

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DIGITAL COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE (CHSD COP)

(11) January –February 2025



COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE FOCUS – 11TH FEBRUARY

This month we featured the following presentations:

1. Digital elements of the [2025-26 priorities and operational planning guidance](#) and how they may apply in community settings
2. Angela Wood discussed highlights from the Lord Darzi report in relation to community and digital workstreams - see [presentation](#)
3. Poll of participants regarding next financial year's priorities for pathway digitisation (see 'Poll' below)
4. An updated presentation on the CHS digital strategy, which has now been endorsed by the Living and Ageing Well Partnership, the Digital Delivery Group and the Digital Strategy & Innovation Group. Following executive approval, the strategy will be hosted on the ICB website.

REPRESENTATION
Attendance: 10
Including 3 trusts

Those who missed the session are welcome to access the recording which will be posted on our [CHSD CoP page](#) on frailtyicare.org.uk as soon as the hosted file becomes available.

Poll

The attendees identified the following priorities for next year – with the top two responses from each listed below. Further details and opportunities will be explored from April onwards into the new financial year. Do you agree or do you have different priorities? Please get in touch and let us know.

Which condition-specific pathways could be your priorities to digitise in the next year

Frailty; wound care

What patient care priorities would you like to improve digitally next year?

Remote monitoring capabilities; communication

What workforce priorities would you like to improve digitally next year?

Digital tools and solutions; connectivity

What other organisation priorities would you like to improve digitally next year?

Efficiency; Sustainability

What have we missed? Other digital opportunities / focus for next year

Interoperability with acute sector and care providers; improving restrictive practices

UPDATED TERMS OF REFERENCE – FEATURING VCFSE ORGANISATIONS

Along with the link to this newsletter, members of our CoP have received an updated Terms of Reference document. This includes links to the websites of organisations represented by members of our expanding VCFSE contingent, which we've also shared below. In line with the updated guidance from NHS England, this expanded acronym for the sector, including our local charities, is now Voluntary, Community, *Faith* and Social Enterprise.

These organisations deliver such great support for our population in a diverse range of settings, much of which is linked to the health aspect of our workstream through their NHS funded contract delivery. You can see the great work of our four members on their websites linked to below and we welcome Juliet as our newest member:

- Sarah French, Chief Executive - [Sense Ability Matters](#) / [VONNE](#);
- Adam Brougham, Strategic Director - [Wearerise](#) / [VONNE](#)
- Paul Savage, CEO - [North East Podiatry](#)
- Juliet Short, Head of Operations - [Bell View](#)

The following news update from Sense Ability Matters, featuring technology in a community setting caught our attention. Sarah French, CEO, added:

Referrals for our digital/ technology support can be made from anywhere - most of our referrals come from hospital eye services and adult social care, and we'd love to see more from GPs and optometrists. The project is available to all disabled adults, including those with sensory loss, and people with long term health conditions.

New funding allows SAM to bring the latest tech to our service users

We are delighted to announce that SAM has secured new funding which will make a huge difference to the people we support. Thanks to a generous grant of £9,051 from The Pargiter Trust at the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, we're launching a digital support programme for disabled and sensory-impaired individuals aged 65 and over in Gateshead and South Tyneside. This exciting project will commence in Spring 2025, with more details to follow soon. If you'd like to be the first to hear more, get in touch at contactus@wearesam.org.uk.

But that's not all! We're thrilled to share that we've also received funding from the Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland to enhance our community demonstration and lending library with cutting-edge digital equipment. Thanks to this grant, we have acquired:

Hark AI Reader: This innovative device scans printed text and reads it aloud using AI-generated speech, providing vital support for individuals with a visual impairment.

Smart Cane 2: A sleek, robust mobility aid featuring obstacle detection, voice assistance, and advanced navigation tools which help the user get around safely and confidently and ultimately be more independent.



CONTACT US

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