Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Transforming Lives Through Innovation

South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo 2026

Day One

Magna Science Adventure Centre, Rotherham

6th October 2026



Supported By

SOUTH YORKSHIRE SYMCA MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

B BRAUN SHARING EXPERTISE

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Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Agenda

09:00 - 09:30	**Registration & Refreshments** Arrival, welcome refreshments and delegate registration
09:30 – 10:00	**Welcome & Why South Yorkshire?** Strategic opening session setting out the region's ambition
10:00 – 11:00	**Theme 1: Prevention & Population Health** Parallel Research & Innovation sessions Enlivio Health
11:00 – 11:30	Refreshments, Exhibition & Networking
11:30 – 12:30	**Theme 2: Digital Innovation, AI & Technology-Enabled Care** Parallel Research & Innovation sessions
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch, Exhibition & Networking
12:55 – 13:30	Optional Workshop: "Would Your Innovation Pass NHS Information Governance Requirements?" Delivered by TMW RESILIENCE
13:30 – 14:30	**Theme 3: Communities, Inequalities & Co-production** Parallel Research & Innovation sessions
14:30 – 15:00	Refreshments, Exhibition & Networking
15:00 – 16:00	**Theme 4: Workforce, Innovation Culture & New Models of Care** Parallel Research & Innovation sessions
16:00 – 16:30	**Closing Reflections** Central messages and next steps · 16:30 close
16:30 – 18:00	Drinks Reception & Networking Sponsored by SOUTH YORKSHIRE SYMCA MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

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Foreword

Welcome to the South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo.

South Yorkshire has never been short of good ideas. Our two universities, our specialist NHS trusts and the new National Centre for Child Health Technology make this one of the most exciting places in the country to research, test and develop better ways of improving health. The harder task is making sure the best of those ideas reach the patients, staff and communities who need them, and do so fairly. It is a challenge health systems across Europe are grappling with, and South Yorkshire is well placed to lead the way.

That is what today is about. The Expo has been created by the South Yorkshire Innovation Hub, which Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber has run in partnership with the South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board since 2019. The Hub brings together the NHS, local government, universities, industry and the voluntary sector to turn research into practical change on the issues that matter most here, from cancer and prevention to our workforce and local economy.

Better health and a stronger economy go hand in hand. Much of the innovation on show today is homegrown, and it has the potential to bring good jobs and investment to the region as well as better outcomes and fairer access to care.

My thanks go to our sponsors, partners and speakers, and to everyone who has given their time to make the Expo happen. I hope you leave with new connections, fresh ideas and a clear sense of what we can achieve together.

Professor Richard Stubbs
CEO, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber



Welcome & Why South Yorkshire?

09:30 - 10:00
Main Plenary

Opening Plenary

This session opens the South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo by setting out the region's ambition to accelerate research, innovation and collaboration to improve health, care and economic prosperity.

It brings together regional leaders to celebrate South Yorkshire's research and innovation ecosystem, set the strategic direction for the day, and inspire delegates to collaborate, innovate and drive improvements in health and care across the region.



Oliver Coppard
Mayor of South Yorkshire



Mike Cullen
Head of Value & Access, B Braun UK



Chris Edwards
Chief Executive, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board



Professor Fiona Sampson
Professor of Health Services Research, University of Sheffield



Professor Richard Stubbs
CEO, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

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Theme 1: Prevention & Population Health

Exploring how prevention, early intervention and population health approaches are improving outcomes across South Yorkshire.

10:00 – 11:00
Main Plenary

Innovation Session

Chair: Ben Hampshire, Enlivio Health

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1 Preventing Falls – Enhanced Health in Care Homes

Jodie Brown
Occupational Therapist, Integrated Community Team

Katie Bond
Specialist Therapy Assistant, Integrated Community Team

NHS Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

This project focuses on improving falls prevention in Sheffield care homes through collaborative, person-centred therapy support. Training is delivered to care home staff on falls prevention, encouraging movement for sedentary residents, and supporting people who walk with purpose to rest. Therapy teams work closely with residents, staff and managers to improve communication and develop practical, shared solutions tailored to each resident.



Services have evolved to allow direct referrals from all care homes, enabling earlier and more proactive intervention. Support includes personalised patient plans and functional strategies, not solely exercise-based recommendations, guided by a "What Matters to You" approach. A family information leaflet has been developed to help relatives understand falls risk and support residents.

This matters because falls can significantly impact residents' independence, confidence and quality of life. A proactive, collaborative approach helps reduce risk, improve wellbeing and support safer, more personalised care.

2

Delivering Impact in Practice: Real-World Insights from the 'Active Together' Multi-Modal Cancer Prehabilitation and Rehabilitation Service

Dr Carol Keen
Consultant Physiotherapist and Clinical Lead for Active Together

Dr Anna Myers
Senior Research Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University

Active Together is a cancer prehabilitation and rehabilitation service supporting adults undergoing curative treatment. It is a regional service, embedded within NHS pathways across South Yorkshire, treating patients close to home regardless of where their treatment happens. The service, delivered by physiotherapists, dieticians, psychologists, clinical exercise physiologists and exercise professionals, has supported over 4000 patients since 2022.

To improve functional and clinical outcomes, the team supports patients to engage in exercise whilst optimising their diet and psychological wellbeing. It is tailored to individual needs and underpinned by behaviour change techniques and theory.



Embedded within the service is a comprehensive process and outcome evaluation informed by guidance from the Medical Research Council on evaluating complex interventions.

This talk will provide an overview of the service and how it is being delivered across South Yorkshire. It will also cover the latest evaluation findings exploring the feasibility, engagement and impact of the service.

