



**NHS South Yorkshire ICB Research & Innovation Forum:  
Respiratory disease  
Thursday 20 July 2023; Rotherham United Football Club  
Event summary**

## **1. Background**

Yorkshire & Humber AHSN held a workshop on the afternoon of **Thursday 20 July 2023** to bring together key research leads from Integrated Care System (ICS) partner organisations as well as academic and research institutions.

This was the fourth forum for South Yorkshire, and the second dedicated to a clinical priority theme for the health and care system: respiratory disease.

By introducing and coordinating research and innovation forums each quarter, the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) aims to:

- Enable organisations involved in health and care research to have sight of research and innovation priorities in the region.
- Encourage research organisations to collaborate on upcoming funding opportunities.
- Allow for knowledge and expertise to be shared on upcoming research and innovation priorities in South Yorkshire (SY).
- Widen the net for involvement in research projects by ensuring there are equitable opportunities for the right participants, at the right time (at organisation, clinician and patient levels).
- Facilitate a cohesive and coordinated approach across the research landscape where organisations can provide mutual support when navigating project and opportunities.
- Simplify and expedite routes to collaborative working between researchers and practitioners, while at the same time enhancing the research capabilities of practitioners.

## **2. About the forum**

The forum was attended by 35 delegates from across the health, research and innovation community in South Yorkshire. This included a diverse range of clinical, non-clinical and academic research roles from the local universities, acute trusts, local authorities and the ICB.

The afternoon event consisted of a mix of presentations, discussion groups, case studies and networking opportunities for delegates. This document contains the content shared on the days as well as a summary of the key discussions.

An overview of the attendees can be found in *Appendix 2*.

## **3. Presentations**

Please follow the links below to access the slides for each of the presentations which were delivered at the forum:

### **[Welcome and Introduction](#)**

Dr David Crichton - Chief Medical Officer, NHS South Yorkshire ICB  
& Sarah Dew – Innovation Hub Director, South Yorkshire

### ***The respiratory landscape in South Yorkshire***

#### **South Yorkshire Respiratory Clinical Network Priorities**

Dr David Clitherow – Clinical Lead, South Yorkshire Respiratory Clinical Network

#### **South Yorkshire ICB Joint Forward Plan - Long Term Conditions**

David Lautman – Senior Programme Manager, South Yorkshire ICB.

### ***Current research and innovation activity in respiratory care***

#### **National horizon scanning activity**

Dr David Linden - Respiratory Workstream Lead – Y&H AHSN and Respiratory Programme Lead – The AHSN Network

#### **Pathway optimisations in long term conditions**

Dr Martin Wildman – Consultant in Respiratory Medicine, Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Trust

#### **Primary Care Respiratory Research**

Dr Shamanthi Jayasooriya – GP and NIHR Clinical Lecturer, University of Sheffield

## **4. Workshop discussions**

### ***Theme 1: The Respiratory Pathway***

The objective of the first table discussion was to discuss the landscape in South Yorkshire and some of the plans underway to address respiratory challenges in the region. Delegates were asked to consider stages along the respiratory pathway (Fig. 1 below), contemplating areas of current good practice as well as opportunities for improvements.

Delegates were advised to take some time, based on what they had heard already, to think about where the big opportunities might be for research and innovation to help improve the respiratory pathway. A facilitator was placed at each table to help steer and capture the conversation as needed.

Through this exercise, the ambition was that the group would start to collaboratively identify some opportunities for new activity in respiratory care, and actions to take forward to make improvements.

