Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

Transforming Lives Through Innovation

South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo 2026

Day Two

The Spark - NCCHT, Olympic Legacy Park, Sheffield

7th October 2026



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SOUTH YORKSHIRE SYMCA MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

B BRAUN SHARING EXPERTISE

NHS Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Health Innovation
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Agenda

08:45 - 09:15	**Registration & Refreshments** Arrival, welcome refreshments and delegate registration
09:15 - 10:15	**Welcome & Why South Yorkshire?** Strategic opening session and panel discussion
10:15 – 11:05	**Theme 1: Prevention & Early Years** Four Presentations - Main Plenary Sponsored By Enlivio Health
11:05 – 11:55	**Refreshments, Exhibition & Networking** Research, VCSE & Partner Stands (Ground Floor Breakout Rooms) Innovation Marketplace & Live Demos (Testbed Centre)
11:55 – 12:45	**Theme 2: Mental Health & Wellbeing** Four presentations - Main Plenary
12:45 – 13:45	**Lunch, Networking & The Spark Tours** Guided tours of the Centre running simultaneously
13:10 – 13:45	**Optional Workshop: "Would Your Innovation Pass NHS Information Governance Requirements?"** Delivered by TMW RESILIENCE
13:45 – 14:35	**Theme 3: Technology & Innovation** Four presentations - Main Plenary
14:35 – 15:25	**Theme 4: Equity, Participation & System Transformation** Four presentations - Main Plenary
15:25 – 16:15	**Refreshments, Exhibition & Networking** Research, VCSE & Partner Stands (Ground Floor Breakout Rooms) Innovation Marketplace & Live Demos (Testbed Centre)
16:15 – 16:30	**Closing Reflections** Central messages and next steps - Main Plenary

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Foreword

Thank you so much for coming to visit us at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust!

We're proud of our history, which began 150 years ago, and we take seriously the legacy we've built, shaped by and for the people of Sheffield, South Yorkshire and far beyond. We work hand-in hand with children and young people, families, professionals and partners to tackle health inequalities head on.

After 150 years of growth, innovation and an unwavering commitment to improving children's healthcare, Sheffield Children's is now a national leader for child health, caring for children and young people across Sheffield, North East Yorkshire and beyond.

We are a national leader in children's health providing physical and mental health care in hospital and the community whilst working towards our shared purpose:

"to create a healthier future for children and young people."

When you arrive at The Spark, we hope that you are able to feel what we all feel when we walk through those doors. A sense of pride in our community, a drive to innovate, and, most importantly, hope for the future of children's healthcare.

We can't wait to welcome you,
With best wishes,



Ruth Brown
Chief Executive
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Welcome & Why South Yorkshire?

Opening Remarks & Welcome

Showcasing South Yorkshire's unique children and young people's research and innovation ecosystem, highlighting the infrastructure, partnerships and expertise driving improvements across the region.



Ruth Brown
Chief Executive,
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust



Professor Richard Stubbs
CEO, Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber



Craig Cannings
Managing Director,
B Braun UK

Building South Yorkshire's CYP Research & Innovation Ecosystem Panel Discussion

South Yorkshire has a growing network of research, innovation and system infrastructure focused on improving outcomes for children and young people. This panel will bring together key regional leaders to explore how these different organisations and programmes connect, where South Yorkshire's strengths lie, and how greater collaboration can help accelerate research, innovation and adoption across the region and beyond.

Chair: Dr Nicole Samuel, Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Keith Pugh
NIHR HealthTech Research Centre for Paediatrics and Child Health

Professor Paul Dimitri
National Centre for Child Health Technology (NCCHT)

Nicola Ennis
South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Alliance

Dr Gillian Gatenby
NIHR Sheffield Children's Commercial Research Delivery Centre (CRDC)

Theme 1: Prevention & Early Years

Exploring how research and innovation can prevent poor outcomes and give every child and young person the best possible start in life.