3 Improving Asthma Care at a Primary Care Network (PCN) Level in South Yorkshire

Dr Fran Cundill
GP at Green Cross Group Practice

Green Cross Group Practice

PCS Primary Care Sheffield

Asthma is underdiagnosed in around 50% of cases, leading to delayed treatment, poorer quality of life, avoidable exacerbations and hospital admissions. To improve access to diagnostics and GP-led asthma care, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, SAPA 5 Primary Care Network, Sheffield Children's Hospital, South Yorkshire ICB, and Primary Care Sheffield established a community-based asthma clinic.



A total of 218 patients attended and 53% required a medication change following assessment. Of 40 patients who were not on definitive asthma treatment (no treatment or Short Acting Beta Agonist SABA only) and with a high FeNO diagnostic test result, 85% commenced treatment with inhaled corticosteroids (ICS). Referrals to paediatric respiratory services fell by 53% compared with the previous year.

The intervention therefore demonstrated that embedding FeNO testing within general practice improved diagnostic accuracy, supported evidence-based treatment and facilitated general practice based health promotion and illness prevention.

4

Prevention Accelerator Programme – Cardiovascular, Renal & Metabolic Disease

Susie Betteridge
Managing Consultant, National CLEAR Programme (33n)

NHS England's Prevention Accelerator Programme is transforming how cardiovascular, renal and metabolic (CRM) disease is prevented and managed across England — and South Yorkshire is one of five Integrated Care Systems leading the way.

Delivered through the CLEAR (Clinically Led workforce and Activity Redesign) methodology, hosted by East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust and delivered in partnership with 33n, the programme tests innovative, community-centred models of care that shift focus from treatment to prevention. It combines data-driven insight, quality improvement expertise and neighbourhood-based delivery to identify people at risk earlier and reduce health inequalities.



Working across Integrated Care Systems, Prevention Accelerator supports place-based prevention at scale — reducing unwarranted variation, strengthening primary care pathways and driving consistent, evidence-based intervention across health and care partners.
We are grateful for the opportunity to share early learning from the South Yorkshire ICS programme and its implications for research, innovation and system-wide transformation.

Theme 1: Prevention & Population Health

Exploring how prevention, early intervention and population health approaches are improving outcomes across South Yorkshire.

10:00 – 11:00
Research Room

Research Session

Chair: Dr Katie Zwerger, University of Sheffield

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1 PRIMROSE: Preventing Cardiovascular Disease in People with Severe Mental Illness

Eloise Carruthers
Researcher at the Improvement Academy / ARC Yorkshire and Humber.

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

People with complex mental health conditions have a life expectancy 15–20 years shorter than the general population. A major contributor to this gap is their higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease, which is connected to several preventable or modifiable big impact factors like blood pressure, cholesterol and smoking. PRIMROSE was developed to address this inequality.



We researched the implementation of PRIMROSE in 24 general practices with connected secondary care and voluntary teams across four areas: three London boroughs and Bradford in Yorkshire. We explored how cross-sector teams worked together to set up and deliver PRIMROSE, aiming to understand facilitators and barriers in different local contexts. We also explored potential for sustainability, spread and scale.

2 Seven Hills Research Clinic – Tertiary Prevention of Mood Disorders

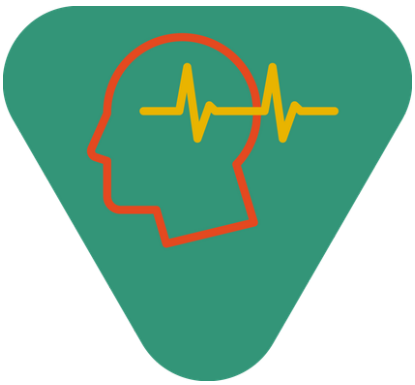
Cheryl Long
Research Nurse Manager, Seven Hills Research Clinic, Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

Stephanie Matu
Research Pharmacist at the Seven Hills Research Clinic, Sheffield Health Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

NHS
Sheffield Health Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Mood disorders (MD) such as major depressive disorder and bipolar disorder carry substantial long-term health burdens. People with MD experience treatment resistance, polypharmacy is common, with effects on physical health well-known. MD should therefore be considered a priority for tertiary prevention strategies.

Seven Hills Research Clinic (SHRC) is one of 15 research-focused clinics nationwide established to advance the understanding and treatment of MD by expanding access to clinical trials for novel and innovative treatments, including psychedelics. Such treatments will be vital tertiary prevention tools to address recurrence, disability and health inequalities experienced by those suffering with mood disorders.



SHRC comprises a multidisciplinary team, co-created with a diverse and dynamic Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement group. The clinic takes referrals from a wide range of services, including primary care, and self-referrals in order to widen access.
In this talk, we describe the SHRC pathway, and activity, from referral into clinical trial participation.

3

Hidden Need, Trusted Spaces: Women's Routes into Substance Use Support in Rotherham

Dr Thaddeus Muller
Reader in criminology at Lancaster University School of Social Sciences.

Max Dennehy
Senior Researcher at Lancaster University School of Social Sciences

School of Social Sciences | Lancaster University

This presentation shares emerging learning from a qualitative, community-informed research project exploring women's access to substance use treatment, recovery support and wider community provision in Rotherham. Drawing on interviews, ethnographic observations and engagement across treatment, recovery, sexual health, mental health and VCSE spaces, the talk examines how shame, stigma, trauma, childcare, fear of social care involvement, hidden exploitation, mental health needs and uncertainty about whether services are "for them" can delay or prevent women from seeking support.



