Response to NHS Chief Executive’s Open Call for Evidence and Ideas

Respondent ID: 80

Organisation name: Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust

Type of response: Email
Please find below the response to the Innovation Review on behalf of Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust.

Learning from elsewhere about adoption and spread

What can the NHS and NHS Commissioning Board learn from local, national and international best practice to accelerate the pace and scale of adoption of innovations in the NHS? [Please include relevant examples, published papers or other evidence you have found useful.]

The report *Empowering Change: Fostering Innovation in the Australian Public Service* (2010) by the Australian Public Service Management Advisory Committee looked at the 'state of play' of innovation in the Australian Public Service. The report identifies

- Barriers that Australian public servants face when innovating
- Sources of innovation
- Those who can help design, implement and deliver innovation
- What agencies, team, and individuals can do to foster innovation.

The report also makes twelve recommendations around the following five themes:

- Strategy and culture
- Leadership
- Systemic/structural issues
- Resourcing and managing innovation in the Australian Public Service
- Recognition, sharing and learning.

This article commissioned by the Department of Health in 2004 provides a comprehensive literature review specifically addressing the question, 'How can we spread and sustain innovations in health service delivery and organisation' http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.0887-378X.2004.00325.x/full#f3

Actions at national level in the NHS

What specific actions do you think national NHS bodies, such as the NHS National Commissioning Board, need to take to encourage and stimulate the successful and rapid adoption and spread of innovations throughout the NHS?

There are a number of areas which all NHS organisations need to consider when implementing/adopting new technologies or practices, such as Equality and Diversity, Information Governance, Clinical IT system compatibility/interoperability, to name but a few. If an innovation has been adopted elsewhere, it would be useful to disseminate the detail as to how these areas have been addressed, to prevent each organisation having to 'start from scratch'.

There are a huge range of resources available to NHS organisations to support identification of good practice (NHS Evidence, NHS Networks, SHA innovation websites, regional networks, clinical periodicals), however it can be time consuming trying to keep abreast of all of the latest information and can also be difficult to identify which innovation has the greatest potential benefit/impact. It would be extremely useful if one website could be identified which was a 'one stop shop' for all matters innovation, including funding opportunities, events, case studies (with demonstrable and quantifiable benefits) and the opportunity to network with other innovators. Innovation platforms/portals such as this one set up by the Technology Strategy Board work well in other sectors; https://ktn.innovateuk.org/web/guest

…with the following American example covering the health sector;
Actions at local level in the NHS
What specific actions do you think local NHS bodies, such as providers and Clinical Commissioning Groups, need to take to encourage and stimulate the successful and rapid adoption and spread of innovations throughout the NHS?

A Harris Interactive survey, Fortune 1000 Executives’ Perspectives on Enterprise Innovation, sponsored by Olympus, found that while the vast majority of the 304 executives who responded believe that enterprise innovation is extremely important, 53% believe their organizations aren’t doing enough to promote innovation. The survey identifies several barriers to enterprise innovation which could be addressed locally.

For innovations to be successfully adopted it is essential to plan for sustainability from inception. There needs to be adequate resource and expertise devoted not only to implementation, but also to mainstreaming.

The data to support start-up, implementation, and ongoing evaluation must be credible and persuasive and therefore a greater significance should be put on quantifying the anticipated and actual benefits.

Kind Regards,
Joanne Wright-Lakin
Innovation Manager, Lincolnshire Community Health Services NHS Trust