10:15 – 11:05
Main Plenary

Chair: Dr Katie Shearn
Director of Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre,
Sheffield Hallam University

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1 Reimagining Healthcare for Young People: A System Working as One

Dr Alenka Brooks
Associate Medical Director - Young People's Services, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Clinical Lead, Healthcare that Works for Young People Workstream

Jaimie Shepherd
Senior Programme Manager – Paediatrics, South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Acute Federation

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The Healthcare That Works for Young People project is a system-wide transformation across South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw, embedding developmentally appropriate, youth-friendly care for over 460,000 children and young people, with a focus on ages 14–24. Co-produced with young people, families and VCSE partners, the innovation unites all providers behind a collaborative shared Statement of Intent, standardised pathways, and a regional workforce training offer to improve experience, safety and equity.



Impact is already evident. Over 270 staff have completed the new e-learning package, improving confidence and capability in responding to young people's needs. Local engagement activities with young people have identified key barriers, directly shaping improvements to communication, environments and transitions. All trusts now have executive leads for young people and transition, local action plans and governance in place, reducing variation and strengthening accountability.
This low-cost, scalable model is improving coordination, reducing inequalities and embedding a culture where young people feel heard, supported and better prepared for adulthood.

2

Embedding Social Prescribing in Secondary Care — Does It Work?

Sarah Baker
Improvement Project Manager
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Sonal Kansra
Consultant in Paediatric Respiratory Medicine
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

NHS Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

The Family Coach Model builds on the nationally recognised Social Prescribing approaches and adapts it for a secondary care paediatric context.

Clinicians from Sheffield Children's can now refer families facing social or financial challenges to a Family Coach for personalised, non-medical support. Delivered in partnership with four local Community Sector organisations, Family Coaches work alongside families to explore their goals, identify barriers, and connect them with the right support. Families who are regular attenders at the Emergency Departments, have children on the Dental Extraction pathway, have long-term complex medical needs, or are within the Epilepsy Service, can take up the offer.



Family Coaches can help with issues such as housing, debt, employment, social isolation, or navigating local services. The model is designed to empower families to take greater control over their wellbeing and make sustainable changes that matter to them. It's a partnership between Sheffield Children's, community organisations, and families themselves.
Starting in May 25, we have made 57 offers of help and have learnt and developed the model incrementally.

3

Improving Children's Oral Health: What's So Super About Supervised Toothbrushing?

Professor Zoe Marshman
Professor/Honorary Consultant of Dental Public Health
NIHR Senior Investigator
Academic Director of the Oral and Dental Directorate,
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

University of Sheffield

BRUSH

Across South Yorkshire, the prevalence and severity of tooth decay in children is high with considerable impacts of their daily lives, education and costs to the NHS. There are wide social inequalities in the distribution of this disease and children's experience of it.

Supervised toothbrushing provides an evidence-based approach to preventing tooth decay and reducing inequalities with a new national programme funded in April 2026. The National Institute for Health Research funded the BRUSH project to examine ways to improve the implementation of supervised toothbrushing. The subject for this talk is how this research has shaped national and local policy and practice to improve children's oral health.



4

Improving School Readiness Through Evidence-based Research

Dr Sara Ahern
Programme Manager, Family Inequalities Research (FaIR) Team and BiBBS ACHIEVE
Born in Bradford
Bradford Institute for Health Research

The first years of a child's life are important. What happens in this time affects their health, wellbeing, and success at school. Not all children have a good start in life and this reduces the chances of them reaching their full potential.

Many different services support families during the early years, including midwifery, health visiting, nurseries, early help, and family hubs. These services are delivered by different organisations and funded in different ways. This can make it difficult for services to work together effectively. As a result, families can find the system confusing to navigate and may not get support.

In this project we worked closely with over forty local parents, researchers, and professionals from lots of different early years services to find out how we could make it easier for families to get support in the early years.



Participants agreed that the current early years system is too complicated and difficult for families to navigate. Participants described a future system using the image of a Ferris Wheel journey. Families get on the wheel at the beginning of pregnancy and move smoothly through early years services as their child grows. They get off the wheel when their child is ready to start school.
For this Ferris Wheel to run smoothly, services need to work together as the engine that powers it. Four important "gears" and three vital "levers" were identified as needed to make the engine work well. This talk describes these gears and levers to help early years services across England design a system that works better for children and their families.

Dickerson et al. A Blueprint of an Early Years System to Improve Equity in Children's School Readiness: A Co-Produced System-Level Model. NIHR Open Res 2026

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Theme 2: Mental Health & Wellbeing

Highlighting innovative approaches to improving the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people.

