

Development sessions for members

Background

The NHS Providers' 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. Designed to support trusts maintain the rapid digitisation made during COVID-19 and support boards on their digital transformation journey, this programme is delivered with [Public Digital](#) giving members the opportunity to access expert facilitation and learning from other sectors. The programme is available free of charge to all members, thanks to funding from Health Education England and NHSX, as part of the building a digital ready workforce.

Alongside bespoke board development sessions, the programme focuses on sharing good practice and peer learning on digital transformation through [leadership guides](#), [board briefings](#), events for all board directors and a Digital Boards leadership network.

In the past year, we have delivered board development sessions to 39 trusts and engaged with over 600 board members. 90% of board members said the session increased their confidence in assuring the delivery of digital programmes and 93% said it increased their understanding of the conditions for successful transformation.

Bespoke board development sessions

Our board development sessions are tailored to the development needs of each trust board. Following pre-call interviews with several board members and a review of the relevant trust documents, we will create a bespoke agenda which meets the requirements of individual boards and reflects where they are on their digital transformation journey.

While each session is different, previous boards have covered the following:

- Ensuring the whole board understand the need to take collective and individual ownership of the trust's digital transformation.
- Building board confidence in assuring the delivery of digital programmes and setting priorities as part of a long-term vision.
- Helping the board understand the conditions for successful transformation, and how to build a successful digital delivery culture.
- Sharing insights from other sectors including why digital organisations have succeeded or failed, how to create a good digital strategy and technology fundamentals for leaders.

Through presentations, workshops and case studies from other sectors and within the NHS, we aim to equip boards with the conditions for successful digital transformation. After each board session a summary of key insights, agreed actions and relevant resources is sent to the board and a follow up

call takes place with the chair to review the session and agree how else the Digital Boards programme might help.

Time commitment

Given the constraints of COVID-19 and the current pressures on boards, delivery of these sessions remains flexible. Session length can be varied as outlined below and we ask that all board members attend to maximise the value of the session to the trust. In advance of the session we will conduct individual pre-calls with board members including the chair, chief executive and board digital lead to understand your requirement and priorities, as well as reviewing your trust strategies.

Virtual board development sessions

We recommend sessions to be between 2.5 – 4.5 hours including appropriate breaks. Our agendas are highly interactive, using virtual engagement tools and discussion to drive the session. We ask all board members to join from individual devices to allow for whole board engagement.

Face to face board development sessions

We recommend sessions to be between 3.5 – 6.0 hours in length including appropriate breaks. Our team, which includes facilitators from Public Digital and NHS Providers, will use a mixture of presentation and workshops to deliver the sessions.

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. We will work with Public Digital to co-design the session content and conduct pre-calls with your trust, with experts at Public Digital facilitating the discussion.

Please contact Louise Stopford on louise.stopford@nhsproviders.org to book your session.

Feedback from trust boards

"The best organised, formatted, presented and co-ordinated board development session we have ever had. Tremendously impressive."

Noel Scanlon, director of Nursing, County Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust

"I really appreciated the bespoke preparation you did that made for a really useful session. At the end of our day board colleagues were still commenting on how useful and important it was."

Paul Devlin, chair, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

"The content and the way that it was delivered really enabled us to reflect upon what we are doing and how we can improve our approach to embedding digital as a way of evolving our services and business operations for better outcomes."

Lena Samuels, chair, South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust