

Implementing a strategy on Hypertension and Atrial Fibrillation using innovative technologies – NHS England Test Bed Initiative: Briefing

1. Background

In March 2015, NHS England and HM Government launched the Test Bed programme to identify 5/6 Test Beds nationally. The Test Bed programme aims to identify and promote high value innovations that produce significant health improvements at the same or less cost than existing practice.

Partners across Cheshire and Merseyside are working together to tackle High Blood Pressure and Atrial Fibrillation through a systems approach, underpinned by a cross sector blood pressure strategy, and overseen by a sub-regional Blood Pressure Partnership Board. The strategy adopts a phased approach and is based on international best practice (from Canada), national recommendations (from PHE and NICE), and local insight and stakeholder engagement.

In June 2015, Champs Public Health Collaborative and Public Health England (PHE) co-led an expression of interest that was submitted to the Test Bed programme, outlining the scope that technology could bring in optimising identification, early detection and management of Hypertension and Atrial Fibrillation in Cheshire and Merseyside. We have now been invited to submit a formal application by 4th November to access between £3.5 – 5 million to support implementation of the project (should we be successful).

2. The Approach

Taking a system approach and working with the industry, the aim of the approach is to look at using technologies that:-

- a. Target the wider population, facilitating access to blood pressure and pulse checks, with the aim of increased awareness, diagnoses, and measurement.
- b. Empower patients to monitor and manage their blood pressure at home, whilst retaining a clear and reliable link with primary care.
- c. Help provider organisations monitor, support, and treat patients better.

This will be underpinned by creating an integrated IT system that facilitates a joined-up approach between General Practice and wider community partners.

3. Current Progress

Following a successful initial expression, Champs Public Health Collaborative, PHE, North West Coast Academic Health Science Network (NWC AHSN) and the Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) have since attended two national events that have brought together potential test bed sites and innovators. Further conversations have been held with the innovators to seek the suitability of a partnership going forward.

A project team has been established including clinical partners and the team is finalising a shortlist of innovators to work in submitting the next stage of the application

4. Funding and Timescales

Between £3.5 and £5million is available for each project to be utilised until 31st March 2018.

Key Dates

- Written application submission - Noon 4th November
- Decision mid - December

5. Who is involved?

The formal governance arrangements are currently being developed, however the development of the test bid is being strategically led by the Cheshire and Merseyside Test Bed Project Team. Champs Public Health Collaborative will be the lead organisation (to be confirmed at the Cheshire & Merseyside Directors of Public Health Executive Board meeting on 18th September 2015) with strong support from other key partners.

Lead organisation	Champs Public Health Collaborative
Lead Cheshire & Merseyside Director of Public Health – Hypertension	Dr Heather Grimbaldston
Clinical Lead(s)	Dr Bruce Taylor (GP & SCN GP Clinical Lead) Dr Joe Mills (Consultant Cardiologist & SCN Cardiac Clinical Lead)
Clinical Leadership and support	Dr Mick O Connor (GP) Dr Chris Mimmagh (GP) Dr Deborah Lowe (Consultant Physician & SCN Stroke Clinical Lead)
Champs support team	Helen Cartwright (Head of Commissioning and Mobilisation)
Local Authority Public Health	Dr Melanie Roche (Public Health Registrar) Dr Ifeoma Onyia (Consultant in Public Health) Dr Sarah McNulty (Consultant in Public Health)
NW Coast Academic Health Science Network	Dr Julia Reynolds (Programme Manager) Carl Mackie (Project Manager – Informatics) Caroline Kenyon (Director of Communications and Stakeholder engagement)
Public Health England	Dr Gunjit Bandesha (Consultant in Healthcare Public Health)
Strategic Clinical Network	Wendy O'Connor (Cardiovascular Disease Programme Quality Improvement Lead)
Pharmacy	to be confirmed
Liverpool John Moores University	David Seddon (Business and Project Manager)
University of Liverpool	Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed (Associate Executive Pro-Vice Chancellor for Clinical Research)

“Innovators”/companies the project team are currently liaising with:

Google Life Sciences, Apple, Humetrix, Buddy Apps, ResCon, Cerner, Yecco, INR Star, Helicon, In Health Care, Leisure Vend, Vision 360, Arquiva, Care IS.

6. What next?

A stakeholder engagement event has been organised for 8th October 8.30am – 1pm at the Select Security Stadium. The purpose of this event is to allow stakeholders to engage with the companies and their “offer” to identify what will work well for that particular area.

7. Further information

Further updates will be provided in due course but if you want to know more or have any questions please contact Helen Cartwright (helencartwright@wirral.gov.uk) for further information. Alternatively you can visit the Champs website by using the following [link](#).