Dear Member,

We are witnessing a revolution in the way that digital technologies, from smartphone apps to Bluetooth, are impacting healthcare. Earlier this year we revealed the extent to which NHS leaders in London have adopted new tech to improve services to patients and save millions of pounds (read the story on page 8), with south London examples including the six South West London CCGs, Kings College Hospital & Guy’s & St Thomas’.

In September we celebrated the first anniversary of DigitalHealth. London’s Accelerator programme and the NHS England board committed to relicense England’s 15 AHSNs for a new five year period. Other updates include our ESCAPE-pain programme scooping Sport England funding to expand (page 3).

In the interactive version of this report, listen to the Spectator magazine debate I took part in (page 5) on the digital health revolution, watch the “Spotting the Signs of Sepsis” video with CBeebies Dr Ranj that has clocked up more than 1.6 million views to raise awareness of the symptoms of sepsis (page 6) and the short video we made after winning the FT/VitalityHealth healthy workplace prize (page 3).

Finally, please take a moment to browse our new website which better reflects our agile and modern approach to innovation in health, and perhaps ‘like’ our Facebook page which aims to take a more social and fun look at our day to day work.

We hope you have a healthy winter,

Tara
Health Innovation Network scoops Financial Times healthiest workplace prize

HIN is one of Britain’s Healthiest Workplaces says the prestigious Financial Times/VitalityHealth Britain’s Healthiest Workplace competition.

The south London-based organisation is the healthiest new entrant and was also highly commended for the small company category.

We are very proud of our staff. We need to look after them and keep them. It makes sense morally and it makes good business sense. Tara Donnelly

Health Innovation Network in south London, which employs 70 staff including nurses, offers free yoga and mindfulness classes as well as ‘standing up’ desks, showers for running and cycling clubs. It also promotes a book club and discourages staff from engaging with emails after 7pm or at weekends.

“We want to make sure people switch off, so we have a curfew to help our staff recharge. You need to be with your family and friends in your free time,” says chief executive Tara Donnelly. Tara switched off digitally on holiday in August for two weeks.

Britain’s Healthiest Workplace was developed by VitalityHealth and is delivered in partnership with the Financial Times, RAND Europe, University of Cambridge and Mercer.

ESCAPE-pain awarded Sport England funding to help older adults get active

Award-winning programme for people with chronic joint pain ESCAPE-pain has been given £392,000 of National Lottery funding from Sport England to help reduce the number of inactive older adults.

ESCAPE-pain is a rehabilitation programme for people with chronic joint pain. Currently there are 36 active sites running the ESCAPE-pain programme across six AHSN patches in England. The programme also runs in Wales and the Republic of Ireland.

The ESCAPE-Pain app has been downloaded more than 2,000 times.

Mike Diaper, Executive Director at Sport England, said: “We’re delighted to be supporting ESCAPE-pain with National Lottery funding. We’ll be sharing learnings so successful approaches can be scaled-up or replicated across the country.”

Professor Mike Hurley, originator of the ESCAPE-pain Programme, said: “We’re delighted to have been selected to work with Sport England, in partnership with Arthritis Research UK, to help older people increase their physical activity levels.

“We know that for millions of older people, chronic knee or hip pain is seen as a barrier that prevents them from being active. The ESCAPE-pain programme has already shown 3,000 people in England that they can become more physically active and manage their pain.”

Health Innovation Network will be looking for more leisure organisations and other partners to run the ESCAPE-pain programme in community locations. For more information please email hello@escape-pain.org. For more information see the ESCAPE-pain website.

Coleen, 84, a retired nurse, suffered knee pain for many years. It made her normal daily activities - walking to the shops, taking a bath - very difficult.

After completing the ESCAPE-pain programme she is able to climb stairs again, feels more confident and ‘much better in myself because I can do things again’.

Facebook message from Tara
BLOG: Digital success in the NHS

DigitalHealth.London has unveiled cohort two of the Accelerator programme. James Somauroo, Joint Programme Director, is proud of what’s been achieved and excited about the new wave of innovators.