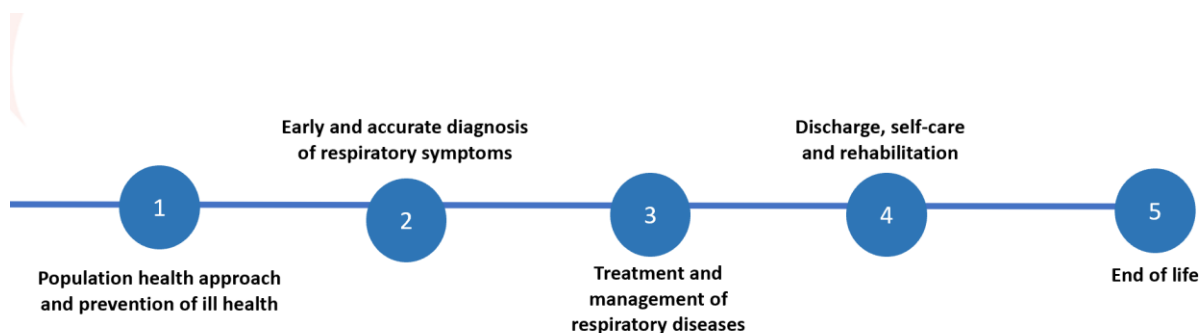


Fig. 1: the abbreviated respiratory pathway

## Discussion notes: the respiratory pathway

Stage	Feedback
1	<p>At the earliest stage in the respiratory pathway (population health and prevention), the feedback focused on the importance of health education and health literacy, in particular how this affects the way people describe their symptoms. Discussion in the room touched on whether preventative services should be targeted on specific communities with the greatest health literacy needs.</p> <p>The topic of smoking also featured heavily in conversations. This included the prevalence of smoking rates in the region (16% in Sheffield, 20% in Doncaster) and how tobacco dependency should be treated as an addiction.</p> <p>Whilst vaping may be seen as a method of reducing smoking rates, there needs to be more discussion around its potential harms, including the opportunity for more research around how vaping is affecting lung and other development of children and young people (CYP) in South Yorkshire</p>
2	<p>In terms of early and accurate diagnosis of respiratory conditions, delegates discussed how at-risk patients do not always present with breathlessness, or may not always notice that they are breathless. Owing to the diverse communities in South Yorkshire, many patients experience language barriers or difficulties in discussing their symptoms with health and care professionals.</p> <p>Attendees discussed opportunities for service improvements in this space, including the potential for GPs to work in partnership with other services, such as linking with Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations, or policy measures including the introduction of low-emission zones in the region.</p> <p>Good practice in the region includes spirometry services at Breathing Space in Rotherham which offers a community referral service.</p>
3	<p>With treatment and management of respiratory conditions in South Yorkshire, discussions emphasised the benefits of accessible services, closer to the community. There was positive experience to date of operating the community diagnostic centres in the region, utilising community venues to engage a wide range of patients. Opportunities</p>

	to also enable the treatment of such conditions in community settings, or in a patients' home, could lead to more timely and effective treatment and management of conditions.
4	Delegates highlighted that some patients thrive on self-management of their conditions, whereas others require greater support. Considerations for, and understanding of, deprivation in the region should be a priority when implementing any solution to support self-management or rehabilitation. Digital solutions, in particular, should not be "off the shelf", and instead must be tailored to the specific population needs. These solutions should also be scalable in order to be worthwhile.
5	None

## **Theme 2: Mobilising New Research and Innovation**

Building on the initial conversations around the respiratory pathway, delegates were asked to consider the three questions displayed in the table below. Contributions in this discussion would help the ICB better understand priority themes and challenges currently being experienced, and would support appropriate next steps.

<p><b>1. What activities would you like to evaluate in respiratory care? Where are the gaps in evidence that could offer opportunities for research studies?</b></p>
<p>Identified opportunities for evaluation in the region included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scaling of the Cystic Fibrosis Health Hub work in Sheffield across other conditions (particularly asthma) to understand the impact on adherence and health outcomes across a wider patient population.</li> <li>• Screening services at population level, for example utilising sporting clubs in the region to encourage earlier diagnosis of target communities (Everton Football Club have carried out effective work in this area)</li> <li>• There is a common gap in patient education around respiratory conditions, which are often seen secondary to other conditions. New research into improving education could be worthwhile</li> <li>• There may be appetite for a directory of colleagues working to support respiratory conditions across South Yorkshire. This would improve connections and awareness amongst the health and care community.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. What challenges should we prioritise through innovative new approaches?</b></p>
<p>Key challenges and questions to tackle included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to raise the importance of lung health via education and inoculation.</li> <li>• The opportunity to deliver a national screening programme for COPD</li> <li>• How to develop broader representation of health and care professionals on Respiratory Clinical Networks</li> <li>• Tackling the perspective that primary care is often seen/perceived as challenging to access for patients</li> </ul>

### 3. What are the key next steps from today's session you would like to see?

Delegates identified the following activities would be beneficial:

- To avoid duplication, capturing information on current projects within South Yorkshire which are aiming to improve outcomes for patients experiencing respiratory conditions.
- Building on existing networks in the region
- Connected Data, in particular access to primary care data





## **Next steps**

Thank you for attending the latest forum. Whilst this paper aims to briefly summarise the content and feedback from the event, we hope you will be able to build on new connections made and continue conversations around how to collaborate to support Respiratory challenges through new research and innovative initiatives.

