systems, we have speeded up the discovery, development and deployment of innovation and innovative practice.

We are now firmly established as a trusted partner across the local health and life science landscape, with a reputation as an effective convenor, skilled at building and maintaining dynamic networks.

Health Innovation West of England and our Integrated Care Systems (ICS)

- One Gloucestershire
- BSW Together (Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire)
- Healthier Together Partnership (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire)



Our network

Health Innovation West of England brings together the health service community, industry, higher education, research bodies, patients and the wider public to work in partnership.

Our member organisations are:

NHS providers

- Avon & Wiltshire Partnership Mental Health NHS Trust
- Gloucestershire Health and Care Services NHS Foundation Trust
- Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- North Bristol NHS Trust
- Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust
- Sirona Care & Health
- South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
- University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust
- Wiltshire Health & Care

Integrated care boards

- NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire ICB
- NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB
- NHS Gloucestershire ICB

Universities

- University of Bath
- University of Bristol
- University of the West of England

Get in touch and find out more



Health Innovation
West of England

If you're interested in finding out more about how Health Innovation West of England can support you or how you can get involved in our work programmes, we'd love to hear from you.

Supporting innovators

To talk to our Innovation team about support for developing health innovations, email healthinnovest.innovation@nhs.net or visit www.innovationexchange.co.uk.



West of England Academy

To find out about the learning events and training resources available through our Academy, email healthinnovest.academy@nhs.net or visit www.healthinnovest.net/academy.

General enquiries

To find out about anything else, drop us a line at healthinnovest.contactus@nhs.net, explore our website at www.healthinnovest.net or sign up for our regular email newsletters at www.healthinnovest.net/newsletter-sign-up.

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