

Digitally transforming adult social care

Alice Ainsworth
Deputy Director, Social Care Technology Policy
UK Authority May 2024



Policy principles behind digital transformation



- Removing friction – saving time, reducing duplication
 - Working with, not 'doing to'
 - Giving the care sector the tools to help themselves
 - Being clear where it makes sense to do something once/ centrally
 - Keeping people and human impact at the heart of what we do
 - Planning for long-term sustainability
 - Building momentum through continuous improvement
 - Sharing best practice, and showing the art of the possible
-

Scaling Digital Social Care Records



Drive rapid adoption of digital social care records - this will enable secure sharing of information across health and care services and will free up time for care staff and managers.

What we've done:

- Publish a [roadmap of standards and capabilities](#) to set clear and achievable expectations for suppliers
- Develop new standards - a [minimum operation data standard](#), and [reporting minimum data specification](#)
- Enforce standards, through our [assured solutions list](#)
- Provide [funding and support](#) to providers to help them adopt DSCRs

Where we are heading:

- Streamlining and automating data collections, and sharing that data and insight back to the sector
- Developing the [interoperability architecture](#) to enable data sharing at scale
- Bringing provider, local authority and NHS data together, with appropriate consents
- Building tools on top of that large-scale data, e.g. AI-enabled decision support tools

Testing, evaluating and scaling technologies



Test, evaluate and scale technologies based on local priorities, building the evidence base for future investment - this will increase the use of technologies that improve the quality and safety of care, reduce avoidable hospital admissions, and promote independent living.

What we've done:

- [Fund £7m across 8 projects](#) to develop the evidence base for promising technologies
- Include digital projects within the [£42.6m Accelerating Reform Fund](#) for local authorities
- Fund providers to scale technologies with proven benefits, starting with [falls prevention and detection](#).
- Work with the [National Institute for Health and Care Research](#) to look at the impact of technologies

Where we are heading:

- Publishing toolkits, to bring together evidence, best practice and implementation guidance – starting with falls
 - Co-producing guidance on 'what good evidence looks like'
-

Boosting digital readiness



Support care providers to boost their digital readiness, including digital skills, connectivity and cyber security - this will give the social care workforce the confidence, skills, support and infrastructure to effectively use technology to provide high quality care.

What we've done:

- Publish a [Digital Skills Framework](#) and training database
- [Launch a website](#) with support and guidance
- Develop [e-learning for cyber](#) and e-learning for digital skills (go-live expected imminently)
- Produce an internet connectivity dashboard for care homes (access available on request from ICB leads)

Where we are heading:

- Developing a digital skills self-assessment tool for providers
 - Launching a Level 5 qualification in digital leadership
 - Building our understanding of DDaT skills and needs in social care
-