In 12 months, and with our first cohort of 31 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), we have driven some of the best digital innovations in healthcare, into the NHS, benefitting patients, staff, and the wider NHS system. We couldn’t have done this without our core team, our NHS navigators and our partners: HIN, UCLPartners, ICHP, Medcity, CW+, and the EU.

In September, we held a celebration and launch event at the Kia Oval. Over 200 NHS stakeholders heard cohort one companies medCrowd, Oviva, and Physitrack, present their success alongside their NHS champions. DigitalHealth.London will provide cohort one with a bespoke alumni programme.

We then announced our 30 cohort two companies. These included Aerobit, asthma management platform, Skin Analytics, which uses AI in primary care skin screening and MIRA Rehab which turns physio into video games (see link below for more).

Yinka Makinde, reflects on 2017’s Health and Care Innovation Expo.

Last month, DigitalHealth.London and over 5,000 delegates representing hundreds of companies, clinicians, and policy makers - attended the NHS Health and Care Innovation Expo 2017 in Manchester.

It was an action packed few days, with the NHS Five Year Forward View and Accelerated Access Review sparking discussion.

A number of these considered the role of digital innovations. Several caught our attention so read my full blog below but in this piece I will look at two. The first was Jeremy Hunt’s plans for digital-led NHS treatment by 2018.

Mr Hunt called the next 10 years “the decade of patient power,” pledging that every patient in England will be able to access their medical records and book GP appointments using an app by the end of next year.

We’re already working with companies like DrDoctor and Babylon Health, through our accelerator, providing innovative digital tools. There was also the official launch of the NHS Digital Academy.

The NHS Digital Academy will provide specialist IT training and development support to 300 senior clinicians and health managers with the aim of shaping a generation of Chief Information Officers and Chief Clinical Information Officers that can help drive digital transformation in the NHS.

We already support this vision with specialist training for leaders in the NHS. The NHS Digital Academy is an exciting initiative.

There is a distinct and increasingly coherent movement towards digital innovations in health and care. We’re poised to support many of these initiatives, and encourage companies, innovators, clinicians and NHS professionals working in this space to get in touch – we’d love to help.

DigitalHealth.London’s Lauren tests an augmented reality headset, designed for training medical students

Next wave of digital innovators

Technologies including video-game rehabilitation, wearables for patients with chronic disease, and a ‘USB port’ for amputees, are among those selected for the second cohort of DigitalHealth.London’s Accelerator programme.

Hannah Harniess, Joint Programme Director, said:

“We are blown away by the success of the first cohort and our NHS Navigators are keen to get started with this next set.”

Rajesh Agrawal, Deputy Mayor of London for Business, said health tech companies have struggled to work with the NHS.

“London is the digital capital of Europe and this convergence of tech and health means smarter ways for people to manage and improve their health, and a release of some of the burden on our hospitals.”

Read more on DH.L website

Full article on DH.L website
£86 million programme to drive innovation in the NHS

The government has announced a major initiative to drive the rapid uptake of health innovation – with a central role for Academic Health Science Networks such as the Health Innovation Network.

Under plans by the Office for Life Sciences, England’s 15 AHSNs will coordinate ‘Innovation Exchanges’ so that innovative new diagnostic tools, treatments and medical technologies reach patients faster.

In south London, HIN will continue to work closely with its 12 London Borough partners and NHS leaders to coordinate innovation exchanges that match new developments to challenges to speed up the spread of technological breakthroughs.

The move follows comments by NHS England Chief executive Simon Stevens at the NHS Confederation conference that it was vital to bolster the UK’s life sciences sector as the country tackles the economic fallout of Brexit. See video of that here.

Welcoming the announcement, Health Innovation Network Commercial Director Anna King, said:

“The Health Innovation Network aims to support our local health system to quickly identify and spread new, better and cheaper ways to deliver services for patients and populations. Since 2013 and together with our fellow AHSNs, our work has benefited six million people and spread over 200 innovations.

