



Health
Innovation
Wessex

Impact Report 2024-25



NHS



Office for
Life Sciences

Part of the
**Health
Innovation
Network**

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Foreword

In 2024-25, we continued to work alongside our partners to accelerate the spread and adoption of transformative innovations to enhance health outcomes, tackle inequity, whilst boosting the economy of the UK and our local region.

Our teams have helped to improve health and care across Hampshire, the Isle of Wight and Dorset during this time through the co-production and delivery of plans that address national and local health priorities. By partnering with local healthcare providers, academic and industry leaders, we have embedded innovative solutions that address Wessex's unique health needs, positively transforming lives.

Health Innovation Wessex is strategically placed to support the government's three key shifts in healthcare; moving care from hospital to community, treatment to prevention, and analogue to digital. Working collaboratively, our teams have delivered innovation into settings with the greatest potential for transformation within community-based care, prevention and digital health, aligning with these national priorities for a more sustainable and patient-focused system fit for the future.

Through our partnership with Wessex Cancer Alliance, over 50,000 people at high risk or with suspected cancer symptoms have benefited from the work of the Wessex cancer innovation programme this year, and 4800 cancers were detected by local health and care teams through the implementation of cancer innovations.

We continued to develop and strengthened positive relationships with our local integrated care board (ICB) members and wider system partners which in turn has created the conditions to innovate and bring about impactful outcomes for people in our communities.

We have supported 1800 people across health, academia and industry to access events, webinars and masterclasses that have supported their working practice, knowledge and skills.

At a national level Health Innovation Wessex played a significant role supporting the national Innovation Ecosystem Programme (IEP) Workstream One, through the rapid convening of system colleagues across the country and in the development of an inclusive learning community.

As a result, our senior programme manager for IEP was invited to undertake a secondment with NHS England's IRLSS Policy and Strategy team to support delivery of the final report.

The engagement events played a pivotal role in enabling innovation adoption challenges and solutions to be surfaced and positively contributed to the recommendations within the IEP report, which in turn has influenced national policy.

Nicola Bent, CEO, was also invited to join the 10 Year Plan Task and Finish group on access and uptake of medicines and medtech.

Our Insight team conducted an independent evaluation, commissioned by Health Innovation East, of the Health Innovation Network Transforming Wound Care programme. This complex one year evaluation measured impact of the programme on wound healing, which showed over 4,000 patients and 500 staff had benefited.

Across the Health Innovation Network during 2024-25, Wessex played a pivotal role in supporting the development and spread of innovation to meet the challenges and priorities faced in health and care.

We contributed significantly to just under £500m (£490,730,959) in additional investment and to the total of 912 jobs created or safeguarded during this period. Since 2018, the Network has collectively generated £3bn of investment into companies we support, and created or secured over 11,000 jobs.

Our collaboration with the Central and South Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMSA) and NHS partners saw advancements in genomics education and research, benefiting patients and boosting the regional economy. This initiative not only enhances patient care but also strengthens our workforce, universities, and industry partnerships.

As we move forward with continued pressures and demands on our health and care services, innovation has and will continue to contribute to and transform lives in our communities.



Fiona Driscoll
Chair
Health Innovation Wessex



Nicola Bent
Chief Executive Officer
Health Innovation Wessex



Our core missions

At Health Innovation Wessex we improve health, boost innovation, and support economic growth in our region's life sciences and healthcare sector through the identification, adoption and spread of innovation.

We connect across the landscape of research, industry, commissioning provider trusts and the Wessex population, and bring together policy formulation and regulators, system design, operational frontline and stakeholder experience.

This role takes us across all parts of the NHS, local government, and other public agencies, into universities and the voluntary sector, and from entrepreneurial start-ups into established industry. By working across the system, we evaluate impact and create the conditions for innovation to benefit the people of Wessex.

Programmes and activities

Our national programmes are commissioned from NHS England (the Innovation, Research, Life Sciences and Strategy [IRLSS] group and the National Patient Safety Improvement Programme) and the Office for Life Sciences (OLS). The Wessex programmes are co-created to respond to the needs of our systems and delivered in partnership through our locality-focused delivery teams.

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Finding and connecting innovators to health and care systems

2

Developing, testing and evaluating innovations in the real world

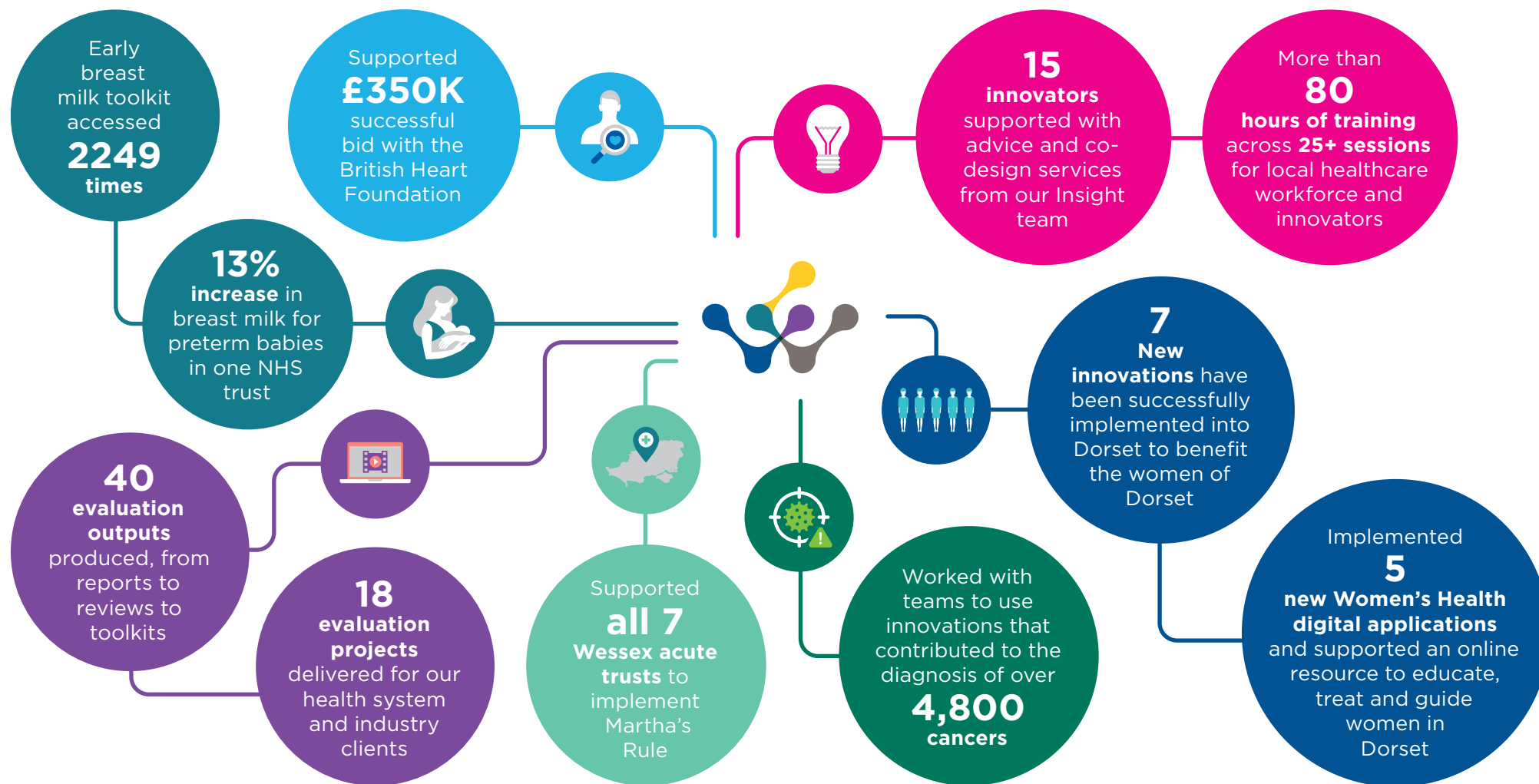
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Adopting and spreading innovations

