

Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund

Applicant Q&A session

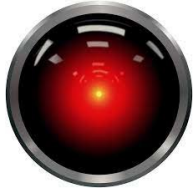
29th January 2026



Office for
Life Sciences



Housekeeping



- This session is being recorded and will be shared publicly after the event.



- Please keep your microphone on mute if you are not speaking.



- We will present for around 10-15 minutes, please hold your questions until we open the session to audience Q&A



Grow Digital Health Midlands



Grow Digital Health Midlands

- Grow Digital Health Midlands is a collaboration between Health Innovation East Midlands and Health Innovation West Midlands
- Onboarding promising innovations with the potential to solve key problems within the NHS locally
- Designed to help UK technology companies develop and scale high potential digital health innovations within the NHS and care sector
- Brings together resource, expertise and networks across the NHS Midlands region

Integrated Care Boards
Midlands



Midlands	
14	NHS Birmingham and Solihull
15	NHS Black Country
16	NHS Coventry and Warwickshire
17	NHS Derby and Derbyshire
18	NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire
19	NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
20	NHS Lincolnshire
21	NHS Northamptonshire
22	NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
23	NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin
24	NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent



Themes

Digital leaders from across our region determined the themes for Grow 2025, factoring the Darzi review and '3 shifts':

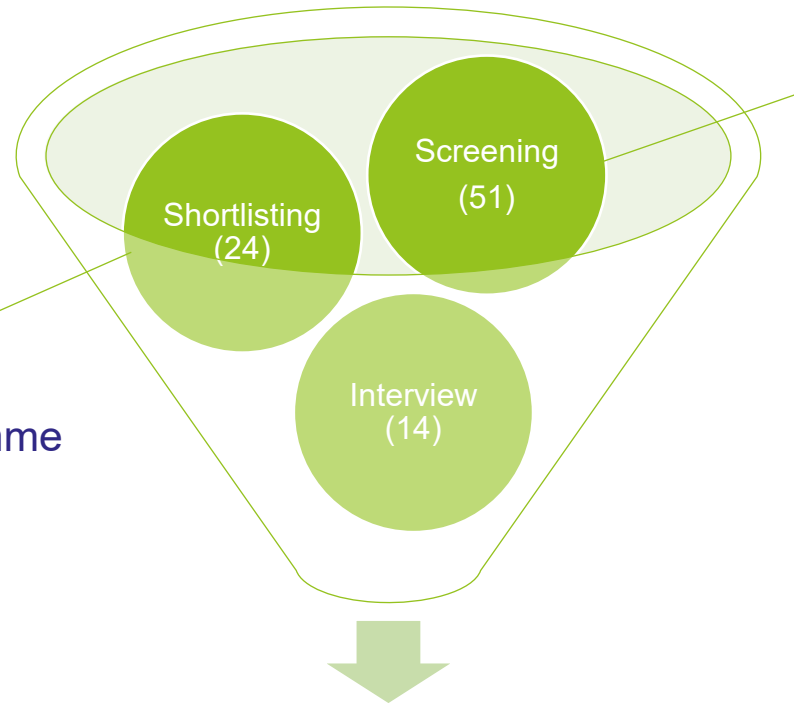
1. Enhancing NHS productivity and communication through technology/AI
2. Reducing demand for hospital-based care



Selection

Scored on:

- Theme alignment
- Patient and health system benefit
- Economic growth potential
- Compatibility of support needs / potential benefit from the programme



Eligibility:

- ✓ UK-registered SME
- ✓ Digital health technology
- ✓ Value proposition
- ✓ Theme + exclusions check
- ✓ Implemented in healthcare
- ✓ Commercialisation plan / model