“The Innovation Exchanges will be built on the partnerships AHSNs have developed in their local areas, bringing partners together across health, care and industry. This will support the supply of products for the Accelerated Access Partnership and build on AHSNs’ existing expertise of supporting industry partners.

Dr Richard Torbett, Executive Director of Commercial Policy at the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry, added:

“ASHNs are a critical delivery partner for bringing the Accelerated Access Review (AAR) to life, and £39 million of investment is an important first step in pulling industry and the health service together to realise the Review’s ambition.”

AHSNs will use their established networks and expertise to:

• identify priorities and then act as honest brokers across sectors to connect people and organisations
• provide the first port of call for information – for example signposting commercial innovators and matching already proven solutions to challenges faced by local NHS organisations
• share best practice around health and care organisations, and offer expert advice about how to get transformation and innovation adopted
• identify opportunities for patients to take part in trials and pilots.

Spectator debate: Beyond the Stethoscope

In this Spectator debate presented by editor Fraser Nelson, Health Innovation Network Chief Executive Tara Donnelly discusses digital tech in healthcare with Philips UK and Ireland CEO Neil Mesher, and NHS England Director of Innovation Professor Tony Young.

Tara sets out the potential for a technology revolution in health and care. She highlights the speed of people adopting smartphones with eight out of 10 people now accessing a device. She points to the potential of innovations such as OurPath that is proven to help reduce diabetes and an app called ClinTouch, which helps patients with psychosis manage their condition. Both apps have high engagement rates.

She also sets out the DigitalHealth.London Accelerator programme that is supporting the adoption of new tech and the programme’s navigators who are helping enable the spread of breakthrough tech into the NHS.

Listen here
Sepsis film clocks over 1.6 million views and saves lives

A new film featuring CBeebies Dr Ranj Singh to raise awareness of sepsis amongst parents of children under five and south London Emergency Departments has clocked up over 1.6 million views.

The Health Innovation Network worked in partnership with NHS England and ASK SNIFF Safety Netting Collaborative to produce the “Spotting the Signs of Sepsis” film series.

Facebook message from parent: Last Wednesday you posted the signs of sepsis video. On the Thursday my daughter became ill and if it wasn’t for your video I wouldn’t of taken her to A&E at 2am in the morning. Your video helped me make the right choices for my daughter and helped catch sepsis early. I just wanted to say thank you for the video and raising awareness. This will save lives.

The film is unique in its use of real life examples of the signs and symptoms of sepsis to empower parents to feel more confident about what signs to look for when their child is unwell with a fever at home, and to know when and how to seek medical advice. Our partnership with ASK SNIFF Safety Netting Collaborative has ensured the film is evidence-based and has been co-designed with their Parent Panel.

A second film in the series provides parents with practical and informative tips on caring for their child with fever at home.

The film can be viewed on the HIN Vimeo and NHS Choices and in south London Children’s Emergency Departments.

Please help others spot the signs of sepsis through your social media channels by sharing the video on our Facebook page.

BLOG: Is new tech enabling channel-shift in health and care services?

SMS text messaging, telemonitoring, video consultation - these are all contenders in the race to deliver improved care and reduce costs. But what works and where should providers and commissioners prioritise local investment? Health Innovation Network’s Tim Burdsey shares some insights from a recent review of the evidence base.

Highlights include findings that text messaging is effective in diabetes care and supports short term smoking cessation while video consultation is effective in treating mental illness along with digital health apps showing effectiveness in diabetes, multiple sclerosis and obesity.

TEDx talk on working in a hospital in Sierra Leone

What’s it like working in a hospital in Sierra Leone? HIN’s Laura Spratling knows after spending six months there on secondment and has given a TEDx talk about it.

