WESSEX ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE NETWORK
SUMMARY ANNUAL REPORT
Year One 2013-14
Welcome

Welcome to the summary of our first year of operation. We are proud to have been involved with the development of the AHSN and to see our programmes begin to deliver.

For regular updates follow us on Twitter @WessexAHSN, our CEO’s account @MartinSWessex and our website www.wessexahsn.org where you can find a full year one report.
“Our vision is to bring discovery and innovation into the Wessex health system so that the population has better health and benefits from a thriving health innovation sector”

What is an AHSN?

AHSNs have been established to deliver a step-change in the way the NHS identifies, develops and adopts new technologies and we strive to achieve partnership working and collaboration between the NHS, academia, the private sector and other external partners.

There are 15 AHSNs across England, each with four key licence objectives:

• Focus on the needs of patients and local populations
• Speed up adoption and spread of innovation to improve clinical outcomes and patient experience
• Build a culture of partnership and collaboration
• Create wealth through co-development, early adoption and spread of new products and services.

Wessex AHSN covers a population of three million across nine local authorities, bringing together 10 CCGs, 11 NHS Trusts and five Universities. As of April 2014 we are a Company Limited by Guarantee, with Board directors from our members.

Collaboration

Our success is being forged through close collaboration between members and other local organisations, including Strategic Clinical Networks, Clinical Research Network, Collaborations for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) and Health Education Wessex. Wider stakeholders include local government, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), industry, the voluntary sector and patient groups.

Key Principles

During 2013/14 we clarified our core offer.

• We offer additionality: making innovation happen, and happen faster
• We offer focus and discipline: building a reputation for delivery where our resources can make greatest impact
• We offer partnership: Our work will complement that of our partners whether we lead, signpost or support
• We are a knowledge portal for innovation in Wessex
• We are a proactive broker, supporting and funding projects and partners in our priority areas
• We invest in health and wealth.
Our Strategic Priorities

Respiratory | Reducing Harm from Alcohol | Nutrition | Medicines Optimisation | Dementia | Wealth Creation | Digital Health | NICE TAs and High Impact Innovations

Three Examples of our work are below:

**Respiratory**

The Wessex AHSN Respiratory programme is working to improve the respiratory health of patients in Wessex, and complements the Wessex CLAHRC’s respiratory theme. A multi-professional steering group is focusing on seven workstreams. Our Respiratory Programme is well underway to improve quality of life and reduce the burden of respiratory disease.

Two examples from the seven workstreams include Rapid Access Assessment Clinics introduced to diagnose and enhance the treatment of patients with severe asthma that have not previously been diagnosed by their GP. Thirty community pharmacies are now providing a COPD case finding service, supporting earlier diagnosis and treatment.

**NICE Technology Appraisals**

The work programme on NICE Technology Appraisals (TAs) is to support their timely uptake across Wessex AHSN, addressing barriers to implementation and bringing benefits for patients.

We are running a programme to improve the uptake of anticoagulant medicines in patients with atrial fibrillation to prevent stroke; following our first event, initial analysis suggests improvement in uptake of new oral anticoagulants across Wessex.

Working with the Regional Medicines Information Centre we have published a monthly update newsletter which includes the latest NICE TA guidance and information on forthcoming guidance, including updates on new medicines and major licence changes.

**Dementia**

In partnership with SCN, PHE, HEW and Wessex CLAHRC we are supporting a Wessex AHSN Dementia quality improvement programme.

We have disseminated the learning from best practice high impact innovations and shared the Isle of Wight whole system approach to the care of people with dementia (including the impact on their informal carers).

We have sponsored the creation of a dementia friendly GP surgery at the Oakley and Overton Partnership which was opened by Dr Alistair Burns, NHS England’s National Clinical Director for Dementia, and attracted significant national interest.
Wealth Creation

Year one wealth creation focussed on:

- Saving – generating savings for organisations or introducing new external funding opportunities
- Spreading – identifying, assessing innovation and then understanding and supporting effective implementation
- Seeding – encouraging Wessex organisations to develop new products and services that can be successfully commercialised.

A Wessex innovation challenge survey of NHS clinicians helped identify those areas where new investment, new products or processes would make a difference for patients; 105 ideas were generated, with 42% focusing on digital health. We are using the findings to engage and inform local industry of Wessex needs and to support wealth creation.

We are also creating a business and health technology database of private sector organisations and SMEs across Wessex thus enabling local industry to develop products and services in partnership for areas of greatest need and of most benefit to patients, as identified through our challenge survey.

On behalf of Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership (SWLEP) we are helping to create a health life science cluster in the Swindon and Wiltshire area.

We supported My Trusty Little Sunflower Cream, which is one of a range of innovative products being developed by Salisbury NHS FT. In the first year the cream has generated over £140k turnover with all profits going into patient care.

Two Wessex companies backed by the AHSN have won Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) funding: HealthQuest Solutions for MyCOPD self-management and i2r Medical on a diabetic foot ulcer wound healing device.

Morgan Technology & Innovation Ltd have been supported by the AHSN to win a £100,000 proof of concept award from the Technology Strategy Board.
Innovation and Wealth Creation Accelerator Fund

Wessex AHSN invested over £300k to support 17 innovations and we share six examples below.

