

Open Data 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 – Open data

The open definition of open data is “data that can be freely used, reused and redistributed by anyone - subject only, at most, to the requirement to attribute and share alike”. Open data usage, by virtue of its ‘open’ nature has developed, in the public consciousness, a natural association with democratisation, accountability and transparency. These are particularly topical when applied to the expectations we have of our public services. So what are the implications for public healthcare delivery? How can we use open data to enhance it?

It is often thought that public healthcare issues must be centred around the NHS, so it should be both the provider of open data and the target of evaluation and judgement based upon what the data reveals. This may appear sound reasoning, in principle. Yet, it is relatively impractical and arguably narrow in reality. Firstly, NHS bodies are largely reticent to release data sets as they, not without good reason, see substantial risks: ethical, reputational, quality-based and so on. Secondly, even where health open data is present, it may not enable us to generate useful information and intelligence, as data is not always cleansed, aggregated and systematised across sources. Thirdly, healthcare is not delivered in a vacuum and its overall effectiveness relies substantially on numerous contextual factors, of which two particular nuances need to be borne in mind. Individually, each of us is responsible for our own health, not the NHS - the NHS is responsible for delivering healthcare services. As a society, we are rightly recognising that when asking healthcare questions we must consider the role of health and social care, and thus the role played by local authorities in delivering solutions.

For the reasons noted above, the open data and healthcare debate cannot - and should not - be restricted solely to using data to ‘pass or fail’ NHS services. It must include what we do

collaboratively as individuals, communities, local authorities and NHS organisations to maximise public health impacts and outcomes.

The most useful, realistic and collaborative stance is to think about finding ways of collating and analysing the open data that is already in the public domain to present information and intelligence needed by the NHS and local authorities to target health-related services efficiently and effectively. This approach sees open data not only as a means to measure healthcare performance. It is also a tool that can help us comprehend important contexts and conditions in which appropriate health and healthcare solutions can be crafted. This is the position from which we wish to launch our open data opportunity for innovations.

Scope

You are encouraged to create something that will: (1) provide evidence to NHS and/or local government departments to help them improve the targeting, development and delivery of their health-related services and/or (2) develop alternative solutions to public health challenges that will reduce the pressures on NHS and public sector health and social care services.

Whether you wish to put forward transformative business models and processes, or software solutions, or data modelling and triangulation toolkits, we are interested in the diverse ways in which you might use open data to generate health improvements and healthcare solutions within the West Midlands region. Please note that you may address a wider geography, but your innovation should have a realistic chance of impacting the area covered by the WMAHSN.

You may use any relevant open data sets available. Sources to consider might include, but not be limited to sets on: health and social care, transport, environment, built infrastructure, education, housing, crime and the national census.

Priorities

We are seeking innovative approaches to address the following:

Healthy ageing and preventative health

- How can active living and healthy ageing solutions for maintaining wellness and self-management be maximised in a community setting? Ageing starts from the moment we are born and not just in our later years. We are interested in harnessing solutions using open data that help to prevent or decelerate age-related conditions, through early intervention.
- We are also keen to engage open-data based approaches that help to maintain health and decrease illnesses in older people.

Enhancing access to health and wellbeing services for those at risk of economic exclusion among the working-age population

- How can NHS organisations and/or health and social care departments better target and deliver services for people who are at risk of long-term unemployment, or are suffering from the detrimental health and wellbeing effects of long-term unemployment?

Improving the effectiveness of rehabilitation through improved use of residential and public spaces

- Patients recovering from illness - physical and/or mental - are often set self-administering rehabilitation exercises, such as physiotherapy, mindfulness techniques or motivational incentivisation. To complement and increase the lasting effectiveness of these exercises, integration of good health practices into everyday life and the environments in which we live are key. With a wealth of open data available on residential and public space, how can these data sets be used to enhance the contexts in which individuals get better?

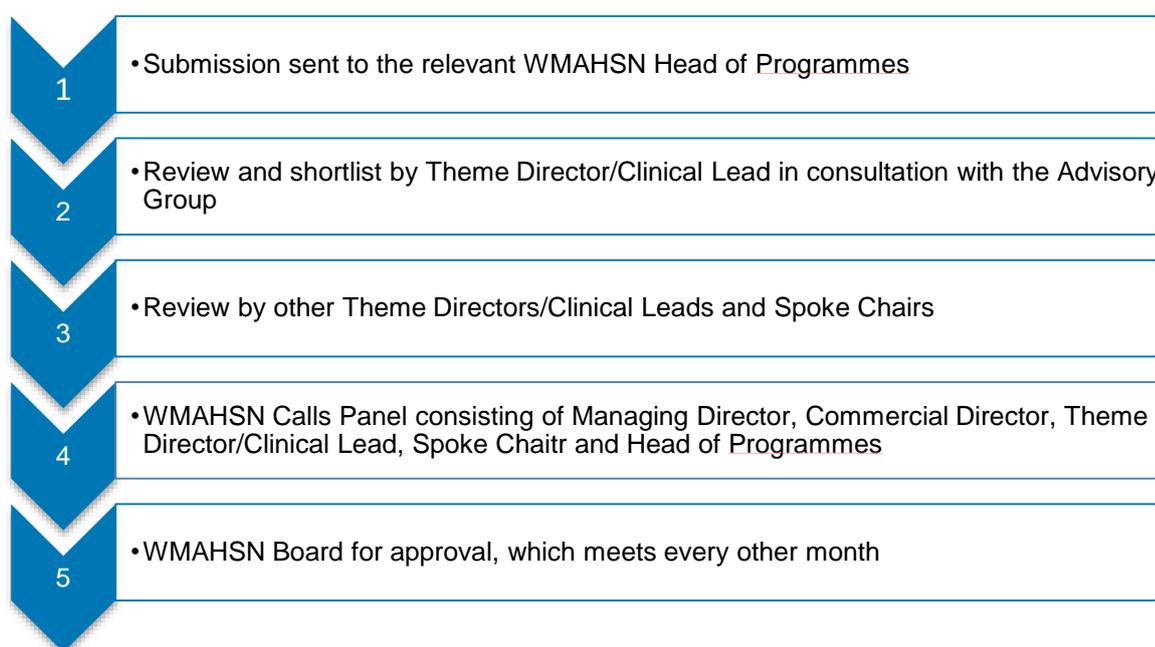
🌈 Increasing access to support for people at risk of developing mental health conditions

- One in four people in the UK experience mental health problems during the course of a typical year (source: Mind). The most common problems are linked to anxiety and depression. We are interested in supporting innovations that employ open data to provide intelligence on factors leading to the development of anxiety and depression to enable NHS organisations, health and social care departments and partners to design and deliver early-intervention strategies.

🌈 Maximising health and social care system efficiency and integrated care

- Open data has the potential to maximise health and social care system efficiency and improve the integration of care. We would encourage the submission of innovative approaches that use open data to increase system efficiency and integration, potentially as a joint programme with the AHSN integrated care enabling theme.

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	Lucy Chatwin	lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org
Patient experience and feedback		
Wealth creation		
Digital health	Neil Mortimer	neil.mortimer@wmahsn.org
Mental health		
Open data		

Education and workforce for the future	Louise Stewart	louise.stewart@wmahsn.org
Integrated care	Lucy Chatwin and Neil Mortimer	lucy.chatwin@wmahsn.org
Long term conditions		neil.mortimer@wmahsn.org
Evidence and adoption		
Wellness and healthy ageing		
Patient safety	Peter Jeffries	peter.jeffries@wmahsn.org