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Lancashire &
South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust

Made in the North: The Improvement and Digital Innovation Conference

Presented by Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust, with Meet Health Events

9 July 2026 | Lancaster University

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health**



Thank you for your interest in Made in the North: The Improvement and Digital Innovation Conference

This conference, the first of its kind for LSCFT, will bring together inspirational leaders from across the NHS, partners from the public and private sector and leaders from across digital and improvement platforms. The programme will feature contributions from leaders shaping improvement and digital transformation across the NHS and wider healthcare landscape and will explore a series of critical themes and emerging priorities influencing the future of NHS improvement and transformation.

The day promises to be a focused day of discussion, shared learning and strategic collaboration centred on improvement, transformation and digital innovation across the NHS. At a time when NHS organisations continue to navigate operational pressures, workforce challenges and increasing demand for transformation, Made in the North provides an important opportunity for colleagues leading teams through change; already working in these developing spaces and those with appetite for change to come together in a collaborative environment focused on practical delivery and system-wide improvement.

Improvement and innovation are no longer standalone programmes; they are becoming fundamental to how NHS organisations lead, adapt and deliver sustainable change. Through keynote insights, leadership discussions, facilitated roundtables and structured networking sessions, the conference is designed to move beyond high-level ambition and towards practical approaches that support organisational resilience, frontline improvement and sustainable transformation across health systems.

Above all, Made in the North is designed to ensure delegates leave with meaningful connections, practical insight and actionable learning that can be applied within their own organisations and systems.

We very much hope you are able to join us for what promises to be an important national discussion focused on shaping the future of improvement and digital innovation across the NHS. Made in the North: The Improvement and Digital Innovation Conference.

[Click here](#) or follow this link: [LSCFT Improvement Conference — Meet Health Events](#) to register or contact us on attendees@meetthealthevents.com for further information.

Keynote Speakers

Meet some of our keynote speakers and panelists



David Fillingham CBE

Trust Chair, Lancashire and South
Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust



Abigail Harrison

Chief Digital, Infrastructure and
Improvement Officer, Lancashire and
South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust



Gary Kaplan

Ex-CEO of Virginia Mason Franciscan
Health and Senior Vice President,
CommonSpirit Health



Amar Shah

National Clinical Director for Improvement,
NHS England



Sarah Walker

UK CEO, Cisco



Ailsa Brotherton

Director of Continuous Improvement
and Transformation, Lancashire
Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation



Amy Freeman

Chief Digital and Information Officer,
University Hospitals North Midlands



Penny Pereira

Managing Director, The NHS Alliance



Stephen Dobson

Director of Digital (CIO) One Lancashire
and South Cumbria

Keynote Speakers

Meet some of our keynote speakers and panelists



Maxine Power

Group Director of Improvement,
Manchester University NHS Foundation
Trust



Dr Gareth Thomas

Chief Medical Officer and Deputy Chief
Executive, Lancashire and South Cumbria
NHS Foundation Trust



Sakthi Karunanithi

Director of Public Health and Wellbeing,
Lancashire County Council



Professor Phil Horner

Chief Strategy and Performance Officer,
Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS
Foundation Trust



Ben Rigg

CIO and Deputy Chief Digital and
Infrastructure Officer, Lancashire and
South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust



Oliver Soriano

Chief Nursing Officer, Lancashire and
South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust



Tony McDonald

Chief Integration Officer, East Lancashire
Hospitals NHS Trust



Shane Tickell

Founder, Chief Executive and Strategy
Officer, Temple Black



Professor Abdul Razaq

Director of Public Health, Blackburn with
Darwen Council



The Improvement and Digital Innovation Conference priority themes



Improving patient flow, outpatient transformation, and reducing admin burden

The fall of top-down thinking; how improvement becomes the operating model, with frontline teams empowered to improve every day

Digital transformation delivering practical operational improvements

AI, automation, interoperability, and smarter use of data



Moving beyond organisational boundaries to enable local teams and communities to co-create more responsive, preventative and connected services

Exploring how improvement can help organisations respond to continued operational and cultural uncertainty

Need for sustainable transformation approaches alongside operational pressures

Examining how digital innovation and partnership working can radically transform the experience of colleagues and patients

Embedding improvement and innovation into everyday culture

Addressing workforce fatigue, burnout, and lack of capacity for change



Tackling inequalities through neighbourhood-level interventions

Technology-enabled self-management and patient empowerment



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