She was speaking as part of TEDxLSHTM that investigated ‘the transmission of contagious ideas’. TEDx said: ‘TEDxLSHTM is rooted in the notion that individuals, their health and their wellbeing, are connected and co-dependent. The 2017 event will celebrate those who, through embracing these connections, have taken a share of the responsibility for the wellbeing of others, be that at local, national or international level.’ If you missed it, it will be on YouTube in the near future and on the TEDx LSHTM website.

In the meantime, click right for a preview with Laura.
New Atrial Fibrillation toolkit helps prevent strokes and saves lives

Health professionals across London have access to a brand new, online Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Toolkit, improving the detection and treatment for the estimated 60,000 people in the capital at risk of an AF-related stroke.

The Atrial Fibrillation Toolkit has been designed by a team of experts, including Health Innovation Network, to help address one of the biggest burdens on the NHS and the health of the population. It brings together the latest clinical guidance, performance data, case studies and support for clinicians and commissioners.

Tackling the risk

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is the most common cardiac arrhythmia and is a major risk factor for stroke, contributing to 1 in 5 strokes and associated with a 20% increased likelihood of mortality. An estimated 60,000 people in London are living with undetected AF and at risk of blood clots, stroke, heart failure and other heart-related complications.

Tony Rudd, National Clinical Director for Stroke at NHS England, said: “This toolkit provides information and support for those commissioning services for and treating people with AF. With so many Londoners estimated to have undiagnosed AF, the toolkit will enable commissioners and clinicians to lead the way, showing that correct management of AF is simple to deliver and prevents a huge amount of suffering for individuals and their families, avoiding an unnecessary burden on our health service.”

Global AF Aware Week

November 20-26 is Global AF Aware Week and we will be coordinating pulse checks in a variety of settings with our health partners across south London and publicising the need to #knowyourpulse nationally. Contact Programme Director Laura Spratling for more details.

£114k to drive novel NHS projects in south London

Twelve projects including schemes to improve the care of depression in older people, a new way to deliver medication to housebound patients and digital diabetes education have won funding under South London Small Grants 2017.

The awards were made by the Health Innovation Network working in partnership with Health Education England. In all, there were 75 applications across 42 different organisations that bid for funding.

The aim of the grants is to encourage innovations that address the gaps highlighted in the NHS Five Year Forward View and support the local Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships.

“Great ideas are at the centre of innovation in healthcare but sometimes need financial support”

Health Education England South London Local Director Aurea Jones said: “South London Small Grants are all about helping develop innovations that have a funding gap, to make sure they happen. We had a record number of applications and the winning 12 are excellent projects that should make a real difference to peoples’ lives.

“We look forward to following the progress of these schemes closely and seeing how they deliver real healthcare improvements.”

See the projects here

See our video about Heart Rhythm Week

Picture above: One of last year’s award winners delivered Project Grow where researchers from the University of Roehampton collaborated with the NHS in a newly developed falls prevention gardening scheme. Read the blog.
Digital technologies – from smartphone apps that help people successfully manage their diabetes, avoid “no shows” at hospitals, to tools that save time for nurses and paramedics – are beginning to transform London’s NHS services.

For the first time, NHS providers in London have revealed the extent to which smartphones, the internet and Bluetooth are improving patient care and look set to save the capital’s NHS millions each year.

Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust expects to save £2.5 million each year by reducing missed appointments through an app called DrDoctor which gives patients much more say in selecting a date and time of their choice, resulting in “no show” rates falling by 40%.

Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust is using a tool that links a stoma bag, used to collect faeces and urine for more than 13,000 people who undergo surgery each year nationally, through Bluetooth to users’ smartphones. A discrete device called ostom-i Alert Sensor provides alerts when the bag is full so users have more control over their daily life and, importantly, greater dignity.

Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust expects to save £2.5 million each year by reducing missed appointments through an app called DrDoctor.