**My Health Record - online patient records**
Led by University Hospital Southampton NHS FT this project provides patients with their own online record that they jointly manage with UHS clinicians, enabling a level of communication and two-way information exchange whilst the patient is away from the hospital. Whilst online, patients can be directed towards specific resources of mutual interest e.g. current research studies relevant to the patient’s condition. The next phase of expansion aims to grow the service to 5000 patients by bringing a number of new clinical areas online including appointment scheduling and SMS messaging. Additional patients will also be recruited to clinical trials as a result.

**A Low Cost, Effective Approach to Diagnosing Overactive Bladder**
A University of Portsmouth study piloted a low-cost, effective approach for diagnosing overactive bladder (OAB). OAB, a cause of urinary incontinence and related debilitating symptoms, affects 17% of the adult population, equating to approximately 143,000 people across Wessex.

Phase one research indicates the opportunity to develop this non-invasive diagnostic procedure and the potential for substantial reductions in the costs of diagnosis and treatment (amounting to over £100m per annum in Wessex). Compared to current invasive diagnostic methods, non-invasive testing is expected to significantly improve patient experience.

**Headache Referral Pathway Redesign**
Led by West Hampshire CCG, the project is piloting a co-designed managed pathway for headaches in Wessex, incorporating both acute and chronic headache management.

The primary outcome for the pilot will be a single headache referral pathway, comprising an ‘intelligent form’ that will embed headache training and an ‘Advice and Guidance’ mechanism at the point of referral.

This will enable detailed evaluation of the effectiveness of the pathway redesign, providing the opportunity to develop and create a primary care decision support tool.

**Telehealth to Avoid Unplanned Admissions in Patients with Heart Failure**
Led by West Hampshire CCG, a relatively low cost, simple technology (Long Term Conditions Monitor from Message Dynamics) is being used to follow up heart failure patients post discharge from clinic, who are stable but need the reassurance and prompting to monitor their condition. This is an Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS), which calls the patient at predetermined intervals set by the clinician. The call asks questions and depending on the patient’s response may trigger a call to and appointment with a heart failure team member and help avoid a hospital or GP appointment.
Centre for Implementation Science (CIS)

The Centre for Implementation Science is an integral part of Wessex AHSN, supporting strategic priorities and programmes. It is hosted at the University of Southampton’s Faculty of Health Sciences and integrates resources from the Universities of Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Solent and Winchester as well as from a number of faculties at the University of Southampton.

The key aims of the Centre:

- Ensure Wessex AHSN priorities and programmes are underpinned with the best available evidence, data and information to deliver better care for patients
- Maximise the impact of interventions and implementation strategies across Wessex by utilising scientific research and evidence
- Evaluate the programmes and improve the knowledge, capacity and capability of successful implementation amongst AHSN staff and member organisations.

Building Partnerships

Wessex has well established joint working based on patient flows, clinical networks and research arrangements. These have provided an excellent platform enabling Wessex AHSN to build the partnerships required to deliver our vision.

We engage directly through our Stakeholder Forum, Members Meeting, Delivery Board and engagement events.

We have built a strong relationship with Wessex CLAHRC, one of 13 new collaborations for leadership in applied health research and care. Wider networks are being built with the Wessex universities, Implementation Science experts at the University of Southampton, and mutually supporting roles, for example the CRN, and the SCN which leads on behalf of Wessex AHSN for patient engagement whilst the AHSN leads on their behalf for industry engagement.

We recognised from the beginning that building partnerships and profile would only be successful if we engaged at all levels of member organisations and added value through our engagement. This has been achieved by ensuring work programmes are driven by multi-professional and multi-organisational network representatives from across our geography.

Industry has been very willing to engage, often through products and technologies already developed. However, we believe the more we can enable local companies to develop products and services in partnership with the NHS the more relevant and successful they will be.

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**Finance**

This financial report provides a high level summary of how public funds have been deployed to deliver our strategic priorities and achieve the key objectives of our licence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Priority Area</th>
<th>Expenditure</th>
<th>How the funds were deployed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Quality Improvement</td>
<td>£700k</td>
<td>The Quality Improvement priorities include respiratory, dementia, nutrition, reducing harm from alcohol and medicines optimisation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Building Partnerships</td>
<td>£172k</td>
<td>Building profile and partnerships across Wessex included developing infrastructure and engagement with our stakeholder organisations through stakeholder events and partners meetings together with cultural and brand building.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Centre for Implementation Science</td>
<td>£324k</td>
<td>Wessex AHSN contracted with University of Southampton to create the Centre for Implementation Science, to bring together Wessex universities, local and national sources of information to deliver in-depth analysis to inform adoption and spread of programmes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Creating Wealth and Accelerator Fund</td>
<td>£761k</td>
<td>This strategic priority includes expenditure on the following projects; market place testing, product/enterprise sponsorship, commercial engagement, clinical trials/R&amp;D, SWLEP and Accelerator Funds.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 NICE TAs</td>
<td>£44k</td>
<td>Adherence and uptake of NICE Technology Appraisals.</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>£2,064k</strong></td>
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