

The Art of the possible: How innovation can improve health and care for children and young people in Surrey

A spotlight on Surrey: New innovations to support children and young people health and wellbeing



In November 2022, Kent Surrey Sussex Academic Health Science Network (KSS AHSN) co-hosted a Children and Young People's (CYP) Innovation Roadshow with Surrey Heartlands ICS and Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust.

The event was held at the Surrey Heartlands Health Tech Accelerator in Guildford. Young Innovation Ambassadors from Surrey User Voice and Participation team supported the event to ensure that young people remained at the centre of discussion. The aim of the roadshow was to **'Showcase innovations available to support work with children and young people – the art of the possible'**.

Through a series of five minute virtual pitches, a selection of innovators showcased their products and services aimed at improving health and care for children and young people.

48 delegates attended the event and were made up of commissioners and system leaders from the integrated care system (ICS), local authority, mental health trusts, acute trusts, community services and third sector organisations.

Although this session was not geared towards procurement of any innovations presented, it provided examples of the solutions that can be used to improve patient outcomes for CYP in Surrey. It also provided innovators an opportunity to hear the kinds of queries and criteria that their solutions need to speak to, such as ensuring platforms work with diversity in mind, and whether apps designed for younger children could also help teenagers.



The innovators covered the following areas:

1. Helping address waiting list pressures for allied healthcare professionals such as speech and language (Kids Speech Lab)
2. Providing education for CYP on hospital procedures to reduce anxiety and improve success rate of operations going ahead (Little Journey)
3. Building resilience for children, families and primary school staff through weekly classroom sessions and online support (myHappyMind)
4. Use of avatars and other virtual reality techniques to support children with health issues, through a co-development opportunity (Orbital)
5. Providing a searchable database of approved counsellors for schools and other CYP organisations to access to meet CYP needs and remove the cost of agency fees (TAC Access)

<p>Focus on Early Support/intervention</p> <p>Child at centre of decision making - Care being CYP focussed</p> <p>Parental involvement/family focus</p> <p>Population Health Management</p>	<p>Support on Capacity/Demand/Waiting Times</p> <p>Workforce - more clinical time, less waiting time</p> <p>Transition to adult services</p>
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<p>Integration with voluntary sector</p> <p>Innovation in partnership – joined up approach</p> <p>Being able to easily access involvement of children and young people in service design</p>	<p>More evidence based research</p> <p>Organisational culture – being able to take risks to innovate</p> <p>Staff Engagement - Targeted and tailored training for staff</p>
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What are your CYP health and social care priorities in Surrey?

What resources are needed to explore/ trial/ adopt new CYP innovations in Surrey?

Facilitate collaborative working opportunities: ‘there is strength in numbers, let’s work together to improve outcomes’

The roadshow provided space for attendees, including the young innovation ambassadors, to work together, and share views and ideas. The follow-up requests between innovators and commissioners demonstrates the enthusiasm for collaborative working, which is further cemented by the connections made between commissioners and leads within the room on the day.

From the success of the roadshow:

- A follow-up event is planned in March 2023, focussing on the key innovation needs in Surrey, identified from the inaugural workshop.
- Over 30 introductions made to commissioners for specific innovations.
- Requests from further areas across the region to run CYP innovation roadshows.
- Young people in attendance have requested to become Innovation Ambassadors, supporting this work moving forward.
- University of Surrey Clinical Doctorate students have offered to support collecting digital evidence.
- In-depth demonstration sessions set up for innovators and commissioners with two innovators.
- Co-design opportunity for a young people’s weight management platform being explored.



Innovation ambassadors from Surrey User Voice and Participation team

Key contacts:

- Jenny Partridge (KSS AHSN) (jennypartridge@nhs.net) for more info about roadshow innovators
- Ginny Common (The Surrey Heartlands Health Tech Accelerator) (ginny.common@nhs.net) for more info about future roadshows
- Becca Randell (KSS AHSN) (becca.randell@nhs.net) for more info about our work in children and young people’s mental health

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