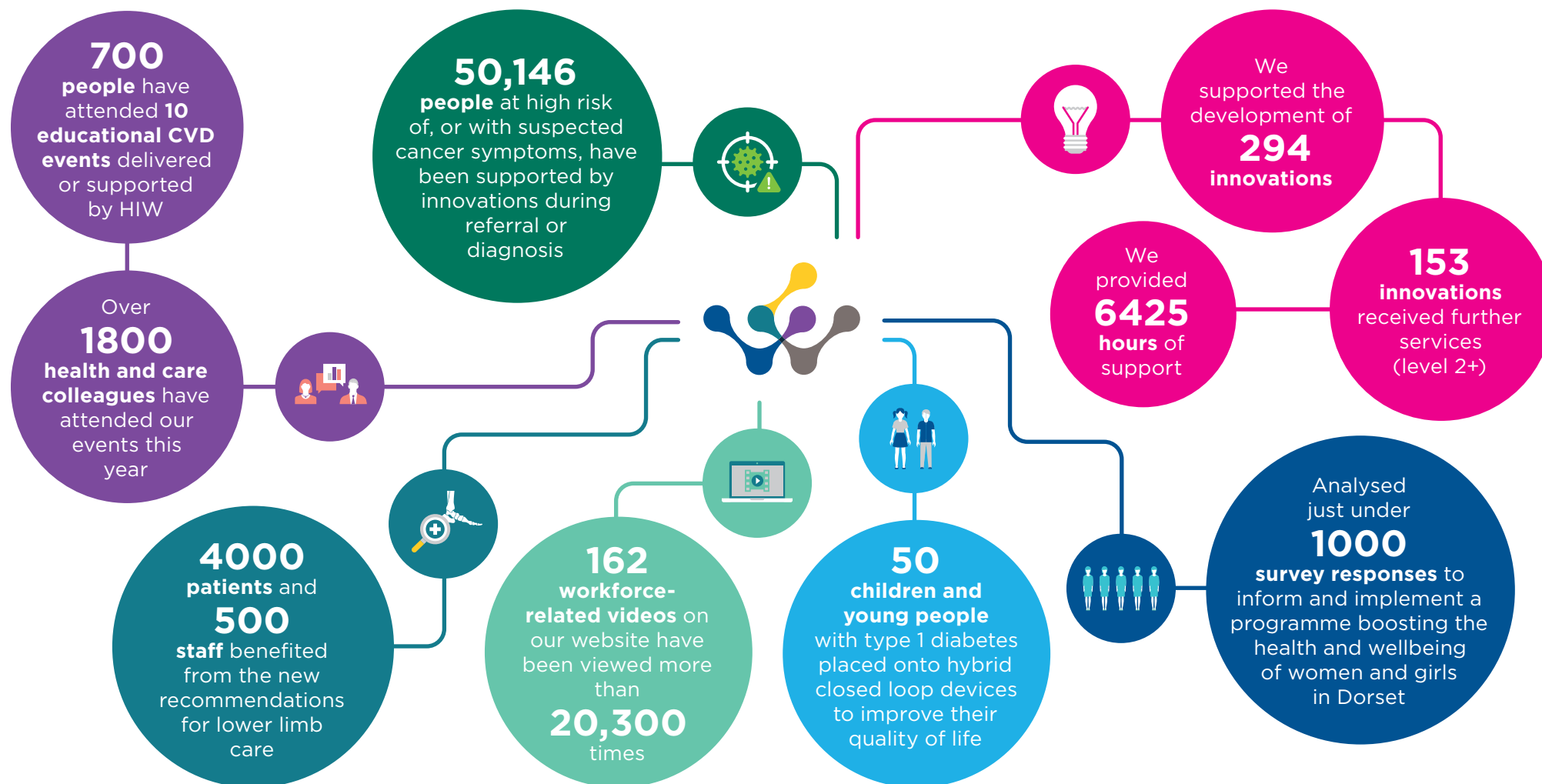
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Creating the conditions to innovate and bring about change

2024-25: Our year in numbers



2024-25: Our year in numbers





Finding and connecting innovators to health and care systems

We help innovations reach health and social care faster to improve patient outcomes and value for the NHS, and to drive economic growth in the health and life sciences sector.



Stimulating economic growth in Wessex and beyond

We deliver end-to-end support for innovations in discovery, development or deployment. We support innovators from having a great idea through to successful launch and commercialisation.

Our tailored services include:

- Convening clinicians to advise on the current pathway and explore the potential value proposition
- Supporting innovators to find and win grant funding
- Providing both quantitative and qualitative market research
- Finding research partners to support clinical trials

- Helping innovators to navigate regulation and NHS standards
- Helping innovators to prepare for procurement opportunities.

We advise and develop evidence generation plans and undertake real world evaluations. We also advise innovators how to plan the adoption of their innovation and support implementation in health and care settings.

“Arab Health was an incredibly valuable experience for our team. Even more importantly, the meetings arranged by Health Innovation Wessex with midwives beforehand were extraordinarily helpful. These preparations prior to attending Arab Health ensured that we were well-equipped and informed. We had never encountered so many midwives in one setting, and their straightforward feedback on what works – and what doesn’t – gave us unparalleled insights into the market. Their candid guidance helped us fine-tune our approach, enabling us to enter the market with confidence. Thanks to this thorough preparation, Arab Health became a turning point. We forged a partnership with the largest healthcare integrator in the UAE and connected with the biggest hospitals in Saudi Arabia. These successes would not have been possible without the foundational insights we gained from our discussions with midwives and physicians. These conversations helped us understand the market’s needs and speak the language of our stakeholders, ensuring that our efforts were both well-targeted and highly effective.”

Dabriel Choi
CEO, EveryBaby

In 2024-25:

We supported the development of **294 innovations**

Of these, **153 innovations** received further services (level 2+)

We provided **6425 hours** of support

Over the last six years, we have:

Supported **891 companies**

Generated economic impact of **£143.2m to innovators** and almost **£46.8m of investment** into the regional health and care system, and

Created or secured **461 jobs** in Wessex



Case study: Supporting screening innovation in women's health

Cervical screening usually requires a woman to attend a healthcare centre to have an uncomfortable procedure by a healthcare professional. Some women choose not to participate in this important health check and may benefit from choosing an at-home self-directed test which can be sent off for testing.

HIW arranged valuable discussions with sexual health staff, primary care clinicians and screening managers to understand the pathways better and the governance and evidence requirements for screening programmes.

HIW partnered with Daye as external evaluation partners on various grant applications and supported successful application to NHS programmes including the Accelerating FemTech Programme and NHS Innovation Accelerator.

20,370 minutes spent by Daye nurses providing expert care to their community

147,000 kg of CO₂ emissions saved through the switch to at-home testing using Daye diagnostic tampons

Daye has participated in the **Accelerating FemTech Programme** and are eligible to apply for a **£150,000 BioMedical Catalyst grant**

Daye's clinical data was published in **BMC Women's Health** and **The American Journal of Pathology** and also secured their first **paid NHS pilot**.

“We became involved with Health Innovation Wessex through the NHS Innovation Service, which provided a platform to connect with key stakeholders and NHS resources, as well as to obtain valuable advice on identifying sources of public funding for further longitudinal research.

HIW offered us invaluable support in terms of strategic advice, networking opportunities, and access to industry experts, which were crucial for our growth. Their support accelerated our market entry by helping us refine our go-to-market strategy and ensuring our products met regulatory standards.

HIW provided us with a level of industry insight and connections that we hadn't found elsewhere, which was instrumental in our journey. We were selected to join the three-year NHS Innovation Accelerator, secured our first paid NHS pilot, were awarded TIME Best Invention for 2024 for the diagnostic tampon, our clinical data was published in BMC Women's Health and The American Journal of Pathology, and we had a new patent for the tampon and its manufacturing published in the USA.”

Valentina Milanova

Founder of Daye and creator of the STI and HPV screening tampon



Case study: Connecting innovators to international markets

Assisting with strategy, regulation, adoption and sales worldwide to generate funds for further expansion.

GermErase, developed by Germerase Ltd, is a biocidal solution proven to be highly effective against all types of pathogens, fast acting and kind to skin and the environment. It is versatile and available in a range of formats for use in clinical and non-clinical situations in a highly competitive market. The challenge is to assist adoption and sales growth in markets worldwide to generate funds to support further expansion.

Our approach

HIW provided support with sales development strategy and funding to enable the innovator to attend and exhibit at the Arab Health 2024 trade show in Dubai to meet with potential distributors and customers.

In advance of the show HIW developed a comprehensive report on regulatory requirements across the Middle East and identified a number of possible distributors so meetings could be arranged ahead.

Key findings:

Distributor identification

The Germerase team had a highly successful trade show, exhibiting a range of product presentations and attracting much interest from potential retail buyers and multiple distributors from other regional and international markets.

High visitor numbers boosted brand awareness and generated good quality follow-ups.



Regulatory understanding

The innovator met several local regulatory specialists and also distributors with regulatory capability, gaining further understanding of the regulatory environment and requirements in the region.

Strategy validation

The level of interest in the GermErase products confirmed the need and apparent size of the opportunity and validated the strategy of targeting the Middle East markets.

In 2024-25:

Distributor appointed for UAE who has also provided regulatory support to achieve local registrations to facilitate sales

Subsequent appointment of a distributor for Saudi Arabia who will also supply other Middle East markets

Recent appointment of a distributor in Oman

The GermErase product range is now fully approved and registered for use as a biocide/disinfectant for across the region

Additional staff have been employed at a partner organisation to assist management of the growing business

“Since working with Health Innovation Wessex, they have consistently offered valuable advice and support as we develop our GermErase brand of commercial biocidal products, as well as assisting us in navigating the regulations governing our other, medical products in the UK. Most recently, their exporting experience to the Middle East and understanding of the associated regulatory processes, has proven very helpful in guiding our sales strategy.

Their assistance with funding for us to attend the Arab Health trade show last year was pivotal in raising awareness of GermErase products in the region, but more importantly, created the opportunity for us to identify and connect with local distributor companies, who are now driving sales growth into key markets on our behalf, creating a solid income base for growth in the future.”

Rob Scoones

Director, Germerase Ltd



Developing, testing, and evaluating innovations in the real world



We provide independent expertise and capability in evaluation and implementation to support sustainable adoption of innovation. In doing so we help local health and care partners understand the impact of innovation on patients, staff and system activity.