Grow 2025 Cohort



Our innovators

Innovation / organisation	Contact	Email	Website
Hope programme / Hope for the Community CIC	Gabriela Matouskova - CEO	gabriela@h4c.org.uk	https://www.h4c.org.uk/hope-programme
AirEmail / AirEmail Holdings Ltd	Ameet Bakhai – Co-founder	asbakhai@nhs.net	https://www.airemail.co.uk/
Surgfit / Asclepius Medtech Ltd	Michael Morgan-Curran – CEO	mm-c@asclepius-medtech.com	https://asclepius-medtech.com/
Appt Chronic Condition Management / Appt Health Ltd	Hector Smethurst - Founder & CEO	hector@appt-health.co.uk	https://www.appt-health.co.uk/
Heidi AI Medical Scribe / Heidi Health Ltd	Gus Lyon – Primary Care Lead	gus@heidihealth.com	https://www.heidihealth.com/en-gb
Expertcare / DXS International Plc	David Immlen – Founder & CEO	david.immelm@dxs-systems.com	https://www.dxs-systems.co.uk/
Suvera / Suvera Ltd	Ivan Beckley – CEO & Co-founder	ivan@suvera.co.uk	https://www.suvera.com/



More information

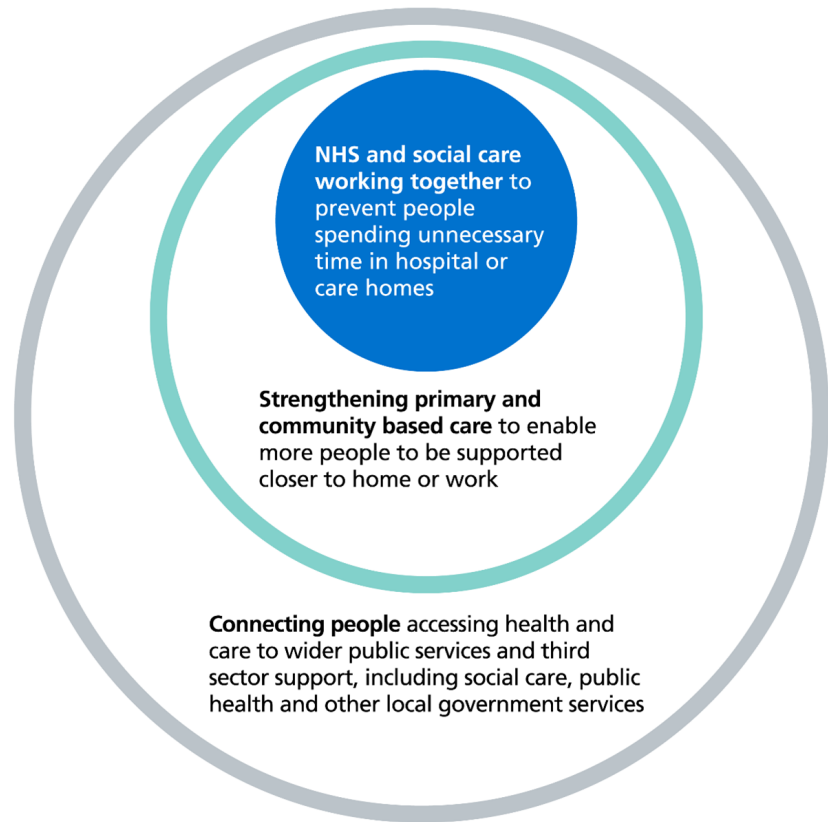


Neighbourhood Health

Midlands Innovation Fund



Why Neighbourhood Health?



- Strong alignment with Grow 25 themes and cohort
- New and emergent national priority area with a strong digital focus
- An opportunity to use HIN resource to plug a gap locally
- 8x Wave 1 Neighbourhood Health sites in the Midlands region



What is the innovation enabling fund?

