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**Dr Rishi Das-Gupta, Chief Executive**

Hello all and welcome to our latest newsletter.

It has been pleasant to see transitioning seasons and warmer weather since our last edition in January. With spring traditionally being a time of change, new beginnings and growth, we are working efficiently to deliver important projects.

While we are almost through the most acute pressures of winter, workforce pressures remain severe across the system. Supporting the health and care workforce continues to be a priority for us, through workstreams including recruitment to crucial Digital, Data and Technology roles via our [Graduates into Health programme](#) and providing a range of quality improvement and learning opportunities through our communities of practice and fellowship programmes.

We believe our programmes provide a unique range of opportunities for staff to develop technical and leadership skills whilst making tangible differences to live services, and I am delighted to share these new opportunities available to local staff to participate in:

Applications are now open for the [fifth cohort of the HIN's Care Home Pioneer Programme](#), delivered in collaboration with My Home Life England. The programme supports staff to advance their skills, facilitate professional growth and tackle complex everyday issues that impact the quality of their service. The programme has had an excellent turn out since it started in 2017.

We are also delivering a programme on behalf of South West London ICB to scale the adoption of its Diabetes 3 Treatment Target quality improvement guide in primary care. We are aiming to work with around 30 practices over the next year to build capacity and skills to improve processes and outcomes for diabetes care.

Last month we celebrated Race Equality Week; as part of this I [wrote a blog](#) on the importance of diversity

and the challenges which come with it, which I hope you will find interesting.

Our clinical programmes are going from strength to strength, with our Patient Safety and Experience Team recently launching its [Experience-based Co-design \(EBCD\) project](#). This is an involvement project that aims to build on our existing work to reduce harm from opioids, and enforce our commitment to be Partners with People in south London.

Other notable recent work includes our analysis of a new model of urgent mental health care in London; our mental health and evaluation team has [recently published a piece in the HSJ](#) discussing the potential of this new approach to improve outcomes for patients. We also produced a [plain English summary in partnership with experts by experience](#), to ensure the findings are as widely accessible as possible.

In this edition, you can find out about developments from our 2022 innovation grant-winning projects, how to get involved with our asthma project in Croydon and Bromley, our evaluation report on tackling myasthenia gravis, and latest funding opportunities.

## News and updates



### **A Magic Cure for the NHS? Prioritising Digital Innovations to Support NHS Staff**

We hosted a digital workforce roundtable to explore the financial and operational complexities of implementing digital workforce technologies. This report sets out our recommendations and reflections to stimulate further debate.

[Read more here.](#)



### **Tackling Myasthenia Gravis Report**

Myasthenia gravis (MG) is a rare disease and has not received the attention it deserves. The HIN led a consensus development programme to build an understanding of what would be required to elevate standards of care for people living with MG in the UK. The evaluation report is now available.

[See the full findings and recommendations in the report.](#)



### **Update on Innovation grant- winning Projects**

We have recently published updates on two HIN innovation grant-winning projects. Simulation labs aim to create a safe space to test new technology in mental health care. [We hear from Dr James Woollard at Oxleas about the importance of creating space for failure.](#)

We also hear from the HIN's Aileen Jackson about [the benefits of using virtual reality simulations to provide relaxation for people with acute mental health conditions](#), following a pilot at South London and Maudsley (SLaM).



## Asthma Project in Croydon and Bromley

Do you have experience of living with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease or breathing difficulties? Or do you know of any community groups with members who live with breathing difficulties, especially from people who face challenges that might make it harder for them to access the help they need?

If yes, we would love to hear from you to help us understand experiences of getting help for these conditions. This is for a project to improve access to tests that help diagnose and monitor breathing difficulties. The tests will be available at local hubs in Croydon and Bromley, making it easier for people who need it most to attend appointments.

Please [email HIN involvement](#) and mention 'Asthma Project' in the subject line.



## The Language of Involvement

Involving the public is crucial to ensuring health and care services are designed as effectively as possible. However, it can be difficult to get the language of involvement right. Alice Beaumont, from the HIN's Insights team, shares what we've learnt about using appropriate language around involvement and how this can help improve engagement.

[Read the full blog here](#). If you would also like to sign up to our bi-monthly involvement newsletter, please email [Sophie Lowry](#).



## New FREED Inequalities Toolkit

Kent Surrey Sussex Academic Health Science Network (KSS AHSN) has launched the FREED Inequalities Toolkit in partnership with Unity Insights. The toolkit is a new resource to help healthcare professionals working in eating disorders to measure and understand inequalities in eating disorders through the First Episode Rapid Early Intervention for Eating Disorder (FREED) programme.

