

TheAHSNNetwork

By email to: []

Email address: []

Date: 21 October 2022

Dear []

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request received on 26 September 2022. We understand this to be a request to the AHSN Network, the national network of AHSNs. There is no legal entity which is the AHSN Network, instead it is an affiliation of the 15 local AHSNs. For your convenience, I am able to provide this response as the AHSN Network Coordination Director on behalf of the 15 AHSNs but limited to information held by the central AHSN Network team.

You asked:

On your website you state:

"What difference are AHSNs making?"

Each AHSN works within its own area to develop projects, programmes and initiatives that reflect the diversity of our local populations and healthcare challenges. However, we all share the following priorities:

- *Promoting economic growth: fostering opportunities for industry to work effectively with the NHS*
- *Diffusing innovation: creating the right environment, and supporting collaboration across boundaries, in order to adopt and spread innovation at pace and scale*
- *Improving patient safety: using our knowledge, expertise and networks to bring together patients, healthcare staff and partners to determine priorities and develop and implement solutions*
- *Optimising medicine use: ensuring that medication is used to its maximum benefit – improving safety and making efficient use of NHS resources*
- *Improving quality and reducing variation: by spreading best practice we increase productivity and reduce variation, thereby improving patient outcomes*
- *Putting research into practice: our strong links with academia mean we are uniquely placed to support the translation of research into clinical practice*
- *Collaborating on national programmes: our unified programmes focus on delivery of the SBRI Healthcare initiative (supporting SME interaction), the NHS Innovation Accelerator, Patient Safety Collaboratives and medicines optimisation."*

AHSN Network

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The AHSN Network

Q1. Please disclose the evidential basis for the observation that AHSNs are improving patient safety?

Annually AHSNs and the AHSN Network publish Impact Reports offering an overview of impact derived from programmes of work during that period. For the latest period (21/22) these are all published on the AHSN Network website:

[Annual reports – AHSN Network](#)

Additionally, in 2022, the AHSN Network published a report documenting specific progress in patient safety, where the latest impact data concerning patient safety programmes can be found. This was published on the AHSN Network website in June 2022:

[Patient-Safety-Plan-2022-update-FINAL.pdf \(ahsnnetwork.com\)](#)

2. Please disclose all relevant AHSN policy documents on how AHSN evaluates of the success and effectiveness of projects, programmes and initiatives that it has led or supported.

[The AHSN Network Strategy for 2021 to 2026](#) (in particular, Section 3, Strategic Goal 1, outcomes-led national programmes - pages 23 -27) sets out the Network's approach to outcomes-led programmes and the approach to measuring and reporting impact. Following your request, the strategy has now been published on the AHSN Network website:

ahsnnetwork.com/ahsn-network-strategy

3. Please disclose all AHSN policy documents relating to service user involvement, including the design, planning and evaluation of innovations led or supported by AHSN?

Nationally, the AHSN Network operates to an [Involvement and Co-production strategy](#), which has been published on the AHSN Network website:

ahsnnetwork.com/involvement-and-co-production-strategy

However, regionally each AHSN operates to their own approved policies, procedures and systems. These are not held centrally by the AHSN Network.

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4. Please disclose all correspondence that took place in 2016 between AHSN and Bruce Keogh former NHS England Medical Director on the adoption of the Serenity Integrated Mentoring project.

The AHSN Network has reviewed its files and cannot find any correspondence between Sir Bruce Keogh and the AHSN Network relating to the adoption of Serenity Integrated Mentoring.

If you are dissatisfied with this response, please come back to me and I will ensure that your concerns are addressed by the relevant AHSN's Freedom of Information complaints contact. You also have the right to ask the Information Commissioner (ICO) for a decision as to whether we have complied with our responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The ICO can be contacted at:

Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Yours sincerely



Dr Mike Burrows

AHSN Network Co-ordination Director