

WYAAT Research and Innovation Capability Statement

We are delighted to introduce you to the depth and breadth of Research and Innovation across our six NHS Trusts in West Yorkshire. The West Yorkshire Association of Acute Trusts (WYAAT) is a successful and dynamic provider collaborative partnership, with a proven track record of working together to improve patient pathways, NHS infrastructure and the recruitment and retention of staff. As you will read in this new capability statement, we also have an impressive wealth of talent and nationally leading infrastructure in research and innovation, and we are ambitious to do more. We know that partners outside of the NHS such as Industry, Academia and the Voluntary sector often find it difficult to navigate the complex systems of the NHS. In WYAAT we are committed to working together to help unblock some of these barriers, such as “doing things once” to ensure our patients gain rapid access to the most important and transformational clinical trials and innovations. We hope you enjoy reading about our impressive capability in research and innovation, if you would like to work with us or would like any further information, please contact WYAAT, email: WYAATProgramme@nhs.net.

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WYAAT

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Our Research

WYAAT partners have a strong and well-established research infrastructure recognised nationally for delivery performance, recruitment and study set-up. Across our trusts research is embedded as a core component of clinical excellence with consistent achievement against national benchmarks in both commercial and non-commercial studies.

Nationally Recognised Performance

- Consistently exceeding annual recruitment targets across the partnership, with two trusts ranked among the top national recruiters (*WYAAT annual average of 63k recruited in the last two years*)
- Frequent first UK site recruitment and leading performance across multiple specialities, *for example Bradford Teaching Hospitals Foundation Trust (BTHFT) recruiting the first participants in Europe for two new clinical trials in respiratory.*
- Recognised by sponsors for rapid study set-up, responsiveness and high-quality delivery.

Breadth and Excellence in Research

Our research portfolio spans the life course and a wide range of specialties, with particular strengths in Oncology, Radiotherapy and Haematology, Gastroenterology, Respiratory, Cardiovascular and Musculoskeletal.

Distinct areas of excellence include:

- Applied Health Research (ARC) with strong patient and community co-production approaches.

- Early-life cohort and population research - (*Born in Bradford- BTHFT and Generation in Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust (HDFT)*).
- Commercial Research Delivery.
- Rapid recruitment and first-in-study performance.

Infrastructure and Capability

WYAAT partners host and support major national research infrastructure, including NIHR- funded programmes, Clinical Research Facilities and Centres of Excellence.

Collectively we offer:

- Extensive research delivery infrastructure (*see infographic page 5*)
- Dedicated clinical research facilities and innovation estate in over 60% of our institutions.
- Strong growth in NIHR initiatives, programmes and funding
- Established regional and national collaborations.

Some Leading Studies

We are proud to be delivering research with measurable impact on policy, clinical practice and patient outcomes nationally and internationally. Some examples of these are:

- Yorkshire Lung Screening Study – contributed to the evidence base for the national lung screening programme.
- Born in Bradford - a world-leading research programme to find out what keeps families healthy and happy by tracking the lives of over 60,000 residents.
- Head and Neck Cancer Fast Track Vaccine Trial at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT).
- First newborn babies tested for over 200 genetic conditions in world-leading study at BTHFT.
- Cardiovascular study OPT-PACE led by LTHT has demonstrated the benefits of screening for heart failure and providing specialised care for people with pacemakers in an internationally world-first study.

Our People and Populations

Our research strength is underpinned by sustained investment in clinical academic leadership such as the NIHR Associate Principal Investigator Scheme (API), Principal Investigator Pipeline Programme (PIPP), and Senior Research Leader Programme (SRL).

Serving a population of approximately 2.7 million, WYAAT provides access to:

- Diverse, multi-ethnic communities (32% to 1% diversity ONS Data)
- Varied socioeconomic contexts (high levels of deprivation and poverty)
- Broad clinical case mix from common to rare conditions (unique opportunities to produce findings with local and global impact)

Patient and Public Involvement

Our research portfolio is underpinned by a strong and demonstrable commitment to Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE), ensuring that the voices of patients, carers and

communities shape research priorities, design, delivery and dissemination. As a group of acute trusts serving a large, diverse and multi-ethnic population, we recognise PPIE as essential to delivering inclusive, relevant and impactful research that reflects the needs of the populations we serve.