11:55 – 12:45
Main Plenary



Chair: Dr Kerry Hinsby
Clinical Lead for Mental Health,
Health Innovation Yorkshire and Humber
Consultant Clinical & Forensic Psychologist

Dr Kerry Hinsby is a Lead Consultant Clinical and Forensic Psychologist and Clinical Lead for Mental Health at Health Innovation Yorkshire and Humber. She has over 30 years' experience working in the NHS predominantly in secure mental health settings and staff wellbeing. She is also a member of the North East and Yorkshire Clinical Senate.

Given her background working with service users who present a high level of risk but also have high levels of trauma, she has developed a specialist focus on building services that are genuinely trauma informed and responsive to both the needs of the service user as well as the staff. She has published articles and spoken at conferences on these topics.

She is passionate about bringing services together to collaborate on finding solutions that work for all.

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1

The Lucy Project

Dr Steve Jones
Principal Clinical Psychologist
HCPC Registered Practitioner Psychologist
BABCP Accredited Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapist
SCYPHeR Mental Health and Wellbeing Lead
Lucy Project Lead,
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

NHS
Sheffield Children's
NHS Foundation Trust

We have developed a self-referral service for young people experiencing mental health difficulties in relation to their physical health. This innovation has successfully established across South Yorkshire since Dec 22. In Dec 25 we opened a 2-year trial to Alder Hey, Airedale, Jersey and Newcastle hospitals with Sheffield acting as a hub for this video-based intervention.

We are currently averaging 22-28 referrals a month and have offered >160 appointments each month for the past 6 months. The current waiting time is currently between 2-5 weeks between submitted self-referral and first assessment session. We are showing that this model is effective based on our outcome measures and qualitative feedback and that this is accessible to young people from a central hub while being across a wide geographical region. Our staff team is an emerging professional group – Children's Wellbeing Practitioners, who are based in Sheffield, Barnsley, Norwich and Bristol.





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2

Stepping into Life: Resilience in Young People

Dr Jilly Gibson-Miller
Senior Lecturer in Psychology,
University of Sheffield

University of Sheffield

Adolescents in the UK experience poorer health and wellbeing outcomes compared to peers in similar countries. Data also shows that young people's mental health is correspondingly deteriorating. This means that for young people today, the transition into healthy adulthood - associated with social, health and economic benefits to society - is far from certain. It is imperative that researchers focus on improving adolescent wellbeing and health outcomes and take urgent action to develop interventions that address the unique challenges adolescents face.

Stepping into Life is a multi-method research project that aims to design wellbeing interventions that are effective in supporting adolescents to lay the foundations for creating a healthy adult population. Research shows that strengthening resilience has the potential to generate a 'ripple effect' of lasting benefits into adulthood. One strand of Stepping into Life explored how young people conceptualise resilience, the resources they draw upon and barriers they face, and what they think would help them. From in-depth accounts of the lived experience of young people, we report on how our findings can inform the co-design of school-based interventions.



3

JU:MP — A Whole-System Approach to Improving Children's Physical Activity

Jan Burkhardt
Knowledge Mobilisation Lead for Children's Physical Activity at Born in Bradford

Dr Sally Barber
Director of Physical Activity Research at Born in Bradford

Undertaking daily physical activity and reducing sedentary time is vital for children's physical, social and mental health, their growth and development and prevents the early onset of diseases. World leading research into JU:MP's place-based whole system approach showed an unprecedented 70 minutes a week improvement in children's physical activity.

Find out more about the JU:MP model and how working at a hyper-local/neighborhood level with families, communities and organisations, plus making improvements to the environment, reduced inequalities for children from multi-cultural and economically deprived communities.

Our research is compelling evidence that "the whole is greater than the sum of the parts" and highlights how codesigning with communities, collaborating and distributed leadership can create impact and sustainability. We will also share resources and toolkits to support partners to adopt and adapt this approach to their place and health issues.