Demonstrating the impact of innovation through evidence-based insights



Our Insight team is a trusted partner to health and care organisations, innovators and system leaders. Made up of experienced researchers, evaluators and programme managers, many of whom have experience working as clinicians in the NHS. We bring a wealth of knowledge and independence to evidence generation and evaluation across the health and care system.

This year, we marked a major milestone, delivering our 100th evaluation since the team was established nine years ago. From mental health to women's health, digital technologies to AI, our diverse portfolio spans some of the most pressing challenges and promising opportunities in health and care.

Spotlight on '@ home' services

We undertook evaluations of technologies and initiatives that support the NHS shifts of hospital to home and analogue to digital.

In Dorset, we evaluated a programme to monitor patients' blood pressure at home as an example of a hybrid model of care (BP @ Home) and a pilot of a remote monitoring service for patients receiving oncology treatment (Oncology Monitoring @ Home). In Hampshire, we evaluated point of care testing devices for kidney function urea and electrolytes, used by Urgent Community Response and Hospital @ Home virtual ward teams.

Our **rapid evaluation service**, which delivers actionable findings in as little as six weeks, informed the direction of travel for Life Sciences Hub Wales and Health Education and Improvement Wales, for the ongoing development of their prototype ChatGPT tool, Healthcare AI Mentor.

Evaluating complex programmes

This year, we delivered findings for the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Alternatives to Crisis programme, the national Transforming Wound Care programme, and the Dorset Innovation Hub – all complex programmes of work. This required in-depth, extended periods of data collection from many different sources – from patients to policy makers – to surface impact and lessons learned about the barriers and enablers to affecting change. Our findings informed commissioning decisions as well as decisions about the shape of future programmes.

View the case studies [here](#).

Building evaluation capabilities

We upskilled innovators in evaluation, introducing them to the importance of evidence-generation, and the principles of real world evaluation through our contributions to the Health Innovation Programme, and our popular Insight Evaluation Surgeries which provided tailored advice throughout the year. Some innovators received more in-depth support as part of our evaluation ‘co-design service’.

18 evaluation projects delivered for our health system and industry clients

40 evaluation outputs produced from reports, to reviews, to toolkits

5 system partners received in-depth evaluation advice

15 innovators supported through our advice and co-design services

409 data packs to support National Polypharmacy Action Learning Sets

Read the completed evaluation reports in our [Innovation Insight Library](#).

Case study: Evaluating innovation and impact in endoscope services

Endoscope drying and storage is a critical part of decontamination workflows to ensure treatment procedures are completed as planned and delays avoided.

Traditional drying and storage systems are associated with high energy costs, high plastic waste, and inefficiencies that can impact service delivery. The challenge is not just about adopting new technology but ensuring that healthcare systems become safer, more sustainable and more efficient.

Over six months (November 2023–May 2024), Health Innovation Wessex Insight Team conducted a real world evaluation (RWE) of PlasmaTYPHOON+, a novel drying and storage system developed by PENTAX Medical.

Working with a decontamination unit in the south of England, we examined its impact across three key areas:

- **Sustainability:** measuring energy consumption and plastic waste reduction compared with existing systems
- **User experience:** assessing usability, training requirements, and overall acceptability among staff
- **Operational impact:** evaluating workflow efficiencies and implications for patient care.

It was benchmarked against two alternatives, and data gathered through energy monitoring, plastic waste audits, staff interviews and workflow observations.

“Working with the HIW team throughout the RWE has been a very positive experience. The outcomes of the RWE were everything we could have hoped for, expertly and independently highlighting the transformative potential of our product. We are now looking forward to implementing the communication plan for the final report, which is expected to make a real difference to our business and to the sustainability and productivity of the NHS.”

Paul Whittle
Market Access Manager,
PENTAX Medical

This evaluation demonstrated PlasmaTYPHOON+ as a sustainable and efficient alternative to traditional drying and storage methods, delivering clear environmental, operational, and financial benefits.

It significantly reduces endoscope drying time, with staff reporting faster and easier operation compared to alternatives, and fewer processing/service failures which contributed to improved collaboration between teams. Staff experienced less workplace stress, reporting fewer repetitive strain injuries and chemical injury risks.

Industry impact

The HIW evaluation findings have provided the innovator with a robust address to implementation challenges experienced in other sites. Current regulatory guidance does not account for new drying technologies (as highlighted by Authorised Engineers for Decontamination [AEDs] during the pilot). To fully integrate such innovations into routine practice, the innovator is lobbying regulatory bodies to update their frameworks to support adoption of emerging technologies.

Uses **22x less electricity** than traditional storage cabinets

Consumes **8x less power** when used with an air compressor

Saves **4,505 kWh annually** (equivalent to powering an average UK home for 15 months)

Reduces **CO₂ emissions by 1.9 metric tons** (70% of average UK household's annual energy emissions)

Eliminated **2,623 kg of single-use plastic waste over 10 months** compared to competitor products

Generated **cost savings of £107,856.59** in the evaluated 2023-24 financial year



Case study: Evaluating the impact of mental health crisis services

Commissioned by Hampshire and Isle of Wight ICB, we conducted an independent evaluation of the Alternatives to Crisis Programme. Our assessment focused on its impact on service users, providers, emergency services and addressing inequalities.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Integrated Care Board (HIOW ICB) used NHS England funding to invest in a range of community services supporting people aged 18+ in mental health crisis. These services, collectively known as the Alternatives to Crisis (A to C) programme, were designed to provide timely, appropriate care outside of traditional crisis pathways.

Emergency admissions, 999 calls and psychiatric admissions may not always be the most effective choice for individuals, and often place significant strain on services.

This multi-site evaluation covered seven mental health crisis services and assessed whether the A to C programme is effectively meeting the needs of local communities while improving system efficiency.



Multiple techniques were used to assess impact and deliver a comprehensive understanding of the programme. Co-production was at the heart of our approach, with a Lived Experience Lead playing a key role in shaping how we approached the evaluation and analysis.

We also ran Rapid Insight events to bring together key stakeholders from crisis services and capture valuable data to inform the evaluation.

“[The evaluation] enabled the ICB to clearly meet our internal deadlines for future commissioning decisions and procurement. For that, we thank you for the extra effort put in.

Via the FutureNHS platform, I have also had the opportunity to share the evaluation documentation far and wide across England with other ICB colleagues who requested some help nationally for evaluations like this one. We will continue to share when requested to help support other areas with their commission and future funding arrangements.”

Sonya Mclean

Senior Programme Manager –
Mental Health Crisis Care,
Hampshire & Isle of Wight Integrated
Care Board (HIOW ICB)

1,154 people were supported by A to C services during the data collection period of 01 April 2022 to 30 June 2023

People using the services highlighted the positive impact of being seen as a person, not a medical diagnosis or a patient, and the value of speaking with peer support workers (PSWs) who validate their experience

Findings confirmed that the services effectively supported crisis de-escalation, reduced emotional distress, and prevented escalation into more intense crises

Trends suggested that contact with an A to C service may help reduce the average monthly use of emergency services like 111, 999 and A&E. Emergency response and primary care staff value the A to C services

Case study: Evaluating the Transforming Wound Care Programme

Wound care services across the UK show significant variation, resulting in inconsistent patient outcomes. The National Wound Care Strategy Programme (NWCSP) developed evidence-based recommendations to standardise care and improve outcomes. These were tested at seven NHS sites, and the Health Innovation Network later established the Transforming Wound Care (TWC) as a priority programme, with eight Test and Evaluation Sites recruited to assess the NWCSP recommendations further.

We conducted an independent evaluation of the TWC programme. Delivered in one year by the HIW Insight team, this complex evaluation used a mixed methods approach to measure impact on wound healing, health inequalities, and generating insights on implementation.

We used a range of qualitative methods to understand the complexities of implementing the programme, including detailed site-specific systems mapping (with eight sites), interviews, surveys, and the analysis of a complex quantitative data set.



“The TWC Evaluation has directly supported the development of a Community Transformation Wound Care programme for adoption and spread across the Network.

The evaluation has also supported the growing evidence based of the benefits that can be achieved by implementing the NWCSP lower limb recommendations and having a dedicated service.”

Sarah Robinson
Director of Delivery,
Health Innovation East

This evaluation of data covering a six-month period found improvement to healing rates within 12 weeks following identification by a healthcare professional.

Staff confidence improved due to the TWC programme to deliver better care for patients, faster healing, improved outcomes and fewer appointments.

The programme's efforts to implement the NWCSP Lower Limb Recommendations competed with some NHS systems and patient issues that hindered progress. However, through this evaluation we demonstrated the programme's potential to drive improvements in lower limb wound care, with early signs of positive patient outcomes and greater staff engagement.

Evaluation findings show that more wounds were cared for and faster healing rates were recorded:

Over **4,000 patients** and **500 staff** reached
Of those healed, **92% healing rate** at **52 weeks**

100% of patients surveyed reported positive experiences with the service and staff attentiveness and flexibility

Staff reported improved patient care and outcomes

Net zero savings of **1,575,908 kg CO₂**, the equivalent annual mileage of around 923 cars

77% of staff indicated that a wound management digital system made a positive difference to patients





Adopting and spreading innovations

We enable health and care systems to understand, adopt and spread proven innovation through applying tested tools and frameworks. Through co-production and delivery, we act on key priorities to sustain innovative solutions, deliver sustainable change, and ensure positive outcomes for the workforce and people across Wessex.