It also highlights the value of trusted community spaces, lived experience, peer connection and flexible outreach as routes into earlier, safer and more meaningful engagement. Responding to the prevention agenda, the presentation will offer practical learning for commissioners, health and care partners, local authorities and VCSE organisations on developing gender-informed, culturally responsive and multi-layered pathways that reach women before crisis point.

Theme 2: Digital Innovation, AI & Technology-Enabled Care

Exploring how AI, digital technologies and data are transforming healthcare.

11:30 – 12:30
Main Plenary

Innovation Session



Chair: Laura Boyd
Director of Digital Partnerships, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

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Laura is Director of Digital Partnerships at Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber, joining the organisation in October 2024. In this role, she works across Yorkshire's three Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) to analyse how we optimise the data infrastructure and assets across our region to improve health outcomes and reduce inequalities for our populations and best support our NHS workforce.

Previously, Laura was Director of Implementation at UCLPartners, where she led the Cardiovascular Health Programme. This included development and scale of the award-winning Proactive Care Frameworks which support the search and stratification of patients in primary care to ensure patients receive the right care at the right time. More recently she led the build and commercialisation of smart data tool CVDACTION.

Prior to this, Laura led the award-winning NHS Innovation Accelerator supporting numerous evidence-based, high impact innovations across the NHS.

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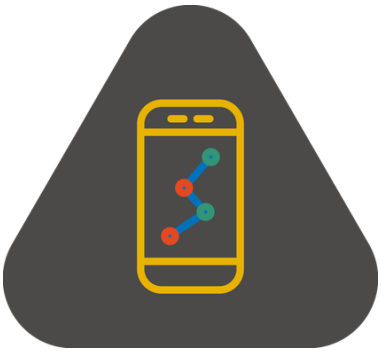
1

Transforming Community Wound Care Through AI-Enabled Digital Innovation: Piloting the Minuteful for Wound App in District Nursing

Saul Hill
Professional Head of Podiatry

NHS
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Minuteful for Wound, an AI-enabled digital innovation, has been piloted across three District Nursing teams within Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust to explore how artificial intelligence can enhance wound assessment, monitoring, and clinical decision-making within community care settings.



Using a standard smartphone camera and calibration stickers, the app combines AI and 3D imaging technology to generate accurate wound measurements, monitor healing progression, and support consistent clinical documentation over time. The pilot aims to improve the quality and reliability of wound assessment, reduce variation in practice, and enable earlier identification of wound deterioration.

The project also explores how digital wound imaging can improve workforce efficiency, enhance continuity of care for housebound patients, and modernise community wound care pathways. Early learning highlights the potential for scalable AI-supported solutions to improve patient outcomes, support clinical decision-making, and strengthen community nursing services across Sheffield.

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2

Digital Golden Ward

Beccy Vallance
Head of Qi and Chief Nursing Information Officer
The Rotherham NHS FT

NHS
The Rotherham
NHS Foundation Trust

At TRFT, we have developed a Digital Golden Ward approach, working in partnership with one clinical ward to combine Quality Improvement (QI) methodology with digital skills, knowledge, and technology. A QI wall was created to capture staff frustrations and the benefits of existing digital systems. Digital app specialists spent time alongside nursing staff to identify gaps in knowledge and skills and provide targeted support.



In response to staff feedback, software design teams enhanced visual management boards to better meet operational needs, improving communication and reducing risks to patient safety. Further innovations include the planned trial of digital over-bed boards, alongside the introduction of wristband scanning to accurately allocate patients to bed spaces within the system.
This work has provided valuable shared learning for both clinical and digital teams and continues to evolve, with plans to spread the model to other areas across the Trust.

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3

From Clinical Problem to Digital Innovation

Dr Raihan Talukdar
Chief Clinical Information Officer,
Sheffield Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust

Consultant Psychiatrist

NHS
Sheffield Health Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust





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Theme 2: Digital Innovation, AI & Technology-Enabled Care

Exploring how AI, digital technologies and data are transforming healthcare.

11:30 – 12:30
Research Room

Research Session

Chair: Liz Leggott
Primary Care Doncaster

1

Making Research Matter: Using VICTOR to Capture Impact in Health and Care

Dr Natalie Jones
Clinical Academic Occupational Therapist
NIHR Senior Research Leader
Strategic Workforce Lead, South Yorkshire
Primary Care Workforce and Training Hub

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

VICTOR (Making Visible the ImpaCT Of Research) is a digital tool hosted by the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) Yorkshire and Humber to help health and care organisations understand and demonstrate the real-world impact of research. It enables researchers, clinicians, patients, and managers to record how research activities lead to improvements in areas such as patient care, staff skills, service delivery, and organisational reputation.

By collecting feedback through questionnaires and categorising the results into key impact areas, VICTOR helps make the often unseen benefits of research visible and easier to communicate to stakeholders and decision-makers.



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2

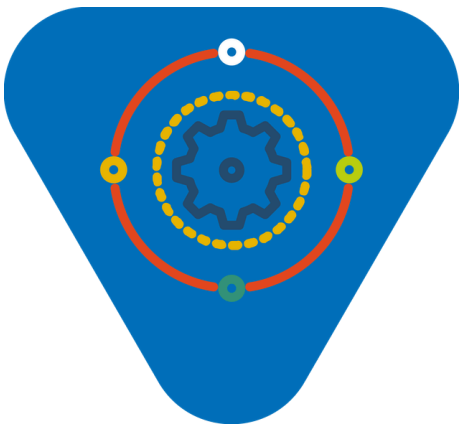
Smart-Health: The Smartphone and Wearable Database for Health Research

Nick Hamilton
Innovation Lead
South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub

South Yorkshire
Digital Health
Hub

Over 90% of adults in the UK own a smartphone and over 40% own a wearable device, which collect data daily on the user's physical activity, sleep and heart rate. If connected with health records, this rich data will give valuable insight into how a person's health and lifestyle changes over time, and at the population level will give insight into how health is affected by myriad factors that could include sleep, daily activity and exposure to air pollution.

