



## Welcome to the South West Academic Health Science Network June 2021 Newsletter



### A message from our Chief Executive Officer, Jon Siddall

I joined the South West AHSN just over one year ago, driven by a belief in the unique role and potential of AHSNs to improve lives through innovation.

The last few months have demonstrated that our role and contribution to our local health and care system is perhaps more relevant now than ever before.

The last year has been one of huge pressure for our partners and rapid change has become the norm for teams across the health and care system. I'm incredibly proud of our team's work supporting partners across the region in such a

challenging context. We've adapted our work in response to the pandemic, using our experience in the adoption and spread of innovation to support the roll-out of remote management of COVID-19 patients, optimise the delivery of the vaccination programme in Devon and capture the learning from changes during the pandemic using rapid-cycle learning.

We've also kept an eye on the future; in early 2021 we approved our new five-year strategy focused on harnessing our experience in spreading innovation to make improvements to one of the most significant issues for our region in the years ahead – health equity. There will be more to follow on our plans for the next few years in the months ahead, including our first regional health equity programme focused on perinatal care mentioned below.

Our latest newsletter shares a few examples of things we've been working on for the last few months, alongside work coming up in the months ahead. I hope you enjoying reading about our work and please do [get in touch](#) with our team if you wish to find out more.



## Optimising Devon vaccinations roll-out

At the end of last year, we were asked to support Devon ICS to optimise COVID-19 vaccinations roll-out, including improvement tools and learning approaches to enable the system to vaccinate as many citizens as possible. These learnings were shared with a range of stakeholders in the region and beyond.

***Read more in our case study: [Optimising the Devon Primary Care COVID-19 vaccination programme.](#)***

# Reducing pressure on emergency services via Think 111 First

[Think 111 First](#) was the first in a series of collaborative projects with Devon ICS. We supported the rollout of the national programme across the county. The South West AHSN set up learning and improvement 'huddles', and objective-setting and communications workshops to support the programme board and practitioners. Learning from this work fed into our support of the Devon vaccination programme; learning activities with Nightingale Hospital Exeter (NHE); and continues to feed into projects planned for 2021/22.

*For more about our support to ICSs in the South West, please contact [info@swahsn.com](mailto:info@swahsn.com).*

## Virtual Wards and COVID Oximetry @home

Since December 2020 we have supported the rapid mobilisation and scale-up of [COVID Oximetry @home](#), also called 'COVID Virtual Wards', to enable remote monitoring of COVID-19 patients using pulse oximeters, reducing the number of patients requiring hospital admission. Working with other Academic Health Science Networks, we formed a regional collaborative forum to cascade national and regional programme updates, as well as to facilitate evaluation and shared learning across Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. As of the end of March 2021, over 888 people benefited from COVID Oximetry @home and COVID Virtual Wards programmes across the three counties.

*Please contact our Patient Safety [Patient Safety Team](#) if you'd like to find out more.*

## Tackling health inequalities via place-based approaches

Throughout the pandemic, we have supported a number of social prescribing testbeds to deepen their work, connecting primary care and community responses aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals and tackling health inequalities. This work included youth engagement in partnership with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) by One Northern Devon; digitally-enabled provision in St Austell; and peer-to-peer digital training for vulnerable community members in Frome.



*Read more about our work and download our [Social Prescribing Insights Report](#) [here](#).*

## The AHSN Reset Report - informing NHS leaders through the next phase of the pandemic

A report capturing the AHSN experience during the coronavirus pandemic has been published as part of the AHSN's Health and Care Reset Campaign, to inform leaders across the NHS, as it enters the next phase of the pandemic response. The AHSN Network Health and Care Reset Campaign was launched to collate learning and insight from uncovering and spreading innovations and new ways of working during the pandemic. Although focused on the experience during the

pandemic, the report looks to the future by offering recommendations based upon lessons learnt during the pandemic to help inform the health and care system of the future.

*Find out more and read the AHSN Network Reset Report [here](#).*

## Improving patient safety



## Identifying, monitoring and escalating deteriorating patients

As part of our [Managing Deteriorating Patients Safety Improvement Programme](#) (ManDetSIP), via the [Patient Safety Collaborative](#), last month we held our first [National Early Warning Score](#) (NEWS) 2 event in a series of four. We were joined by seven teams from across our region who joined other experts presenting the latest research on behaviour change and the use of NEWS2 to identify, monitor and escalate deteriorating patients. Former patient at Yeovil District Hospital, now sepsis awareness advocate, Becki, shared her story with us. You can watch the video [here](#).

