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Dr Rishi Das-Gupta, Chief Executive

Hello all and welcome to our latest newsletter.

The NHS continues to face uncertainty and challenges in terms of shortages of staff and the amount of work we are each having to do. We remain committed to helping tackle current workforce issues in terms of supporting staff both in their work and how they work to have impact on patient outcomes.

We have recently launched our first ever [GP Diabetes Quality Improvement Programme](#) to support staff in GP practices to develop clinical skills to help improve outcomes for people who have or are at risk of type 2 diabetes. This will be both face-to-face and online, being mindful of participants' already demanding schedules. We hope projects delivered through the programme will significantly impact on both reducing the incidence of type 2 diabetes and improving the ability of existing patients to self-manage their symptoms.

We are also always horizon scanning for new technologies and ways of working to make things easier for frontline staff. Opportunities for improving efficiency are starting to become closer to reality, for example through automated note-taking in GP appointments, using AI to schedule staff working patterns, or by making increased use of remote working technology. You can find out more in [my recent blog](#).

This month, we also announced ['Accelerating FemTech'](#), a new national programme that will support innovators to boost the development of technology solutions to address current challenges in women's health. We are thrilled to be delivering this project alongside our collaboration of partners including DigitalHealth.London, CW Innovation and various other AHSNs across the country. We encourage you to share this with your networks who may be interested in applying.

Across our organisation's other programmes, three of our teams have also been [shortlisted for the](#)

- Digital Health.London's Digital Fellowship Programmes have been selected as a finalist for the **Digital Literacy, Education and Upskilling Award**.
- The [Healthy Eating and Active Lifestyles for Diabetes \(HEAL-D\) Online](#) programme, which is a self-management tool for people from African and Caribbean communities with type 2 diabetes, has been selected as a Finalist in the **Reducing Health Inequalities Through Digital Award** category.
- Our diabetes [Prevention Decathlon \(PD\)](#), run in partnership with South West London ICS and Sweatcoin, has been shortlisted as a Finalist in the **Empowering Patients Through Digital Award** category.

These are strong examples of the impact we strive to achieve, and we are very proud to see our programmes being recognised on the wider health innovation stage. Our work on HEAL-D through the National Insights Prioritisation Programme came to an end this month and we held a fantastic celebration event to bring together everyone who has supported the work. The programme will now go to clinical trial and be scaled up beyond south London, and I am looking forward to seeing the impact it can deliver in future. Involving people and communities in changing health and care continues to be a priority for the HIN, and HEAL-D is a great example of what this looks like in practice.

In this edition, you can also find out about our [evaluation report on mapping the Bromley virtual ward pathways](#), our evaluation report on the [South West London's Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing in Schools Programme](#), and [latest funding opportunities](#).

News and updates



Applications Open for Accelerating FemTech

The Health Innovation Network is happy to announce "Accelerating FemTech", a new initiative which will support innovators to boost the development of technology solutions to address current challenges in women's health. Accelerating FemTech has been made possible through Innovate UK funding as part of the Biomedical Catalyst.

Accelerating FemTech is looking to **Inspire**, by engaging innovators (clinicians, companies and academics) around the challenges in women's health, and to **Accelerate**, by delivering a targeted 10-week accelerator programme for

small / medium-sized companies from across the UK. the **Accelerate** programme is currently open for applications, with a deadline of 25 June.

[Find out more and apply here](#). Please also share with your networks and anyone who may be interested.



Bromley Virtual Ward report

Virtual wards allow people who need hospital care to receive the care they need at home, including in care homes, safely and conveniently rather than in a hospital. They provide an opportunity to narrow the gap between demand and capacity for secondary care beds by providing an alternative to admission and/or early discharge.

At the request of South East London Integrated Care Board, The Health Innovation Network (HIN) gathered insights into the current state of the virtual wards in Bromley and highlight current challenges, gaps, and opportunities. This report details our approach and method as well as the insights and recommendations.

[Read the report summary here.](#)



Evaluation of the South West London Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing in Schools Programme

Our Insights Team recently completed an independent evaluation of the Children and Young People Emotional Wellbeing Programme for South West London Integrated Care Board (ICB). This programme aims to improve emotional wellbeing and mental health in children and young people. It also supports schools and colleges in developing a Whole School Approach to emotional wellbeing. The evaluation draws out key statistics, the programme impact, successful factors and recommendations for improvement.

The evaluation took a mixed methods approach, using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, including online surveys, in-depth interviews, focus groups, analysis of routinely collected outcomes and activity data and reviewing documentation.

