



Innovative Health Working Group  
Notes & Actions

**Date:** 18 December 2019

**Venue:** Baskerville House, Centenary Square, Birmingham

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**In Attendance:**

Alex Archibald	MI Health
Ameeta Retzer	Centre for Patient Reported Outcome Research
Bethan Bishop	Aliciyo & IHWG Chair
David Kidney	Public Health England
Elliot Marston	University of Birmingham
Emma Yeap	University of Warwick (Warwick Medical School)
Ewa Truchanowicz	Dignio
Hamid Zolfagharinia	Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust
Michelle Read	University of Birmingham
Paddie Murphy	West Midlands Academic Health Science Network (WMAHSN)
Pam Waddell	Innovation Alliance
Paul Tanner	Rical Group
Phillip Reay	Dignio
Ravi Kumar	Innovation Alliance
Sian Dunning	Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre (MDTEC)

**Apologies**

Bernadette Shenton	University of Wolverhampton
Iain Mansell	Innovation Alliance
Elizabeth Cromwell	University of Warwick
Sarah Patrick	Coventry University

**1. Welcome & Introductions: IHWG Chair, Bethan Bishop (Aliciyo)**

1.1 Bethan welcomed all to the meeting.

1.2 Bethan provided a brief update on the Innovative Health Working Group and its aim's and objectives.

**2 Minutes and Actions: IHWG Chair, Bethan Bishop (Aliciyo)**

2.1 Minutes were accepted by the meeting, and the following actions were moved to the next meeting:

- Ravi to meet Colin Davis at IET, Austin Court to discuss synergies between IET and IHWG.
- Ravi to share the recent Life Sciences report from Deloitte with the group.

- Elizabeth to share details of refresher events at IDH in 2020.
- Elizabeth to share details of Mental Health project for the Midlands Engine that Warwick are involved in. Elizabeth to present on this at a future IHWG meeting.
- Ravi to circulate dates of future IHWG meetings:
  - 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020: 10.00 – 13.00hrs
  - 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020: 10.00 – 13.00hrs
  - 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020: 10.00 – 13.00hrs
  - 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020: 14.00 – 17.00hrs

### **3 MDTEC project and its achievements, Siân Dunning, MDTEC**

3.1 Siân Dunning is the programme manager for Medical Devices Testing and Evaluation Centre (MD-TEC) and responsible for the £7.3M facility within the Institute of Translational Medicine. Siân has extensive experience in the management of projects, having worked directly and indirectly with European Regional Development Funding for the past 10 years.

3.2 Siân's presentation highlighted what MDTEC is about, the challenges the project faced, solutions to these challenges, and the future of MDTEC.

3.3 Siân highlighted the difficulties that SME's working in the NHS have in getting products to market, and how the MDTEC provides a great opportunity for SME's to interact with a range of clinicians, in simulated laboratories.

3.4 Moving forward, MDTEC will maintain a focus on SME's through other funds they are currently applying for, including: Innovate UK funds, University of Birmingham Demand Hub, Office of Life Sciences, and bringing in the digital aspect. As a result, MDTEC welcomes continued participation from SME's.

### **4 Patient-Reported Outcomes and placing the patient perspective at the heart of health research and NHS decision-making, Dr Ameeta Retzer (CPROR) and Dr Ewa Truchanowicz (Dignio)**

4.1 Ewa is the Managing Director of Dignio UK, and she provided a brief update on latest activities. Dignio is a connected healthcare company. Their user-centric platform provides relevant clinical data and offers dignity, control, and independence to patients: <https://dignio.com/en/>

4.2 Ameeta is a research fellow at the Institute of Applied Health Research (UoB), and is currently working on the Centre for Patient Reported Outcome Research (CPROR) project. This looks at optimizing the use of PROs (Patient Reported Outcomes) in clinical trials and routine care, to improve service delivery, enhance patient care and outcomes and ensure that the patient perspective is at the heart of health research and NHS decision-making.

#### **4.3 Actions**

- **Action:** CPROR is currently engaging with trialists, and they want to build a repository of intelligence to overcome barriers around Patient Reported Outcomes (PRO's). Ameeta welcomed engagement with any stakeholders who are interested in the project (all).

## 5 What is innovation in Public Health terms? What innovation would help improve the public's health? David Kidney (PHR)

- 5.1 David is Chief Executive of the UK Public Health Register. UK Public Health Register (UKPHR) is an independent, dedicated regulator for public health professionals in the United Kingdom, providing professional regulation to public health specialists, specialty registrars and practitioners from a variety of backgrounds, all of whom have a common core of knowledge, and skills.
- 5.2 The Register is particularly for those public health professionals who have no other regulatory body.
- 5.3 Question from Pam on how can we use the learnings from the public health sector as drivers for change? David indicated there was much scope for partnership working, and that carbon net zero is a good example of how air pollution can have an impact on health.
- 5.4 Pam mentioned the BETTER project that Iain Mansell has been working on, which looks at a shared experience project across the EU, which recently held a meeting in Birmingham. Ravi to share details of this meeting along with any outcomes.
- 5.5 Question from Ewa – regarding Clean Air Zones (CAZ), what evidence is there that these initiatives actually work – and that pollution is not displaced to further deprived areas through the introduction of CAZ zones? David indicated that there is an evidence base, although the introduction of CAZ's is a new area – it may take some time before qualitative data is gathered.
- 5.6 Alex raised point about focus not just being city-based evidence, and how recent studies showed that pollution in Leicester was actually originating in Birmingham. Highlighted that the scale of the problem is the issue.

