Manchester Connected Health Ecosystem Meeting

'How can Connected Health improve Patient Pathways'

7th October 2015

This report provides an overview of the Manchester Connected Health Ecosystem event held on 7th October 2015 at The Landing, MediaCityUK, Salford.

Attendance & Speakers

Professor Donal O'Donoghue (Medical Director), and Jane Macdonald (Associate Director of Nursing and Improvement) from our strategic partner organisation the Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network (GMAHSN), gave delegates an introduction to the priorities of the GMAHSN, together with a brief overview of its purpose and remit, as well as outlining two strategic priorities in Atrial Fibrillation and Medicines Optimisation.

Whilst there is an inevitable focus on health given the remit of the AHSNs member organisations, there is also a need to consider social care, as well as there being a greater focus on community care, and helping patients to be in control of their own healthcare.

Following from our last meeting in June on 'Devo Manc', the challenges and opportunities of operating within a devolved Health & Social Care environment were expanded upon further during the course of Donal and Jane's presentations, together with a more detailed look at the medical and financial costs of incorrectly taken medication – some 30-50% of medication is taken incorrectly across GM, with 5-8% of hospital admissions caused by preventable adverse reactions to medicines.

Jane emphasised the importance of patients taking medicine at the correct time to in order to receive the maximum benefit, but patients need support to ensure that their care is implemented properly. Taking drugs correctly can be more important than reducing the amount of medicine a patient takes - but it depends on the individual, and we need to provide the right patients with the right support, all of which takes place in a challenging and target driven environment.

Questions and discussion from the floor indicated that there was a real opportunity to utilise trusted carer networks to deliver savings and increased security for patients.

The devolution theme continued into the afternoon, as we were pleased to welcome Dr Clive Morris, director of Health Innovation Manchester (HIM), who updated those present on how the launch of HIM would help drive the adoption at pace and scale of innovation into routine practice, leveraging the

industrial, scientific, and academic base within GM. Part of this work is to develop an 'audit' of best practice, scoping out what is being done already across GM.

This was followed by John Ainsworth, Deputy Director of the [Health e-Research Centre](#), who introduced the work of Health North and the 'Connected Health Cities' initiative, which aims to develop a health system organised to optimise the delivery of care based on evidence produced through the delivery of that care – a learning health system.

The afternoon session of speakers was completed by Helen Wilding, Deputy Director, Business & Science Policy at the [New Economy](#), who called on industry partners to engage in the ERDF Science Commercialisation call to help grow GMs capacity and expertise in this sector.

All presentations are available [here](#).

Exhibiting companies

We were pleased to welcome exhibitors to The Landing, displaying a variety of connected health solutions and products. Exhibitors and delegates also had the opportunity to get involved in further discussions during the workshop and networking lunch.

Full details of the companies who participated are in Annex 4.

Workshop Output

Delegates discussed how connected health technology could help address Patient Safety / Medicines Optimisation and treatment for Vascular Disease, together with the broader issue of how the Ecosystem could best engage to deliver better outcomes.

A number of themes emerged, with particularly strong agreement over the need to ensure patients are empowered to take control of their own healthcare, and are co-producers in any solutions, together with carers, relatives and other support networks.

The issue of accessibility was also raised; healthcare organisations and partners in delivering healthcare solutions need to take account of the level of understanding that different patient groups have of technology, and design and implement accordingly.

Connected health solutions also require championing within organisations, to avoid going back to the same 'old' solutions and familiar providers as a default. This will need a culture change amongst staff to set aside time in their roles dedicated to engaging with new providers and technology.

The Ecosystem can help by helping to maintain momentum through networking events, information sharing, and brokering.

Thanks & Acknowledgements

The organisers (University of Manchester & GMAHSN) would like to thank The Landing, MediaCity, for their help in bringing the event together.

Similarly, our thanks go to our speakers on the day, for their time and effort in developing and delivering their presentations.

For those that attended, thank you for your input, and we look forward to welcoming you again at future events.

Attachments

The presentations contained in Annex 3 are circulated with permission, but remain the property of their respective organisations. Please seek the relevant permissions when reproducing, and credit accordingly.

Annex 1: Agenda

Annex 2: List of Attendees

Annex 3: Presentations

Annex 4: Marketplace Companies & Details

You can continue the conversation on Twitter using #McrEcosystem, or by viewing the day on Storify.