



Creating people centred digital innovation
health | care | wellbeing

Overview and Scrutiny Committee December 2015

Introduction

This paper briefly sets out some background information about mHabitat - who we are, what we do, why and how we do it.

Who we are

mHabitat is an NHS programme - part of Leeds and York Partnership NHS Foundation Trust - working NHS and local authority providers, commissioners, third sector organisations, universities and industry. Our small team of four has clinical and social care expertise, digital technologies and project management, event management, academic expertise and administration.

Why we do what we do

We believe that, with the right help and support, digital technologies can make a positive difference to people and public services.

We are motivated by a social and sustainable approach to digital innovation that makes sense for the public sector. We are social in our ends and also in our means - what we create and how we do it. Most of the digital tools we develop are 'open source' so they can be freely reused and repurposed.

We want to help people and public services keep up to date with digital innovation so no one is left behind - supporting inclusion and involvement every step of the way.

What we do

We have a tried and tested methodology for supporting digital innovation in health and wellbeing - from catalysing new ideas through to developing, deploying and evaluating digital technologies:

- **Catalyse** - activities to catalyse and appraise digital innovation
- **Incubate** - end-to-end development of digital tools and services
- **Adopt** - deployment and evaluation of digital tools
- **Embed** - development of digital strategy for a service or organisation
- **Digital inclusion** - events | activities | development for people accessing services
- **Digital maturity** - events | activities | development for practitioners.

We run regular events aimed at bringing people accessing services, health and care practitioners, developers, designers, industry and academics together to share learning and collaborate. These range from our evening 'show and tell' events through to our regular seminars on topic such as sexual health in a digital age and public health 2.0. All our events are free and we advertise them on our website www.wearemhabitat.com.

We are an NHS England 'widening digital participation' pathfinder and in 2015 secured a grant from the Tinder Foundation to develop a digital inclusion initiative on the older people's mental health and dementia wards at The Mount in Leeds.

We have secured Integrated Care Pioneer and Better Care Funding to develop a 'digital practitioner' programme for health and care staff which will be launched in April 2016. The purpose of the programme is to develop the digital confidence of practitioners so they can support digital inclusion for people they support.

How we do what we do

- We connect people accessing services, practitioners, industry, academia and others to enable digital innovation
- We use an appreciative inquiry approach to all our work - building on the assets of people and public services
- We bring people with us and make sure we don't leave anyone behind - particularly those of us facing digital exclusion
- We learn once and share openly and generously with others
- We create a community by building open source digital tools that can be re-used and re-purposed
- We make use of existing evidence and generate our own to make sure everything we do counts.