Interested in collaboration across the South West to identify, learn and share best practice for managing deterioration? *Find out more and sign up for our first Deteriorating Patient Safety Network Workshop on 30 June [here](#).*

## QI in Maternity and Neonatal



November 2021

## Silver Quality Improvement (QI) & Culture training



South West  
Academic Health  
Science Network

This coming November, we will deliver our Silver Quality Improvement (QI) & Culture training for healthcare teams with an early-stage idea or a project which is ready to spread. The programme is open to teams of two to five people working in healthcare who currently have, or are about to start, a real-world QI project. Special consideration will be given to teams involving Midwives, Neonatal Nurses, Obstetricians and Neonatologists working across Perinatal workstreams.

*You can access more information and sign up [here](#). The deadline for registration is 30 July.*

## Supporting improved care for 370 babies in 2020/21

The [Perinatal Excellence to Reduce Injury in Premature Birth](#) (PERIPrem) programme is delivered by the South West and West of England AHSNs. The programme 'bundle' consists of numerous interventions that have significant impact on brain injury and mortality rates amongst babies born prematurely – a priority of the NHS Long Term Plan. Watch this helpful [explainer video](#) to find out more. Although the active phase of the nine-month PERIPrem quality improvement project has now ended, this work will continue to be supported via

our Maternity and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme (MatNeoSIP) - read more [here](#).

*You can access our April Maternal and Neonatal Safety Improvement Programme (MatNeoSIP) newsletter [here](#) and sign up for future newsletters [here](#).*

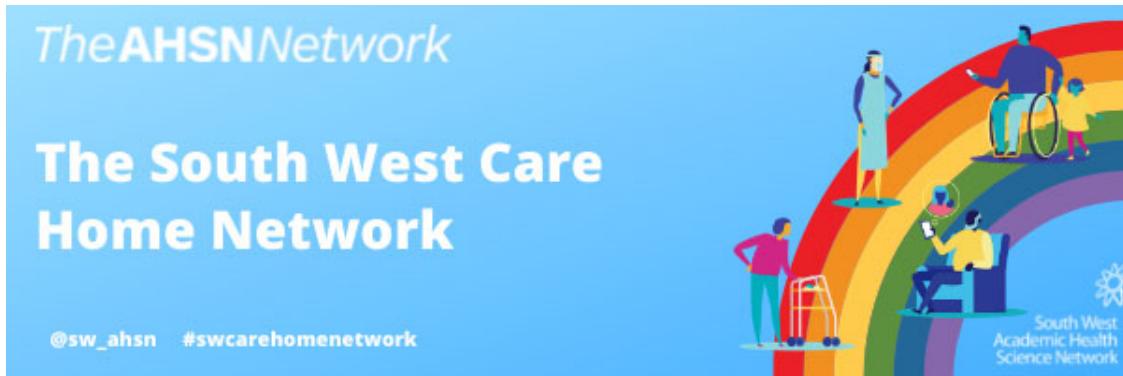
## **Sign up for our PERIPrem Magnesium Sulphate Webinar**

Optimally timed Magnesium Sulphate administration (MgSO<sub>4</sub>) prior to delivery, can reduce the risk of brain injury and cerebral palsy for preterm babies. Thanks to the [PReCePT programme](#), part of the PERIPrem programme, the MgSO<sub>4</sub> uptake rate was at 85.7% for 2020/2021, which is above the national target! Over 2500 eligible mothers received MgSO<sub>4</sub>, over 600 more compared to 2017. Watch a beautiful story [here](#) about how PReCePT brightened the future of a family in our region, as well as helping to connect midwives across the South West.

*To find out more, [sign up to the PERIPrem Magnesium Sulphate Webinar](#) on 30 June and follow [@PERIPrem](#), [@MatNeoSIP](#) and [@SWPatientSafety](#) for updates on the programme.*

## **South West AHSN Care Home Network launched**





Last month, the South West AHSN's Patient Safety Team hosted the first [South West Care Home Network](#). The event was attended by more than 148 representatives from across our region's adult and social care sector, including care homes, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), local councils and Primary Care Networks (PCNs). During the event, we announced the winners of the Care Home Excellence Award and COVID Heroes Award - to celebrate the amazing work of care homes during the pandemic. You can watch the videos [here](#). If you missed the launch, you can read our event wrap-up email [here](#).

***Sign up for our next event on 14 September [here](#) and don't forget to nominate for our next awards: Care Home Safety Culture Award and Care Home Health & Wellbeing Award [here](#).***



## **Review of spread and adoption approaches across the AHSN Network**

Last month saw the launch of the Network-wide report: [Review of spread and adoption approaches across the AHSN Network](#). Funded by the AHSN Network and NHS England, the report provides the first aggregated view of approaches



and challenges to spread and adoption across the AHSN Network with the aim of understanding and harnessing collective experience and expertise. The South West AHSN was selected as a study partner via a tender process, along with Wessex AHSN, the Centre for Healthcare Innovation Research (CHIR) and City University of London (UCL).