Smart-Health is the flagship project from the South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub that aims to link together data from smartphone and wearable devices with NHS health records and lifestyle questionnaire data. This secure database presents an exciting opportunity for researchers to explore further links between physical activity, lifestyle and health and understand how we can better predict, prevent, monitor and treat disease.





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3

Regional Secure Data Environments & Datasets

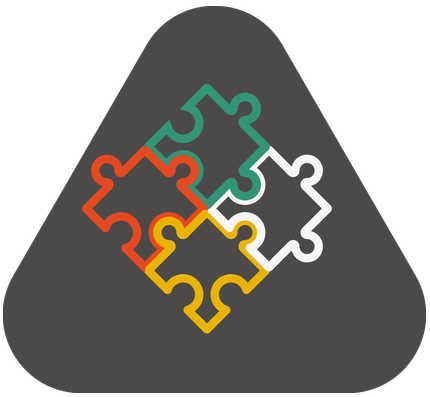
Dr Michael McCooe
Implementation Lead
NIHR ARC Yorkshire & Humber

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

This presentation will explore how connected data can help to improve healthcare, shape public policy and support better outcomes for patients and communities.

Michael McCooe will share the depth and breadth of datasets we have available from across Yorkshire and Humber such as CURED, CARE 75, Born in Bradford and Connected West Yorkshire and how they can help influence policymaking at local, regional and national level, informing evidence-based commissioning, policy development and population health improvement.

He will also give an overview of the wider Yorkshire & Humber Secure Data Environment (SDE), and how connected data can be used to support the management, prioritisation and review of patient pathways.



4

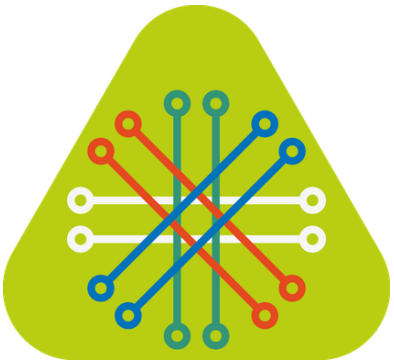
Symphonia: A New Innovation for Accelerating Evidence-informed Decision Making

Professor Mark Mon-Williams
Director - Centre for Applied Education Research & Co-Lead of Data, Visualisation & AI
NIHR ARC Yorkshire & Humber

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

AXIOTIC
INTELLIGENCE, GIVEN FORM.

Policymakers face an unprecedented challenge where evidence-based policymaking becomes increasingly impossible because of the intrinsic challenges associated with identifying and synthesising evidence within a marshland of noise. One solution relies on the use of expert groups and consensus methodologies, exploiting the information processing and synthesis contained within an expert opinion. Unfortunately, these processes are resource-intensive, contain bottlenecks, and risk sampling bias because costs escalate when more expert opinions are elicited.



Large language models (LLMs) offer new opportunities to systematically integrate diverse expert perspectives at scale. We developed Symphonia, an open-source platform, to test the hypothesis that AI can efficiently and robustly automate iterative consensus methodologies. We demonstrate Symphonia's application using a nationally significant, policy-relevant case study. Experts evaluated the validated platform's effectiveness, highlighting its potential to accelerate structured synthesis without compromising rigour.
Our findings demonstrate that LLMs enable faster, less resource-intensive, more transparent, and more scalable academic consensus synthesis.

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Theme 3: Communities, Inequalities & Co-production

Showcasing how research and innovation can reduce inequalities through community and co-production.

13:30 – 14:30
Main Plenary

Innovation Session

Chair: David Crichton
Chief Medical Officer, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

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1

Trusted Communities, Better Outcomes

Hannah Din
CEO/ Founder , Thrive Social Capital CIC

Thrive Social Capital CIC will showcase an innovative, community-led model improving prevention, health access, workforce engagement and economic participation for ethnically diverse communities across South Yorkshire.
Working with over 180 participants weekly from 54+ ethnic backgrounds, Thrive has become one of the region's most trusted grassroots organisations, supporting communities often excluded from mainstream systems due to language barriers, digital exclusion, cultural stigma and distrust of statutory services.



The presentation will explore how culturally competent, relationship-based delivery is improving early intervention, reducing crisis escalation, increasing access to healthcare and support services, strengthening mental wellbeing and creating new pathways into employment, leadership and enterprise.
We will also share how cross-sector partnerships with NHS organisations, universities, banks, VCSE partners and local authorities are helping build a more inclusive, preventative and community-responsive system across South Yorkshire.
This session highlights the power of trusted community infrastructure as a scalable innovation for reducing inequalities and improving long-term outcomes.

2

The Art of the Possible

David Bussue
Chief Executive Officer
Sheffield African Caribbean Mental Health Association (SACMHA)

Dr Kate Fryer
Research Fellow, Primary Care Research Group at University of Sheffield
Deep End Research Alliance

SACMHA Health & Social Care and the University of Sheffield are proud to showcase a partnership forged in the urgency of the Covid-19 pandemic and strengthened through trust, shared purpose, and community leadership. Together, we have worked to extend meaningful involvement in research among Global Majority communities in Sheffield—ensuring voices historically excluded are now central to shaping evidence and action.



