

Introduction to Yorkshire & Humber Digital Health & Wellbeing Ecosystem

The Yorkshire & Humber Digital Health and Wellbeing Ecosystem will be holding its fifth meeting as a takeover by the People Drive Digital Festival on 29th November and we hope you will use this event to learn more about its work.

Launched by the Yorkshire & Humber Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) in December 2015, the Yorkshire & Humber Digital Health and Wellbeing Ecosystem brings together partners from health and social care, academia, industry, the voluntary sector and patient organisations with the shared aim of increasing the uptake of digital health technology and in turn empowering patients and enhancing their care.



It is a member of the [ECHAlliance](#) International Network of Permanent Ecosystems, a unique partnership of organisations, companies and government bodies to transform healthcare delivery and create economic benefits.



With a direct presence in more than 25 countries including Europe, USA, Canada and China, the ECHAlliance members develop innovative solutions around mobile health, chronic diseases, active and healthy ageing, Internet of Things, wearables, personalised medicine, genomics and Big Data.

The Yorkshire & Humber Digital Health and Wellbeing Ecosystem includes an online networking community supplemented with quarterly themed meetings where members review current healthcare challenges and discuss ways in which digital technology can help address them. Meetings are regularly attended by a region wide audience who are invited to take part in interactive workshops and hear presentations from across the health and care system including academics, industry and patient representatives. Previous key note speakers have included:

- Lindsey Fallow, Sue Sibbald and Rob Moriaty who discussed their personal experience of using digital apps and technology to help manage multiple health conditions.
- Helen Bourner, Director of Strategy and Partnerships at Airedale NHS Foundation Trust, who provided an insight into the work being done to integrate care in Bradford and Airedale.
- Rob Webster, Chief Executive of South Yorkshire Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust and former Chief Executive of the NHS Confederation, who helped explain the new Sustainability and Transformation Plans currently being drawn up by health and care systems to deliver NHS England's Five Year Forward View
- Roz Davies from Recovery Enterprises who shared the findings of a Patients as Partners event that explored how to create the right environment for people with long term conditions to establish positive partnerships in the health and care system

- Brian O'Connor, Chair of the European Connected Health Ecosystem, who spoke about the widespread benefits of sharing learning and best practice on an international footprint

The Yorkshire and Humber Digital Health and Wellbeing Ecosystem is also supported by the Digital Citizen Network [#YHDigitalCitizen](#), which is helping to create a community between patients, members of the public and organisations with an interest in digital health and the Yorkshire and Humber Digital Health and Wellbeing Expert Advisory Board.

#YHDigitalCitizen is delivered in partnership with [mHabitat](#) and is part of the Yorkshire & Humber AHSN's commitment to integrating Public and Patient Involvement (PPI) into our frontline work and increase the power of 'patient pull' to accelerate the spread and adoption of new technologies and models of care.

Here's a short [video](#) giving a feel for the ethos of the ecosystem.

A future date for the diary is our sixth meeting on Tuesday 14th March 2017. Information about the agenda and registration details will be announced in December.

Here's what some of the delegates who attended our September Digital Health and Wellbeing Ecosystem meeting in Harrogate had to say:

Delyth James, Consultant Psychiatrist, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

"I would really encourage clinicians to attend the Ecosystem meetings to feed into the debate about how technology can help improve services for patients. I hope more organisations will release clinicians to attend events like this as they provide a great forum where we can all learn from each other."

Richard Main, Connected Care Team at Wakefield Clinical Commissioning Group

"The Digital Ecosystem meetings allow us to see what is out there and give us insight into what we could expect providers to put forward for commissioning.

"The value in this is the Ecosystem meetings are not sales-type, they are focused conversations about services to gain insight from the speakers and other delegates – this is an invaluable source of knowledge."

Tony Harwood, Project Manager, South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

"The Ecosystem meetings provide a great opportunity to network and gain an understanding of what other people are doing and what their experiences have been. It's also interesting to see the exhibitors and get the chance to talk to them about their services."