

## Development sessions for members

### Background

The NHS's response to COVID-19 has accelerated digital transformation across the provider sector, with trusts implementing a range of new digital services at scale in a matter of weeks. NHS Providers has launched a new development programme to support boards to lock in the learning from this period of rapid digitisation and to build on this momentum over the longer term.

The Digital Boards programme aims to build board understanding of the potential and implications of the digital agenda, and increase the confidence and capability of boards to harness the opportunities it provides. Alongside bespoke whole board development sessions for individual trusts, NHS Providers will focus on sharing good practice and peer learning on digital transformation through a comprehensive set of board resources and events for all board directors.

The board development sessions are available free of charge to all provider trusts thanks to funding from Health Education England and NHSX as part of their Digital Readiness programme. To deliver them NHS Providers has partnered with a transformation agency called Public Digital to ensure members have access to expert facilitation and learning on digital transformation from other organisations and sectors.

### Session purpose and content

The aim of the board development session is to ensure collective responsibility for the digital agenda and to enable the board to reflect on its current level of digital maturity and how digital technologies and ways of working can support the delivery of your trust's strategic priorities in the future. The content for each board session will be tailored during pre-calls with the board, however the modules below are an indication of topics that can be covered. This is not an extensive list and each agenda is tailored to the trust's needs:

- **Defining digital** – Ensuring the board has a shared understanding of its collective responsibility for the digital agenda
- **Assurance and confidence for the board** – Ensuring all board members are confident in asking questions on digital transformation to enable the entire board to take responsibility for digital and embedding a digital culture
- **Lessons from other sectors** – Case studies from outside of the NHS on the conditions needed for successful transformation and examples of where failing large transformation projects have turned the ship around for a successful outcome
- **Technology fundamentals** – Framework for navigating the complex landscape of business and technology to ensure the board has the right priorities to thrive

- **Workshops** – Structured around where the board should focus next on its digital journey. Taking stock of what has been achieved so far, what needs improvement and what transformation should be sustained.
- **Good governance for digital delivery** – Exploring principles of good governance for digital transformation and provide practical advice on how to institute governance that speeds up delivery, increases confidence, and mitigates risk.

## Time commitment

Given the constraints of COVID-19 and the current pressures on boards, sessions can be delivered online or face to face. Session length can be varied to fit your requirements and content will be tailored to ensure maximum impact from the session whilst working within the time constraints of your board. We ask that all members attend to maximise the value of this session to your trust.

### Virtual delivery

This type of session would be between 2.5 hours and 5 hours in length with appropriate breaks. We would recommend to maximise the benefit for the board, that a longer session is preferable. Our expert facilitators will design an agenda that encourages board interaction and discussion throughout the session.

### Face-to-face delivery

A half or whole day session that would be delivered at your trust when the time is appropriate and ensuring the safety of your board and our facilitators.

Preparation will include pre-calls with your trust's chair, chief executive and board digital lead to enable us to understand your requirements and priorities. We will send pre-reading materials for board members to read in advance of the session. We will capture your feedback on the session on the day, but also ask that a board member is available for a follow up call after the event to both offer any further reflections on the session and to enable us to identify other sources of support you might want to access either from our programme or other national initiatives.

## Our team

NHS Providers has an in-house Digital Boards team which will be your lead point of contact for all aspects of this session. Our team members have been closely connected to NHS Providers existing Board development programme which delivered over 85 development workshops to c1,500 delegates over the last year, with 97% of attendees rating our sessions as good or excellent. We will work with Public Digital to co-design the session content and conduct pre-calls with your trust, and partners at Public Digital will facilitate the discussion.

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