The London Ambulance Service has helped adapt the Perfect Ward audit tool specifically for its ambulance stations. The city-wide service has also developed Perfect Kit Prep that cuts out medicines paperwork for faster ambulance care, these are being implemented in over 70 ambulance stations in the capital.

Programmes run by the North West London Collaboration of Clinical Commissioning Groups, covering eight boroughs, are successfully tackling diabetes through digital technology using tools such as OurPath, Oviva and Changing Health.

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust uses Written Medicine, which is dual language medication labels to help ensure the correct medicine is taken. These help reduce adverse drug reactions which cost the NHS £466 million each year.

South West London CCGs are deploying iPlato and myGP to transform patient access to care through improve communications using means such as digital messaging. A new report ‘Digital Leadership in London’s NHS’ reveals that within eight months the 31 start-ups and digital companies backed by DigitalHealth.London have achieved strong uptake within the capital. Health Innovation Network is a founding partner of DigitalHealth.London alongside the other two London AHSNs and MedCity.

Full article on our website
A new tariff came into play in April this year and, says Tara Donnelly, for the first time we have a payment scheme to encourage the spread of innovation within the NHS. This is significant and we need to do everything in our power to ensure that we make the most of the opportunity. Even better, the focus of the tariff in its first year is innovations that make hospital care safer.

Most of the devices that are eligible for the tariff have been developed by innovative clinicians who saw opportunities to improve care – making it safer and more effective.

We should be proud that as a country we are not only inventing these superb devices, we are also designing systems to help accelerate their uptake. NHS England’s Innovation and Technology Tariff (ITT) enables NHS Trusts in England to use these patient safety innovations either for free, or to claim a charge per use.

The tariff is starting to have an impact on scale - myCOPD for example is now being used by over 52,000 people.

Innovations supported by the tariff include:

1. EPISCISSORS-60 - Guided mediolateral episiotomy to minimise the risk of obstetric anal sphincter injury
2. Non-injectable arterial connector (NIC) - Non-injectable arterial connector that avoids this never event
3. PneuX - Device that prevents ventilated associated pneumonia in critically ill patients
4. MyCOPD - Digital product for the self-management of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease
5. Urolift - A surgical procedure for management of Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia as a day case

The 15 AHSNs have lobbied for a tariff to support innovation for some time, and it was the NHS Innovation Accelerator – a national programme supported by all 15 AHSNs – which was a key influencer in its development.

We have in the past bemoaned that the NHS doesn’t support clinical entrepreneurs, and that the period between discovery of an innovation and its widespread uptake at the often quoted time of 17 years is too long.

Here we have a handful of fantastic inventions that improve safety and reduce cost, devised by UK clinicians who have been hugely supported by the NHS to date. Increasing uptake is now down to all of us in healthcare. What about getting over 50% uptake in 17 months instead of 17 years? Are you up for ITT?

Top image: myCOPD allows patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disorder self manage their condition. myCOPD is in 45 CCG areas. Bottom image: AliveCor’s Kardia Mobile smartphone app and device is revolutionising testing for Atrial Fibrillation-related stroke prevention and is backed under the new tariff.

Full article on our website
Musical innovation helps people with dementia

A ‘Music Mirror’ is a low cost resource which helps people at an early stage of memory loss tell their life story in their own words, with links to recorded music and sound. While language skills often deteriorate as the dementia progresses, music can evoke emotional responses and memories. A ‘music mirror’ can be included on a care plan to support person-centred care for people with dementia.

Set up by Heather Edwards, a music teacher in Norfolk, Music Mirrors are used widely and have been adopted by Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, care homes, day centres, befriending organisations and community groups.

HIN has led a project to promote Music Mirrors across south London, working with Heather to develop a ‘Train the Trainer’ programme for health and social care professionals. A total of 182 people attended the free training, representing 50 care homes, two hospitals, one university, and support groups and arts organisations working with people with dementia.

Music Mirrors was shortlisted for the Guardian Award for Innovation in Mental Health at the 2017 Advancing Healthcare Awards, for the spread and adoption of Music Mirrors across south London. The Journal of Dementia Care recently featured Music Mirrors.