The FREED national programme provides rapid access to evidence-based treatment and tailored support for 16 to 25 year olds who have had an eating disorder for three years or less. Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs), including KSS AHSN, are supporting eating disorder services across England to speed up diagnosis and treatment of eating disorders in young people through early intervention through FREED.

The toolkit will help professionals delivering the FREED programme to better understand:

- How to effectively measure inequalities and the steps to sustain and embed a 'health inequalities focus' to support better care
- How to measure inequalities (including demographic and process and outcome

metrics); and

- who the key stakeholders to engage with are, to help ensure the measurement of relevant data

[View the FREED inequalities toolkit here.](#)



### **HIN Call-out to Speak to Primary Care Colleagues**

The Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) prevention team at the HIN is currently working with Healum - an app that works within EMIS, designed to be used with patients with long-term cardiovascular conditions to help with self-management. It has been tested with patients with diabetes and thanks to an SBRI grants Healum are now expanding to support patients at risk from CVD.

We are looking to speak with practices and PCNs to get feedback on how this could be most helpful for patients with cardiovascular disease and for staff. Healum will be trialling this over the coming year with free licenses available to south London practices. If you would like a demonstration to find out more, please let us know and we can make the necessary arrangements.

Please email the [HIN CVD team](#) for more information.



### **Digital Self-management and Self-referral for MSK Services**

The #SolvingTogether approach, led by the Transformation Directorate at NHS England, have provided self-referral for MSK services since 2019 delivered via the South West London (SWL) self-management app (powered by getUBetter).

It empowers people to self-manage their MSK condition but also allows them to self-refer to a physiotherapist with a few simple clicks. This is provided across primary and community care, if patients attend A&E or urgent care centres and is now available for people waiting for orthopaedic operations.

[Find out more here.](#)



### **AHSN Network Marks Five-year Milestone in Protecting Pre-term Babies From Cerebral Palsy**

The AHSN Network is celebrating five years of brain injury and cerebral palsy protection for premature babies. Over 16,000 babies have benefited from the £1 magnesium sulphate injection, resulting in around 367 fewer cases of cerebral palsy since the programme started in 2018.

[Read the article here.](#)

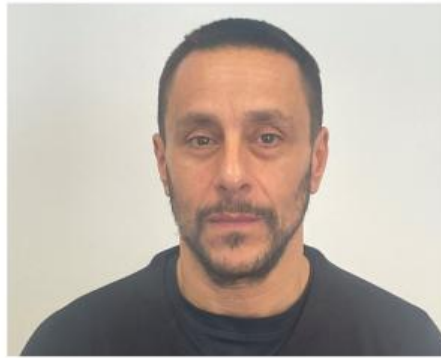
## **Funding opportunities**

Find out about the latest funding opportunities, including open applications for UK organisations to share up to £25 million on game-changing and commercially viable research & development that can impact the UK economy.

[Discover more opportunities](#)



## Meet the Innovator



**"The best part of my job is meeting new people and designing new automation for healthcare."**

[JifJaff](#) is a specialist robotic process automation (RPA) and intelligent automation service for the NHS and private healthcare sectors.

We spoke to James Aitman, CEO of JifJaff, about his innovator journey so far and how business can make the best use of automation in the most cost-effective manner.

[Find out more](#)

## Events

### Tellmi: Bridging the inequalities gap with digital peer support

Tuesday 18 April, 12 – 1pm

Innovative mental health solutions are desperately needed as one in six young people now has a mental health disorder and 76 per cent of young people with mental health issues never get any support at all.

Tellmi (formerly MeeToo) is transforming mental health outcomes for young people, through its multi-award winning app, which is evidenced to improve mental health in young people. The webinar will reveal how digital peer support is answering the call for scalable care.

**Join us to hear from:**

- **Tellmi** reflecting on their most recent SBRI project tackling health inequalities in south east London with 700+ young people.
- **A young Tellmi user** sharing their lived experience of using the digital app.
- **The Anna Freud Centre** evidencing how Tellmi's holistic approach and application of data can lead to improvements in their partner settings.
- **The York Health Economic Consortium** identifying the potential long term impacts of the service on young people and the health care system.

The webinar will finish with a panel discussion and the opportunity to ask our speakers questions.