- Pots of up to £20k available to organisations seeking to deploy one of the Grow innovations
- **Only eligible** to the 7 innovations that presented to the event on 22/01
- Must be novel to the organisation (i.e. not an extension of an existing project with one of these solutions)
- Applications should have an exec level sponsor and there should be a plan for longer term sustainability
- There can be more than one application per region/organisation, each application is scored on its own merit
- Open to all Midlands health and care organisations



Timeline



Date	Activity
22/01/26	Launch webinar and innovator showcase Open Stage I Expression of Interest (EOI) window (2 weeks)
29/01/26	Q&A webinar for applicants
05/02/26	Deadline for Stage 1 Expressions of interests - 23:59 5 th February
12/02/26	Applicants invited to complete Stage 2 Full Application (3 weeks)
05/03/26	Deadline for Stage 2 Full applications – 23:59 5 th March
16/03/26	Panel interviews
23/03/26	Commence contracting with successful applicants (~ 1 month)



What makes a strong application?

- Outline the problem to solve and the patient population affected
- Clear project timeline
- Commitment to resourcing
- Defining clear benefits, metrics and outputs to measure
- Sustainability plan if positive outcome proven
- Governance outlined
- High level organisational sign off



How to apply?

<https://hiem.awardsplatform.com/>

Login or register for Award Force

A .pdf blank copy of the application form can be downloaded for offline review



The screenshot shows the 'Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund' website. At the top, there are logos for 'Health Innovation WEST MIDLANDS', 'Health Innovation East Midlands', and 'Grow Digital Health Midlands'. Below the logos, there is a 'Log in or register' section with an email input field and a 'Continue' button. To the right of this section is a 'Health Innovation East Midlands CMS' welcome message. The message says 'Welcome!' and 'Welcome to the Health Innovation East Midlands Competition Management System!'. It then states 'Please be aware, you will need to be logged in to an Award Force account to complete your application.' and lists three steps: 1. Register an account or login, 2. Start your entry (save it in-progress), and 3. Submit your entry to be judged. It ends with 'Best of luck!' and 'For any questions, please contact healthinnovation-em@nottingham.ac.uk'. Below this, there is a section for 'Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund - Stage 1 Expression of Interest'. It states 'Competition opens for expressions of interest on: **Thursday 22nd January 2026**'. It also mentions 'Applicant online Q&A sessions: **Thursday 29th January 2026 11:30 - 12:30**'. There is a 'SIGN UP HERE' link with the URL <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neighbourhood-health-innovation-fund-ga-tickets-1980395249502>. The deadline for expressions of interest is 'Thursday 5th February 2026 (23:59)'. There is a 'Download sample application PDF' link and an 'Enter' button.

Audience Q&As



Interested and want to know more?

Email us with any queries:

- dawn.plummer@nottingham.ac.uk
- nick.hamilton@nottingham.ac.uk
- healthinnovation-em@nottingham.ac.uk

Not interested/eligible for this opportunity? Engage with Health Innovation East Midlands here:

- <https://healthinnovation-em.org.uk/contact-us>

More information on the Grow Digital Health Midlands programme:

- <https://healthinnovation-em.org.uk/our-work/innovator-hub/grow-digital-health>



Back-up slides

Award Force Demo



Start your application

Click here to start
a new application

Health Innovation East Midlands CMS ▾ Manage Enter Judge

Applications

Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund

Health Innovation West Midlands Health Innovation East Midlands Grow Digital Health Midlands

🔗 ⓘ Applicant instructions ▾

Click 'Start application' and follow the instructions on the 'Start here' tab.

You can save a draft application to return to at a later date, please make sure you press the 'save + close' button before exiting the platform. **Once you are happy with your application you must click 'submit application'**

A list of your in progress / submitted applications will appear below if you have any associated with your Award Force account.

For any questions, please contact healthinnovation-em@nottingham.ac.uk

My applications Active season (Winter 25/26) ▾ Current ▾ 🔍 Search list Advanced

Hello, Nick Hamilton!

You have no applications yet. What are you waiting for?

< **Start application**

Need help?