Helping health and care systems to drive innovation adoption

We support our local health and care systems to adopt innovation, including:

- **new care pathways**
- **devices, digital technologies**
- **diagnostic technologies, and**
- **novel workforce practices.**

We also help them to benefit from inward investment and economic growth.

Our approach is fully aligned with the government's three strategic shifts for the NHS - moving care closer to communities, leveraging digital technology and prioritising prevention.

When ICBs were formed in 2022, Health Innovation Wessex was commissioned to support integrated care systems to translate research findings, real world evidence and innovation into practice.

Throughout 2024-25 we worked closely with the integrated care boards (ICBs) to co-design delivery plans aligned to their local priorities.



Four key statutory obligations of integrated care boards

Improving outcomes in population health and healthcare

Tackling inequalities in outcomes, experience and access

Enhancing productivity and value for money

Helping the NHS support broader social and economic development

Hospital to
community



Analogue to
digital



Treatment to
prevention



Economic
growth



Wessex Patient Safety Collaborative: Improving safety and reducing avoidable harm



As one of 15 regional collaboratives in England, Wessex Patient Safety Collaborative (PSC) improves patient safety and reduce avoidable patient harm by working with staff and patients across Wessex to achieve the objectives set out in the NHS Patient Safety Strategy.

We use quality improvement (QI), networking and scale-up methods to deliver projects within four priority areas:

- Maternity and Neonatal
- Medicines Safety
- System Safety
- Managing Deterioration.

Patient safety is integral to quality care and patient experience - it focuses on maximising the things that go right and minimising the things that go wrong for people experiencing healthcare. Our PSC can identify and roll out safer care initiatives within the NHS and industry, ensuring these are shared across our local health and care system.

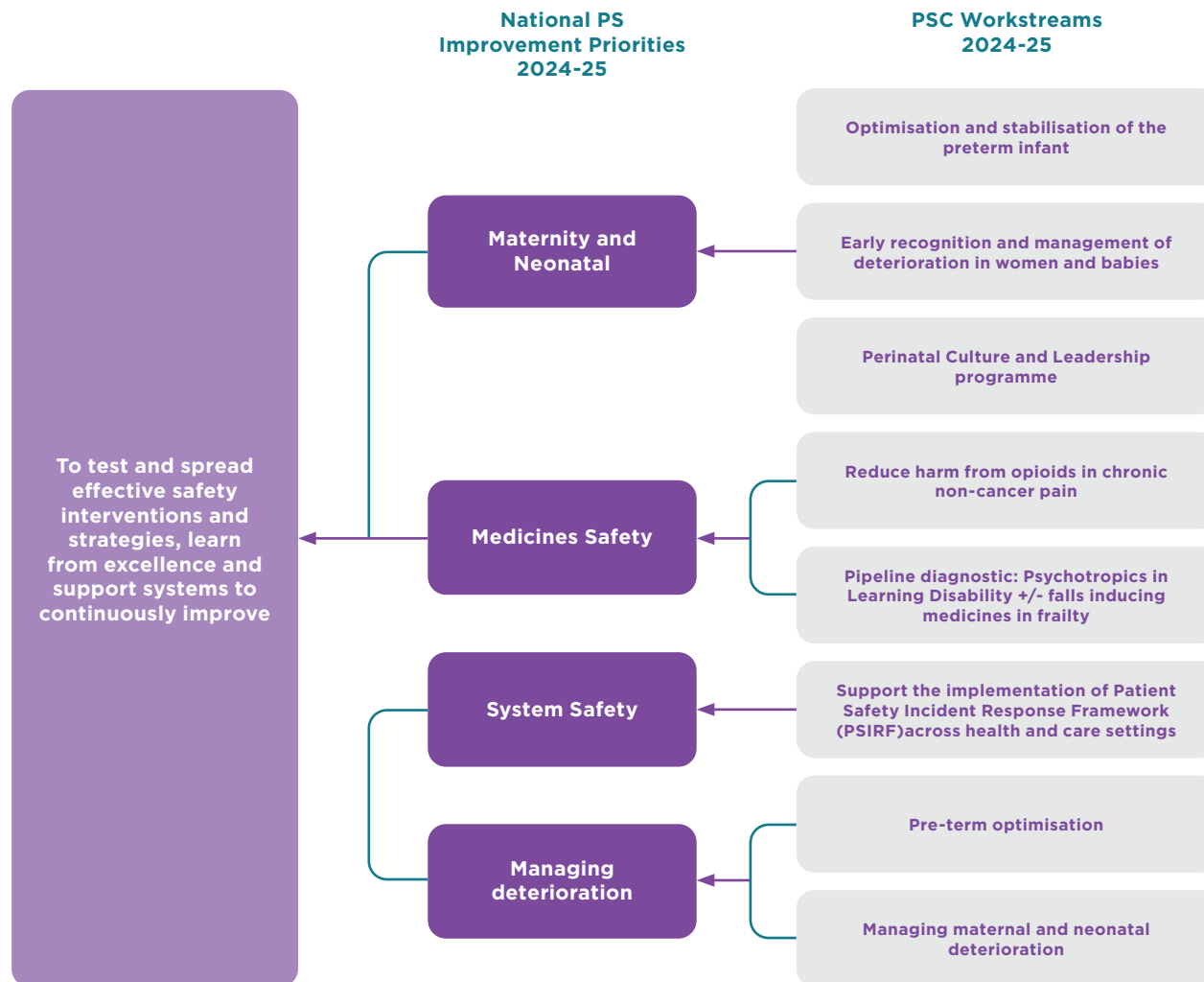
We support this work with three objectives:

- to develop QI capability
- to encourage patient, family, and carer involvement in improvement, and
- to facilitate the development of a positive safety culture.

Our collaborative comprises all the NHS providers and commissioners across the Wessex region, including hospitals, mental health and community organisations, the ambulance service and primary care. 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.

“The help of the PSC is invaluable. You are absolutely part of our journey, driving us forward and providing that challenge and insight from a wider perspective.”

Head of Risk Management



Our Patient Safety Collaborative programmes

Managing Deterioration:

We have helped all regional NHS acute trusts to actively implement Martha's Rule, supporting them with data submission, communities of practice, and quality improvement workshops, and expansion into mental health and community settings.

System Safety:

System safety has been strengthened through the embedding of PSIRF and PIER frameworks, supported by thematic analyses, peer learning, and positive feedback from staff on psychological safety and quality improvement.

Medicines Safety:

Medicines safety efforts have focused on opioid reduction via community of practice workshops, digital discharge protocols, public campaigns, and staff training, with evaluations planned to assess impact.

Maternity and Neonatal:

The matneo programme has driven improvements in preterm care and neonatal feeding, and management of deterioration alongside efforts to enhance perinatal culture and leadership through training and engagement initiatives.



Up to **55 lives** were saved over the last five years due to improved outcomes for people giving birth and their babies

All **7 acute trust providers** supported to implement and embed **Martha's Rule**

20 clinical staff trained in non-pharmacological support for chronic pain – Live Well with Pain

Development and rollout of early breast milk toolkit has been accessed **2249 times**, staff training accessed **449 times** and patient video accessed **339 times**

Visit our website to download the toolkit
[Early Breast Milk Improvement Project](#)



"I'm very grateful to have been able to access the fantastic early breast milk improvement project toolkit created by your team - thank you for creating it!"

NNU Consultant, Dundee

"I don't dread pumping like I previously did after changing to the 15 mm flanges."

Parent, Wessex

"Your level of innovation and persistence is amazing!"

NNU consultant, Wessex

Case study: Improving discharge information for patients prescribed opioids for chronic non-cancer pain



Opioids are high risk medicines. The Faculty of Pain Medicine has stated that opioids, whilst effective for short term pain, have very little evidence that they are helpful for long term pain. But there is a serious risk of harm. There are many thousands of patients who remain on opioids long term when nonpharmacological management of pain can be safer and more effective.

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS) conducted an opioid prescribing audit to measure rates of continued opioid use in trauma patients after discharge. The audit found:

- 84% of adult trauma patients were discharged on opioids
- 32% were still taking opioids at six weeks (exceeding 25% standard)
- 22% continuing at six months (exceeding 10% standard)
- 81.5% of these patients received no guidance on discharge
- In 77.6% of cases there was no information completed in the GP advice section of the discharge note - risking a serious information gap between hospital and primary care and potential patient harm.

As part of a programme of work to reduce the inappropriate prescribing of opioids for chronic, non-cancer pain, Health Innovation Wessex convened the Wessex Opioid Working Group, bringing together clinicians from primary and secondary care. We hosted a workshop to explore the audit findings and share with the Trust what primary care clinicians would find helpful to include in discharge information to ensure patients do not receive opioids for longer than intended.