### The King's Fund webinar: Health inequalities – from evidence to action

Tuesday 25 - Wednesday 26 April

The Covid-19 pandemic has laid bare deep-seated health inequalities. This issue is now at the forefront of the minds of people across the health and care system, as they seek to develop strategies aimed at reducing health inequalities at a regional, integrated care system (ICS) and place level.

This conference will bring together individuals and teams developing health inequalities strategies. We will discuss the need for universal action at a population health level and targeted action to address issues affecting people facing the worst health outcomes, showing how these two approaches interlink.

This is a paid event. [Book your ticket here.](#)

### JifJaff: Transforming primary care through the power of hyper automation

Thursday 27 April, 3 - 6pm

NHS trusts have started to embrace intelligent automation as they seek to address the shifting pressures in the healthcare space. It is now time for the primary care sector to join in and leverage automation to deliver on the hefty mandates assigned.

JifJaff are holding an invite-only private event in London next month

[Register your place on Eventbrite.](#)

### Luscii webinar on heart failure

**Tuesday 18 April, 7.30 - 8.30pm**

Luscii healthtech are organising a webinar about the impact and value of a remote monitoring for patients suffering congestive heart failure. Consultant Cardiologist Dr. Carla Plymen from Imperial College Healthcare Trust London will share her experiences and strong evidence she discovered in the Imperial cohort. This event is aimed at NHS consultants and nurses within the cardiology field. [Register your place here.](#)

to build awareness around the automation work we do nationally in primary care. The event is for senior members of staff with responsibility in primary care (ideally ICS/ICB/Government/NHS) to showcase the art of the possible with hyper automation at scale.

Places are limited to 15 people and going quickly, so if you or any of your networks would like to attend, please [register here.](#)

### UCLPartners implementation webinar

**Tuesday 25 April, 1 - 2pm**

Join UCLP for an interactive, informative online workshop for all health and care colleagues involved in primary care transformation. The UCLPartners clinical and education teams will explain what the [proactive care frameworks](#) are and how to make the most of the [implementation workbook](#) to start using the Frameworks effectively to improve patient care today.

There will be time for attendees to share their experiences of providing long-term condition care, ask questions and discuss the resources with the UCLP workshop facilitators.

[Register your place here](#) and [find the UCLP proactive care framework implementation workbook here.](#)

## Partner news

### Applications open for DigitalHealth.London Accelerator programme

DigitalHealth.London has opened applications to their flagship Accelerator programme for the next generation of digital health companies to transform health and care. Digital innovations are a vital tool in tackling the challenges facing the NHS and social care, such as supporting the workforce, addressing health inequalities and delivering a net zero NHS.

Now in its seventh consecutive year, the NHS-delivered programme, has supported 143 of the biggest and most effective digital innovations now being used by the NHS and social care, and many scaling globally. Examples include Huma, DrDoctor, Peppy Health, eConsult, Echo, AccuRx and HN. Over 600 additional contracts have been signed by companies during Accelerator support and the programme was also named Accelerator of the Year at the UKBAA Angel Investment Awards 2022. [Find out more information here.](#) You can also [see the application form here](#) and [FAQs.](#)

### Three Accelerator alumni win AI in Health and Care Awards

Accelerator alumni, Mendelian, Cibiltch and Ibox, have secured funding through the third competition of the Artificial Intelligence in Health and Care Awards.

The awards are run by the NHS AI Lab in partnership with the National Institute for Health and Care Research and the Accelerated Access Collaborative and nine projects were chosen in total to receive funding in this latest round. The funding covers phases 2, 3 and 4, with Phase 2 supporting early stage concepts and prototypes, to support development and evaluation. Phases 3 and 4 meanwhile support testing and further adoption across health and care. [Read the full story here.](#)

## Share your views on outpatient care

The James Lind Alliance Outpatient Service Delivery Priority Setting Partnership wants to hear the questions patients, carers, healthcare professionals, managerial and clerical staff have about how care is delivered through outpatient services. The aim is to identify the top 10 unanswered questions about outpatient service delivery which will be the focus of future research.

[Complete the survey here](#) to share your questions and thoughts or by scanning the QR code on the page.

## Our Future Health gains momentum with practice support in south London

Aiming to be the UK's largest-ever health research programme, Our Future Health's goal is to transform the prevention, detection and treatment of conditions such as dementia, cancer, diabetes, heart disease and stroke. In support, IPLATO Healthcare is contacting practices in south London to register, giving their patients the opportunity to volunteer.

By registering, practices will help adequate representation of south London in the national programme which aims to recruit five million volunteers. It will bring valuable insights to improve the lives of local people and the wider population.

[Find out more and register your practice here.](#)

