

Great North Care Record – HIE briefing July 2019

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Intended audience

Chief Clinical Information Officers, Chief Information Officers, digital leads and designated Great North Care Record implementation leads in health and social care organisations across the North East and North Cumbria.

Previous briefing

We [published the first Health Information Exchange \(HIE\) briefing in May](#) which contains some background information about the Great North Care Record HIE.

This briefing is a follow up. We will issue regular briefing notes which will all be published on [Discourse](#) (our online discussion forum) and [our website](#).



Please can you help us to communicate by cascading our messages out to colleagues across the health and care system.

Communication materials

We want to produce a range of communication materials to help colleagues from around the region to share updates on the Great North Care Record programme.

Some current materials include:

- [Great North Care Record animation](#)
- [HIE slide deck \(July 2019\)](#)
- [HIE implementation update – recorded on 18 July 2019](#)
- [HIE demo: An overview of the HIE](#)

Please email gncr@ahsn-nenc.org.uk if you would like any alternative materials (such as leaflets, posters) to support your communications, or a downloadable version of the animation or HIE demo video.

Approach to the HIE implementation

The implementation of the regional HIE is complex with over 30 organisations connecting from across the health and care system in the North East and North Cumbria. A team at Newcastle Hospitals is leading on the implementation on behalf of the region and has been scoping the programme and developing a roadmap with the system supplier and partner organisations.

The approach we are taking is to start small and build organically. This was the approach taken with the implementation of the Medical Interoperability Gateway (MIG), and we know from [research published by Professor Marguun Annestad](#) into interoperability programmes, that this approach is more likely to be successful than a big bang, top-down approach.

The plan is to add further services such as dentists, pharmacies and optometrists, as well as third sector and independent providers at a later date - once we have connected the initial 30+ organisations.

Initial scope - viewers

All 30+ health and care organisations across the region are in the initial scope – that includes hospital trusts, out-of-hours providers, primary care, community services,



mental health trusts, ambulance and social care providers will have viewers installed. This will allow all organisations to see the data that is being shared through the HIE.

We expect to begin installing viewers soon and this process is likely to continue through to the end of 2019.

Our aim is to provide all organisations with a 'contextual viewer' where the HIE is launched from within the existing clinical application, so it integrates and no additional log-in is required. Where a 'contextual viewer' is not available then HIE data will be viewed using a web-portal, whilst the 'contextual viewer' is developed.

Initial scope – connectors

We have identified 'first of type' systems/organisations to be the early connectors and sharers of data to the HIE. We are now working closely with these organisations to enable them to connect to the HIE and make their data 'viewable' across the region.

They are:

- GP practices – (EMIS and TPP SystemOne)
- South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (MediTech)
- Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust (RiO)
- Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Cerner Millennium)
- Sunderland City Council (Liquid Logic)

Where we learn lessons from the connection of these 'first of type' sites, we will share them with other users of the same system to enable them to prepare for their own, subsequent connection.

Once the first sites are live and sharing and using the experience we gain from the initial connecting sites - we will move on to connect more organisations.

Testing is underway and the first connections are expected to go live by the end of 2019.

[More detail on the difference between connectors and viewers is available in the first briefing document.](#)

Prioritisation of connecting organisations

The organisations who are connecting at the outset were selected based on several criteria.

Our initial priority is to provide primary care data to enable us to replicate the data currently shared using the MIG.



After this, we chose systems that Cerner have already connected to their HIE and offered representation from different organisation types (acute, primary care, mental health and social care). In this way, these organisations will be pioneering not just our technical connectivity but also our processes for developing shared policies and procedures across a range of organisations. They will also pilot our communications activity and materials, the training guides and will provide us with feedback which will improve the implementation process for the rest of the region.

What information will be shared?

Our plan is to deploy the HIE as it comes “out of the box”. We will share what we can and will add more data as it becomes available. There are three sets of requirements we need to fulfil:

1. Practitioners – is the data useful?
2. Governance – can we lawfully and ethically share the data?
3. Technical – is the data readily available in a sharable form?

Our aim at this stage of the programme is to replicate the data currently shared using the MIG and build on this base over time.

Practitioners

A Professional Advisory Group (PAG) has been established comprising of health and care practitioners with a senior digital leadership role in their organisation. They are providing guidance on the most useful data items to be shared and have agreed an initial priority data set.

Further details about the PAG are available on the Great North Care Record website, [in this blog](#). The group is very clear that as well as this initial data set there will be more data we can share as the HIE develops around specific pathways of care such as maternity, end of life and cancer.

Governance

The regional SIGN (Strategic Information Governance Network) group – comprised of Information Governance specialists from across health and social care are advising on the data sharing agreements and other matters related to permissions and privacy. This workstream recently started and will build on the existing work done during the MIG implementation. As work from this area emerges, we will share further details.

Technical

Local technical implementation teams in each organisation will liaise with the Newcastle Hospital implementation team and Cerner technicians to establish the



optimum methods to extract and share the datasets agreed by the PAG and SIGN groups.

We expect there will be a continuous process of collaboration between these three groups to develop and extend the data sets shared on the HIE.

As the management of the Great North Care Record is complex due to the collaborative nature of the programme. [This diagram](#) provides an overview of how the different groups fit together and their functions.

What if I want to share or view specific data items?

Our initial priority is to share the ‘core’ datasets defined by the ‘out-of-the-box’ connectors from Cerner.

However, we understand that there will be new data sets beyond this which will have clear patient benefits if shared. We will develop the appropriate processes and governance around this over the next few months. In the meantime, we do encourage specialities and clinical pathways to collectively work out their shared data sets so that we can consider them for development at the appropriate time. If you want to discuss this further, [contact us](#).

Programme timings

We expect early connectors to be sharing data in the live HIE by the end of 2019, by which time all organisations should have viewers installed.

How can I keep in touch with what’s happening with the HIE?

- We are developing a list of key contacts within each of the 30+ organisations across the region as the GNCR implementation lead. If you want to find out who your local lead is, contact gncr@ahsn-nenc.org.uk
- We will arrange regular conference calls which anyone from across the first 30+ organisations is welcome to join to hear about how the programme is progressing. These will start in the next few weeks. If you would like to receive the details on this, email gncr@ahsn-nenc.org.uk
- [Join the Great North Care Record – Network on Discourse](#) if you have any further questions and would like to know more about the HIE implementation.



Email gncr@ahsn-nenc.org.uk to join if you're not already a member. We post regular updates and send these briefing notes to network members.

- More information can be accessed on the Great North Care Record website: www.greatnorthcarerecord.org.uk or follow on Twitter [@GreatNorthCare](https://twitter.com/GreatNorthCare).