

## Yorkshire & Humber Innovation Champion Network

The Yorkshire and Humber Academic Health Science Network (Yorkshire & Humber AHSN) and Medipex have established a network of Innovation Champions throughout the region. The Innovation Champion Network aims to:

- Empower individuals to promote and support innovative activities and develop an innovation culture within their NHS Organisations;
- Encourage colleagues to come forward with their new and innovative ideas and inventions; and,
- Promote the spread and adoption of new best practice and new technologies between NHS organisations

The Network is supported by formal, case study-led training; workshops; a secure interactive web-forum and the experienced Medipex and Yorkshire & Humber AHSN staff.

The network was launched in early 2014 and has grown to around 60 active Innovation Champions across a range of NHS organisations including Acute, Mental Health, Community and CCGs.

**There is no charge to join the Innovation Champion Network for any NHS organisation that is a member of the Yorkshire & Humber AHSN and/or Medipex.**

### Why does the NHS need Innovation Champions?

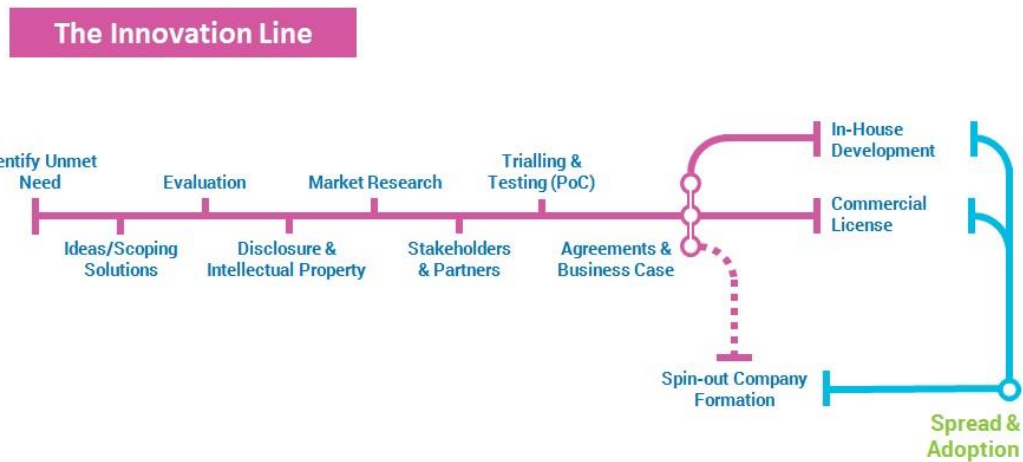
Thousands of novel, good ideas are generated by NHS employees every day across the UK, which have the potential to improve patient care and/or run services more efficiently. These ideas need to be carefully managed through the 'Innovation Line' development pathway, which often requires specialist help.

The Medipex team can provide hands-on assistance with such activities, but the team need innovative people to tell them about their ideas first! Innovation Champions can:

- Promote the awareness of the importance and benefits of protecting/developing innovative new ideas created by staff;
- Work with senior management, Medipex and the Yorkshire & Humber AHSN to develop a strategy to promote a culture of innovation; and
- Become the first 'point of contact' for their colleagues to come to with new ideas.

### Benefits of the Innovation Champion Network for Individuals and Organisations

The more clinical areas that have an Innovation Champion, the more chances that the next great new medical breakthrough could be uncovered. From a commissioner perspective, having Innovation Champions with an understanding of IP and product development and collaborating within a network enables potential identification of new solutions for care pathways.



### Why become an Innovation Champion?

Innovation Champions are people who have an interest and passion for developing or implementing new ideas to improve services for patient benefit (and indeed anything new and innovative that allows staff to provide more efficient and safer patient care). They are drawn from a variety of disciplines and areas of expertise (for example nurses, executive directors, clinicians, R&D, business development managers). Additionally, effective Innovation Champions have:

- An appreciation of the value of opportunities to network with their peers in other organisations; and
- Strong ability to build relationships with people at all levels, resilience and flexibility.

As part of becoming an Innovation Champion, Medipex and Yorkshire & Humber AHSN provide a one day course in IP and the essentials of effective innovation management. Additionally, becoming an Innovation Champion provides:

- Opportunities for personal development;
- Access to a range of networking events and workshops;
- Access to a secure web portal for opportunities, resources, forums etc.;
- Access to national Champion Networks to share learning and experiences and make new connections;
- Rapid access to Medipex support for IP advice, development of innovation strategies and project management for new ideas; and
- Access to a wealth of learning and opportunities via the AHSN regional and national network

Further information on the Yorkshire & Humber Innovation Champion Network can be obtained from:

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