Category and naming

Select the category (competition) you are applying for, this will reveal the 'Neighbourhood Health – Stage 1' tab

Category

Please select the Health Innovation East Midlands competition that you wish to apply for from the drop down menu.

The competition-specific form tabs and information will become visible depending on the competition you select.

Application name

Please name your application using the following format: [YOUR ORGANISATION NAME + INNOVATION NAME + COMPETITION/CATEGORY NAME] E.G. NEWTOWN NHS TRUST + CONSULTIO + NEIGHBOURHOOD HEALTH STAGE 1

Category

Grow Digital Health Midlands 2026 (inactive for entrants)

Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund - Stage 1 Expression of Interest

Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund - Stage 2 Full Application (inactive for entrants)

Applicant

First name

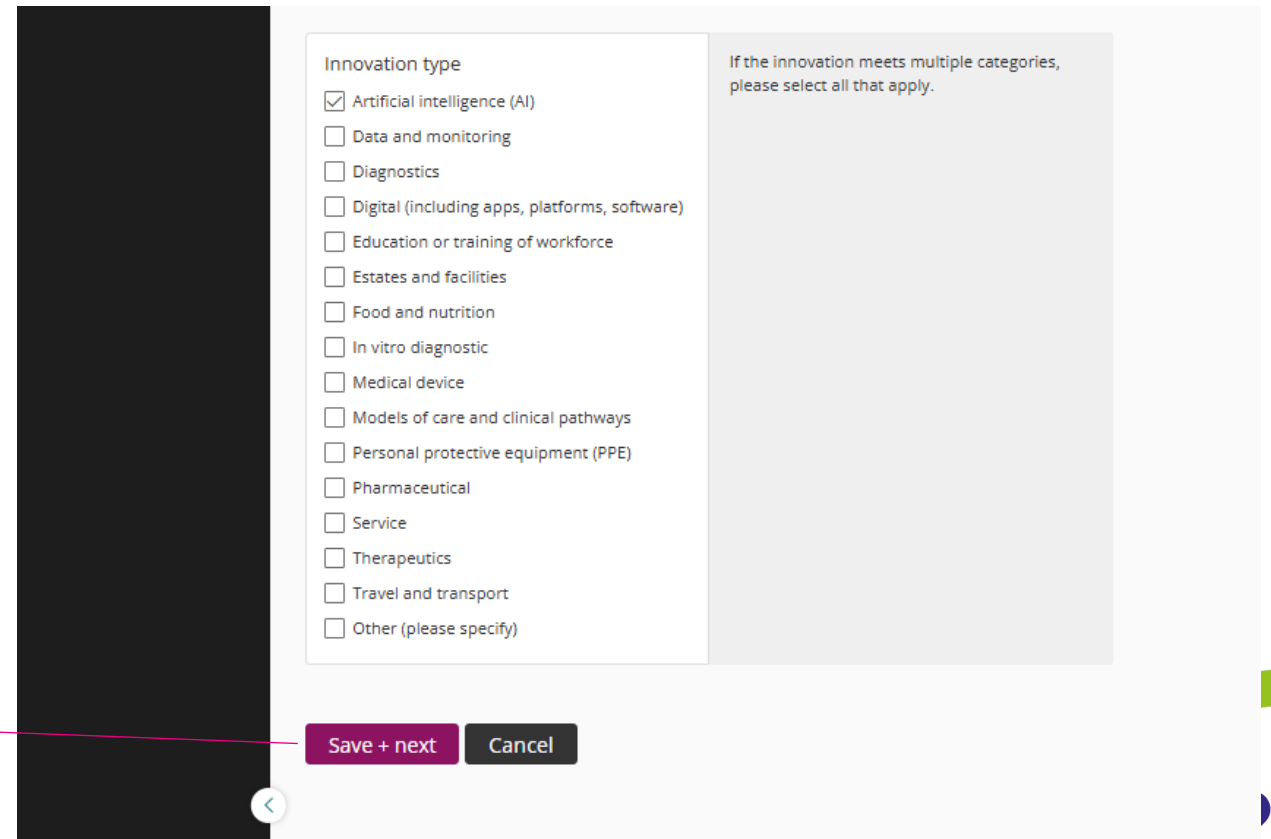


Start here tab and saving application

The Start here tab has 3 sections:

- **Applicant – who are you?**
- **Organisation – who do you represent?**
- **Innovation – which innovation / technology are you interested in?**

You can save and return to your application at any time



The screenshot shows a web application interface. On the left, a large black rectangular area represents a redacted section. To its right is a form titled 'Innovation type'. This form contains a list of 15 categories, each with a checkbox. The first category, 'Artificial intelligence (AI)', is checked. Below the list are two buttons: 'Save + next' (in a purple box) and 'Cancel' (in a grey box). To the right of the 'Innovation type' list is a grey box containing the text: 'If the innovation meets multiple categories, please select all that apply.' At the bottom of the black redacted area, there is a small white circular button with a left-pointing arrow.

Innovation type

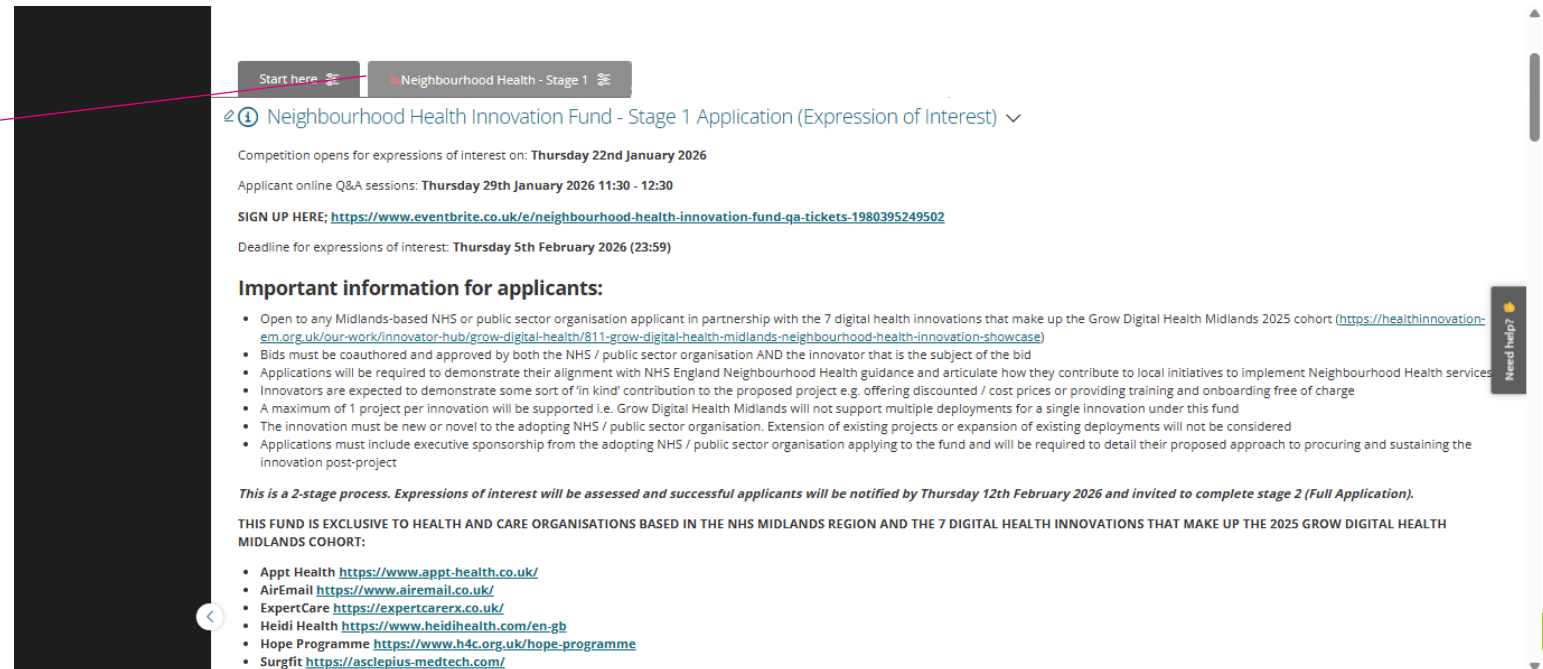
- ☒ Artificial intelligence (AI)
- ☐ Data and monitoring
- ☐ Diagnostics
- ☐ Digital (including apps, platforms, software)
- ☐ Education or training of workforce
- ☐ Estates and facilities
- ☐ Food and nutrition
- ☐ In vitro diagnostic
- ☐ Medical device
- ☐ Models of care and clinical pathways
- ☐ Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- ☐ Pharmaceutical
- ☐ Service
- ☐ Therapeutics
- ☐ Travel and transport
- ☐ Other (please specify)