[Read the report summary here.](#)



Unintended impacts: using Equality Impact Assessments to understand how technology can impact mental health inequalities

Innovations help us to tackle the biggest challenges in health and care, but it is not always obvious how the spread and adoption of new technology affects people in terms of widening or diminishing health inequalities.

In this blog, Karen West and Cameron Baker of patient monitoring company [Oxehealth](#) write about how a Health Innovation Network-supported equality assessment helped them understand and improve the equity of their solution. The piece focuses on key points including the inequality challenge for mental health care providers and how technology can impact equality.

[Read the report summary here.](#)



Lived Experience Partners at the HIN

In 2022, the Health Innovation Network launched an [Involvement Strategy](#) that represents a refresh in thinking and effort to co-produce health innovation. Part of this strategy was a new Lived Experience Partner role and we are delighted to have successfully appointed two partners, Faith Smith and Aurora Todisco. Faith and Aurora are working with us to advise on involvement activities within our projects, expand our community networks and support other experts by experience and service users who work with us.

[In this blog](#), you can find out more about their fundamental role in supporting us to embed involvement within our organisation.



Putting LGBTQIA+ Service Users First: What we learnt from our queertech roundtable

The Health Innovation Network recently hosted a roundtable event bringing together leaders from the health and tech sectors to discuss the challenges and opportunities in designing health technology for the LGBTQIA+ community. Karla Richards, Innovation Project Manager at the HIN, writes about what we learned.

[Read the full blog here.](#)



Improving Care for Inflammatory Bowel Disease Under Challenging Circumstances

Dr Rishi Goel writes about how a HIN innovation grant is helping to improve care for inflammatory bowel disease, and how the new service has been co-designed under challenging circumstances. Rishi is Consultant Gastroenterologist and Kingston Lead for IBD Services.

[Read the full blog here.](#)



Launch of the South London Care Home Pioneer Programme 2023

The fifth cohort of the South London Care Home Pioneer Programme launched in April 2023. Fifty care home managers, deputies, and senior nurses from across south London commenced the programme with a workshop delivered by My Home Life England. Leaders from nursing and residential homes for older people are this year joined for the first time by leaders from learning disability, mental health and supported living settings. The Care Home Pioneers will continue on the programme until December, benefiting from leadership and personal development, and delivering a small Service Improvement project within their homes.

To find out more about the programme, read our blog '[Investing in our Care Home Leaders](#)'.



New Site Announced for National Wound Care Strategy Programme

Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) has been selected to become a Test and evaluation site in the AHSN Network's national Transforming Wound Care programme. They join seven other pilot sites working to establish local dedicated lower limb wound services using the evidence, learning and recommendations from the National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP).

Working across Merton, CLCH aims to deliver the NWCSP objective of ensuring that all patients with lower limb wounds receive evidence-based care leading to the faster healing of wounds, improved quality of life for patients, reduced likelihood of wound recurrence, and the effective use of health and care resources.

[Find out more about the national recommendations here.](#)

Funding opportunities

Find out about the latest funding opportunities, including a chance to share up to £240,000 inclusive of VAT, to develop disruptive, innovative solutions supporting people at risk of dementia to manage their medications.

[Discover more opportunities](#)

Meet the Innovator



"From the moment we started showing people the prototype designs, we got such a positive reaction."

[Compassly](#) is an app that effectively manages comprehensive clinical competencies, providing a digital record of clinical skills that can be used to effortlessly to prove competence wherever required.

We spoke to [Jonathan Knight](#), CEO and Co-founder of Tefogo, about his innovator journey so far and how Compassly is helping clinicians who need to develop their competencies throughout their careers.

[Find out more](#)

Events

PCPN: digital transformation in the NHS

Thursday 25 May, 4pm
Primary Care Partnership Network (PCPN)4's first webinar, 'Driving Digital Innovation in the NHS,' will allow you to gain valuable insight from two leading UK healthcare experts who will share their in-depth experience of the challenges and practical solutions they have encountered on their journey towards digitalisation.

Automation in Cancer Services

Tuesday 13 June, 12 - 1:30pm
Automation refers to the design and implementation of technologies to provide services with minimal human involvement. Automating high-volume, repetitive, rule-based tasks can improve productivity, efficiency, reliability, compliance, speed and accuracy, colleague morale, and integration between people and process. This can help free up clinical and administrative staff to

towards digitalisation.

Join the event to hear from:

- Ian Hogan - Chief Information Officer, Northern Care Alliance NHS Foundation Trust
- Eddie Olla - Chief Digital Officer, NHS Coventry & Warwickshire Integrated Care Board.

This interactive webinar is designed for NHS leaders passionate about leveraging technology to enhance healthcare delivery across the UK.