- The key themes, actions and ideas from the discussion will be reviewed and discussed with the relevant clinical networks, to ensure the discussions inform forward delivery plans
- Specific ideas or areas of interest that were shared with us as facilitators for research projects or opportunities for innovation will be followed up individually
- We encourage people to follow up on the connections made during the session and the ideas for collaborations and partnerships we heard people sharing
- We will be taking forward the feedback on the planning and delivery of the event to inform the approach to the next Forum event.

## **Online showcase of innovations in respiratory care**

Yorkshire & Humber AHSN, in partnership with the ICB Innovation Hub, held an online follow-on session on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August. This one-hour session aimed to showcase mature innovations which were addressing a number of priorities outlined during the face-to-face forum. The session consisted of four presentations from organisations which are supporting patient needs across screening, diagnostics and treatment for respiratory conditions. These were:

- Appt Health
- NuvoAir
- QIoT
- Play Physio

[A recording of this session can be accessed here](#)

## **Get in touch**

We would be interested to hear about any discussions or new projects that are developing as a result of the connections made at the forum. Additionally, if you have a challenge and are looking for relevant innovations that may be able to address this, the South Yorkshire ICB Innovation Hub team would be happy to coordinate any requests, signpost to relevant resources or share innovative practice throughout the region.

Please email [syb.innovation@yhahsn.com](mailto:syb.innovation@yhahsn.com) with your thoughts.



## **Appendix 1: Research & Innovation forum - online feedback**

- Overall event rating: 4.44/5 (9)
  - 100% thought the quality of speakers was good/excellent
  - 90% felt the breakout discussions on supporting elements of the Respiratory pathway were good/excellent
  - 78% felt the location of the event was good.
  - 78% felt the length of the event was good or excellent.
- Feedback showed a notable increasing in understanding of the current Respiratory challenges in South Yorkshire

*Actions* - As a result of their involvement in the R&I forum, attendees planned to:

- Follow up with new contacts and connections made at the event (89%)
- Share information or ideas from the event with colleagues in their own organisation (89%)
- Contact Y&H AHSN for information or support (63%)
- Introduce or plan a new respiratory initiative in own organisation (38%)

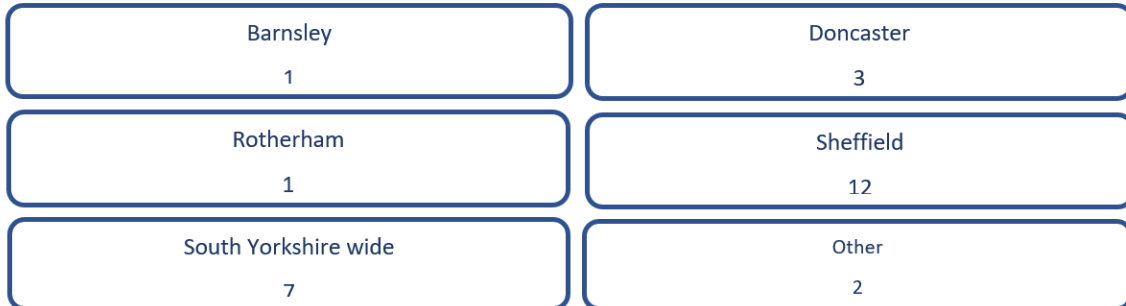
Theme suggestions for future forums included:

- Inequalities
- closer links into the respiratory clinical networking to ensure they are aware of what is happening across respiratory
- invite respiratory team/nurses who participate in research projects
- Diabetes
- Women's health/public health

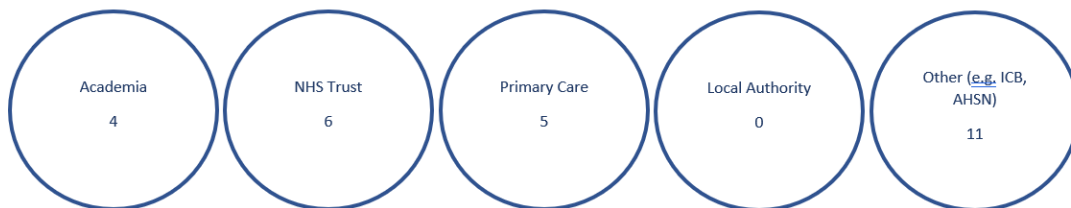
## Appendix 2: Overview of forum attendees

### About the attendees at the NHS South Yorkshire ICB Research & Innovation Forum on **Respiratory Disease**

#### 1. Which South Yorkshire place are you representing?



#### 2. Which type of organisation are you from?



#### 3. Which of the below does your current role entail (tick all that apply)?