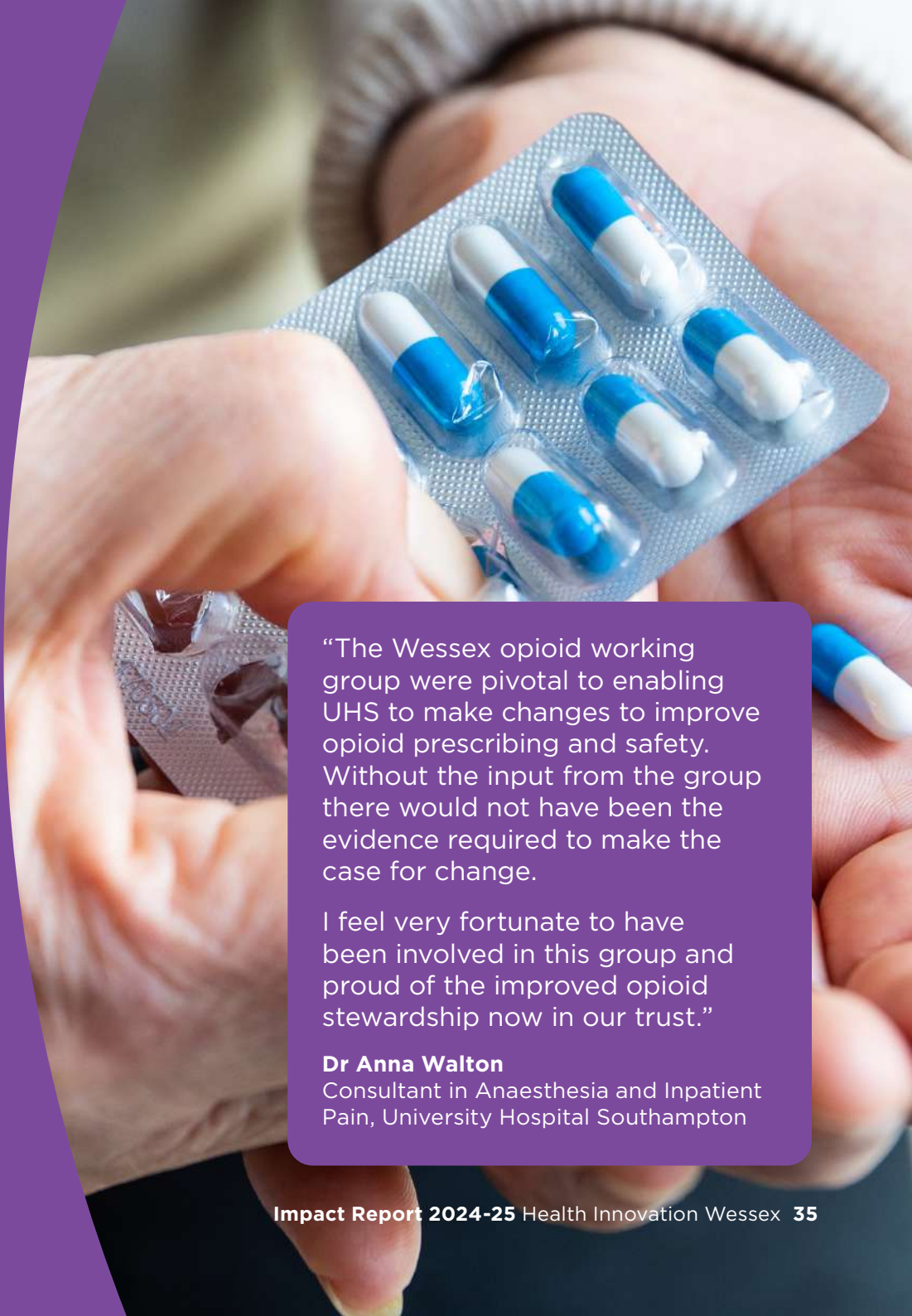
Adopting and spreading innovations

The workshop report was shared with the Trust to support the case for the development of an Opioid e-Discharge Protocol. The Wessex Opioid Working Group enabled primary and secondary care colleagues to co-develop the wording to be used in the e-Discharge Protocol, so that every patient discharged from UHS would have a clear, digital instruction stating the reason for the opioid prescription and the intended duration of use communicated with their GP and Practice Pharmacist.

The UHS Opioid e-Discharge Protocol went live in February 2025, making UHS only one of a very small number of trusts in England with such a process in place. The initiative represents a significant improvement in the transition of care around opioids and supports the reduction in long-term opioid use.

In July 2025, Health Innovation Wessex hosted a shared learning event to ensure that other trusts were able to understand the steps taken to implement this innovative medication safety improvement project.

Watch the full webinar [here](#).



“The Wessex opioid working group were pivotal to enabling UHS to make changes to improve opioid prescribing and safety. Without the input from the group there would not have been the evidence required to make the case for change.

I feel very fortunate to have been involved in this group and proud of the improved opioid stewardship now in our trust.”

Dr Anna Walton

Consultant in Anaesthesia and Inpatient Pain, University Hospital Southampton

Improving cardiovascular disease detection and treatment

Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of illness and death or life changing conditions in England. By prioritising the early detection and effective management of CVD, our work aims to optimise treatment and innovations that enable people to self manage their condition.

Key elements of the programme focused on:

- detecting hypertension and optimising blood pressure
- detection of people with heart failure, and
- the identification of familial hypercholesterolemia (FH).

We also delivered educational webinars (hypertension, lipid management, heart failure), independently and in collaboration with the health innovation networks in the south east and south west to more than 700 people.

You can access our recent educational videos [here](#).



“The SE Heart Failure Webinar was tailored to primary care. Excellent idea to place focus on frailty. Makes the topic much more applicable to the patients we deal with every day in primary care”

South East Collaborative Heart Failure Webinar attendee

700 people have attended 10 educational events delivered or supported by Health Innovation Wessex

500+ people had their blood pressure checked, over **100 people** identified with high blood pressure and **36 people** started medication either for hypertension, atrial fibrillation or high cholesterol because of spreading InHIP methodology to five additional PCNs in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

£350K British Heart Foundation bid supported to expand a secondary prevention lipid management service in Dorset



We supported the NHS Dorset NHS submission of two British Heart Foundation (BHF) funding applications, one of which was successfully awarded circa £350,000 to expand a secondary care lipid management service to primary care settings. HIW will support the delivery and evaluation of this project in 2025.

Following the successful wave 1 Innovation for Healthcare Inequalities Programme (InHIP) hypertension case finding, we worked with NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight to spread our work to a further five primary care networks within areas of high deprivation.

The work focused on increasing the uptake of blood pressure testing in patients who have limited or no engagement with healthcare services.

“Health Innovation Wessex’s support with the British Heart Foundation bid application was really helpful and they’ve provided a great platform for me to showcase my service across the region. The team worked hard in building my application and the support was first rate.”

Anthony Young

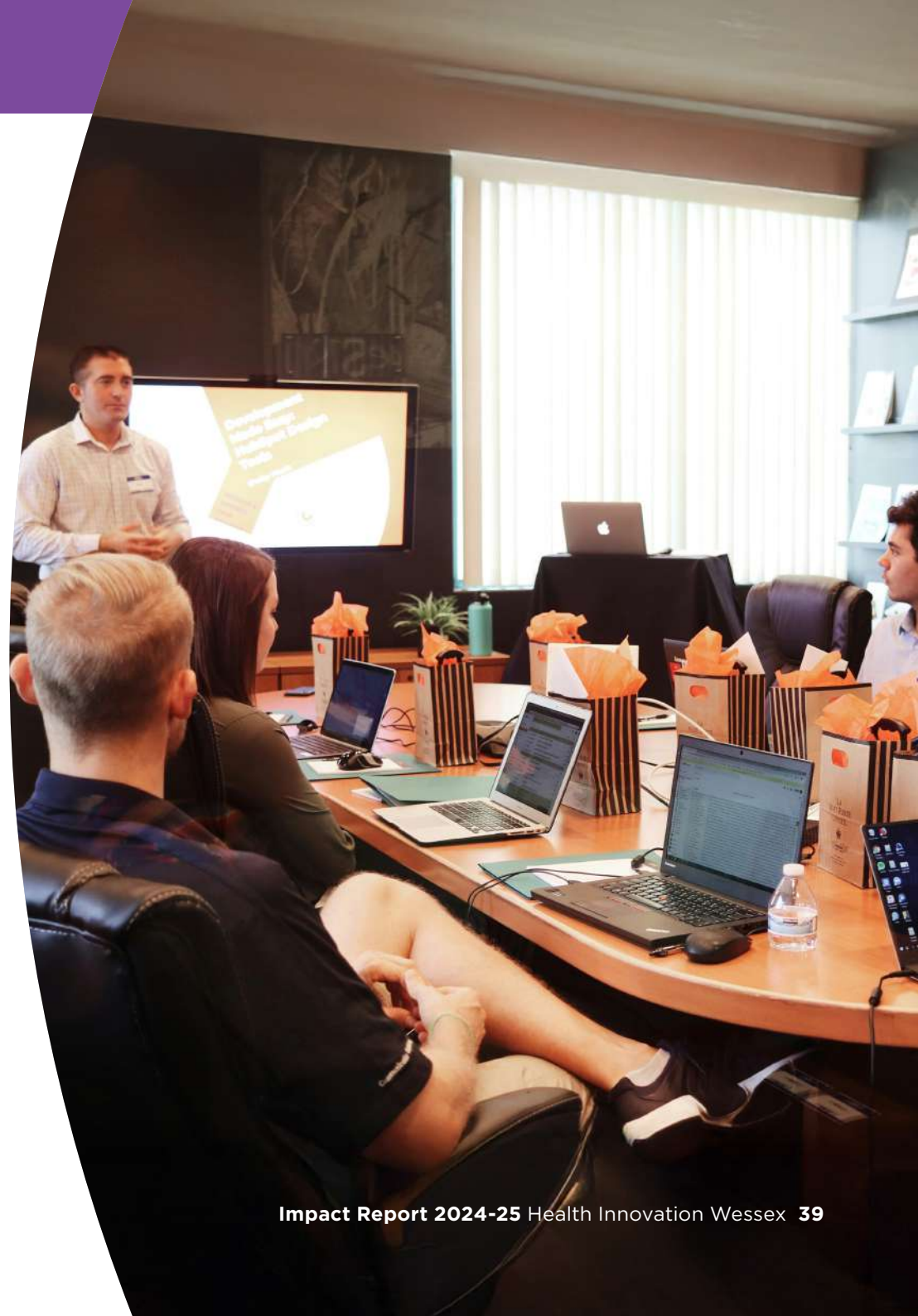
Cardiac Advanced Clinical Practitioner,
University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust



