

## News Release

Release: 28 September 2009

---

### North West NHS staff asked: 'Give us your bright ideas'

---

The NHS in the North West is asking its quarter of a million staff for their bright ideas to help provide even better care for patients across the region.

It has launched the InnovateNoW programme to create long-term improvements in healthcare by encouraging the adoption of innovative services. The scheme will run over a five-year period and provide funding to help staff implement their good ideas and train other people how to use them. It is one of a series of Regional Innovation Funds set up by the Department of Health across the country.

The deadline for funding applications to InnovateNoW is 23rd October 2009. Bids have to come from NHS Trusts and PCTs in the region, but can include partnerships with healthcare providers such as GP practices, plus universities and private or voluntary sector partners based anywhere in the UK.

Alison Tonge, the director leading the innovation programmes at NHS North West, said: "Encouraging innovation and improving quality, productivity and prevention is a key focus for the NHS. The InnovateNoW programme has been set up by NHS North West to help to work towards these goals. We have a large and highly skilled workforce in our region, and there are bound to be lots of great ideas out there that we simply haven't tapped into yet.

"We want NHS staff to suggest as broad a range of new ideas as possible. For example, they may have pioneered a new approach to end of life care which will enable more people with terminal illnesses to die at home with their loved ones rather than in hospital. Or they may have ideas about making

support for patients with chronic conditions such as lung disease or diabetes more effective.

"InnovateNoW will provide the resources to help staff implement a new and innovative way of working, a new or improved process, patient pathway or partnership that supports efficiency and enhances patient care. A little investment now can help us gain a lot in terms of improved patient care and even better value for money."

InnovateNoW is being managed by the North West NHS Innovation Hub, *TrusTECH*®, on behalf of NHS North West. For further information see [www.innovatenow.org.uk](http://www.innovatenow.org.uk) which also includes an online application form.

## **Ends**

For further information please contact:

*TrusTECH*: Jill Hulme on 07913 278514 or Pauline Rawsterne on 07801 639816

NHS North West press office: 0161 625 7230

## **Notes for editors**

InnovateNoW is run by *TrusTECH*®, the North West of England NHS Innovation Hub, on behalf of NHS North West. Entries for the first tranche of funding - £1.9 m for 2009/10 - have now opened and will focus on long-term conditions - such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and diabetes - and end of life care. However, all applications will be considered provided they contribute to the priorities set out in the NHS Healthier Horizons vision.

The InnovateNoW programme includes three types of award. The Innovation Bursary Award provides up to £25,000, primarily as a contribution to staff costs, to adopt a new or innovative service within one team or division. The Enabling Change Award offers up to £250,000 - or up to £50,000 if the applicant is a single organisation - and is designed for situations where innovations are being implemented across a range of teams or delivery providers. The Innovation Sharing Award provides up to £5,000 to promote a successful innovation to others.

## **About *TrusTECH***

- *TrusTECH* ([www.trustech.org.uk](http://www.trustech.org.uk)) was established in early 2001, as a partnership between Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS



NHS Innovations North West

Foundation Trust, the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust and the University of Central Lancashire.

- *TrusTECH* is part of the NHS and serves 55 NHS Trusts across the North West.
- *TrusTECH* is one of nine regional innovation hubs based in England and coordinated by the National Innovation Centre (NIC; [www.nic.nhs.uk](http://www.nic.nhs.uk)).