

HEALTHTECH STRATEGY ACTION PLAN – JAN/FEB 2022

OVERALL DRIVER FOR THE STRATEGY: TO REMOVE THE BARRIERS TO HEALTHTECH INNOVATION

CHALLENGE: Fragmented ecosystem, difficult for innovators to navigate		
GOAL 1: A well-aligned, innovation-driven healthtech ecosystem in our region		
WHAT WE WILL DO:	1. We will develop and strengthen our Healthtech Cluster partnership	
NEXT STEPS:	Review membership of the Healthtech Cluster, identify gaps and invite further members as appropriate – including strengthening business voice and insight from entrepreneurs /innovators (working through the Healthtech Catalyst)	Timescale: ongoing Lead: LAHP / WYCA
	Increase networking and communication opportunities within the partnership, and develop links with other regional clusters e.g. STFC NW HealthTec Cluster	Timescale: ongoing Lead: LAHP / WYCA
WHAT WE WILL DO:	2. We will map healthtech innovation support provision and work to reduce fragmentation and address gaps[†]	
NEXT STEPS:	Map healthtech innovation support provision for entrepreneurs, businesses and academics, across organisations throughout the region – including physical/infrastructure	Timescale: short/medium term, and underway Lead: AHSN, I & I Hub / WYHCP
	Agree clear roles across the ecosystem to ensure access points for business are effective and easy to navigate, and duplication and fragmentation are reduced (working with the I & I Hub, and the West Yorkshire Innovation Network)	Timescale: short Lead: AHSN, WYHCP and all Healthtech Cluster members
	Specify need and scope resources to address priority gaps in support (<i>including physical/infrastructure</i>)	Timescale: medium/long term Lead: Healthtech Cluster to agree lead/s
WHAT WE WILL DO:	3. We will develop a collective understanding of regional projects and how they fit together in a cohesive narrative	
NEXT STEPS:	Collate a narrative of Healthtech projects taking place across the region, and develop new links between projects as appropriate. Examples of projects include (not limited to) – e.g. National Health Innovation Campus, ActEARLY, potential for a UK Centre of Excellence in Regulatory Science and Innovation, scoping of Healthtech Innovation Corridor across West and South	Timescale: short / medium term Lead: WYCA (working through Healthtech Cluster Partnership)

	Yorkshire, programmes of support events for innovators taking place within partner organisations	
	Form task and finish / working groups where appropriate for project development	Timescale: short/medium Lead: As appropriate per project
HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from stakeholders – business, innovators and academics • Feedback from stakeholders - Healthtech Cluster • Monitor number of new healthtech startup companies • Monitor number of regional healthtech inward investment wins • Track number of healthtech SMEs supported through the various partnership programmes • Track number and value of funding bids/investments secured to support regional activity and projects • Number and impact of regional marketing and comms opportunities realised 	<p>Qualitative research – focus group/s with businesses and innovators via Healthtech Catalyst / WYCA engagement routes</p> <p>Qualitative research – focus group with Healthtech Cluster members</p> <p>Annual KPI reporting, comparison to baseline</p> <p>Annual KPI reporting, comparison to baseline</p> <p>Annual KPI reporting and comparison year-on-year</p> <p>Annual KPI reporting and comparison year-on-year</p> <p>Tracked by partnership Comms group</p>

CHALLENGE: Innovations are not designed with patient / health practitioner needs in mind, or are unable to be adopted at scale due to process / health system barriers		
GOAL 2: Innovation is driven by regional NHS system need, and innovations are adopted at scale across West Yorkshire		
WHAT WE WILL DO:	4. We will use the Innovation and Improvement Hub (West Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership) as the mechanism to signal the needs of the health system and drive a cultural shift towards innovation, integrated with AHSN innovation pipeline	
NEXT STEPS:	Establish Innovation and Improvement Hub across WYHCP and AHSN (I & I Director appointed and will start mid-Feb 2022)	Timescale: short-medium term Lead: AHSN / WYHCP
	Develop process to identify regional system innovation needs (including reference to health inequalities)	Timescale: medium term Lead: Innovation and Improvement Hub