University Hospital Southampton (UHS) were supported to implement and evaluate KiActiv, an alternative digital form of cardiac rehab to traditional face to face cardiac rehabilitation. Wearing a wristband the patient can track their daily movement, supporting a gradual increase in physical activity.

Recognising the benefit industry partnerships have on patient outcomes we co-delivered a range of projects to support our local systems:

- **Boehringer Ingelheim:** identifying, reviewing and optimising the treatment of patients with heart failure
- **Amarin:** a lipid management improvement project
- **AstraZeneca:** pathway mapping and redesign project for heart failure services within the Hampshire and Isle of Wight region
- **Inspira Health** who support primary care by providing specialist consultant-led clinics in GP practices to optimise patient outcomes.



Case study: Delivering NICE guidance for implementation of Hybrid Closed Loop devices

The project supported NHS Dorset, as part of the Sintegrated care boards (ICBs) in the south west, to deliver the NICE guidance for the implementation of Hybrid Closed Loop (HCL) devices. We worked as a tri-health innovation network group to benefit the seven ICBs in the south west and support those with type 1 diabetes to use the most effective therapy currently available.

As a tri-HIN group, we agreed a Memorandum of understanding with the ICBs to reflect how we can support the implementation of this NICE Technology Assessment. We agreed three work packages where we would add most value to the systems, providing tools and implementation structures both for this year and future implementation years.

The health innovation networks across the south west worked closely with ICB and NHS England South West colleagues to:

Establish a forum to identify procurement concerns and solutions

- Hold a South West implementation webinar attended by the national NHSE team
- Arrange an Industry event with device suppliers held with ICB colleagues
- Run financial modelling tool and data dashboard demo sessions.

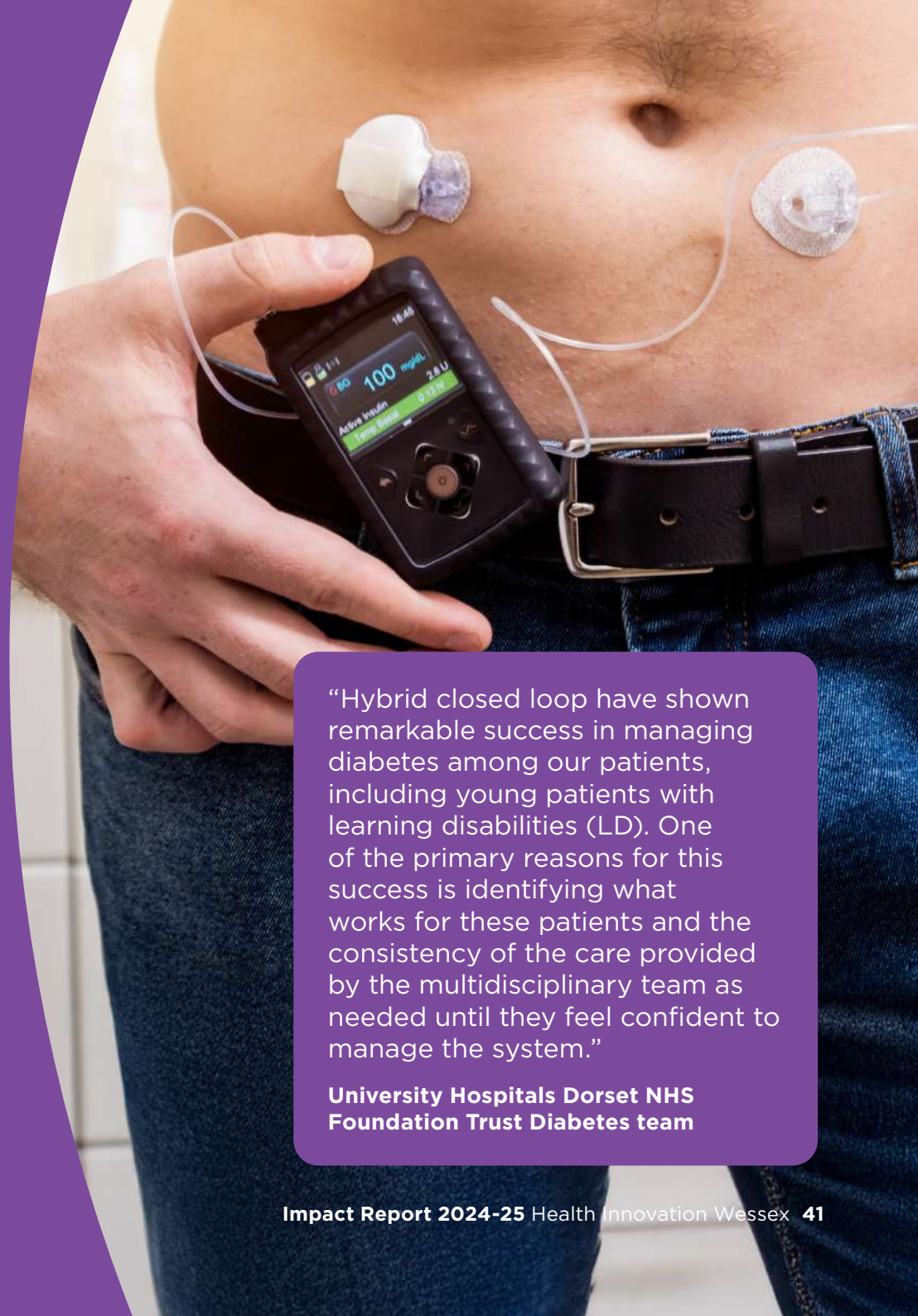
As a result:

- **A data dashboard blueprint was developed and shared with ICB leads to use with their business intelligence teams**
- **A pathway template was created and shared with all ICBs to enable review of their pathways and changes required as part of the implementation**
- **A financial model and workforce planning tool was co-developed with Dorset ICB and shared widely with the other South west ICBs**
- **NHS Dorset have a dashboard in place to monitor HCL spend and have finalised plans to streamline data and reporting.**

NHS Dorset now **have clear pathways** for the implementation

NHS Dorset have **gone live with year 1 implementation** as a result of the codesigned financial model

50 type 1 diabetic children and young people, aged between 2-19 in year one will be placed onto a Hybrid Closed Loop, enabling them to lead an improved life in comparison to traditional methods



“Hybrid closed loop have shown remarkable success in managing diabetes among our patients, including young patients with learning disabilities (LD). One of the primary reasons for this success is identifying what works for these patients and the consistency of the care provided by the multidisciplinary team as needed until they feel confident to manage the system.”

**University Hospitals Dorset NHS
Foundation Trust Diabetes team**

Improving the early detection of cancer

Since 2020, Health Innovation Wessex has collaborated with Wessex Cancer Alliance (WCA) to deliver a cancer innovation programme to identify and support the adoption and spread of innovations in Wessex.

The programme enables teams to achieve the ambitions of the diagnosing 75% of cancers at stages 1 and 2 by:

- building links with local, regional and national teams involved in the diagnosis of cancer and the implementation of innovations
- developing relationships with cancer Clinical Advisory Groups across Wessex to understand innovation need
- exploring funding opportunities for innovation pilots and sharing learning from innovation projects to enable the spread of impactful innovations
- undertaking cancer innovation horizon scans and actively identify innovations that may improve earlier diagnosis.

In 2024/25, the Cancer Innovation Programme directly supported:

- five Wessex teams to explore opportunities to deliver pilots of three different innovations (including the spread of an innovation used in one of the locally driven pilots)
- two national events to showcase the role of health innovation network teams in cancer
- the delivery of a national cancer innovation community of practice group facilitating shared learning across other health innovation network teams, Cancer Alliances, CRUK, Macmillan and NHS England.

