AHSNS- one step beyond
The relationship between research and the role and function of AHSNS
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Issues to be explored....

- What are AHSNs?
- Does everybody have one – and where's mine?
- What relationship do AHSNs have to research?
- So what difference will this make?
Background to Academic Health Science Networks

*Innovation Health and Wealth* (IHW 2011) identified the system needs a stronger relationship between scientific and academic communities and industry to develop solutions to health care problems, get existing solutions spread at pace and scale, develop stronger knowledge exchange networks to share best practice.
AHSNs present a unique opportunity to

- align education, clinical research, informatics, innovation, training and education and healthcare delivery to improve patient and population health outcomes

- support knowledge exchange networks to build alliances across internal and external networks and actively share best practice, and provide for rapid evaluation and early adoption of new innovations

- link different parts of the health system to ensure use of proven methodology and improvement science to lead large scale, sustainable transformational change across traditional boundaries.
Four key objectives of EMAHSN

- Focus on needs of patients and local populations, promoting health equality
- Build a culture of partnership, collaboration, inclusivity in addressing local and national priorities
- Speed up adoption of innovation to improve clinical outcomes and patient experience
- Create wealth through co-development, testing, evaluation and adoption of new products and services
15 AHSNs nationally
Why is the Government committed to Research in the NHS?

- improve health outcomes through advances in research
- improve quality of care by NHS participation in the research process
- strengthen International competitive position in science
- drive economic growth through investment by life science industries and supporting a healthier workforce
NHS England Research Strategy: NIHR asks

- Supporting the NHS to participate in research
- Supporting the NHS to use the evidence from research
- Supporting the NHS to identify issues that could be addressed by research
- Delivering on its statutory duty and mandate objective
Specific AHSN research related activity – from NHS England licence measurements

**Measurement 5**: summary of research evidence that has successfully been implemented and translated into practice, and provide evidence of working with NIHR CLAHRCs

**Measurement 12**: work with their Clinical Research Networks and demonstrate how they have supported delivery of their metrics
Specific AHSN research related activity – from NHS England licence measurements

- **Measurement 13**: demonstrate how the AHSN has supported the delivery of NIHRS objectives. AHSNs may seek to engage in additional research activities beyond those agreed within NIHR objectives – in this case the AHSN must demonstrate how the research aligns with the AHSNs clinical or service priorities, expenditure, clinical and ROI activities.

- **Measurement 14**: reflect the breadth and depth of the AHSNs academic partnerships ensuring that academic collaboration is not fixed around a single institution.
This pathway covers the full range of interventions - pharmaceuticals, biologicals, biotechnologies, procedures, therapies and practices - for the full range of health and health care delivery - prevention, detection, diagnosis, prognosis, treatment, care.
AHSNs, AHSCs and the Research and Innovation Landscape

INVENTION

EVALUATION

ADOPTION

DIFFUSION

NIHR Infrastructure

BRCs, BRUs, CRFs

CLAHRCs

AHSCs

AHSNs

NHS Patient Care

NIHR

Clinical Research Network

Programmes

NHS Patient Care

MRC Programmes

INVENTION

EVALUATION

ADOPTION

DIFFUSION
Focus on Innovation

**Innovation** is

– the application of new solutions that meet new requirements, inarticulate needs, or existing market needs

– Something original, new and important that breaks in to (or obtains a foothold in) a market or society.

**Improvement** is doing the same thing better.
Innovation is...

- In the patient or carer's interest
- New approaches, ideas or suggestions of whatever size, large or small, and from anyone irrespective of their role or seniority
- Not always doing things as they have been done before
- Often small ideas that staff think about in their everyday work
- Very often original ideas that go unrecognised as the innovator may be modest about the change
- Accepting challenge about current practice and responding to that challenge
- Taking a risk to do something new or alter existing practice maybe a novel or fresh idea
- Improving something that's already good and sharing that improvement with others
- Ordinary things done in new or modified ways - a go ahead approach
- Never too small or too insignificant to share; never too large or ambitious to be considered!
“patient-focused early phase translational clinical research, the aim of which is to pull basic scientific discoveries into clinical research”
AHSNs, AHSCs and the Research and Innovation Landscape

“improving patient outcomes through the conduct and application of applied health research”
1. “AHSNs will play a crucial part in the translation of research into practice, which will compliment the roles of the present and future Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs)”
2. “AHSCs have related functions to AHSNs but are of smaller scale (in terms of geography and organisations) and they focus on earlier stages in the translation. They were established primarily on the basis of internationally recognised excellence in experimental medicine and strong collaboration between academia and healthcare to enable translation into patient benefit.”
AHSNs will have a complementary role in the translation process by focusing on the adoption and spread of innovative clinical practice that are of proven cost-effectiveness, across whole healthcare systems, linking back with the research and development community.
AHSN Challenges

- Radically changed health and social care landscape
- Bringing together an extremely wide range of partners for common purpose
- Being relevant to NHS managers and clinicians under severe day to day pressures
- Articulating purpose and meaning risks of duplication and role blurring
- Meeting expectations of patients and the public
AHSN Opportunities

- Develop common purpose amongst diverse partners across the health innovation pathway
- Facilitate service transformation and enhance primary/secondary/social/third sector care working
- Unique opportunity to integrate and empower patient and public engagement
- Delivering a paradigm shift in the partnership of the NHS with the life science industry
East Midlands AHSN examples in practice

- **Scarred Liver**: pioneering and non-invasive community-based screening to detect liver disease at an early stage [BRU]
- **Parades**: showcase event to champion and spread best practice in the care of people with bipolar disorder [CLAHRC]
- **NIHR Event**: Research into practice: working with NIHR to optimise research opportunities, approaches and outputs [System wide]
- **Shared Posts**: building collaboration, including joint strategic posts [CRN; CLAHRC]