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AAC Delivery Update

23 October 2019



Summary

Delivery Update

Delivery of the AAC's six priorities is progressing well. All priority workstreams in phase 1 are underway:

- Delivery of the medtech funding mandate is progressing well and is on-track for piloting in April 2020; the team is currently undertaking a public consultation
- The contract variation to deliver a single horizon scanning process is agreed
- Specifications for the innovator portal are well under development, and being refined following a discovery day with innovators;
- Policy teams and specialist advisory boards in the areas of mental health, stroke, learning disabilities are refining priorities identified in the first wave of Demand Signalling workshops;
- Policy work to map the UK's testing landscape and develop options for the Test Bed Clusters model is underway. OLS
 and NHSE/I are now working to identify an external partner to validate initial findings and develop testing principles.
- Good progress has been made on increasing uptake of the RUPs; we have launched phase 1 and 2 of the Pathway Transformation Fund.

Updates from the Wider System

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There have been a number of high-profile pro-innovation announcements over the past quarter, including:

- £200M of government funding to support the best and most innovative life science companies to scale-up within the UK;
- ii. £250M to create a National AI lab, including a dedicated AI-fund which will be managed by the AAC team;

The commercial framework will be released shortly for public engagement and the final version is due to be published in December 2019.

Stakeholder engagement, communications and future announcements

A 'shared space' for the AAC, within the NHS England website, is under construction, with anticipated launch in **early November.**

Communications relating to early and late-stage products have been drafted and are ready to launch for stakeholders, pending board decisions.

Innovator 'surgeries' are being planned, to bring together stakeholders across the regulators, industry bodies and other support infrastructures (MHRA, OMA, NICE Scientific Advice Services, specialised commissioning, AAC, commercial medicines) to help innovators answer questions and progress their products

Patient and Public Involvement is being embedded across the AAC workstreams

Highlight Report

Workstream	Next Key Milestone	RAG	Update
AAC set-up	Feb 2020	А	The AAC Delivery Team has been established within NHSE and the transition of existing delivery schemes, including AHSN assurance and the Test Beds programme, have been transferred across from OLS.
Product Support	Oct 2019	А	Early stage products: Support package for early stage products submitted to AAC Board for sign off Late stage products: Good early progress on increasing uptake of rapid uptake products. £300k of existing funding assigned to 17 projects to increase the use of the Rapid Uptake Products through Pathway Transformation Funding with £700k available for phase 2 with applications to access this funding open to providers.
Innovation Portal	Dec 2019	A/G	A user-testing day was held with innovators, including digital and medtech, in August. A draft specification for the portal has been developed, and will be tested with key stakeholders and in separate sessions for each key user group. Approvals and procurement processes are likely to take time due to the national nature of the portal.
Demand Signalling	Dec 2019	G	Initial priorities for further research or innovation identified in first four focus areas (mental health, learning disability and autism, cancer and stroke). AHSNs undertaking more detailed local work to further understand research and innovation needs.
Horizon Scanning	Nov 2019	G	Horizon scanning pilots on four topics completed being used to inform commissioning or programme development. The scope and detail of the AAC's single horizon scanning infrastructure is being finalised and the contract for delivery is due to be signed in November.
Testing infrastructure	Sep 2019	A/G	The competition for the AI lab will be launched on the 28 October, focusing on multi-site testing of promising clinical and non- clinical technologies OLS are mapping the UK's testing landscape and develop options for the Test Bed Clusters model in line with public commitments in the NHS Long Term Plan.
Adoption & Spread	Apr 2020	A/G	The medthtech funding mandate is on-track for piloting in April 2020; a public consultation is soon to be launched. The lead AHSNs for each Rapid Uptake Product are working with local providers to develop bespoke support packages, and work is underway to select the next round of AHSN 'national programmes'.
Funding Strategy	Apr 2020	A/G	Changes to reimbursement to encourage innovation included in the tariff consultation document Work will commence in 2020 to review the existing funding schemes across AAC member organisations and to identify future needs.