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4

Improving Engagement, Outcomes and Efficiency Across Children's Services

Richard Moore
Chief Technology Officer,
LOHA

LOHA

LOHA are using a digital relational approach to strengthen family support on referral, between appointments and as part of rehabilitation. By improving communication and developing understanding and empathic relationships between parents and young people, it creates a stronger commitment to engage with services, adhere to treatments and help with transitions at home or in healthcare provision. Thus leading to better outcomes for young people, with quicker recovery and preventing the need for more complex care going forward into adulthood.



The LOHA software was co-designed with parents, carers and young people, and is ORCHA approved. It is currently being implemented into Sheffield Children's Hospital in the weight management service, amongst others.
LOHA's innovative solution is highly scalable for improving outcomes in young people's emotional and mental health, which can be used in a wide range of paediatric and community services. It fits strongly with the government transformational shifts required for healthcare with a focus on digital, community and prevention.

The LOHA software is easy to implement, safe and evidence-based. It provides high quality intervention that prevents escalation to more complex mental health problems.
As part of the presentation, to allow for shared learning, we will share experiences of implementing the digital intervention within the care pathways from both the hospital service's perspective, and that of the SME developing the intervention.

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Theme 3: Technology & Innovation

Showcasing how digital health, technology and innovation are improving services, experiences and outcomes for children and young people.

13:45 – 14:35
Main Plenary

Chair: Dr Nicole Samuel
Commercial Director for National Centre for Child Health Technology
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

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1 Virtual Wards for Children and Young People: Because There's Nowt Better Than Being at Home

Annmarie Grogan
Clinical Lead Nurse
Children's Community Team
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust

Clair Scaife
Clinical Lead - Service Improvement Team,
Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

NHS The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust
NHS South Yorkshire & Bassetlaw Acute Federation
NHS Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

The South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw (SYB) Acute Federation Children and Young People's Virtual Ward project is a clinically led digital transformation delivering acute-equivalent paediatric care at home. Launched in March 2025 across Rotherham and Sheffield, it combines remote monitoring technology, daily clinical oversight and clear escalation pathways to safely manage children who would otherwise require hospital admission. Co-designed with clinicians, families and partners, the model supports both admission avoidance and early discharge, including specialist pathways such as haematology–oncology.

The project has demonstrated significant impact. Over 150 children have been safely treated at home, 310 bed days saved and escalation to hospital has been minimal. Families report high satisfaction, with consistent 5/5 ratings and preference for home care, citing reduced anxiety and disruption to family life. Access has improved for deprived communities, with up to 94% of children from IMD 1–4 areas. Final evaluation, led by the NIHR, will be concluded in June 2026.

By improving access, outcomes and efficiency, the virtual ward provides a scalable, equitable model that reduces pressure on hospitals while delivering safer, more personalised care closer to home.

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2

Psychological Outcome Platform

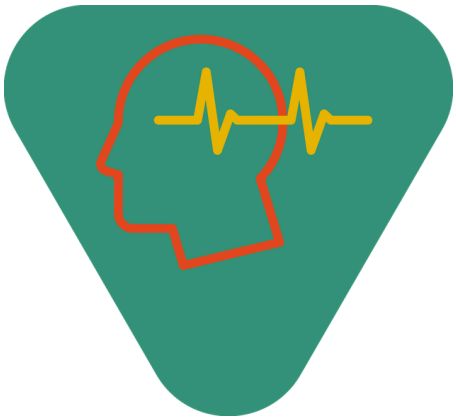
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NHS
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Over the past year Sheffield Children's Hospital Paediatric Psychology service have worked alongside AireInnovate, a private tech company based in Leeds. We have worked together to build a bespoke digital platform which can send and record digital psychometric outcome measures, which officially went live in Jan 2026.

Traditionally such outcome measures were collected on paper which led to them often being forgotten or inconsistently applied. Additionally, these forms were administered in session which would take 5-10 mins of an appointment and so detract from the actual psychotherapeutic work to support children and families. This innovation allows us to send required psychometrics digitally via sms or email which are then returned and automatically scored for us.

Since launch we have collected >300 outcome measures at the time of writing. This platform is designed from the beginning to be scalable from the smallest clinic to the largest hospital.



