Technology and Innovation in the NHS

Perth and Kinross Health and Social Care Partnership

1. What do you consider have been the main successes of the existing Scottish Government’s eHealth and telecare/telehealth strategies and why?

The workstreams and associated funding have allowed HSCP’s to progress their TEC agenda through dedicated resource and procurement of technology. The SCTT team provide valuable support and assistance in developing projects and innovations.

2. What do you consider have been the main failures of the existing Scottish Government’s eHealth and telecare/telehealth strategies and why?

At times there is a lack of clear direction from the centre, too many people are trialling, piloting or conducting tests of change and not much seems to be collated and rolled out as a national initiative.

3. How well does the Scottish Government’s draft Digital Health and Social Care Strategy 2017-2022 address the future requirements of the NHS and social care sector?

I feel the intention is right. There is absolutely a need for integration of electronic data across Health and Social care and beyond. There needs to be clear pathways and referral routes to the digital information, tools and services referenced.

4. Do you think there are any significant omissions in the Scottish Government’s draft Digital Health and Social Care Strategy 2017-2022.

It would be good to understand How this is to be achieved, integrating the various systems to allow data to be shared is a massive task presumably requiring significant investment?

How does the strategy propose we overcome the digital exclusion issues that face those in rural areas with poor connectivity, and those with poor or no digital skills and access to these tools and services?

5. What key opportunities exist for the use of technology in health and social care over the next 10 years?

One of the biggest is the application of uses for mainstream technology rather than expensive dedicated equipment. Smartphone apps, Fitbits, Amazon Echo, SMART meter technology can all perform similar tasks to some of the dedicated monitoring equipment we use now. Connectivity and information flow between these devices and the Health and Social care practitioners could shift a lot of emphasis towards prevention and keeping people well rather than treatment and reaction to ailments.

6. What actions are needed to improve the accessibility and sharing of the electronic patient record?
Agreed standards and protocols across all HSCP’s

7. What are the barriers to innovation in health and social care?

A lack of trust in technology. The (understandable) risk averse attitude of service providers. An over reliance on current methods and practices and a lack of understanding of how un-sustainable they are. A lack of a national framework for sharing and scaling up successful pilots and innovations quickly.