Our collaboration with a Black-led Community Anchor has been key to building sustained, trusted relationships between academia and local communities. This approach ensures research is not extractive, but reciprocal—delivering value to organisations, participants, and the wider community.
Today, that commitment is visible in lasting, community-led services: The Black Elders Project and the 1in4 Prostate Cancer Peer Support Group, and the development of the Community Research Link Worker model. These initiatives stand as powerful examples of research translated into tangible, culturally responsive impact—improving lives and strengthening community resilience.

3

MSK, Work & Wellbeing: A Co-Designed Community Pilot at Doncaster Dome

Claire Morrell
Clinical Lead for Physiotherapy Practitioner Services
Orthopaedic Physiotherapy Practitioner
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Anya Duckitt
South Yorkshire Housing Association

Musculoskeletal (MSK) services at DBTH, alongside trusted partners, local authority teams and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations, co-designed a pilot Community Assessment Day (CAD) at Doncaster Dome leisure centre. The initiative aimed to deliver seamless, community-based MSK care while bringing health, wellbeing, employment and community support services together in one accessible location.



Centred on "What matters to you?" conversations, the CAD explored how personalised support could reduce health inequalities and improve employment outcomes for people living with MSK conditions.
A total of 148 patients attended with a low DNA rate of 5.6%. Attendees represented all Index of Multiple Deprivation deciles, with higher work-related impacts reported in deciles 1–4. Patient feedback was highly positive, with 84.3% very likely to recommend the service and 69.9% reporting confidence in their next steps. The pilot demonstrated the value of integrated, person-centred community care.

4

Synergy Discharge Menu: VCSE sector & prevention approaches

Andy Freeman
Director, Space to Breathe UK

The Synergy Discharge Menu Project is a collaborative VCSE-led prevention initiative supporting people leaving mental health wards and Decision Units who do not meet the threshold for statutory social care support. Working across Sheffield, partner organisations provide a personalised "menu" of community-based interventions including peer support, counselling, wellbeing groups, advocacy, employability skills, mindfulness, and culturally responsive services.



The project aims to reduce avoidable readmissions by strengthening resilience, reducing isolation, and helping people build positive relationships and sustainable support networks within their communities. A particular focus is placed on addressing inequalities for people from deprived communities and Black African, Black Caribbean and South Asian backgrounds. The programme demonstrates how health services and the VCSE sector can work together innovatively to improve discharge pathways, continuity of care, and long-term mental wellbeing outcomes.

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Theme 3: Communities, Inequalities & Co-production

Showcasing how research and innovation can reduce inequalities through community and co-production.

13:30 – 14:30
Research Room

Research Session

Chair: Professor Parveen Ali
University of Sheffield

1

Delivering Care Closer to Home: A Showcase of Research and Patient and Public Involvement

Dr Katie Zwerger
Early Career Researcher, Research Associate in Health Services Research, University of Sheffield
KM Champion 'Delivering Care Closer to Home', NIHR Y&H ARC

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

The NIHR Y&H ARC Theme: 'Delivering Care Closer to Home' will showcase several of our studies which fall under the bold ambition of prevention.

- 'Understanding Variation in Admissions from Care Homes' (UVAC): a mixed methods study exploring whether regional variation in hospitalisations of older people living in care homes may be due to differences in available community care.
- Impact of having a long lie after a fall: a mixed methods study to understand the scale, impact and care trajectory for patients who have a long lie after a fall.
- Reducing Avoidable Admission in Acute Hospital Care: A mixed-method study of the role and impact of same day emergency care (SDEC) services.

We will also spotlight our patient and public involvement group of care home residents, which includes research design, reviewing public-facing documents and analysing qualitative data. Group members will provide their reflections on their work.



2 Co-production and Peer Research (CoPPer) Network

Shahid Islam
Director, Centre for Co-production & Peer Research (CoPPeR), Bradford Institute for Health Research
PPIE Lead, NIHR Y&H ARC

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We established a sustainable model enabling seldom-heard communities, researchers, and policymakers to co-produce health research addressing community-identified priorities. We have spent several years working with communities across the region whereby diverse populations have provided tremendous support to our research efforts. This has helped us build a solid evidence base on how to improve the health and well-being of a city-wide population. Working together on so many research projects has boosted confidence and trust in the work we have undertaken, and as a consequence, has given rise to an interest amongst community organisations to join us as equal partners in producing and delivering research. This call provided a perfect opportunity to make this happen.



The aim of this project is to establish the CoPPeR network, a sustainable model to enable seldom-heard communities, researchers and policymakers to work together in order to develop and deliver research to improve the health of communities by:

- Develop long term relationships with community organisations who work with seldom heard groups.
- Co-produce community led, peer-research projects on community priorities.
- Explore barriers and enablers to co-production and peer-research with seldom heard communities.
- Co-produce a sustainable model for the CoPPeR network
- Explore the readiness of research and statutory organisations to embed the CoPPeR network in activities.

3

Beyond Participation: Embedding Young People in the Co-production of Longitudinal Research

Dr Kate Lightfoot
Senior Research Fellow, NIHR Y&H ARC

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder project is capturing the journey through adolescence and adulthood for teenagers in Bradford between 2022 and 2029. Working with secondary schools, sixth forms, colleges and local communities, the project is gathering health and wellbeing data from young people through surveys, measurements, and biological samples.

