

Integrated Care System (ICS) And Research Symposium – 13th October, Leeds – Session Summary

Over 100 delegates gathered on the 13th of October in Leeds for one of the NHS Research and Development Forum's (RDF) first in-person events following the pandemic.

The aim of this event was to share current work and thinking with regards to research and ICSs/ICBs with attendees from R&D organisations across England, Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) Leads, Managers, Directors and key stakeholders, like NHSE and HRA

Please see below for a summary of the sessions:

Session 1: A National Perspective on ICS Establishment and Development Presented by: Ian Perrin | Policy and Delivery Manager – ICS Network, NHS Confederation

Ian discussed The ICS network and provided background to the history on ICSs. Information around the structure and statutory duties were provided alongside what they are trying to achieve and priorities . The challenges and opportunities were presented and what this means for research. One of the main takeaways from this session is the NHS Confederation is keen to continue the conversation with the R&D community.

Session 2: Embedding Research in the NHS Presented by: Emma Lowe | Head of Research Policy: Clinical Research and Growth, Department of Health and Social Care David Linberry | Senior Research Policy Manager: Capacity & Growth, Department of Health and Social Care

Emma and David presented the UK Vision for Clinical Research Delivery which began in 2021. The implementation plan aims to ensure research will lead to better health outcomes and more patients to be involved in research. The ICS and new regional ways of working provide an opportunity to progress this vision. The five themes that will help realise this vision are Sustainable and supported workforce, Clinical research embedded in the NHS, People-centred research, Streamlined and efficient research and Research enabled by data and digital tools. The actions between 2022-25 were presented in order to achieve this.

Session 3: Demystifying the Legislations and other requirements on ICSs: NHSE Guidance for Research Presented by: Dr Alison Austin | Deputy Director of Research Innovation, Research and Life Sciences Group, NHS England

The Accelerated Access Collaborative is a unique partnership between patient groups, government bodies, industry and NHS bodies and five key priorities have

been set for the next five years. In June 2022 the ACC set out their ambitions for research; to make the NHS the best place in the world to undertake research and; every patient will be supported to take part in research that is appropriate for them and every NHS organisation will be involved in clinical research. There was discussion around the role of NHS England in supporting research through developing research roadmaps and best practice documents and what to consider when ICS's develop their research strategy.

This was followed by round table discussions and feedback

Dr Austin posed two questions: "How do you know what is going on with research in your area?" and "How can we support research to be more diverse?"

With regards to the first question and the current position of regions there was a feeling that information is not yet flowing in the systems, the approach is variable and there is a lack of visibility of the overall structure. There was a suggestion that open days and conferences would be way to collect information. It was felt the ICS Structure need unified direction and clear representatives for research need to be identified, alongside support for the relationship with Clinical Research Networks (CRNs).

In relation to supporting research to be diverse in relation to research design, more consultation in the early stages is key. There should be co-production. Research should be mobile and research should be taken to the communities, especially involving community groups. Travel and travel expenses were a key factor in involving more diverse communities alongside considerations around health literacy.

Research funders/regulators should consider the need for translation services and recognise that costs can be higher to reach diverse participants.

There are opportunities in systems as there is an ability to reach wider communities, especially if partner organisations enable quality data collection. There should be a consideration of research and health inequalities in all commissioning decisions.

The results of the round table discussion have been noted by NHS England.

Since the ICS event the document [Maximising the benefits of research: Guidance for integrated care systems](#) has been published

Session 4: Elevator Pitches: ICS Progress and Challenges from across England

Clara Yates, Associate Director of Research, NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB (also presenting on behalf of Clare Symms, Head of Research Management, Finance and PPI, NHS Norfolk and Waveney ICB)

Clara Yates updated on the Research and Innovation Strategy from Research and Innovation Strategy, Norfolk and Waveney ICS. Clara then updated on the Suffolk and North East Essex ICS Research Strategy Development (on behalf of Clare Symms). Two stakeholder workshops were held and these workshops have been

translated into an action plan and a second follow-up workshop was held in October 2022.