Collaborations and Partnerships

WYAAT represents a distinctive model within provider collaboratives, bringing together a shared vision, leadership, and resources to strengthen research delivery. This collaborative approach is supported by strong academic partnerships, including Hull York Medical School, the University of York, and specialist institutes spanning mental health, engineering, and biomedical sciences, alongside established links with regional universities in Huddersfield, Leeds, and Bradford, as well as national partners.

We are actively engaged in industry-led and life sciences research across the UK and the NHS, working closely with academic institutions and commercial organisations to expand research capacity and accelerate clinical trial delivery.

Our competitive advantage is that we combine joined up-scale, specialist expertise and delivery at pace with strong infrastructure and cross-sector partnerships, enabling us to deliver high-impact research across the full spectrum of healthcare. As a group of acute trusts WYAAT is committed to making research part of everyday care and through collaboration and mutual support, we aim to be a regional centre of excellence.

Our Innovation

Innovation capability across WYAAT is delivered through the combined strengths, infrastructure, and expertise of our partner trusts. While innovation functions and organisational models vary across organisations, collaboration through WYAAT enables partners to engage with a coordinated network of acute providers serving a large and diverse population.

WYAAT provides a supportive environment for innovators seeking to work with the NHS, offering opportunities to collaborate across multiple clinical settings, specialties, and patient populations while respecting the governance and operational structures of individual trusts.

Through our collaborative arrangements, WYAAT offers:

- Access to scale and diversity – opportunities to evaluate and deploy innovations across varied acute hospital environments, from large teaching hospitals to district general hospitals.
- Clinically driven priorities – innovation activity shaped by real-world clinical and operational challenges.
- Collaborative working – mechanisms that enable shared learning, cross-organisational engagement, and reduced duplication.
- Evaluation and adoption expertise – access to established pathways supporting testing, evidence generation and implementation.
- Commercialisation and IP – access to specialist advice.
- System-wide adoption – mechanisms to support spread and adoption across multiple organisations, reducing duplication and enabling faster scale-up.

- Co-production with staff and patients – ensuring innovations improve experience, acceptability and outcomes.

Innovation activity across WYAAT is supported by a growing range of dedicated innovation spaces, partnerships, and specialist expertise. Trusts maintain strong relationships with regional universities, Health Innovation Network Yorkshire & Humber and innovation support organisations (see infographic on page 6).

Opportunities for Collaboration

WYAAT partners actively explore innovations aligned to shared system priorities, including:

- Digital and AI-enabled technologies
- Diagnostics and early detection
- Pathway redesign and service transformation
- Advanced technologies and medical devices
- Workforce and productivity solutions























Innovations that demonstrate clinical value, operational benefit and scalability are particularly well suited to collaborative engagement.