[Register your place.](#)

Tellmi: We need to talk about autism

Wednesday 31 May, 12 – 1pm

We need to talk about Autism. The mental health impacts of delayed diagnosis and how digital peer support gives autistic young people a voice.

Tellmi is a digital mental health solution for young people aged 11-25 which uses a pre-moderated, anonymous, age banded peer support model to enable young people to help themselves by helping each other. The app has been independently evaluated and is shown to improve mental health in young people (Ravaccia, 2022). Tellmi has supported 75,000+ young people and is commissioned by the NHS.

Join us to hear from:

- **Suzi Godson** from Tellmi reflecting on their most recent SBRI project researching autism with 1,200+ young people.
- **Simon Baron Cohen** from The Autism Research Centre at the University of Cambridge explaining why girls don't get diagnosed and how screening tools can help to speed the path to clinical diagnosis
- **A Tellmi user** sharing their lived experience of late diagnosis and the impact that it has had on their mental health

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

[Register your place on Eventbrite.](#)

Health Innovation Network presenting at upcoming national conferences

- **Intelligent Health – 24 May**
 - DigitalHealth.London will be hosting a challenge session titled, "Upskilling the workforce: How can we provide health and social care workers with the AI knowledge they will soon need?". [Find out](#)

Clinical and administrative staff so they can focus on securing the best possible outcomes for patients.

Along with South East London Cancer Alliance (SELCA), we will be hosting a webinar to discuss the 'art of the possible' in automation tools for cancer pathways across primary and secondary care, followed by exploration of current use cases across London and the potential ways of working in partnership with industry to accelerate the realisation of benefits for patients and staff.

[Find out more and register your place on Eventbrite.](#)

BioSeed Summer 2023, Reading

Monday 26 June

After the sell-out success of BioSeed in January 2023, OBN are delighted to announce the launch 'BioSeed Summer', a new second edition of this fast-paced pitching and investment event, kindly hosted by Headline Sponsor [BDQ](#) at their R+ Building in Reading.

BioSeed, organised by [OBN](#), is a fast-paced, one-day pitching event where innovative early-stage life sciences companies seeking Seed funding, showcase to and meet with an extensive audience of active life sciences investors.

Key features of BioSeed Summer include:

- 30 five-minute company presentations from early-stage life sciences R&D companies seeking Seed stage funding
- An inspirational keynote presentation
- Private pre-scheduled partnering meetings in-person on 26 June, and virtually on 27 June (powered by PartneringONE)
- Plenty of networking opportunities throughout the day, along with an all-delegate Networking Drinks Reception

BioSeed attendance is exclusively for:

- R&D companies actively seeking Seed stage funding
- Life sciences investors looking for new funding opportunities
- A limited number of corporate and industry sponsors

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

[more.](#)

- **ConfedExpo – 14-15 June**

- We will be taking part in four of the six talks on the AHSN Network stand on the role of remote monitoring, mental health of children and young people, support for people with long-term conditions including diabetes and patient safety within maternity and neonatal services.

[Find out more.](#)

We look forward to seeing you at these events.

Partner news

Applications open for South West London ICS Digital Pioneer Programme

South-West London ICS and DigitalHealth.London have opened applications to the SWL ICS Digital Pioneer Fellowship programme, supporting change makers employed by NHS and Local Authority organisations in South-West London to design and lead health and care transformation projects underpinned by digital innovation.

The Fellowship is designed to equip the fellows with new skills and knowledge, from building good business cases and using Agile as a project delivery technique, to structuring a good evaluation, and implementing change management principles. The programme is designed to connect fellows to like-minded peers, influencers in the system and people who can mentor them.

The South-West London ICS Digital Pioneer Fellowship builds upon DigitalHealth.London's Digital Pioneer Fellowship programme but is specifically for staff employed by NHS and Local Authority organisations in South-West London.

[Find out more and apply here.](#)

Applications open for the second Horizon Fellowship programme

DigitalHealth.London and CW Innovation have announced the opening of applications to the second cohort of the Horizon Fellowship programme. The Horizon Fellowship programme empowers and supports Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust staff to lead and deliver innovative projects that are bringing much-needed change for staff and patients. The Horizon Fellowship is delivered by DigitalHealth.London in partnership with CW Innovation (the flagship innovation programme run jointly by CW+ and Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust), supporting individuals who are employed by the Trust.

[Visit the CW+ website for more information.](#)

OneLondon celebrates fifth anniversary

This month marks OneLondon's fifth anniversary. To mark this milestone they have produced material setting out their work with partners over the last five years to join up information to improve health and care across the Capital and beyond.

You can find out more by visiting their [website](#) or following OneLondon on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