3

Rehabilitation in the Virtual Age: Using VR to Support Patient Recovery and Pain Distraction

Ivan Phelan
Director, Impact VR Lab & Principal Research Fellow
Sheffield Hallam University

IMPACT VR
RESEARCH LAB

Sheffield Hallam University

In this session, Ivan Phelan shares how virtual reality can be used to change how we approach patient care. As director of the Impact VR Lab at Sheffield Hallam University, Ivan focuses on co-designing immersive experiences that make difficult rehabilitation feel intuitive and engaging for patients.

The presentation focuses on two studies conducted at Sheffield Children's Hospital, looking closely at upper and lower limb rehabilitation. By building custom games tailored directly to young patients, the research shows how immersive environments can naturally distract from pain and improve adherence. It will show how creative technology can be transformed into a practical healthcare solution that works in both hospital environments and in patients' homes.



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4

Digital Services for Caregivers Can Benefit Early Language Development

Dr Silke Fricke
Senior Lecturer, School of Allied Health Professions, Pharmacy, Nursing & Midwifery
University of Sheffield
Speech & Language Therapist

Rosie Sherlock
Early Career Researcher,
University of Sheffield
Speech and Language Therapist

University of Sheffield

With over 75,000 children on speech and language therapy (SLT) waiting lists, this research evaluated a scalable digital service designed to mitigate early Speech, Language, and Communication Needs (SLCN) in socio-economically disadvantaged areas.

Across two RCTs involving infants (n=380) and toddlers (n=423), parents/carers received text messages linking to evidence-based CBeebies parenting videos showcasing language-scaffolding strategies. They could reply with comments or questions, and those concerned about child SLCN were offered 1-4 video-call support sessions with an SLT.

The infant cohort demonstrated significant language gains, narrowing the socio-economic gap by capitalizing on a vital window of caregiver curiosity. Conversely, toddler outcomes highlighted a need to shift from universal enrichment to personalized, granular content.

Crucially, caregivers identified the service's human element as the driver of engagement, transforming passive media into responsive dialogues. This digital-first, tiered model offers a framework to alleviate systemic pressures and optimize early intervention pathways.



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Theme 4: Equity, Participation & System Transformation

Examining how collaboration, lived experience, participation and system-wide approaches can reduce inequalities and improve outcomes for children and young people.

14:35 – 15:25
Main Plenary

Chair: Nicola Ennis
Programme Director
South Yorkshire CYP Alliance

1

Addressing Inequalities of Access to Play Opportunities

Sarah Wilson
Coordinator,
Sheffield Play Partnership

Dr Christina Tatham
Lecturer, School of Education
University of Sheffield

In this talk, we will explore how play is a fundamental right of children, underpinning all aspects of holistic development. Yet, the status of play in policy has diminished since 2010, resulting in inequalities of access to play opportunities.

We will then share about the exciting work we are doing to address these inequalities through the Playful Sheffield Campaign, aiming to ensure that play is explicitly acknowledged across different workstreams of the local authority.
The work we are doing in Sheffield draws on innovative case studies that we are presently collating for a Child of the North report on play and the larger, ongoing work we are doing around creating an open access repository of play initiatives.



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2

Evaluating England's Complications of Excess Weight Clinics: A Coproduced Approach to Improving Care for Children and Young People with Severe Obesity

Dr Cath Homer
Associate Professor of Obesity and Public Health
Sheffield Hallam University

Sheffield Hallam University

Severe obesity in children and young people (CYP) is a growing public health challenge, with significant implications for long-term health, inequalities, and service demand.

ENHANCE (NIHR 155453) is a national, coproduced, mixed-methods evaluation of NHS England's pilot of Complications of Excess Weight (CEW) clinics, which deliver multidisciplinary care for CYP aged 2–18 years and their families. Using a realist-informed approach, ENHANCE examined how innovative service models are implemented across diverse settings, exploring workforce configurations, patient and family experiences, and clinical and economic outcomes.

This will support service improvement, workforce development, and wider adoption of effective, evidence-based models of obesity care for CYP. Findings offer actionable insights which will be used to inform a national CEW toolkit and good practice guidance to support future commissioning and delivery of CEW clinics.



3

Lived Experience in Young Carer Research

Laura Selby
Co-Chief Executive Officer
Sheffield Young Carers

Sheffield Young Carers have been involved in a number of research projects with young carers, with young carers not only sharing their lived experience but also being partners in designing the research itself and disseminating the findings.

