

Improving health and care through better patient data sharing

A multi-professional cross-political party round table was held on 5 October 2022 to discuss how better sharing of patient data could lead to improved care, better patient experiences and more efficient processes for professionals. This statement summarises the key points from the discussion.

Culture

A cultural shift is needed within the general population to understand that health and care services are now entering a digital age. Data sharing is part of this digital age, but there is currently a gap in both professionals' and public understanding of the value of better data sharing. A cultural shift must include establishing confidence in the purpose of data sharing, how data are shared, who has access to data and how data will be used.

Change of language

A change in language is needed to move from a "single shared record" to "data sharing" through a new National Digital Platform. Transformative work is needed to separate the data from the application that accesses the data. The use of clear data sharing standards will make sharing of data achievable and help overcome historic difficulties with sharing of records. Data will be entered into the platform through different systems, including potentially patient wearable devices. Attributes-based access and identity management will enable different, appropriate views of data.

- **Next steps:** Agree the language to use and encourage our organisations to use it.

Collaboration

A cultural shift and improved awareness about data sharing could be achieved faster by effective collaboration between digital leads, health and care professions, and the public. Collaboration would also support a whole-system design approach to future data sharing systems.

- **Next steps:** Explore ways to collaborate to support a cultural shift around digital awareness and the change of language.

Communication

Progress is being made on the development of a National Digital Platform and on enabling data sharing, but there is little awareness of this among professions or the public.

- **Next steps:** Scottish Government and NES Technology Service to communicate more about the progress being made including key milestones and timescales for delivery. All present to share this information to amplify it.

The meeting was attended by:

Health and care organisations: Royal Pharmaceutical Society, General Pharmaceutical Council, Royal College of General Practitioners, General Medical Council, British Medical Association, Scottish Social Services Council, Royal College of Nursing, Allied Health Professions Federation for Scotland, British Dental Association, Alliance Scotland, Ayrshire Hospice, NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Politicians: Gillian Martin MSP, Scottish National Party, and Convener of the Health Social Care and Sport Committee; Jackie Baillie MSP, Scottish Labour Party, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery; Julia Thomson representing Sandesh Gulhane MSP, Scottish Conservative Party, Shadow Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.

Digital leads: Scottish Government Digital Health and Care Directorate, NES Technology Service.