“Anna (HIW) and the Wessex Cancer Alliance team have been hugely influential in ensuring the success of our Cytoprime2 project. As the project spanned ICB and primary care teams in her region, it was crucial that we were linked with the people who could get this done. Anna excelled in gathering those stakeholders together and bringing them on the journey with us. Cytoprime2 exceeded its targets, finding 6 cancers and almost 100 Barrett patients, and that is a testament to the hard work of Anna, her team, and the network of healthcare organisations involved”.

Basirat Afinowi

Head of Projects, Cyted Health

Supported **11** grant applications since 2020 that have secured over **£1.1m** in funding

50,146 people at high risk of, or with suspected cancer symptoms, have been supported by innovations during referral or diagnosis

The five innovation projects supported under the programme have helped to find over **4,800 cancers**

You can watch the presentation made at national cancer SBRI briefing event (from 55m 35s) [here](#).



Case study: Dorset Women's Health Programme

The Women's Health Strategy for England (Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), July 2022) sets out 10-year ambitions for boosting the health and wellbeing of women and girls, and for improving how the health and care system listens to women. Although women in the UK live longer on average than men, the evidence shows they spend a greater proportion of their lives in ill health or disability when compared with men.



In Dorset, the ICB led a collaborative programme with organisations, including Dorset Women's Health Community Interest Company, Health Innovation Wessex, charities, providers, and others.

The steering group prioritised six project areas based on engagement work with the women of Dorset and these were: long acting reversible contraception (LARC), online resources, pelvic health, minoritised groups and mobile support, menopause and young women's physical and mental health.

Health Innovation Wessex provided programme management support to NHS Dorset across five of the six projects, were active members in the steering group, and three project teams delivering activity.

We supported Patient and Public Community Conversations, focus groups, co-facilitating workshops, presenting best practice and learning, innovation scans and innovation implementation support for the adoption of innovations.

Our role was to identify and bring forward innovations and new ways of working. Following work with the project teams and an innovation scan, we supported the delivery of two new pathways of care enabling better access to services, more timely access and access closer to home. We also implemented five new digital applications and supported the creation of an online resource website which will support the women of Dorset with education, treatment and signposting for more support.

Health Innovation Wessex supported:

- The development of a new online resource for the women of Dorset which went live in April 2025 and will be maintained by the Dorset Women's Community Interest Company
- A report which analysed just under 1000 responses from a digital survey for NHS Dorset. This report was used within project teams to underpin the work undertaken to ensure it reflected the views captured from the survey
- An innovation scan for innovations ready for adoption in the areas of menopause, young women's physical and mental health, LARC and pelvic floor health. A shortlist led to the implementation of four menopause applications to support the women of Dorset with education, information and treatment which was a key theme from the digital survey report.

Three case studies have been produced based on the work undertaken:

1. **Workforce:** a review of health care professionals training using the PPIE feedback
2. **Adoption of innovation:** two new pathways of care and five applications adopted, and
3. **PPIE and focus groups:** ensuring engagement and involvement with the women of Dorset.

These will be published in early Q1 2025-26.



Seven new innovations have been successfully implemented into Dorset to benefit the women of Dorset

The Squeezy app was successfully implemented for those trained to do vaginal assessments to identify pelvic health dysfunction and refer women to the app

Four menopause apps were successfully implemented to support the women of Dorset following their digital survey feedback

21 groups have been connected to the Women's Health Hub.



Adopting and spreading innovations



“The support, leadership, advice and insights HIW have provided have been paramount in driving forward the Dorset Women’s Health Hub Programme. We’re extremely lucky to be working with them and hugely benefit from their skills and expertise. The programme should be a huge success due to our joint working and the skills they bring.”

Helen Crook

Programme Manager for Dorset Women’s Health Hubs,
NHS Dorset

“The work of the Women’s Health Hubs has helped bring some clarity and focus, creating a set of priorities that have harnessed the ideas and enthusiasm of our clinicians and user groups. Your willingness to be present, involved and help lead has been great.”

Paul Johnson

Chief Medical Officer, NHS Dorset





Creating the conditions to innovate and bring about change



Health Innovation Wessex creates the conditions to encourage the discovery, development, and deployment of innovative solutions to address current and future system challenges.

Enabling innovators to develop their business model

We provide multiple masterclass events and training courses throughout the year providing innovators with key advice, specialist knowledge and crucially, in-depth understanding of NHS requirements, often directly from NHS stakeholders themselves.

Topics covered are relevant to the different stages of innovation development and relevant for all innovators and are designed to provide innovators with the tools and knowledge to ensure that innovations are 'fit for purpose' to ensure successful adoption and implementation of their innovation into use is quicker and more likely.

The HIW Masterclasses have covered topics such as **funding and grant writing; Regulatory and Intellectual Property; NHS Procurement**; and recently, showcasing potential collaborator organisations.



The yearly Health Innovation Programme four-day courses are uniquely focused on engaging and involving key stakeholders from local NHS organisations to provide in-depth insights to their aims, processes and requirements from innovators and their products for the NHS.

HIW has also provided several bespoke training events and courses for clients, such as Intellectual Property in partnership with the University of Southampton, and an NIHR Laboratory of the Government Chemist (LGC) funded six-month course, with ongoing impact evaluation planned for the next two years.

In 2024-25:

108 delegates attended our innovator masterclasses on a range of topics including:

- Grant applications
- Navigating procurement
- Top tips from successful innovators.

“Love, love, love the format of the session. Presentation, speed rounds, food and networking!”

Delegate from the Grant Applications – Top Tips masterclass

“It’s probably been the best course I’ve ever been on. It really has been that useful and yeah, very, very pleased to have been given the opportunity”

Delegate from the Wessex Health Innovation Programme four-day accelerator course

108 delegates attended our innovator masterclasses during 2024-25

55 delegates attended the grant applications masterclass with 65% currently developing their innovation

25 delegates attended the Navigating Procurement masterclass with 40% at the stage of commercialisation

28 delegates attended the Innovator Perspective masterclass with 45% at idea stage and a further 22% at the stage of development

You can watch an overview of our innovator accelerator, the Health Innovation Programme [here](#).



Supporting workforce capability and confidence

Health Innovation Wessex works collaboratively to address national and local workforce challenges by delivering evidence-based innovations that realise transformational benefits for the health and care workforce, both now and for the future.

We work closely with our system workforce leads to understand priorities and challenges enabling us to align our projects and horizon scanning activities to identify and help implement potential solutions and proactive support.

An important cross-cutting theme, workforce underpins all our national and local programmes. As our local systems face increasing financial pressures, upskilling and unlocking of solutions to support the workforce is fundamental to support delivery of the Department of Health and Social Care's 10 year health plan.

During 2024-25 we delivered more than 25 sessions to support our local health and care workforce and innovators, through:

- Training workshops
- Communities of Practice
- Rapid Insight events
- Webinars
- Masterclass events
- Action Learning Sets.



“[HIW Innovate with Impact training] has let me know I would be supported in the ambition to bring innovation more to the fore in my organisation as it dawns on us all that more of the same is not going to address current and emerging challenges.”

Philip Baillie

Assistant Director Business Change and Innovation, Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

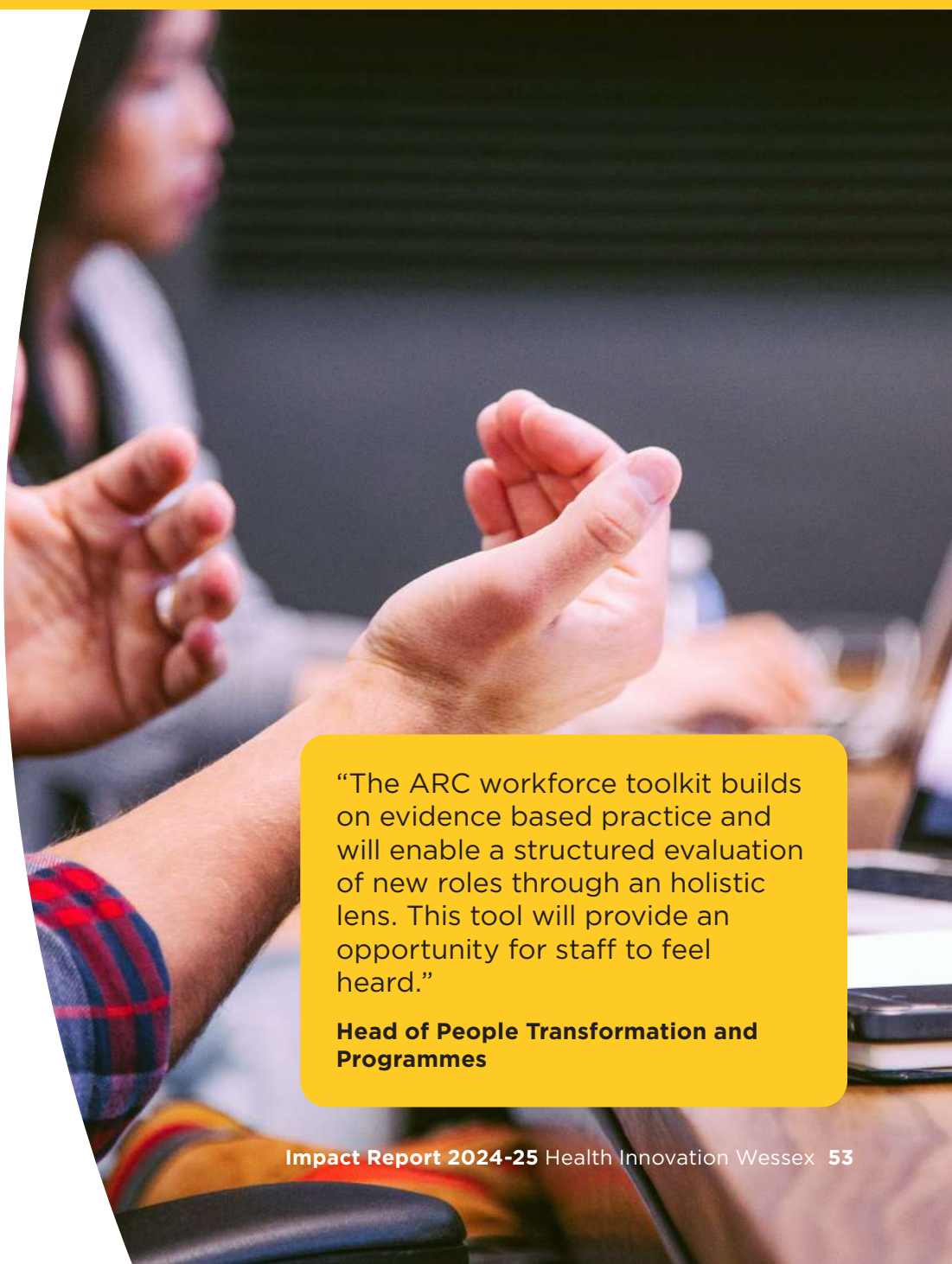
We collaborated with the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Wessex Workforce & Health Systems (WHS) theme to iteratively develop a generic toolkit to evaluate new workforce roles across healthcare and help answer questions. A minimal viable product in the shape of a workforce evaluation toolkit was produced.