### 5.7 Actions

- **Action:** Ravi to share details and outcomes from the recent BETTER project meeting held in Birmingham.

## 6 Elsewhere in the Innovation Alliance, Dr Pam Waddell (Innovation Alliance West Midlands)

- 6.1 Pam provided an update on recent activity across the Innovation Alliance in the West Midlands.
- 6.2 Funding has been approved by the WMCA, who have put forward facilitating resources – Its primary focus is to enable further resources to deliver the identified innovation activities in the West Midlands Local Industrial Strategy.
- 6.3 WMCA will be the accountable body, and have appointed an Innovation Director – Jamie Elliott. IAWM will continue to maintain its independence.
- 6.4 The IAWM will focus on building innovation teams / cluster organisations – which will remain work in progress.

6.5 Venturefest will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, at the NEC – and the IAWM team is currently looking for speakers, and welcomed suggestions from the group.

## 6.6 Actions

- **Action:** all to share suggestions of speakers and workshops for Venturefest to the IAWM team.

## 7 Round Table Discussion

### 7.1 Hamid Zolfagharinia:

- Provided update on challenge from a group of dieticians and issue of feeding patients whilst moving heavy feeding equipment. This has led to the development of a new innovative product that only weighs 9kg, and which overcomes this challenge. Hamid to share the details of this project.
- **Action:** Hamid to share details of feeding equipment innovation.

### 7.2 Emma Yeap

- New centre for Dementia Carers opening near Warwick at the end of the year. University of Warwick will be involved in this project from a research perspective, along with Worcester University. The focus of the centre will be to provide an all in one respite centre for dementia carers.
- Project is called – Dementia Carer's Count.

### 7.3 Dr Paddie Murphey

- West Midlands LIFE project which is run by the WMAHSN. Paddie is working on changing this project to a function for the WMAHSN. Especially as the WMAHSN is running a range of projects and Paddie wants to integrate WM Life into these projects where possible.
- West Midlands Health Technologies Cluster – recent advert for recruitment of a chair was placed, with interviews taking place over the coming weeks. Paddie is also conducting interviews with SME's across the West Midlands region, to gain a further insight into their sector perspective. Paddie is happy to share the feedback captures from SME's at a future meeting.

### 7.4 Alex Archibald

- Alex is currently working on organising a Midlands Wide event, with a focus on space technology, engineering, transport, and health. Alex to share details of this event once confirmed.
- Alex to share details of a forthcoming Midlands Health Alliance event,
- Digital Health Debate is taking place at the ITM on the 02 April 2020, at 0630am. So far 160 have registered to attend, Alex to share details.
- Artificial Intelligence and Health Data – Alex is currently working on this report and will share it with the group once it is signed off.
- Midlands Life Sciences Symposium is currently being prepared for 04/05 June (TBC). Up to 400 delegates expected, with workshops planned for the afternoon. Alex is open to suggestion around the workshops.
- **Action:** Alex to share details on Midland event once confirmed.
- **Action:** Alex to share details of a forthcoming Midlands Health Alliance event,

- **Action:** Alex to share details of Digital Health Debate event
- **Action:** Alex to share AI and Health Data report once signed off.
- **Action:** Alex to confirm date of the Midlands Life Sciences Symposium. All colleagues to share suggestions of workshops with Alex.

#### 7.5 Dr Elliot Marston

- The Birmingham Health Partners ecosystem – which will soon begin construction of Birmingham Life Sciences Park – has been awarded Life Sciences Opportunity Zone status by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). As one of only six sites in the country to receive this designation, Birmingham Health Partners (BHP) has been recognised by Government for its world-class research infrastructure. Elliot mentioned that a network of 153 hospitals are involved.
- Elliot mentioned a forthcoming med tech group meeting – Elliot to share the details.
- **Action:** Elliot to share details of the forthcoming med tech Group meeting.

#### 7.6 David Kidney

- UKPHR has been considering the level of assurance UKPHR will need to have in order to be able to register as public health practitioners those individuals who successfully complete the Level 6 Public Health Apprenticeship. This has recently been approved. Email UKPHR at [register@ukphr.org](mailto:register@ukphr.org) for further details.

8 **Date of Next meeting:** 22<sup>nd</sup> April – 10.00 – 13.00 hrs.