WIG
The Whitehall & Industry Group
connecting the sectors

'Technology & Digital' Series
Reshaping Health and Social Care with Data
24 August, 2021

Expert Insight

Following the recent announcement of a new health and social care data strategy, we were joined by Simon Madden, Director of Policy & Strategy at NHSX, to share some of the key thinking behind the strategy and to discuss next steps. He focused on three key areas:
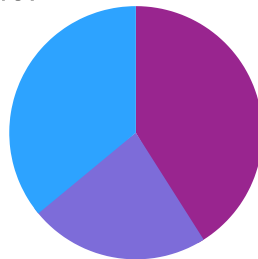
- The power of data to improve outcomes for patients and service users: Simon outlined how everything we know about treating and caring for people today, has been learnt from caring for previous patients. Putting the right information in the hands of healthcare professionals at the right time, gives them the information they need to save lives. There is now greater transparency and public awareness of the role that their own data plays in improving the health and social care system

- Lessons learnt from the response to the COVID-19 pandemic: Simon spoke to how the pandemic has revolutionised the way we use health and adult social care data. The public has seen how data has been used to improve decision making at local, regional, and national levels, and that it is our duty to ensure the benefits and lessons learnt from the pandemic response are not lost

- Locking in beneficial change: To continue the momentum around better use of data, Simon outlined the need to build staff, and public confidence that the system is trustworthy. To do so, the improvements in data sharing, access, and use prompted by COVID-19, must become business as usual across the system. NHSX wants to ensure the sector is increasingly able to harness data safely, securely, ethically, and effectively for the benefit of patients and the system as a whole

Cross-sector Opinion

150 WIG members from across the sectors tuned in live, we asked them: what is the biggest data sharing challenge faced by organisations from across the sectors?

Trust
36%

Data standardisation
41%

Adhering to laws and regulations
23%

Our members' questions

The attendees raised a number of important questions, including:

- How is NHSX working together with local authorities to gather or share data?
- What work is NHSX planning to do with education providers, and by extension professional regulators, on embedding data skills in healthcare curricula?
- How will you gather front line, and patient/service user experience to drive innovation to simplify policy & process to enhance data sharing?
- Will NHSX have some levers to hold system providers to account for provision of standards in their systems?

WIG members can listen to Simon's presentation here
To see our full programme of webinars, visit www.wig.co.uk