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Hello all and welcome to our latest newsletter.

Summer is here, and I hope you have all been staying well in the hotter weather.

I was pleased to see the publication of the [NHS Workforce Plan](#), which set the scene to expand the workforce over coming years. This won't be an overnight fix, with the emphasis on training presenting a significant delay before we see an impact. The move back towards an apprenticeship model is a positive step, and thought should be given to how these can be implemented to meet the skills needs of the future, for example creating opportunities in innovation. I know that south London universities are already discussing these needs. There is also room to improve NHS recruitment techniques where new digital innovations are available, and take steps to address staff retention, including tackling long-standing issues which impact staff such as rostering and IT integration.

At the HIN workforce challenges remain one of our key priorities. I'm pleased to share that since our last newsletter, we have launched our first Diabetes Quality Improvement (QI) Programme. This new initiative aims to develop clinical skills for staff in south London to help improve outcomes for patients at risk of type 2 diabetes. We welcomed GPs from 40 practices to our launch event where they had the opportunity to share aspirations, learning and expertise. We also hosted our third MSK Improvement Network event, where clinicians shared learning around red flags, QI in primary care, and local innovation success stories.

In June, applications closed for Accelerating FemTech, a new national programme to support innovators addressing current challenges in women's health. We received a very high number of applications which we are currently reviewing. The level of interest makes me very optimistic about the future of innovation in the women's health space. We held [a number of events and webinars](#) alongside this which I would encourage you to view if you haven't already. The accelerator programme will start in September and I look forward to sharing details of the winning projects with you in due course.

Looking ahead, we will soon be welcoming the second cohort of our [Cardiovascular Disease Prevention Fellowship](#) and fostering clinicians' learning from our Opioids Experience-based Co-design project. In our recently published [Annual Report for 2022/23](#), you can find out more about our other long-term priorities and all of the work we have delivered over the past year. Please do feel free to contact me with any thoughts you may have on our work.

In this edition, you can also find out about our [blog on tackling Sickle Cell Disease](#), our [blog on bringing MedTech innovations for south London](#) and the [latest funding opportunities](#).

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

**News and updates**



## Chief Executive blog: Using technology in healthcare in a way that benefits all stakeholders

As part of MediaPlanet UK's Life Science Innovation campaign, HIN Chief Executive Rishi Das-Gupta has written a blog about the use of technology in healthcare and opportunities in the technology and data innovation spaces to help the healthcare workforce and its patients. He discusses the importance of reducing health inequalities for patients, as well as challenges and opportunities in health tech.

[Read the full blog.](#)



## Grads into Health graduate represents DDaT Scheme at Connect Conference

Patrick Devaney, Data Analyst Graduate at the [Countess Of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#) recently represented the Digital, Data and Technology Scheme at the NHS North West Skills Development Network: 2023 Connect Conference.

To hear about Patrick's experience on the DDaT scheme, [watch this video.](#)



## HIN receives award for CVD programme

The HIN has been recognised at the Palace of Westminster as a Centre of Excellence for a common yet difficult-to-manage heart rhythm condition called atrial fibrillation (AF). During World Heart Rhythm Week last month, the HIN was named by the [AF Association](#) as an AF Pioneer.

Dr Roy Jogiya received this award in recognition of the HIN's pioneering work for 'Improving Education and Management of Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) through a Primary Care Fellowship Programme'.

Dr Jogiya said: "We are thrilled to be recognised as a Centre of Excellence and for our work to qualify as AF Healthcare Pioneers. To know that our work can be shared with others to improve outcomes for patients makes us very proud."

[Read the AF Association Healthcare Pioneers Report 2023.](#)



## Launch of new Patient Safety Plan 2023

Last month at the NHS ConfedExpo 2023, the AHSN Network launched its refreshed Patient Safety Plan, reflecting progress made across focus areas including managing deterioration in care homes; maternity and neonatal health; medicines safety; mental health; and system safety. Colleagues from across the AHSN Network presented on the refreshed plan with Alison White, Head of Patient Safety at the HIN, presenting on the Maternity and Neonatal programme.

[Read the patient safety in partnership report.](#)



## NHS launches prevention



## education programme for Cardiovascular Disease in UK

The Cardiovascular Disease (CVD) Prevention Decathlon is a new behaviour change programme for people who are at risk of developing CVD. The programme is fully inclusive and has been co-created by the NHS in collaboration with people from across the community.

Funded by NHS England through SBRI, the Decathlon will see 700 patients participate in a 10 week preventative education programme supported by a combination of digital technologies and behavioural change techniques.