	I&I Director will support adoption and testing of AHSN innovation pipeline projects via attendance at qualification meetings, seeking opportunities to conduct real-world evidence studies and via early introduction to relevant innovations on AHSN accelerator programmes.	
	Develop programme to communicate system innovation needs to academics, innovators and business, working through the AHSN, Healthtech Catalyst, Healthcare Innovation Communications Group etc	Timescale: medium term Lead: Innovation and Improvement Hub
	Develop process to support innovative interventions which meet articulated needs and tackle barriers to entry	Timescale: medium/long term Lead: Innovation and Improvement Hub
WHAT WE WILL DO:	5. We will identify barriers to innovation, including the role of funding / gaps and options for addressing these‡	
NEXT STEPS:	Research / scoping exercise around barriers to innovation particularly around funding, venture capital and equity. Recognising the deep rooted factors that result in lack of representation of marginalised communities in innovation, and working to engage and support innovators from more diverse communities‡	Timescale: medium-term Lead: Innovation and Improvement Hub WYHCP, WYCA
	Develop response to scoping exercise / evidence around funding opportunities and issues. Explore opportunities to establish an early stage proof of concept funding pot to support ideas development / early evidence	Timescale: medium-term Lead: WYCA
HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor engagements with communications programme around system innovation needs • Track value of funding granted towards proof of concept / early evidence projects • Track number of locally-developed innovations trialled* • Track number of innovations generated / supported to uptake that directly meet an expressed need* • Monitor number of patents* • Health economics / impact of innovations* 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit research around barriers at 2.5 yr 	
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CHALLENGE: Profile of the region is not commensurate with its strengths and opportunities		
GOAL 3: West Yorkshire is recognised as a leading place for healthtech innovation		
WHAT WE WILL DO:	6. We will continue efforts to attract the best inward investment opportunities, whilst making the most of the national assets within our region, focusing activity around three core sub sectors: woundcare and regenerative tissue, diagnostics and personalised medicine, and digital health	
NEXT STEPS:	Develop regional proposition documents across core sub sectors of Healthtech and actively use in targeted lead generation in specific markets	Timescale: ongoing and cyclical Lead: WYCA
WHAT WE WILL DO:	7. We will put resources into championing and leading on behalf of the sector, working through our Healthtech partnership and Healthcare Innovation Communications Group	
NEXT STEPS:	Showcase exemplar activity / projects – event/s and publications, case studies and demonstrator projects	Timescale: short-term and ongoing Lead: AHSN and Cluster members
	Enable and support the Healthtech Cluster to champion and make the case for change where it is needed	Timescale: ongoing Lead: WYCA
HOW WILL WE MEASURE SUCCESS?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor number of regional healthtech inward investment wins • Track number and impact of regional marketing and comms opportunities realised 	

- Metrics to be developed / where feasible

Dependencies:

† **Digital and tech skills** constitute a broad dependency for a successful healthtech ecosystem e.g. the availability of an appropriately-skilled workforce. Skills are also critical for certain innovations to be effective and inclusive e.g. digital skills and accessibility for end users. The Healthtech Cluster will build and maintain a link with related partnerships / organisations – particularly the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Employment and Skills Committee - to ensure that there is a shared focus on the skills needed for successful healthtech innovation, and that this dependency is taken into account in future work around skills.

‡ **Public involvement** is one of the hallmarks of high quality research/innovation. We recognise the deep rooted factors that result in a lack of representation of marginalised communities in innovation; we also recognise that this leads to innovation gaps. Therefore, one of the constants throughout delivery of this strategy will be engagement with and input from a broad range of stakeholders, including patients and cross sector frontline practitioners. We will work to engage and support innovators from more diverse communities, including women, people living with disabilities, people from Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities and people from LGBTQI+ communities.