

# FINANCE INNOVATION FORUM

## PROGRAMME UPDATE AND 2022-23 PLAN

The Finance Innovation Forum, chaired by Jenny Ehrhardt, Group Chief Finance Officer at Manchester University NHS FT, provides a platform for the discovery of existing and emerging innovations in NHS finance. It connects organisations and systems through sharing best practice and proposes changes to processes that compromise the strategic sustainability and agility of healthcare finance. The forum harnesses expert steering groups, patient-level data, FinTech solutions and NHS innovations to support the delivery of better value health and care to the patient and taxpayer.

### PROGRAMME UPDATE

- Since launching 6 months ago the Forum's [Innovation Programme](#) has peer reviewed and published [34 NHS Finance Innovations](#) across 2 cohorts.
  - [Cohort 3](#) was launched on the 25 April and the submission window will close on 23 May.
  - [60 peer reviewers](#) have volunteered.
  - Submissions by region are: 14 x NE&Y, 6 x London, 6 x NW, 3 x EoE, 3 x Midlands, 1 x SW, 1 x SE.
- [NHS Finance Innovation Showcase](#) was launched last week and has 41 confirmed delegates.
  - This interactive online event will showcase peer reviewed and published innovations from the first two Cohorts of the Finance Innovation Forum's Innovation Programme. Joined by guest NHS Innovation Directors James Davis, Claire Liddy and Wendy Tindale OBE.
- The first event in the 4-month [Software Skills for Finance staff](#) series launched last week with 107 delegates.
  - This programme provides a permanent online forum of resources and virtual learning initially covering 4 different software; Excel, SQL, Power BI & Power Automate. This community of practice will exist beyond the series and will grow with every new Cohort.
- The PFR Automation Project was tasked with developing a simple, shareable, 'low-tech' solution to be offered as an optional tool to reduce the manual burden currently experienced by completing the PFR.
  - *The group first met on March 30, and already have a working concept which is in its first testing phase this month, a national test is planned for June, and an intended hard launch and roll out in July as part of the Month 4 Provider Finance Return. The developed solution is also likely to have applications in other returns.*
- The [Art of the Possible](#), provided an introductory NHS finance guide to emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain and explored the role these could have in the future of NHS Finance.

- We are yet to receive innovations using either of these technologies but when successfully peer reviewed, they will be linked to the briefing to chronicle NHS Finance's implementations

## DRAFT 2022-23 PROGRAMME PLAN

- Pursue wider engagement for Cohort 3 and 4 of the Innovation Programme (Cohort 3 is open now until 23 May)
- Deliver successive Software Skills for Finance Staff Cohorts
- Publish and roll out the PFR Automation Project output.
- Map the PFR Automation Project solution to other national returns and if appropriate and achievable publish these.
- Scale the Forum's automation capabilities as a service to NHS Finance.
- Use the innovation programme and closer collaboration with partners to further develop a consolidated efficiency and productivity approach.
- Research the common problems associated with data sharing at ICS level and if appropriate develop a standardised approach to this
- Use the innovation programme as an evidence base to identify the scale of common problems and deploy the Forum's resources to resolve blockages to support a more efficient and productive system.
- Publish and ensure problems are searchable on the One NHS Finance website
- Publish an Art of the Possible update on Quantum technology.
- Develop and publish accessible tools so NHS organisations can better understand, use and interrogate their patient-level data to improve productivity and deliver better value health and care within Multi-Disciplinary Teams
- Develop and publish accessible tools to improve value based decision making
- Support, nurture and if appropriate scale submitted innovations for wider use, through enhanced peer review and assessment programme.
- Construct a robust system to assess, qualify and nurture the submission of ideas and problems submitted to the Forum.