Helen Duffy, Research and Innovation Programme Manager, Staffordshire and Shropshire Health Economy Research Partnership / Research and Innovation Programme Manager Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

The Staffordshire & Shropshire Health Economy Partnership (SSHERPa) was formed from 17 partners in 2019. As the DHSC and NHSE guidance emerged for ICBs/ICPs/ICS post covid it was clear that SSHERPa aligned very strongly to the emerging documents and working together, the team developed board papers to go to the STP/shadow ICS boards and two ICS R&I committees formed out of the overarching SSHERPA group. More recent priorities are to ensure there is VSCE and PPIE representation and they have prioritised research governance and data sharing as key task and finish groups.

Rachel Illingworth, Head of Research and Evidence, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICB

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire ICS Research Partners Group is an operational oversight and delivery group. The groups purpose is to develop a system wide collaborative approach to health and care research and a forum for ICS wide research discussions. Their key achievement is a Terms of Reference agreed, opportunities and challenges identified, and a Research Mapping Exercise has taken place. Topic focuses meeting have taken place around Data and Digital and Social Care. The next steps are to feed into the Integrated care Strategy and to agree future priorities.

Paul Carder, Head of Research, NHS West Yorkshire ICB

As an ICS, West Yorkshire need to be clear about how research and development is supported across the system, translation of evidence into practice is facilitated, and how research is informing partnerships. An ICS research leadership working group (RLWG) has been established to support these functions. There are 10 key ambitions the ICS and the RLWG has developed 8 recommendations to take forward. The first step in this piece of work will be to identify current research in the areas of the ambitions. Place based examples of collaborative work were discussed including, City of Research and the Wakefield Research Hub.

Session 5: NIHR CRN and ICS/ICBs: How can we work collaboratively together Presented by: Philip Evans | Deputy Medical Director, NIHR CRN

Professor Phillip Evans began by providing background to the NIHR and CRN and highlighted ICS Key priorities. The commonality of purpose across the system was discussed around the NIHR research infrastructure and how this was highlighted during the pandemic with studies such as Recovery. There are currently 15 LCRNs and 42 ICS's. 36 ICS's sit wholly within an LCRN. There is strategic overlap with systems in areas such as, Population Health Management, health inequalities (Core20Plus5) and Data and Digital. Finally, there was a discussion around 'out of hospital' research and the pilot of embedded CRN funded staff in local authorities.

Feedback from Bristol and Manchester LCRNs on engagement and integration of research with local ICSs was shared. This was followed by round table discussions and feedback. Delegates were asked to consider the relationship between NIHR, their local ICS and their organisation. The tables discussed what they have learnt, next opportunities and what good looks like alongside the challenges and obstacles of achieving this.

Session 6: What is a Research Site (and other questions for conducting research in the new structures)?

Presented by: Alastair Nicholson | Head of Coordination and Standardisation, Health Research Authority

The final session of the day was led by Alastair Nicholson, Head of Coordination and Standardisation, Health Research Authority looking at "What is a Research Site (and other questions for conducting research in the new structures)?" This topic is important as there should be clear designation of responsibility and accountability with clear lines of communication between all those involved in research. Integrated care pathways will present new, or more frequent questions as to who is responsible for what and when. Current legislation was reviewed including the UK Policy Framework for Health and Social Care Research) and discussed in the context of ICS's and how can this be updated to be fit for the new structures. This was followed by round table discussions and feedback. Delegates were asked How do we all work together to facilitate research across organisational boundaries? What can HRA do to provide guidance, updated legislation and policy to help make this easier? and when might it be possible for an ICS to be one-single-site?

Delegates really valued the opportunity to feedback to policy makers, influence guidance and policy and hear about examples of real-life approaches from across England.

There was a clear appetite for a follow-up session and this is something to RDF will consider following this successful symposium.

If you have any feedback regarding this event, please contact info@RDF.org.uk