A key feature of the study is its commitment to co-production. Young people and schools have helped shape the questions asked through the annual surveys, ensuring that the research reflects the issues that matter to them. The study creates opportunities for young people to participate, develop skills and shape change—including research champion roles and volunteering opportunities. The BiB Online Hub provides a further route for 16–18-year-olds to take ownership of their involvement, build experience and connect with opportunities that can support future education and employment.

Drawing on learning from the development and delivery of Age of Wonder, the presentation will consider how research infrastructure can be designed to generate benefits for both research and participating communities.



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4

Working Together in Research

Shahida Siddique
CEO, DiverseCity Development Trust

South Yorkshire's Working Together in Research programme was established in 2023 to make health and care research more inclusive, equitable and responsive to the needs of local communities. Bringing together the South Yorkshire Innovation Hub, South Yorkshire ICB, DiverseCity Development Trust, South Yorkshire's Community Foundation, researchers and voluntary and community organisations, the programme explores the barriers that prevent underserved and historically underrepresented communities from participating meaningfully in research.

Through community storytelling, workshops and collaboration between researchers and communities, it co-developed a set of Guiding Principles to support more inclusive, respectful and mutually beneficial research partnerships. The programme has subsequently supported community organisations to work directly with university researchers to test these principles in practice and develop community-led research proposals, with the wider ambition of embedding health equity and inclusion across health and care research in South Yorkshire.

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Theme 4: Workforce, Innovation Culture & New Models of Care

Exploring how South Yorkshire is developing a skilled, research-active and innovation-ready workforce.

15:00– 16:00
Main Plenary

Innovation Session

Chair: Christine Joy
Chief People Officer, NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

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1 From Insight to Impact: Transforming Workforce Mental Health at Barnsley

Carl Barnes
Occupational Psychologist

NHS Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Michael Shanaghey
Head of Occupational Health & Wellbeing

This presentation explores how Carl and Michael transformed workforce wellbeing by taking a fresh, data-driven approach to understanding employee mental health needs and the challenges created by new ways of working. Attendees will learn how they successfully secured senior leadership buy-in by demonstrating the organisational benefits of proactive workforce wellbeing interventions.



The session will showcase the introduction of an Occupational Psychologist role, strengthening support for employees while enhancing Occupational Health services across Barnsley. It will also highlight how external funding was secured to implement FlourishDX, an innovative platform that enables organisations to identify, monitor and address psychosocial hazards and systemic factors contributing to work-related mental ill-health.

Moving beyond traditional sickness absence metrics, Carl and Michael adopted a broader attendance management approach, focusing on prevention, engagement and workplace culture. Their experience demonstrates how innovative thinking, evidence-based practice and strategic leadership can create healthier, more productive and sustainable workplaces.

2

South Yorkshire Women's Inspired Network

Louise Berwick
Director, South Yorkshire Primary Care Workforce and Training Hub

Sarah Newbould
Deputy Head of Occupational Health, Wellbeing and Engagement,
Barnsley Hospital NHS FT & Rotherham NHS FT

The South Yorkshire Women Inspired Network exists to inspire, empower, and elevate women from all backgrounds to achieve their full potential. Rooted in compassion, equity, and collaboration, we are committed to breaking down barriers, amplifying women's voices, and creating opportunities for meaningful personal and professional growth.

We recognise that structural inequalities, gender bias, and the challenges of balancing work and life continue to impact many women's progression. In response, our network provides a supportive and inclusive space where women can connect, develop leadership skills, share experiences, and thrive through mentorship and collective learning.



While our primary focus is women's empowerment, we also champion allyship and inclusivity, encouraging understanding and collaboration across all genders to help build a fairer and more supportive future for everyone.
The first South Yorkshire Women's Network was established in December 2022 through annual health and care networking events. In July 2024, the network formally evolved into the South Yorkshire Women Inspired Network, creating a unified South Yorkshire-wide community for women with over 900 members.

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3

Supporting Workforces with the Big Purple Bus

Wendy Burkitt
Community Cancer Information & Support Officer
Weston Park Cancer Charity

Weston Park Cancer Charity

Working-aged people with cancer in South Yorkshire experience significant barriers to staying in work, accessing support, or returning to work. Additionally, half of all new cancer diagnoses in the South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw region will occur among people of working age.

Weston Park Cancer Charity's Big Purple Bus service delivers specialist cancer information, emotional support and work-focused wellbeing directly into workplaces.

By bringing cancer awareness, information, emotional support and healthcare professional advice directly to workplaces during working hours this can be accessed by all employees whether they have a diagnosis, are a carer or needing better awareness around screening, signs or symptoms.

This approach aligns with the Health is Wealth strategy (SYMCA, 2025), the White Rose Cancer Report (2025) and South Yorkshire's ambition to reduce economic inactivity linked to ill-health.

Weston Park Cancer Charity has exciting plans to develop this innovative initiative, find out more during the session!



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Growing an Innovation Culture Through Real World Evaluation

Hannah Beardmore
Midwife, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals
Chief Nurse Internship Awardee

Jane Fearnside
Head of Research, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

NHS
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

As part of a programme to increase awareness and understanding of innovation across Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals, working examples of adoption-ready innovations in areas of strategic importance were identified.

One example included the trialling of a new urine collection pot called Peezy in maternity services. Peezy has been designed to be more hygienic and user friendly than the conventional urine collection pots, whilst the USP is that only mid-stream urine is collected, reducing the number of repeat tests and false positives.

Early engagement with key senior stakeholders in the organisation such as the Director of Midwifery and Head of Procurement ensured support for a real-world evaluation in maternity services where the demand for urine analysis was high.
The impact of the evaluation has been significant in increasing the understanding of innovation across the organisation with initial findings demonstrating that the Peezy reduces the number of repeat urine testing required.