BLOG: Getting graduates into health

by Graduates into Health programme manager Louise Brennan

Recruiting into entry level positions in health has been a real problem for years. One of the things that struck me was the high number of managers – regardless of organisation type or business function – that kept saying they just couldn’t recruit to band 3 – 5 roles.

They would place an advert on NHS jobs and 180 applicants would apply. It would take three days to go through short-listing, and if they managed to get five candidates scheduled for interview, most wouldn’t turn up and for those that did, they just didn’t have the skills.

We now have over 1,000 students and graduates on our books, clambering to start their career in the NHS /health care sector and have access to thousands more across London and the South East.

Palvasha Zia and I run this programme and we’d be delighted to help you get your next graduate or first opportunity in the NHS.

HIN supports NHS to recruit IM&T graduates

HIN’s Graduates into Health programme is developing a pathway for Information Management and Technology (IM&T) graduates for 2017 and 2018. NHS organisations from London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex are invited to register their interest in recruiting these talented graduates into their teams.

Apprenticeship leads should contact us when starting their procurement process so we can support them getting a good quality apprenticeship provider.

NHS organisations can struggle with entry-level recruitment and diversity, while students find it difficult to access non-clinical roles such as accounting, marketing and law. Graduates into Health links students and graduates with managers who are recruiting, with 93% of graduates staying in the role once recruited.

The UK has a national IM&T skills shortage, but by working in partnership with universities and the AHSNs across London and the south east, the programme aims to attract top graduates into IM&T careers in the NHS.

To register your interest, contact Louise Brennan
Digital tools and tactics to reduce harm caused by alcohol revealed at event

More than 100 people heard the latest research, practices and challenges in the national drive to tackle the harm caused by alcohol at the Tackling alcohol misuse – effective tools for prevention and treatment conference.

The event was jointly hosted by Health Innovation Network and the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care South London (CLAHRC).

Targeted at professionals and volunteers actively involved in alcohol prevention fields, the conference aimed to share best practice and learnings, and inspire more effective prevention and treatment.

Digital revolution

Use of digital solutions in alcohol misuse identification and treatment was a large focus of the day with brief advice (IBA) strategies examined, with both the HIN and the CLAHRC presenting work in this area.

17K tweets on the day

The event triggered lively activity on Twitter based around the hashtag #AlcoholMisuse2017 with more than 17,000 impressions recorded on the day. Top tweets included: Data shows that whilst people aged under 25 are drinking less, ‘baby boomers’ are drinking more. This clocked up 967 impressions and 11 engagements with an average 48 retweets on the day.

Other Twitter highlights included:

1. 85% of UK adults have a smartphone. 58% of UK adults have downloaded a health related mobile app
2. Know Your Numbers is an app to help increase knowledge of unit.

The HIN alcohol theme works in partnership with a range of stakeholders to implement innovative ways of preventing alcohol related harm through early identification and brief advice (IBA) and supporting people with alcohol dependency.

Hard-hitting films

In addition to resource packs on these topics, there was a special screening of the HIN commissioned film “Stories Behind the Bottle”. This is a film challenging negative stereotypes associated with alcohol misuse as part of a training package for NHS staff that can be seen through the link at the bottom of the page.

Other sets of digital approaches have been produced, including delivery of IBA in the workplace, prescribing of alcohol apps for patients in general practice and pharmacy settings, and text messaging to facilitate access to IBA for general practice patients.

See tools on the alcohol theme page

New film and training package ‘quietly grabs attention’ and highlights impact of stigma and key role of health professional

Stories Behind the Bottle is a compelling film that is part of a training package produced by the HIN’s alcohol theme. Following a competition coordinated by King’s College London for film students in south London, three entries were shortlisted for development into a full film, and support and mentoring was provided by a professional film maker.