## **New funding available for treating severe asthma**

We're pleased to announce that £129,000 funding has been awarded for the treatment of severe asthma. Funding is available to the entire South West of England, from Cornwall to Swindon, following a successful bid to the [Pathway Transformation Fund](#) (PTF), submitted in collaboration with the West of England AHSN, working alongside CCGs and Acute Trusts. Work will now begin in partnership with all hospitals in the region to create a common pathway for managing asthma care, streamlining the process of referral to severe asthma centres and access to asthma biologic therapy.

[Asthma biologics](#) is part of the [Rapid Uptake Products \(RUP\) programme](#) for 2021/2022, designed to support stronger adoption and spread of proven innovations. It identifies and supports products with NICE approval that support the NHS Long Term Plan's key clinical priorities, but have lower than expected uptake to date. The PTF is available to help NHS organisations integrate selected Rapid Uptake Products into everyday practices and to overcome barriers to deploying them.

***For more information, please contact the South West AHSN's [Steve Johnson-Wood](#).***

## **Championing Cornwall's e-health innovators**

We recently held our fourth Investment Committee for our EPIC Challenge Fund in partnership with University of Plymouth. Awards have been made to the following organisations since the start of this year: [Help at Hand](#) community information app by [Patientcards](#); [TouchByte](#) facial recognition apps; Prometheus; [Neap](#) diabetes management app; [Thoughttune](#) mental health and addiction app; [Patient Experience Library](#) national evidence base and archive for patient experience; [Flowmoco](#) web and mobile app developers; [Joy](#) social prescribing app; Evexia's LifeAide, which supports and tracks wellbeing through technology; and [Good With](#).

Consisting of members from Plymouth University, South West Connect, Health Watch Cornwall, Kernow Health CIC, Cornwall Council, as well as South West AHSN, the fund is focused on supporting Cornwall based SMEs develop new e-health technologies that could transform the lives of patients and citizens living in Cornwall. EPIC funding is running until summer/autumn 2023. Grants vary in value but £375,000 of funding is committed over three years.

*More information about EPIC can be found [here](#) and [here](#).*

## **Improving health equity in perinatal health and care**

Perinatal health and care is the first of our new regional programmes as part of our new long-term strategy focusing on improving health equity. With the South West health and care system and service users, we are seeking to identify and support projects that will close gaps in health equity in the region for families during pregnancy and babies up to a year old. This could be focusing on certain groups to improve their access or quality of care, supporting their opportunities for healthy lives, and empowering people to be able to look after themselves where appropriate. To help inform our programme development and project selection, we'd love to hear from you if you are interested in this emerging area of

work, or have experience or expertise to share from your work with families or babies or as a service user. **Please get in touch via [info@swahsn.com](mailto:info@swahsn.com).**

## Domiciliary Care Workforce Challenge update

At the end of May we closed the [Domiciliary Care Workforce Challenge](#). Working with the West of England AHSN and [Health Education England South West](#) we sought proven innovations to improve the capacity, capability and wellbeing of the domiciliary care workforce. We received a number of high-quality applications, including solutions for communication, rostering, care management, wellbeing, training, and remote care. Last week, shortlisted companies took part in a Dragon's Den style event to present their elevator pitch and respond to questions from a panel. **We look forward to sharing more information with you soon – watch this space!**



## Could you be our new Chair?

We are currently recruiting for a new Chair to lead the South West AHSN. We are seeking an ambitious and driven individual to guide the implementation of our new strategy. The Chair leads our Board and is ultimately accountable for ensuring the Board has the strategy, culture, processes and people to deliver our purpose.

The successful candidate will be passionate about improving health equity and have demonstrable experience growing organisations that work at the interface of public, commercial, academic and community sectors.

For further details and for information about how to apply, please see the [SW AHSN - Chair - Job Pack](#). For a conversation about the role, please contact [Carmel Gibbons](#) at Odgers Berndtson (landline: 020 7529 1128 / mobile: 07793529517). The deadline for applications is 9am on 28 June.

**Connect with us and join the conversation:**



This email is sent to our staff, members, affiliates and those who have expressed an interest in our work.

South West Academic Health Science Network, Vantage Point, Pynes Hill, Exeter, Devon EX2 5FD,  
United Kingdom

[Unsubscribe](#) [Manage preferences](#)