We have now secured ARC2 funding to further develop the toolkit.

162 workforce related videos held on our website have been viewed over **20,300 times**

1800+ health and care colleagues have attended our events during the year

£48,000 ARC2 funding to further develop a workforce toolkit



“The ARC workforce toolkit builds on evidence based practice and will enable a structured evaluation of new roles through an holistic lens. This tool will provide an opportunity for staff to feel heard.”

Head of People Transformation and Programmes

Case study: Testing the MOMENTS framework

Perinatal Culture and Leadership Programme (PCLP) aims to support maternity and neonatal services to develop a safety culture, in and across their teams.

As part of the PCLP offer Health Innovation Wessex supported the testing and implementation of Meanings cOmpetencies & Materials in Everyday (N) Team Safety (MOMENTS).

MOMENTS is a framework of resources which provide a structured and meaningful way to discuss culture. It helps teams and individuals to understand what is happening locally, and importantly why it is happening and the impact it has on safety and patient care.

The aim is to test MOMENTS within organisations, with the view to develop and roll out a Train the Trainer model for maternity and neonatal departments.

MOMENTS is used to support cultural conversations and working towards, and eventually sustaining, a safety culture.

Senior leaders from two organisations invited us to 'test' MOMENTS with them and their teams. This enabled staff to experience the framework and supported them to identify people in the organisations to facilitate future sessions.

Staff from both sites reported better insight and understanding into how they experience the same meetings. This has led to creating empathy, psychological safety, and meaningful and supportive connections, such as offers to support each other at meetings.

Both organisations have put staff forward for Train the Trainer sessions to enable MOMENTS to be delivered in house. Another five maternity departments in the Wessex region have shown an interest in undertaking MOMENTS in the future.





“I felt it was a really beneficial process which opened communication across different professionals and levels within the room by identifying the ‘nuts and bolts’ of the issue minus the personalities/conflicts and opinions.”

MOMENTS training attendee

Developing our partnerships to deliver health benefits

Health Innovation Wessex is strategically positioned in the Wessex research and innovation ecosystem to forge partnerships that collectively tackle our greatest health challenges.



In October 2024 we embarked on progressing advances in genomics working in collaboration with the NHS Central and South Genomic Medicine Service Alliance through a co-funded Genomic Innovations Director post.

The Genomics programme will accelerate the adoption of genomic innovation. Dovetailing with the Genomic Medicine Service Alliance (GMSA) 'mainstreaming' strategy, and in partnership with ICBs, NHS providers, and universities, this programme will improve patient outcomes through access to timely genomic testing and treatment, as well as access to research trials.

Activities also involve collaborating with innovators to support implementation of existing scoped and funded projects, as well as identifying new opportunities for novel interventions.

Wessex Health Partners (WHP)

We continue to play a pivotal role in the strategic alliance of 15 members, across ICBs, universities, research and NHS organisations. Our expertise underpins the collective ability to address the challenges facing our health and care system, increase the generation of collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and speed the development and adoption of innovation at scale.

In 2024-25 we remained committed to the Clean Air South Network, a collaborative addressing the health issues and inequities related to poor air quality in parts of our region.

We have also extended our support for the 2025 WHP academic themes, which include genomics, health inequalities and multi-morbidity.

In April 2025 Gemma Snell, Programme Manager - Health Innovation Wessex, alongside Kathy Wallis, Associate Director - Wessex Health Partners, supported the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) industry event to help 40 businesses and innovators come together with the local health and social care sector to progress their ideas to meet local health and care challenges.

“This event provided a real opportunity for innovators to understand the wide range of support and opportunities to collaborate that exists within Dorset.”

Kathy Wallis
Associate Director,
Wessex Health Partners

NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Wessex

The Health Innovation Wessex Director of Insight is also Implementation and Knowledge Mobilisation Lead for NIHR ARC Wessex, the arm of NIHR applying research to address immediate issues facing health and social care and bringing research evidence into practice and training.

The ARC **Knowledge Mobilisation** (KM) team, now fully recruited, began a programme of work to increase capacity and capability in KM across Wessex. The team will support a number of projects working alongside our partners to capture learning about strategies that support the transfer of knowledge.

The programme advisory group includes representation from several partners, as well as recently engaged care associations (in HIOW and Dorset) and public health.

Engaging with our membership

In 2024 our executive team and chair of the board embarked on a series of engagement tours of our member organisations.

The tours have not only been an opportunity to showcase the collaborative work that has taken place, but also to highlight HIW's capabilities and to discuss opportunities for bringing additional value to our member organisations.

Through the tours Health Innovation Wessex has also welcomed new members to our board, which brings new ideas, skills and expertise to help drive health and economic improvements for our region.

“By uniting NHS health and social care, academia and innovators, we're advancing genomics, embedding knowledge into practice, and strengthening partnerships that turn research into real world impact for the people and communities of Wessex.”

Fiona Driscoll
Chair,
Health Innovation Wessex



“We saw and heard an impressive amount from experts in the fields of digital, AI and data-driven technology and how we can harness it to create the greatest impact for healthcare teams and patients.

Health Innovation Wessex has built expertise supporting developers of new technologies like these, and our teams will be delighted to hear from new innovators looking for ways to develop and deploy their products in the NHS.”

Nicola Bent
Chief Executive Officer,
Health Innovation Wessex

New tech on the agenda at our strategic workshop

In November 2024, Health Innovation Wessex convened a workshop which brought together guest speakers across industry, research and the region's NHS system to showcase how digital technologies, advanced data analytics and artificial intelligence can enhance healthcare delivery and patient outcomes.

Innovators addressing the room of over 100 people were:

- **Newton's Tree**, a health tech start-up that enables healthcare providers to procure, integrate, and monitor in-house and third-party AI products as part of routine care pathways
- **Tortus AI**, which offers the facility for instant medical notes, letters and clinical coding to be produced in consultations, ready for review, allowing the clinician to simply listen to the patient
- **C2-Ai**, which provides globally unique AI-backed systems which help hospitals to demonstrably reduce avoidable harm
- **Abtrace**, which has developed a monitoring system for GP surgeries, which integrates with electronic health record systems (EHRs) to scan the entire health record and process it through national safety guidelines continuously, providing a display individualised for each patient.

They were also joined by Deloitte's lead for AI, and Matthew Guy who provided the voice of a carer with a focus on management of a loved-one's diabetes and how emerging technology is helping reduce the burden on managing the condition and benefiting his family.

"We can get a sizeable chunk of our carefree child back and that's pretty priceless."

Matthew Guy
Carer



Work with us

Health innovation networks transform lives through innovation by supporting health and social care teams to find, test and implement new solutions at scale to the NHS' greatest challenges. We are the health innovation adoption experts.

Health Innovation Wessex is a partnership organisation. We bring together the NHS, health and social care providers, universities, industry, community groups and voluntary organisations, helping to generate economic benefits and improve health outcomes.

We champion the value of convening and collaborating, evaluating impact and creating the conditions for innovation to flourish, and bringing fresh energy and inspired thinking to benefit the population of Wessex and beyond.

How can we help you?

General enquiries

If you'd like to get in touch with the Health Innovation Wessex team, please email us at enquiries@hiwessex.net or call the main office on **023 8202 0840**.

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#)

Sign up for our monthly Wessex Wire newsletter [here](#) to receive the latest news and regional updates.





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