The nine-minute film is aimed at all healthcare professionals who come into contact with people with alcohol problems. It tells the stories of three women who speak frankly about their alcohol problems and experiences of seeking healthcare.

The film is accompanied by a set of training resources designed to promote discussion and personal reflection.

Register here to see the film
Catheter Care Awareness widens reach

This year’s Catheter Care Awareness Week empowered more patients and professionals to practice the safer use of urinary catheters.

Set up to encourage patients and professionals to question current practices, improve their knowledge and reduce the stigma associated with having a catheter, Catheter Care Awareness Week has gone from strength to strength.

A significant proportion of urinary catheter use is not justified by clinical need, and long-term catheterisation carries the risk of catheter-associated urinary-tract infections (CAUTIs), complications (haemorrhage, blockage, trauma) and has detrimental effects on continence status and dependency level.

CAUTIs have a devastating impact on patients, particularly older people, causing recurrent attendance to Emergency Departments, prolonged hospitalisation, re-admissions and increased mortality.

Last year, HIN’s Catheter Care Awareness Campaign contributed to a 30% reduction in CAUTI in south London.

We kicked off the week with a Tweetchat with @WeNurses on Thursday 15th June. There was lots of discussion and sharing of resources. A summary of the Tweetchat is pictured. The Twitter campaign clocked up 7.2 million impressions, with 2,227 tweets involving 285 participants.

We are proud of our south London partners, who fully embraced the week. Across our membership, 16 events, study days and workshops were attended by over 900 healthcare professionals and 200 patients, and supported by 13 urology industry partners.

This year saw more engagement from around the UK, with Aneurin Bevan University Health Board in Wales holding a week long set of seminars and stalls, and hospitals in Surrey and Bath involved.

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board Continence Service Urology Nurse Specialist Victoria Coghlan said:

“Thank you for all your support with the awareness week. As a team we thoroughly enjoyed taking time to promote better catheter care for our patients. We hope to continue this inspirational work that you started.”

Aneurin Bevan University Health Board delivers healthcare services for over 640,000 living in Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen.

Victoria added: “We were first made aware of the fantastic work around catheter care from HIN when we discovered the campaign in 2016 promoting better catheter care on social media.”

To find any of the discussions and resources that have been shared, please search for #cathetercare on Twitter, or email hin.southlondon@nhs.net.

Photo below: Honour Oak District Nurses with their Catheter Care Passports

Diary dates

16 November - Back Pain Forum. The HIN’s MSK team is hosting this event following their previous Back Pain forums which identified an interest in a regular in-person information sharing forum. The event runs 2-4pm at the HIN in London Bridge.

20-26 November - AF Aware Week. Detect AF related conditions via a simple pulse check across London. See HIN website for details.

DigitalHealth.London has unveiled a new masterclass series for industry stakeholders, which aim to support suppliers to progress through the innovation pathway and to engage with the NHS in London.

15 November - Masterclass on healthcare leadership in a digital age. This masterclass will take you from concept through to practical application, with real life examples of how technology has been used. The event is from 9.30-1pm in central London.

For more details visit this page.

Click here for a full list of the DHL masterclasses.

28-30 November - DigitalHealth.London has been invited to curate one ‘track’ of the upcoming GIANT Health Event called ‘How to navigate the NHS: a guide for entrepreneurs.’

The GIANT event features 300 speakers over three days with an expected 6,000 healthcare innovators. At the event DHL will be running discussions, presentations, and Q&A sessions on topics from GDPR, to innovation approvals, and getting your product onto the NHS apps library.

Use the code DigitalHealth.Ldn_half-price to get a 50% discount on tickets.
Collaborating to enhance patient safety

HIN hosted a highly interactive networking event for the Patient Safety Collaborative in February. The aim was to provide a supportive environment for patient safety professionals from all backgrounds and sectors across south London to share their challenges, experience and learning.

