Kent Surrey Sussex Academic Health Science Network

Women's Health Strategy 2023 - 2025

Women make up 51% of the UK population, but there is clear evidence to show that women are not receiving the same level of care, investigation or treatment for common and important diseases when compared to men. The consequence of this inequality is that women have demonstrable worse clinical outcomes in many significant disease areas than men. Gender stereotyping and gender bias have led to a health care system which consistently delivers and accepts poorer health outcomes for women compared to men. Diagnosis and treatment are often based on male-centred research without consideration of the age dependent differences in the physiology of women. Women's health needs are frequently considered only in terms of reproductive health which fails to capture the diverse needs of women, girls, and older women. More work must be done to understand sex differences in pathophysiology, treatment response and effectiveness, as well as access to healthcare focused on reducing gender inequities. Our strategy draws heavily on recently published reports for women's health in England including: "A Women's Health Agenda: Redressing the Balance", "Women's Health Strategy for England", and "Better for Women". The UK government's strategy was underpinned by strong qualitative evidence from 100,000 women across England and identified a need for increased awareness of gender inequalities and better understanding of the impact of overlapping intersectional factors.

Our Mission: To reduce health inequalities for women, by ensuring that all women have access to the best quality health and care.

PRIORITIES

GOALS

TOOLS

OUTCOMES

1. Deliver regional and

national systemic

changes that will

address health

inequalities for

women.

2. Develop strong

partnerships that

and impact of

research and

innovation in

increase the value

Gender equity in Health policy and Commissioning

Address the impact of gender bias in policy-making and commissioning for women's health and demonstrate thought leadership. KSS AHSN will highlight the evidence base and advocate for structural reform in research and innovation.

Women's health innovation

Promote FemTech partnerships that support women, spark innovation, share research and forge new collaborations that collectively develop solutions to reduce the gender health gap.

Health inequalities and women

Improve women's health outcomes by addressing unmet needs, access to health services, and reduce gender disparities in treatment and disease prevention.

Key areas of focus:

- Cardiovascular disease
- Mental Health
- Menopause

Gender inequality at work

Become an exemplar organisation by reducing gender inequality at work. KSS AHSN will implement best practice in the key areas of fair pay, diverse recruitment, career advancement, flexible work options, education and training.

Business **Development**

Respond to new/emerging opportunities in women's health on which KSS AHSN can play a strategic and value-added role.

Regional programmes

- Regional engagement
- Regional events
- ICS Strategy meetings
- **AHSN Networking**
- **Industry Networking**
- Issue briefs & case studies
- Website & digital
- Social media
- National webinars
- **Evaluation documents**
- Impact reports
- **Dashboards**
- Academic publication
- Expert advisors
- **Education & training**
- **eNewsletters**

PARTNERS

- People and public
- **ICBs KSS**
- NHS Trusts & PCNs
- Local authority
- DoHSC and DoHLS
- **NIHR & MHRA**
- 3rd sector organisations
- Industry partners
- Academic partners
- Unity Insights Board
- **AHSN Network**
- AAC, ARC and CRN
- **Trusted User Labs**
- Innovate UK
- Women's equality and advocacy groups

women's health. 3. Support ICBs to be better informed and

prepared to address

priority issues in

women's health.

- 4. Demonstrate that organisational composition, structure and culture align with and advance gender equity at KSS AHSN.
- 5. Enhance the ability of KSS AHSN to rapidly assess innovations and successfully embark on new business opportunities in women's health.