
Report to: Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership Board (LEP Board)

Date: 30 November 2021

Subject: **Healthtech Strategy**

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1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To update the Board on work to develop the region's Health Innovation agenda and seek views and endorsement of the partnership Healthtech Strategy.

2. Information

Health Innovation – Background

- 2.1 The COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the need and desire for a step change in tackling entrenched health and economic inequalities. Health innovation supports both economic growth and health outcomes, and Leeds City Region has the raw ingredients to be an engine of health ideas and innovation that can drive levelling up, not just for the region's economy, but the nation.
- 2.2 The West Yorkshire and Harrogate (WYH) ICS 5 year plan has already identified this critical opportunity. 'Better health and wellbeing for everyone' highlights the transformative opportunities that healthtech and innovation can bring to deliver a healthier economy.
- 2.3 As the strategy sets out, Leeds City Region is well placed to unlock that potential meaningfully and sustainably because of the strengths and uniqueness of our industry assets, university assets and health assets.

Strategy Development

- 2.4 To exploit and capitalise on both the assets within the region and the immediate opportunity, a Healthtech Strategy has been developed to convene partners under a shared narrative and direction of travel. The former Business Innovation and Growth Panel received presentations during the earlier stages of development and the Board are now asked to comment on and endorse the draft included at Appendix 1, prior to it being presented to the Combined Authority for approval.

- 2.5 The Healthtech Strategy builds directly from the recently adopted Innovation Framework Priority 2: Health Innovation and develops the narrative and the detailed action plan for the region.

Other activity

- 2.6 The Combined Authority recently allocated £200,000 of funding to recruit a Regional Healthtech Lead to deliver the shared ambitions of the Healthtech Strategy. The postholder, who started in October, will work across the partnership to convene partners and ensure a joined-up approach to discovery, development and adoption of opportunities.
- 2.7 In May 2021, the WYH ICS agreed a partnership with the Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network to deliver a system wide programme for innovation for health & care partners. The WYH Innovation Hub will be a central resource for all WYH partners and has four specific aims: Matching innovation to un-met need; Promoting a culture of continuous improvement; Targeted single point of contact; Signposting. A Director lead for the hub is currently being recruited and the intention is that both this resource and the Combined Authority Lead will work closely across the ecosystem to support and match innovation with health system needs.
- 2.8 In September 2021, the Leeds Academic Health Partnership on behalf of the regional Healthtech Leadership Group launched the regional Healthtech Catalyst, a networking programme aimed at providing support across the system and brokering connections across and between the ecosystem.

3 Equality and Diversity Implications

- 3.1 As set out in the Innovation Framework 'Innovation For Everyone', there is a focus across both strategies to ensure greater diversity across innovation – both in developing new healthtech products and involving a diverse range of stakeholders in prioritising those innovations. The new Innovation and Improvement Hub at the centre of the strategy will be key to achieving this.

4. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications

- 4.1 Supporting the development of new innovations and adoption into the health system has well evidenced benefits in support of cleaner greener outcomes. The new strategy will prioritise investment and activity to support the climate emergency.

5. Inclusive Growth Implications

- 5.1 Supporting the deployment of new to world innovations into the health and care system is critical to achieving our post covid economic and health ambitions and reducing inequalities. The strategy has a clear focus on using health innovation to address health inequalities.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

8. Staffing Implications

8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

9. External Consultees

9.1 Consultation has taken place via the original Innovation Framework YourVoice consultation exercise, Leeds City Region Healthtech Leadership Group, and Business Communications Group.

10. Recommendations

10.1 That the Board provides feedback on the draft strategy.

10.2 That the Board endorses the Healthtech Strategy, subject to the Board's comments being incorporated.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. Appendices

Appendix 1 – DRAFT Healthtech Strategy

Appendix 2 – Healthtech Strategy Plan on a Page