Suzette Woodward, director of the national Sign up to Safety campaign, presented to the group. Delegates commented on the invaluable networking experience and asked that the events keep going. To join the Collaborative and receive more information about events, please email Patient Safety programme’s Project Support Officer, Kitty Grew.

HIN in the news

• Health Service Journal article by Health Innovation Network Technology Team project manager Tim Burdsey on the Technology Enabled Care Services Review.
• City A.M article by London Mayor Sadiq Khan headlined Digital London: How we can remain a capital of innovation. Mr Khan acknowledges the DigitalHealth.London Accelerator programme as one of the leaders in helping to speed up digital innovations within health and care.
• Health Service Journal ran a news story quoting Tara Donnelly on the Government’s new £86 million fund to speed-up the adoption of innovation through ‘Innovation Exchanges’ in July.
• Article in Health Service Journal in June by Tara Donnelly on the new innovation payment that encourages the NHS to adopt innovative products.
• At Home with Lorraine Kelly published a double-page feature that featured the role of Health Innovation Network in promoting more patient and frontline healthcare professional innovations.
• The Lancet published the work of HIN fellows Dr Ros Blackwood, Dr Sophie Harris and Andrew Walker.
• The Chartered Society of Physiotherapy featured the ESCAPE-pain programme, recently piloted by Arthritis Action.
• Health21 covered the Diabetes Improvement Collaborative’s success in boosting insulin pump uptake by 30% in south London.
• The Royal College of Psychiatrists interviewed Dementia Innovation Fellow Dr Amanda Buttery about the value of physiotherapy for people living with dementia.
• Physiotherapy, the journal of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, also featured Dr Amanda Buttery with her article on the effectiveness of a self-referral falls prevention service.
AHSNs to be relicensed as NHS ‘centrepiece for innovation’

NHS England has confirmed its intention to relicense England’s 15 Academic Health Science Networks.

NHS England’s Board met in July and considered a report from National Director of Strategy and Innovation Ian Dodge, which highlights the AHSNs’ significant impact and outlines how this can be the launch pad for an even more influential future role as the NHS ‘centrepiece for innovation’.

There was unanimous support from the Board to progress the relicensing of all 15 existing AHSNs.

The detailed relicensing process will continue throughout the summer and the new 5-year licence period will start in April 2018.

Speaking at the Board meeting, Ian Dodge said that during their first licences the AHSNs have ‘proved their worth’ and are now regarded as an integral part of the long term future of the NHS architecture.

Since 2013 the AHSNs’ work has benefited six million patients, with over 200 innovations spread throughout 11,000 locations. More than £330 million investment has been leveraged, creating 500 jobs – reinforcing the AHSNs’ outstanding contribution to economic growth as well as improving patient outcomes.

The AHSNs will now work with NHS England and NHS Improvement – along with key national and local partners including the Office for Life Sciences and local Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships – to set out the detailed AHSN activities and support services for the next five years. It is expected that this will focus on two broad areas:

1. Driving the rapid adoption and spread of innovation (including delivery of the Innovation Exchanges)
2. Supporting transformation and improvement of local health and care system

This is great news for patients and clinicians alike. Innovation in healthcare improves patient care, frees up clinicians and delivers multi-million-pound savings for hard-pressed NHS budgets

Tara Donnelly

The Government has also announced a major new role for the AHSNs.

Under plans by the Office for Life Sciences, AHSNs will coordinate ‘Innovation Exchanges’ so that innovative new diagnostic tools, treatments and medical technologies reach patients faster.

The move follows comments by NHS England Chief executive Simon Stevens at the NHS Confed that it was vital to bolster the UK’s life sciences sector as the country tackles the economic fallout of Brexit.

To find out more about the AHSNs:

For examples of the AHSNs’ innovation projects visit the Atlas of solutions at atlas.ahsnnetwork.com

For further background to the AHSNs visit ahsnnetwork.com or email info@ahsnnetwork.com

A recording of NHS England Board meeting discussion can be viewed on NHS England’s YouTube channel.

See it here