Furthermore, the evaluation has supported innovation capacity building for midwives and enabled DBTH to develop as a test bed for adoption-ready innovations.

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Theme 4: Workforce, Innovation Culture & New Models of Care

Exploring how South Yorkshire is developing a skilled, research-active and innovation-ready workforce.

15:00 – 16:00
Research Room

Research Session

Chair: Dr Michael McCooe
Implementation Lead, NIHR Y&H ARC

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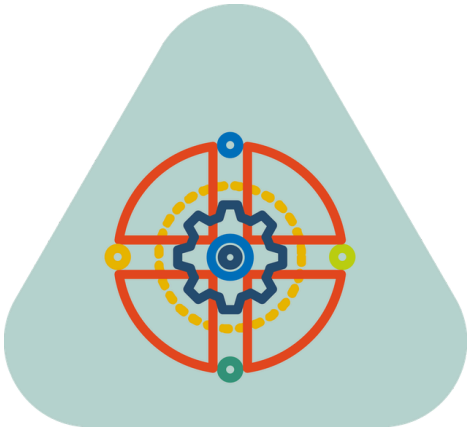
NIHR Research Support Service

Robin Chatters
Clinical trialist and RSS adviser,
RSS York and Partners Hub

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

University of York

This presentation will provide an overview of the service the NIHR funded Research Support Service (RSS) can provide to researchers applying for funding from the NIHR or other funders.



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Allied Health Profession Degree Apprenticeships

Laura Di Bona
Senior Lecturer - Occupational Therapy,
Sheffield Hallam University
Advanced Clinical Practitioner, Mental Health
Primary Care Occupational Therapy

Aimee France
Associate Head of the School of Health and
Social Care at Sheffield Hallam University
Physiotherapist

Karen Stevens
Senior Lecturer - Physiotherapy &
Degree Apprenticeship Course Lead
Sheffield Hallam University

Sheffield Hallam University

Degree Apprenticeship (DA) courses were introduced in the UK in 2015 to address issues facing Higher Education (HE), the workforce and the economy (BIS, 2015). Sheffield Hallam University (SHU) hosts the National Centre of Excellence for Degree Apprenticeships, is one of the largest providers, and at the forefront, of healthcare degree apprenticeships in the UK (SHU, 2026). Data suggests the impacts of DAs for graduates and employers remains uncertain (Edge Foundation, 2025).

We are developing mixed methods research to address the question: What is the impact of Allied Health Profession Degree Apprenticeships on graduates and employers?
We will use surveys and interviews to gather data from apprentices, coaches, work-based mentors, apprentice leads, service leads, education and training leads and wider stakeholders. Data will include socio-demographics, information on work roles and personal impacts, including transition to qualified practice, preceptorship, career progression.



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How NMAHP (Nurses, Midwives and Allied Health Professionals) Clinical Academic Pathways Future-proof the Healthcare Research Workforce

Dr Parveen Ali
Professor of Nursing and Gender Based Violence,
University of Sheffield and Doncaster & Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals

University of Sheffield

NHS
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Developing robust Clinical Academic Pathways for Nurses, Midwives, and Allied Health Professionals (NMAHPs) is a workforce priority. This presentation will showcase some of the outstanding research and innovation being led by NMAHPS across South Yorkshire, while also introducing a new regional initiative aimed at developing structured clinical academic pathways. By bridging the gap between clinical practice and research, these pathways will directly address critical workforce challenges: improving staff retention, attracting top-tier talent, and boosting job satisfaction.

We will share existing examples of excellence in non-medical clinical academic posts and insights from our ongoing collation of regional evidence as this work develops. Attendees will gain insight into how building an integrated NMAHP pathway drives evidence-based service improvements, reduces health inequalities, and fosters a sustainable, research-ready workforce



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4

Enhanced Paediatric Nursing Skills

Tammy Jaques
Transformation Lead, Applied Research Collaboration and Improvement Academy
Strategic Evidence Partner, West Yorkshire ICB

NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

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Improvement Academy

The Improvement Academy, in collaboration with Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust, is hosting the transformative Enhanced Paediatric Nursing Skills (EPNS) Training Course.

This blended learning programme has been shown to 'inspire, equip and empower' paediatric nurses to deliver enhanced care, providing them with the confidence and capability to assess children and young people within a safe governance framework, in hospital and in the community.

Supported by a senior multidisciplinary faculty, participants sharpen their clinical decision-making skills while developing themselves and their service.





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Exhibition and Innovation Marketplace

Exhibitor Spotlights

MEDISITES 360°

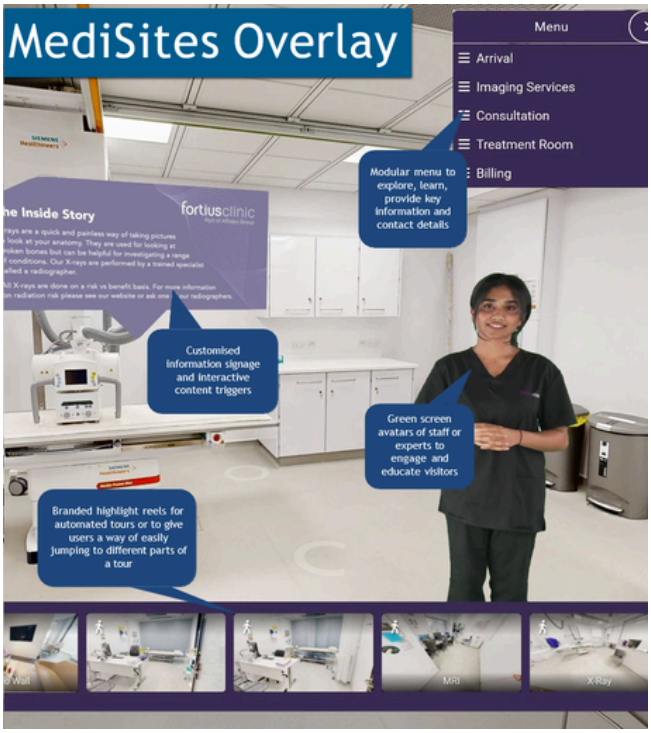
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The Digital Front Door to Your Hospital

