

Moving to missions to make NWL ICS the best place to benefit from innovation and research

Challenge / opportunity

It is widely recognised that our NHS - like many other healthcare systems around the world - is slow to adopt and implement innovation and benefit from research systematically, despite the potential for life-changing impact for our populations. In NW London we have a **thriving research and innovation (R&I) ecosystem**, and we are committed to harnessing the power of R&I to improve the health of our citizens. We have an ambition to become the most innovation and research friendly ICS in the country.

Whilst the numerous organisations that make up this ecosystem are delivering impact in their own right, a **more coordinated, collaborative approach** has the potential to **increase this impact for population benefit**.

Through its work over the last year, **NW London's R&I Board** - made up of senior representatives from across all ICS organisations, academic institutions, and research and innovation bodies, and chaired by Professor Sir Mark Walport - has established that, to have **more impact through innovation**, we need to:

- Focus the work we do together on a **small number of priorities** that align with the wider NW London strategy;
- Work collaboratively together on the things where **collective effort leads to bigger gains**.

These priorities are how the R&I Board have derived the **NW London Missions**: areas of focus which are well-suited to benefit from research and innovation, leading to greater outcomes and impact for our population.



Next steps: mobilising the missions

1. Engaging our ecosystem

Where missions align with existing ICS workstreams and priorities, we will rapidly engage colleagues and system leaders to socialise and bridge this focussed approach with the work of local teams.

2. Coordinating this new way of working

As an ICS we will 'own' the NW London missions, with accountable leadership and oversight from the R&I Board. Recognising the dedicated coordination and collaboration effort that this new way of working will require, we have commissioned Imperial College Health Partners (ICHP) to help facilitate. As our 'innovation agency', owned by NHS and academic organisations across NW London, with strong national and international networks in research and innovation, and host to the Discover-NOW health data research hub, ICHP is best placed to convene our NW London health system around this new way of working.

For more information, including how you can support mobilising the missions, contact:
communications.engagement@imperialcollegehealthpartners.com