

## **Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network – Update**

An Academic Health Science Network “provides a systematic delivery mechanism for the local NHS, universities, public health and social care to work with industry to transform the identification, adoption and spread of proven innovations and best practice.” (Innovation, health and wealth, Department of Health, 2011). Across England, 12 to 18 AHSNs will be accredited, each covering a defined geographical area of 3-5 million people.

The AHSN accreditation process will entail licensing for an initial 5 years by NHS England. The Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network (GM AHSN) has been accredited to provide this service across the whole of the Greater Manchester and East Cheshire footprint. GM AHSN’s prime purpose is to improve population health and create opportunity for wealth and employment through building on our assets and adopting effective method for reliable implementation of agreed best practice.

The focus of the Greater Manchester Academic Health Science Network (GM AHSN) is identifying, adopting and spreading innovations and best practice for health population benefit, specifically focussing on improving health and healthcare outcomes across the entire region to directly address inequalities and optimise public resource. The GM AHSN will drive towards three strategic goals: do the right thing (provide safe, efficient, effective, patient centred, equitable and timely care), do it well (using evidence based pathways and technologies, transparently measuring adherence) and do it for the right reasons (in accordance with NHS Constitutions).

Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMW) Chief Executive Bev Humphrey said: “We are proud as a Trust to work with GM AHSN to improve health and care in the Greater Manchester area and we will look forward to contributing to meet the objectives of saving 1000 lives and creating £1bn of growth.”

Since becoming accredited to provide the service, GM AHSN has developed its governance structures and work-streams across all the organisations involved and produced an annual and five-year business plan.