[Find out more about the programme.](#)



## HIN to develop new programme to support diverse founders of digital health companies

The HIN is currently scoping a new programme which will look to support diverse founders of digital health companies, building on the success of our flagship DigitalHealth.London Programmes. This programme will help to develop the untapped potential of London's diverse innovators who have not had the opportunity to thrive in the health and social care market, including female founders (both cisgender women and trans women); Black, Asian and minority ethnic founders; and founders with disabilities.

We are keen to engage with founders of digital health companies who identify as being from an undeserved group in order to test our programme design to ensure that it is high-value and relevant. In addition, we are looking for mentors who would be interested in supporting diverse founders. Support packages will offer beneficiaries the best chances to remove barriers to success in starting-up and growing their own business, in accessing finance, business support, new contracts and business networks.

If you have lived experience of being a founder from an undeserved community or would be interested in mentoring, please contact [Anna King](#), Commercial Director at the HIN, and state your specific areas of interest so we can consult with you as we develop this programme.



## HEAL-D: A new diabetes self-management programme for African and Caribbean adults

Launched in south east London, the [Healthy Eating & Active Lifestyles for Diabetes \(HEAL-D\)](#) programme helps participants to manage their diabetes better, improving their health and quality of life. A recent service evaluation of the online version of HEAL-D showed:

- **78 per cent of people who completed the programme reported weight loss**
- **98 per cent strongly agreed or agreed that HEAL-D Online has helped them to manage their diabetes**
- **the proportion of patients experiencing 'diabetes-related distress' (a wellbeing measure for diabetes patients) reduced from 49 per cent to 23 per cent after**

## announcing

HEAL-D Online is now available across south London and is being piloted in other parts of the country.

[Find out more about the development of HEAL-D and its impact.](#)



### Digital First Patient Perspectives Survey

#### Digital First Patient Perspectives Survey

The Digital First Programme has been working with Primary Care services across London to help roll out and embed digital tools and services.

We are working with them to capture patient perspectives on using GP practice websites, online consultation services and the NHS App via an [online survey](#). This will inform an evaluation report that will identify what is working well and potential areas for improvement to digitally meet healthcare needs and improve user experience.

If you have contacts in primary care or with patient groups/representatives, please share with them so that we can reach the widest possible range of voices.

Patients will also be offered the opportunity to join a virtual/in person focus group for further discussion and will be asked to provide their contact details (email/phone number) in the questionnaire form.

Please share the survey as soon as possible, and **no later than 28 July**. Focus groups will take place between 17 and 27 July.



### Taking Action on Sickle Cell Disease

[World Sickle Cell Day](#) took place on 19 June, and to mark this, HIN project manager Iona de Wet wrote about the impact of sickle cell disease on those who have it, and what is being done to improve care.

[Read the full blog.](#)



### Health leaders and clinicians join the HIN for third Musculoskeletal Improvement Network event

At the end of June, the HIN held its third Musculoskeletal (MSK) Improvement Network event which brought together clinicians from London and beyond to share their local innovation success stories. The day included several presentations from keynote speakers and interactive sessions to discuss best practices and new ways of working to improve the quality of life of people living with an MSK-related diagnosis.

[Read the full story.](#)

## Funding opportunities

Find out about the latest funding opportunities, including a chance to apply for funding for research feasibility or translational studies contributing to the goal of transforming the development of future medicines - from discovery to deployment, delivering an accelerated, more sustainable pathway.

[Discover more opportunities](#)

## Meet the Innovator



"I feel really passionate about progression and working out how to engage more people to support their informed choices and decision-making in childbirth."

[The Real Birth Company](#) is a service and training programme that supports pregnant women and people who access all maternity services and the midwives, doulas and antenatal teachers who support them.

We spoke to Zoe Wright, Founder and CEO of The Real Birth Company, about her innovator journey so far.

[Find out more](#)

## Events

### Using the NHS Graduate DDaT Scheme to support your EPR programme

Wednesday 12 July, 12 - 1pm

The NHS Graduate Digital Data and Technology scheme are running a series of bi-weekly webinars for NHS managers to find out how the scheme can support teams with resourcing needs.

Commissioned by NHS England, the NHS Graduate DDaT scheme has experience of recruiting graduates into a range of Band 5 and Band 6 roles in both cities and hard to recruit rural locations. They are the NHS's largest informatics, digital, data and technology recruitment graduate programme, which has sourced, trained and supported over 180 DDaT graduates since 2018.

The team has also successfully sourced and developed graduates for Electronic Patient Record implementations by scoping workforce requirements and providing a tailored graduate programme. With a 94 per cent retention rate of grads completing their scheme.