We will present an overview of the following three research projects, including how young carers were involved throughout. We will also share the tools that were co-produced with young people to ensure the research led to action.

• 'REBIAS' and 'REBIAS II' with the London School of Economics, which aimed to explore assessments, support and barriers for young carers and their families.

• 'Feeling Seen' with the University of Lancaster, exploring the educational experiences of young people impacted by a parent's alcohol use.

• 'Participation and Power: Evaluating young carers' experiences of co-production' with the University of Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire Young Carers.



4

Does Youth Work Work? The Lasting Impact of Chilypep on Young People in South Yorkshire

Paul Savage
Community Researcher
Chilypep

Jia Betts
Community Researcher
Chilypep

In collaboration with the University of Sheffield, Chilypep are implementing a community researcher approach to lead on a qualitative study exploring the long-term impacts of youth work on the children and young people of South Yorkshire.
This was conducted through in-depth interviews using creative and participatory methods, that retrospectively explored the lived experience of those who have accessed Chilypep.

Chilypep (the children and young people's empowerment project) is a charity dedicated to raising the voice of children and young people.
Over the past 20 years, it has delivered a wide range of projects including; voice and influence work (such as youth parliament and young commissioners), mental health support (such as targeted support for young men, LGBTQ+ young people and other groups) and community projects working with asylum seeking young people and disadvantaged communities.



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Exhibition and Innovation Marketplace

Exhibitor Spotlights

TMW RESILIENCE

Want to find out more?
Visit our Exhibition Stand

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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SleepCogni®

A good night's sleep in the palm of your hand

Immediate relief, long-term transformation.

SleepCogni helps children and adults, whose active minds keep them awake, to wind down and fall asleep naturally.



One connected system

Trigger
A handheld device that calms an active mind at bedtime, adapting to each user in real time with patented Active-Feedback™.

Hub
A bedside unit that senses light, noise, temperature and

air quality, with circadianlighting and calming soundscapes.

App
Trigger, Hub and sleep-diary data in one place, with guidance families can act on.

Professionals
Sleep professionals see their clients' data over time, and a marketplace connects families with them.

Intelligence
Learns from each user's own data to personalise support, on a rules-basedclinical core developed with leading sleepexperts.

Clinical trial results

Randomisedcontrolled trialof SleepCogni in 80 adults with chronic insomnia.
After one week of use, all four results were statistically significant versus placebo.

Read the published paper
doi.org/10.3389/frsle.2025.1452213

4.2 pts	+56 min	+11 pts	78%
reductionin insomnia severity (ISI)	increase intotal sleep time	improvement in sleep efficiency	founditmore effectivethan methods triedbefore
vs 1.6 pts placebo	**vs +15 min placebo**	**vs +5 pts placebo**	**vs 22% placebo**

Projects in South Yorkshire

- **Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust.** A live NHS study with Sheffield Children's Sleep Services, one of the UK's largest paediatric sleep services, supporting children and young people with complex needs, including neurodivergent conditions.
- **Clinical trial with Sheffield Hallam University.** A randomised, placebo-controlled trial of SleepCogni in 80 adults with chronic insomnia, peer-reviewed and published in Frontiers in Sleep (2025).
- **AI research with the University of Sheffield.** A long-standing collaboration with Prof George Panoutsos, Professor of Computational Intelligence and SleepCogni's AI advisor, developing personalised AI models of sleep and the roadmap for SleepCogni's Intelligence.
- **Children's Sleep Survey.** Led by Sheffield Children's and sponsored by SleepCogni, distributed to Sheffield primary schools via Learn Sheffield, with over 1,500 parent responses.

Future opportunities

- Scaling our NHS work into a managed service for paediatric sleep services across the region.
- Opening the MyCogni professionals platform to sleep professionals through our beta programme.
- Building collaboration with the National Centre for Child Health Technology to accelerate child sleep innovation.