If the innovation meets multiple categories, please select all that apply.

Save + next Cancel

Neighbourhood Health – Stage 1 tab

The 'Neighbourhood Health – Stage 1' tab contains the competition-specific information for applicants and form fields



Start here  Neighbourhood Health - Stage 1 

Neighbourhood Health Innovation Fund - Stage 1 Application (Expression of Interest) 

Competition opens for expressions of interest on: **Thursday 22nd January 2026**

Applicant online Q&A sessions: **Thursday 29th January 2026 11:30 - 12:30**

SIGN UP HERE: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/neighbourhood-health-innovation-fund-qa-tickets-1980395249502>

Deadline for expressions of interest: **Thursday 5th February 2026 (23:59)**

Important information for applicants:

- Open to any Midlands-based NHS or public sector organisation applicant in partnership with the 7 digital health innovations that make up the Grow Digital Health Midlands 2025 cohort (<https://healthinnovation-em.org.uk/our-work/innovator-hub/grow-digital-health/811-grow-digital-health-midlands-neighbourhood-health-innovation-showcase>)
- Bids must be coauthored and approved by both the NHS / public sector organisation AND the innovator that is the subject of the bid
- Applications will be required to demonstrate their alignment with NHS England Neighbourhood Health guidance and articulate how they contribute to local initiatives to implement Neighbourhood Health services
- Innovators are expected to demonstrate some sort of 'in kind' contribution to the proposed project e.g. offering discounted / cost prices or providing training and onboarding free of charge
- A maximum of 1 project per innovation will be supported i.e. Grow Digital Health Midlands will not support multiple deployments for a single innovation under this fund
- The innovation must be new or novel to the adopting NHS / public sector organisation. Extension of existing projects or expansion of existing deployments will not be considered
- Applications must include executive sponsorship from the adopting NHS / public sector organisation applying to the fund and will be required to detail their proposed approach to procuring and sustaining the innovation post-project

This is a 2-stage process. Expressions of interest will be assessed and successful applicants will be notified by Thursday 12th February 2026 and invited to complete stage 2 (Full Application).

THIS FUND IS EXCLUSIVE TO HEALTH AND CARE ORGANISATIONS BASED IN THE NHS MIDLANDS REGION AND THE 7 DIGITAL HEALTH INNOVATIONS THAT MAKE UP THE 2025 GROW DIGITAL HEALTH MIDLANDS COHORT:

- Appt Health <https://www.appt-health.co.uk/>
- AirEmail <https://www.airemail.co.uk/>
- ExpertCare <https://expertcarerx.co.uk/>
- Heidi Health <https://www.heidihealth.com/en-gb>
- Hope Programme <https://www.h4c.org.uk/hope-programme>
- Surgfit <https://asclepius-medtech.com/>



Further information

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- **Bluesky:** [@healthinn-em.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/@healthinn-em.bsky.social)



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