[Sign up for the webinar.](#)

### NHS South East London Integrated Care System Wednesday 12 and Friday 14 July, various times

The NHS South East London Integrated Care System (SEL ICS) overprescribing team are keen to hear from people and communities across south east London to help us jointly address this issue. Overprescribing is when people are taking a lot of medicines to manage their conditions that are not

### The King's Fund: Improving Access to and Uptake of Innovative Medicines

Session live from Thursday 13 July 12 - 1pm. Catch up on demand until Monday 14 August

Innovative medicines provide the opportunity to transform patient care, pathways, and outcomes. But how do we improve access and uptake of these medicines in a way that is affordable, and that supports the already overstretched health and care workforce?

This free online event is an opportunity to consider some of the key challenges to access and uptake of innovative medicines in England. We will discuss:

- the current barriers to improving access to new medicines
- how to build on experiences and lessons from the rapid development, approval and rollout of vaccines and treatments as response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Get your free ticket.](#)

### Virtual Wards Community of Practice Thursday 10 August, 12 - 1.30pm

Join NHS England's virtual wards weekly community of practice webinars. These sessions aim to bring together clinicians, wider virtual ward teams, and ICS, and regional colleagues to shorten the collective virtual ward learning curve and develop services/ practice in a meaningful and experience-based way.

Over the coming months NHSE will be inviting a variety of clinicians, managers, and other experts to

necessarily helpful or are not addressing what matters to them about their health.

The SEL ICS overprescribing project wants to hear from you to better understand your views and experience of taking many medicines and what is important to you right now. This will help the NHS and other health and care organisations in south east London implement key recommendations in the [National overprescribing review report](#).

We are holding two webinars, where you will have the opportunity to find out more about the overprescribing project and how you can get involved and to ask questions. If you live in Bexley, Bromley, Greenwich, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark you are invited to attend.

[Register your place on Eventbrite.](#)

## Register for NHS ConfedExpo 2024

NHS ConfedExpo will return to Manchester Central in 2024. The event, which NHS England and NHS Confederation deliver in partnership, will once again bring together health and care leaders and their teams from across the sector for two days of inspiring speakers, thought provoking sessions, shared learning and best practice.

Express your interest in [NHS ConfedExpo 2024](#) and be the first to find out about the event.

managers, and other experts to share their learning and experiences to support you with implementing and developing virtual wards.

This session will look at the importance of building clinical confidence to increase virtual ward occupancy and examine how virtual wards can work with patients and their carers to support utilisation.

This webinar is open to colleagues with an nhs.net, gov.uk or other health or social care work email address.

[Register your place.](#)

## HTN Strategy, transformation and change

Tuesday 25 July

Join Health Tech News and guests for the latest edition of HTN Now.

The HTN health tech tour continues and this online event is set to cover a range of topics including Electronic Patient Record programmes, remote care, digital patient tech, records management, data integration, digital integrated care systems and lots more.

[Register for your ticket here](#), or to be involved in the agenda please email [marketing@htn.co.uk](mailto:marketing@htn.co.uk).

## Partner news

### 17 companies join the DigitalHealth.London Accelerator ready to transform London's health and care system

[DigitalHealth.London](#) is proud to announce the latest 17 digital health companies selected for their flagship [Accelerator programme](#). The 17 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) selected for the Accelerator 2023/24 programme have digital solutions or services that have the highest potential to meet London's NHS and social care challenges. From apps to AI robotics, remote monitoring to diagnostics, and diabetes to cancer, the solutions from these 17 companies will transform pathways across the sector.

Now in its seventh consecutive year, the DigitalHealth.London Accelerator is funded by the HIN through its Office for Life Sciences funding and its partners, including CW+. In addition, the Accelerator will receive £185k from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for some aspects of this programme.

DigitalHealth.London is passionate about the importance of diversity and inclusion in the long-term success of innovation and transformation within the NHS and is proud that 24 per cent of the seventh cohort identify as being ethnic minority owned and 24 per cent are either female-majority owned or there is no clear majority.

[See the full list of selected companies.](#)

### Finalists and winners at the HSJ Digital Awards 2023

The HSJ Digital Awards aim to celebrate the power of digital products, projects and services to transform care delivery, enhance efficiency, and improve patient outcomes. This year, as well as DigitalHealth.London being a finalist for an award, two Accelerator alumni won at the awards ceremony in June.

[Concentric Health](#) with their partners at Portsmouth Hospitals University won the Empowering Patients Through Digital Award for their work in enhancing patient pathways and accelerating acute Trust elective recovery through the introduction of digital consenting.

[Limbic](#) in partnership with Mind Matters and Surrey and Borders Partnership

[Limbic and Mind Matters](#) in partnership with Mind Matters and Carney and Roberts Partnership Foundation Trust won the Improving Mental Health through Digital award for their project "Supporting referral and assessment in NHS Talking Therapy services: how Limbic and Mind Matters changed the patient pathway."

[Read the full story.](#)



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