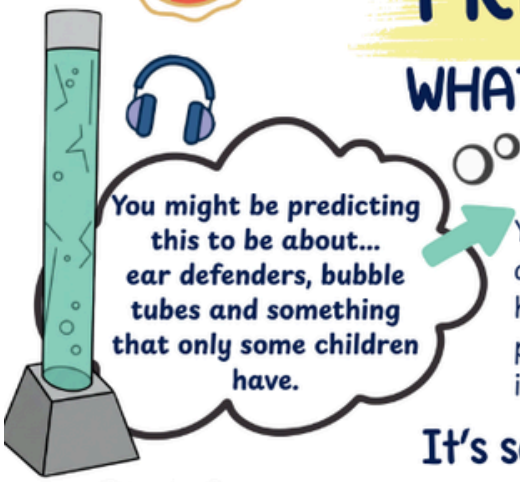
Why we're at the Expo

South Yorkshire is where SleepCogni was built – our research, NHS partners and manufacturing all sit here. The Spark brings together the clinicians, researchers, commissioners and innovators we want to work with. We would like to meet NHS sleep and paediatric services, schools and family support organisations, researchers, investors, and partners interested in evidence-based child health technology.

Try the device on our stand at The Spark

JosephHawkins, COO
joe@sleepcogni.com | sleepcogni.com

YOUR BRAIN IS ALREADY PREDICTING WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...



But Sensory Processing isn't always specialist...
Your brain is constantly using context, past experience and sensory information to predict what is likely to happen next. Those predictions can shape how we prepare, respond and participate before the sensory input even happens!

It's something every brain does!



So why do we so often start with the strategy or the specialist?

What if we designed for predictability first?

Before equipment. Before an individual sensory programme. Before specialist referral.
Sometimes we can't change the sensory environment.
But we can change how much uncertainty it contains.

- ***What is happening?***
- ***What happens next?***
- ***What happens if something changes?***



Come and find Sadie at the SensoryPie Stand

For today only:
Free 60-second sensory assessments!*
If you meet the extremely rigorous criteria, you may even qualify for a *FREE* Sensory Focus Prescription

****Not an actual clinical assessment. Obviously.***

Test it on your own brain..

Your South Yorkshire Expo Sensory Diet!

We've used today's expo programme to explore the ordinary ways we regulate, predict and adapt throughout a demanding day.

Scan it. Try it. Notice what you already do.

Inventors / Creators We're looking for you..

Do you work in product design, development, prototyping, testing or manufacturing? SensoryPie has something new & very exciting in development. Come and find Sadie at the stand.

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All Exhibitors & Partners

Click a Logo to Learn More
and Visit them in the Exhibition Space

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B BRAUN SHARING EXPERTISE

UTC SHEFFIELD MAKING THE FUTURE

Health Innovation Yorkshire & Humber

NIHR | Research Support Service

NHS South Yorkshire Integrated Care Board

Sheffield Hallam University | Advanced Wellbeing Research Centre

NHS Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Health Innovation
Yorkshire & Humber

All Exhibitors & Partners

Click a Logo to Learn More
and Visit Them in the Exhibition Space

CHILYPEP
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

Sensory Pie

NHS
Sheffield Health
Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust

Sheffield Hallam University
Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics

NIHR | Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire and Humber

UK

MEDISITES 360°

SCYPHeR
South Yorkshire Children and Young People's Health Research

Health Innovation
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All Exhibitors & Partners

Click a Logo to Learn More
and Visit the Stands in the Exhibition Space

NIHR | Commercial Research Delivery Centre

University of Sheffield | INSIGNEO

ETHNIC MINORITY RESEARCH INCLUSION

TMW RESILIENCE

SleepCogni®

LOHA

IMPACT VR
RESEARCH LAB

South Yorkshire Children & Young People's Alliance
Healthier Together in South Yorkshire
Barnsley | Doncaster | Rotherham | Sheffield

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Closing Reflections



16:15 – 16:30
Main Plenary

Delivered by:

Craig Cannings
Managing Director,
B Braun UK

Central Messages from the Day

- South Yorkshire has a strong and connected CYP research and innovation ecosystem.
- Collaboration across organisations and sectors is essential.
- Children, young people and communities must be involved in shaping solutions.
- Research and innovation must move beyond ideas into implementation and impact.
- The Expo will act as a catalyst for future partnerships, adoption and shared learning.

Thank you to all speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, delegates and partners for contributing to Day 2 of the South Yorkshire Research & Innovation Expo 2026.

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