Working with Our Trusts

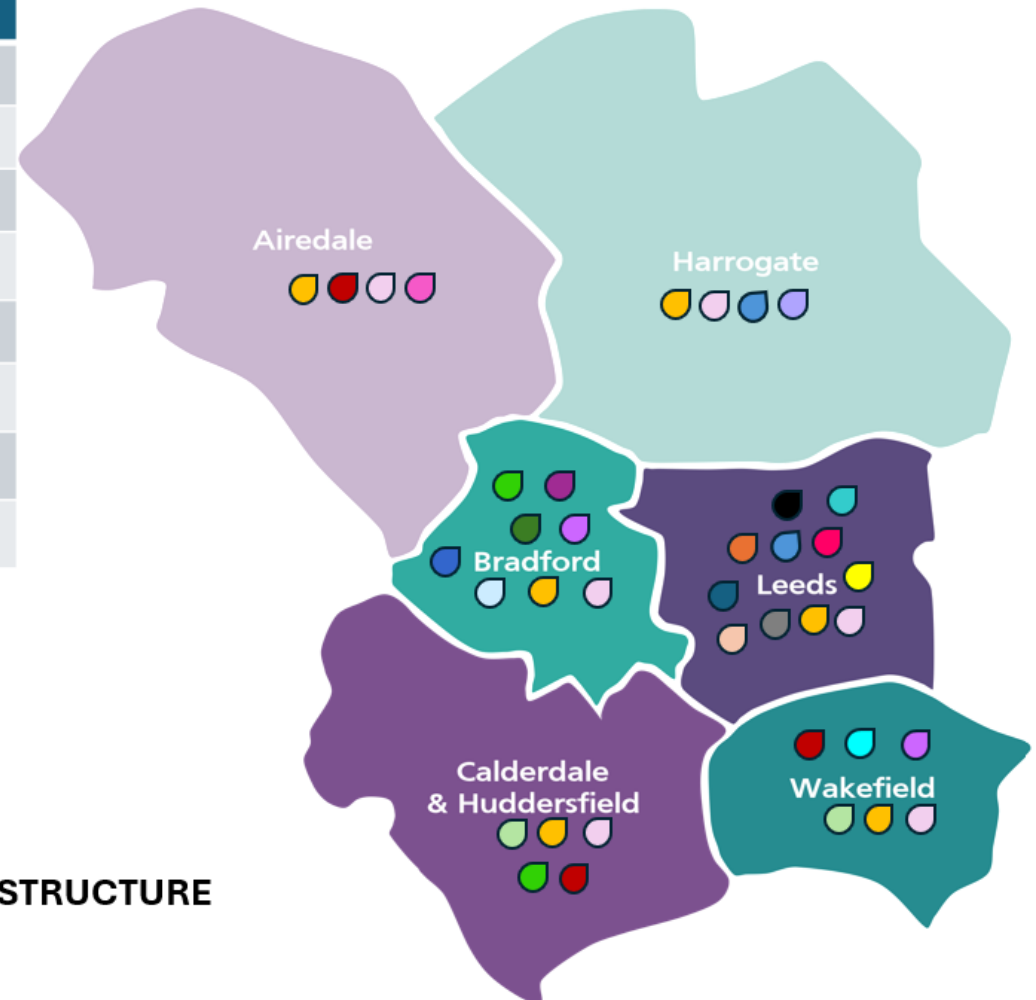
WYAAT can support innovators by facilitating connections, knowledge exchange, and collaboration opportunities across partner organisations. Engagement models can be tailored to the needs of individual projects, ensuring alignment with trust-level governance, evaluation requirements and clinical priorities.

WYAAT's collective approach enables innovation to move beyond organisational boundaries, creating a shared platform for learning, adoption and impact. By aligning innovation activity with research, education and clinical delivery, WYAAT is well positioned to support regional and national priorities, attract investment and deliver solutions that improve outcomes for patients and staff.

RESEARCH INFOGRAPHIC

RESEARCH DELIVERY		RESEARCH DELIVERY	
	Research Governance & Delivery		Research & Innovation Academy
	NIHR Associate PI Scheme		Bio-Resource Centre
	Commercial Research Delivery Centre Hub		NIHR PI Pipeline
	Commercial Research Delivery Centre spoke		Health Determinants Research Collaborative
	Applied Research Collaborative		Research Engagement Network
	Applied Research Collaborative ACORN		Biomedical Research Centre
	Healthtech Research Centre UK		Skin Research Centre Collab with HYMS
	Clinical Research Facility		Data Cancer
	Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre		
	National Pathology-Imaging Co-op		
	RAD-NET (radiotherapy)		
	DATA-CAN (cancer hub)		
	Senior Research Leader Programme		
	Patient Safety Research Collaborative		

WYAAT RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE



INNOVATION INFOGRAPHIC

INNOVATION BTHT

Rehab my Patient
Card Medic
NIP Project
Generation Medics
Dental Monitoring
Pill School
WABA
dbRotas
APOS
EPNS Training (Internal)
Medisys VR Training Simulation (Internal)
Link Medics
Safira
NHS Insite
◆ Innovation Hub in development

INNOVATION LTHT

◆ Innovation Pop Up
Radiology AI Innovation Programme
XR Community of interest
Innovation training programme
NHSE InSITES programme
NIHR Healthtech Research Centre (Applied Surgical Care)
“SUSTAIN” Lab (coming soon)

INNOVATION MYTT

◆ Innovation Hub
Innovation testbed programme
Pathway development
Radiology AI Innovation Programme
Clinical Advice Service

INNOVATION HDFT

◆ Innovation Hub
Clinical Entrepreneur Fellow scheme
Clinical Advice Service (coming soon)
Innovation training programme



WYAAT INNOVATION INFRASTRUCTURE