

A chat with ... Paula Rylatt

South West Yorkshire Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust

What inspired you to become an Innovation Champion?

I have always been interested in quality improvement and innovation- and am lucky enough to say that this is now my job! Becoming an innovation champion was a natural fit for me - I am keen to support the agenda generally and my role is to support others with their developments, and also to support those who support others!

What have you done to spread the word about innovation around your organisation?

Within SWYPFT we are developing our strategic approach for innovating to improve. We are launching a social innovation platform to support our innovation activity and will be crowdsourcing our ideas and solutions - both openly and in response to specific strategic priorities. We are developing an internal network of innovation champions who are supporting our developing approach, and Medipex and the Yorkshire & Humber AHSN are keen to support us with this. We have lots of communication methods including drop in sessions and RCT's (randomized coffee trials), plus lots of quality improvement training and learning opportunities for all.



How have you used the Innovation Champion Network to connect with Innovation Champions in other NHS organisations?

I have met several champions from other organisations through the training and learning events such as the digital skills workshop. It's great to hear about what other people are doing as this gives me lots of food for thought!

What innovative ideas have you supported in your organisation since becoming an Innovation Champion?

We have lots of fab stuff in our organisation that people are busy sharing with each other- this has resulted in other people pinching ideas and just getting on with it! We also have some new service innovations that we are supporting such as a forensic volunteering pilot, Watsu therapy, and Nature in Mind eco therapy, plus potential digital app developments for example!

How are these innovation projects progressing?

Some are 'Just Do It's' and are underway, some require funding support, others some Cilla Black style input (marrying people up with who and what they need!) and other things require more exploration.

What barriers have you faced and how have you overcome them?

One of our objectives is to encourage people to share and spread the good that they do, to quote Sir Bruce Keogh; "many of the problems which we suffer in the NHS are solvable if we use the intellectual capital of the 1.4 million people who work in the service. That's where the solution lies."

(Sir Bruce Keogh, National Medical Director NHS England, 29 May 2013). For lots of different reasons people can be reluctant to share what they do- confidence, fear, culture, a humble nature and so on. We are keen to create a culture of sharing not only to spread the good, the learning, and developmental innovation, but also to kick start new behaviours around shouting up and shouting out!

What's your proudest moment from being an Innovation Champion?

As someone with an ENFJ type personality (MBTI) I get my kicks out of seeing others do well. Most recently, some of our champions presented at a quality improvement conference and rocked the room - this does it for me!

What are you planning next?

We are busy developing our strategy and part this plays in the whole system. This can be big stuff! Day to day however, we are planning more of the same - to encourage more people to get involved - to provide more training and support to develop internal capability for innovation and improvement work, and to support our champions and our staff with their ideas and developments - big or small.

What advice would you give to someone interested in joining the network?

The network is new to us, however I can see clear benefits of this already. Some in terms of training and learning activity, but mostly, in terms of having like-minded people to speak to.