Hospitals globally are facing common challenges:

- Pre-admission anxiety
- Accessibility concerns
- Wayfinding onsite
- Improving patient experience
- Education and understanding
- Training & recruitment







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TMW RESILIENCE

Want to find out more?
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TMW Resilience helps organisations navigate cyber security, AI governance, data protection and regulatory compliance with clarity and confidence.

Our expertise spans ISO 27001, ISO 42001, TISAX, Cyber Essentials, NIST and UK GDPR, helping organisations translate complex requirements into practical controls, processes and evidence.

We believe trust, security and resilience are foundations for sustainable growth, enabling organisations to manage digital risk, meet regulatory requirements and innovate with confidence.

» Book a free 25-minute one-to-one clinic «



Thibault Williams
Founder, TMW Resilience

Event attendees can also book a focused one-to-one clinic with Thibault to discuss a specific cybersecurity, data protection or information governance question.

Bring a particular challenge and explore where you stand against requirements including UK GDPR, DSPT, Cyber Essentials and ISO 27001/42001; any requirements being raised by commissioners, partners or clients; and practical, proportionate next steps.

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myHappymind

Want to find out more?
Visit our Exhibition Stand

Prevention Before Crisis, Backed by the NHS

myHappymind is the only NHS-backed, whole-school programme for children aged 3–18, commissioned by over 50 Local Authorities and NHS places and delivered in 2,500 schools and early years settings nationally. Grounded in neuroscience and positive psychology, it delivers a structured whole-school curriculum for children, CPD-certified wellbeing resources for staff, and a digital app for parents. It is commissioned by ICBs, local authorities, and multi-academy trusts as a universal prevention layer within local mental health systems.

The programme has received national recognition, including the King's Award for Enterprise (2025), the BETT Award for Transformational Impact (2026), and the BESA Outstanding Early Years and Primary Curriculum Resource Awards (2026). The NHS Confederation's February 2026 briefing on Children and Young People's Mental Health explicitly cites myHappymind as an example of effective school-based provision that reduces referrals to CYP mental health services.

Prevention at a National Scale

myHappymind has an extensive evidence base, including external impact validation from the likes of the Centre for Mental Health and the University of Chester. Independent data collected from over 1,000 schools nationally shows the scale of prevention this approach delivers:

- 7,551 CAMHS referrals prevented
- 11,174 Mental Health Support Team referrals prevented
- 18,895 SENCO referrals prevented
- 17,582 children with improved attendance
- 4,016 exclusions/suspensions prevented

Together, this represents an 18.5x return on investment: a net cost-avoidance benefit to the wider system of £62,993,093 (myHappymind National Impact Report, 2025/26). By equipping schools to resolve lower-level need before it escalates, myHappymind frees up capacity within CAMHS and MHSTs, enabling specialist teams to provide more timely support to those with the greatest level of need.

Improving Attendance and Attainment

An independent analysis of Bury Local Authority data (July 2026) found the same pattern locally. Across 64 schools (2021/22–2024/25), attendance rose in myHappymind schools while it fell in comparison schools, with persistent absence falling 7.4x faster in high-SEN schools and 3.4x faster in the most deprived schools. Across 47 schools (2022/23–2024/25), pupils meeting the expected Key Stage 2 standard improved 12.5x faster in myHappymind schools overall, and by +8.71% in the most deprived schools, against a 4.43% decline in comparison schools.



WaitWell

From Waiting Lists to Waiting Well: Supporting Mental Health Before Care Begins

WeWaitWell is a digital waiting room designed to help people make the most of their waiting time before healthcare appointments. Developed in collaboration with clinicians and people with lived experience, it supports users to improve wellbeing, remain active, prepare for appointments and access relevant support while they wait.

The project aims to transform waiting time from a passive experience into an active part of care. Users can complete short wellbeing activities, take part in guided walks, access self-help resources and receive reminders to return in time for their appointment.

WeWaitWell has a particular focus on mental health, digital inclusion and reducing health inequalities, and is currently being explored through NHS research and innovation partnerships.

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WaitWell

NIHR | Commercial Research Delivery Centre Bradford and West Yorkshire

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

myHappymind

NIHR | Sheffield Biomedical Research Centre

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Closing Reflections



16:00 – 16:30
Main Plenary

Delivered by:

Mike Cullen
Head of Value & Access,
B Braun UK

Central Messages from the Day

- South Yorkshire has a thriving and connected research and innovation ecosystem.
- Research and innovation are strongest when they work together.
- Collaboration across NHS organisations, universities, industry and communities is essential.
- Prevention, digital innovation, workforce development and tackling inequalities remain shared regional priorities.
- The Expo will inspire new partnerships, accelerate adoption and strengthen South Yorkshire's position as a national leader in research and innovation.

Thank you to all speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, delegates and partners for contributing to Day 1 of the South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo 2026.

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