

Evidence and adoption Opportunity for innovations

Context

The West Midlands Academic Health Science Network (WMAHSN) has a defined process for addressing the region's health delivery needs and challenges through asking for outcome-focused innovation proposals that can be received and agreed with our partners throughout the year. This document provides you with an overview of the areas in which we are interested in seeking to pull innovation proposals.

WMAHSN criteria

Proposals will be shortlisted against the following criteria:

-  Regional scalability
-  Fit with WMAHSN priorities and business plan
-  Clear deliverables, outcomes measures and quality indicators
-  Evidence of support across the region
-  Patient/carer involvement
-  Consistency with other WMAHSN themes
-  Fit with the NHS Outcomes Framework
-  Evidence of additional investment.

Priority – Evidence and adoption

West Midlands-based NHS organisations, universities and industry conduct clinical research of global significance. The WMAHSN has recognised this by establishing a clinical trials (CT) enabling theme and is building on regional successes to date to foster an innovative, region-wide culture of optimum engagement in clinical trials at all stages of the translation path from research to practice. Collaboration between the WMAHSN and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), as well as other infrastructure/expertise, will provide the opportunity to accelerate the conduct of research and adoption of study findings aligned with the healthcare priorities of the West Midlands. An AHSN CT Advisory Group has been established, and is chaired by the Interim CT Theme Director, Dr Jeremy Kirk of the West Midlands Local Clinical Research Network (CRN) and Birmingham Children's Hospital.

To date, the WMAHSN has supported the development of Query Workbench, a digital tool to facilitate patient identification for primary and community care research (CT theme in partnership with the digital health theme).

For future programmes of work, the WMAHSN is particularly interested in the following four priorities to support the development of regional clinical research:

Cultural and capacity development

- Lack of capacity (often in terms of skilled workforce) and organisational cultures that do not embrace research limit the number of clinical studies that are undertaken across the West Midlands region. For example, the conduct of studies in smaller trusts with conflicting demands of resources can be challenging.

- This priority is looking for programmes of work related to education and training, workforce development, networking and other activities to address capacity and cultural limitations. Due to the close working relationship between the WMAHSN and Health Education West Midlands, programmes could potentially be undertaken in partnership between the organisations.

Industry engagement and growth

- Industry engagement is a key priority for the WMAHSN, with the region wanting to become the region of choice for industry research. The AHSN's seven point growth plan (www.wmahsn.org/growth-plan-launch/) aims to promote the region as the place to conduct life sciences and healthcare research, and enhance collaboration across the region/sectors. Particular challenges can exist when working with small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) conducting research.
- This priority is looking for programmes of work related to clinical research to support industry (of all sizes) and the AHSN's seven point growth plan, in terms of enhanced collaboration, regional promotion and other activities.

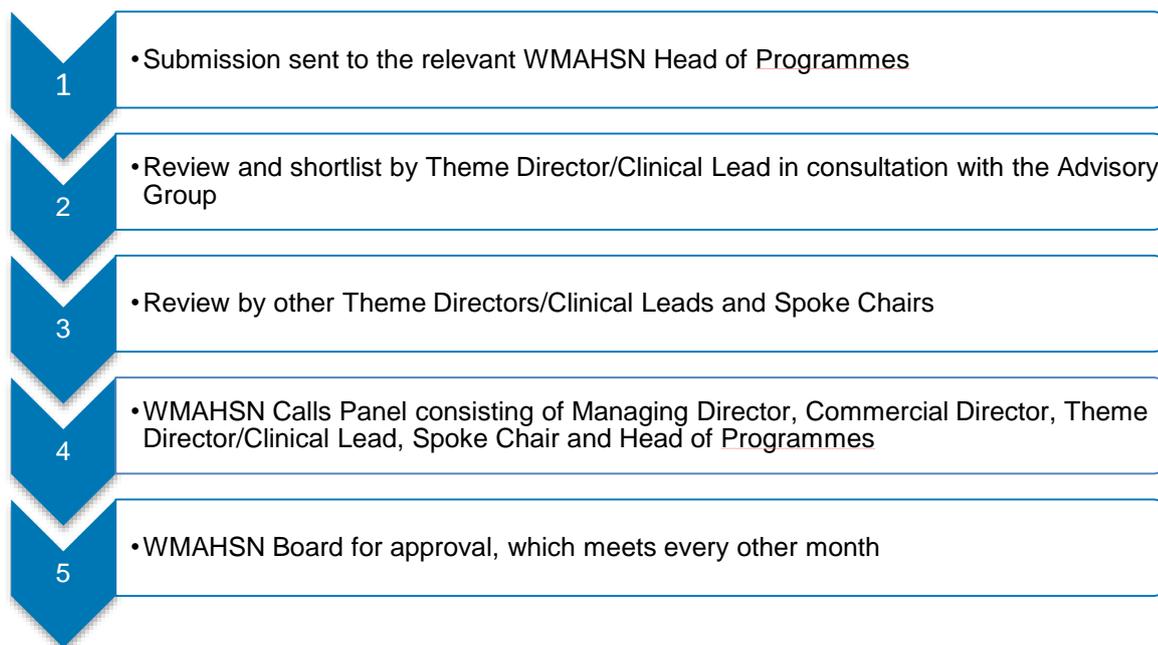
Digital

- Digital technologies are changing the nature of research, with real-world studies being undertaken and big data promising to revolutionise the field.
- This priority is looking for digital tools and approaches to support the accelerated delivery of health and social care research/evidence gathering via existing clinical approaches and new paradigms (e.g. real-world). Consideration should be given to the practical application of solutions and their integration into existing healthcare systems within the timeframe of programmes.

Cross-sector research

- Research across different sectors/settings, whether primary care to secondary care or social care and voluntary sectors is challenging. The WMAHSN would like to improve research across sectors.
- Programmes for this priority should work to improve cross sector working, potentially clarifying regional resources for research or linking in to the cultural and capacity development priority above.

Process



For any queries on the process please contact the relevant contact for assistance. A template for any submissions can be obtained from our website at www.wmahsn.org/get-involved/Opportunities or by emailing for a copy.

Theme	Contact	Email
Medicines optimisation and adherence Patient experience and feedback Wealth creation	Lucy Chatwin	lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org
Digital health Mental health Open data	Neil Mortimer	neil.mortimer@wmahsn.org
Education and workforce for the future Integrated care Long term conditions Evidence and adoption Wellness and healthy ageing	Louise Stewart Lucy Chatwin and Neil Mortimer	louise.stewart@wmahsn.org lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org neil.mortimer@wmahsn.org
Patient safety	Peter Jeffries	peter.jeffries@wmahsn.org

