



Community Education Provider Networks



The South West Academic Health Science Network (SW AHSN) led the establishment of local partnerships of primary care organisations (Community Education Provider Networks or CEPNs), which coordinate education and support workforce planning in the South West.

Between 2016 and 2018, the SW AHSN provided vital expertise, stakeholder relations and management know-how to deliver the programme outcomes in collaboration with Health Education England.

The challenge

In 2015, Health Education England (HEE) issued a call for proposals to develop Community Education Provider Networks (CEPNs).

The intention for CEPNs was to deliver HEE's strategic aspiration of improving population health through the development of the current and future primary and community care workforce.

In the South West, general practice networks responded to the call and consequently the SW AHSN was commissioned to facilitate the set-up of CEPNs and to support them to become established in the region.

The SW AHSN's role was vital to help these new networks capitalise on existing primary care sustainability work streams and collaborate with local clinical commissioning groups (CCGs), sustainability and transformation partnerships (STPs) and local workforce action boards, specifically:

- Developing the network and its business model and governance
- Strategic and operational functions including project management, developing funding arrangements and a reporting function
- Spread and adoption through building strong partnerships and collaboration

The impact

CEPNs provide a new model for system leadership and infrastructure that individual services would be unable to manage and sustain. The SW AHSN successfully set up three CEPNs in the South West, aligned to Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, Devon and Somerset STP footprints.

Seventy-seven primary care leads have been engaged in the CEPNs through the process.

The development of collaborative networks of service and education providers, working together in a defined and coordinated manner, supported the delivery of population health outcomes and transformed the landscape of primary care.

Adoption and spread

The role of the SW AHSN was pivotal in the spread and adoption of this national HEE initiative. Because the SW AHSN was already strongly linked in with stakeholders working in primary and community care, it was able to complete the project well within the project timeframe, and ensure they were embedded and sustainable.

Plans for the future

The SW AHSN has since worked in a partnership with HEE South West and West of England AHSN to support the spread of best practice and to ensure consistency of delivery of the CEPN objectives across the wider region. The CEPNs regional network has enabled shared learning and dissemination of best practice, as well as connecting clinicians to other people and networks and to resources that can support improvement and innovation in health and care.

'The SW AHSN is in a unique position to bring organisations together and to spread good practice as an honest broker in managing the six training hub projects in the South West. From the HEE South West viewpoint, having a consistent approach and identified project leadership via the SW AHSN has been very valuable.'

— Paul Thomas, Head of School of Primary Care (Peninsula), Health Education England South West

For more information call **01392 247903** or email **info@swahsn.com**