

EXPLAINER

Introduction

Together, we have entered an exciting new era for research and development across the Yorkshire and Humber region.

Yorkshire & Humber SDE is the NHS England-lead sub-national Secure Data Environment that generates a transformational opportunity for the region to have a **world-class infrastructure of whole system data storage and access platform**.

Our SDE is built on the collective strong reputation for innovating health data research – and enable us to improve patient care and safety; transform services; reduce inequalities; and enhance life chances for the 5.7 m people we serve.



A federation of NHS Trusts, three NHS Integrated Care Boards and local Universities that provides a **secure “single access point” to healthcare and cross-sector data for researchers**.



An **Information Governance framework** that enables research at a regional scale.



A number of **services and products** to support all stages of research projects development and delivery.



A dedicated programme of **Public, Patient and Professional Involvement and Engagement** focused on the use of health and care data in research.

Building on our proven track record

Yorkshire and Humber Care Record

– enabling real-time healthcare information to be transmitted across multiple providers to support direct care and population health management.

National Pathology Imaging Cooperative

– scanning over 2.3m images each year in over 40 hospitals as part of a unique collaboration between NHS, academic and industry partners.

NIHR Applied Research Collaborative (ARC) Yorkshire and Humber

– bringing together NHS organisations, local authorities, universities, the third sector and industry.

Connected Bradford

– linking pseudonymised health, education, social care, crime, environmental and local authority data among 1.1m citizens.

CUREd+

– bringing together information from different health services in the Urgent and Emergency Health Care system in England.

DATA-CAN

– collecting detailed information on cancer referral, diagnosis, treatment and outcomes for more than 15 years.

South Yorkshire Digital Health Hub

– bringing together information from different health services in the Urgent and Emergency Health Care system in England.

Smart Data Research UK Healthy and Sustainable Places Data Service

– collecting data that spans retail, business, transport and infrastructure sectors to provide integrated datasets for the research community.

Bringing the public with us

We want to ensure full transparency of the Y&H SDE work so everyone is aware of how their data can be used and is confident that there will never be a risk of unauthorised access to the datasets we hold. By actively involving with communities in the Yorkshire and Humber region, we gain valuable insights that shape the Y&H SDEs priorities, refine its outreach strategies, and improve ways of sharing research findings.

We are further developing our existing patient and public discussions, which bring together a network of people to share knowledge and information, co-develop research studies, support interpretation of de-identified data (e.g. health), cross-sector data linkage and future Y&H SDE ambitions.

Through our workshops and surveys, we learned that people wanted to know more about how data is accessed and used in research, and what we really mean when we talk about 'your data'. Communities want us to be honest and clear about the strong security measures we put in place to keep people's data safe.



Yorkshire & Humber
Secure Data Environment



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Investment objectives and benefits – at a glance

Improved access to clinical trials	Greater participation; better quality; recruitment costs reduction	Higher involvement of diverse communities; bigger investment by Life Sciences industry
Outcomes of research delivering NHS efficiencies	Speeding up data acquisition and analysis; Cross-section datasets linkage;	More near real-time data; streamlined data access and collation; freeing up of clinical time; better staff experience
Growth in UK Life Sciences sector	Extra investment in the NHS – and in the UK	SDEs become financially self-sustaining, with extra income returned to NHS to improve care; more employment opportunities
Levelling up and reducing health inequalities	Wider participation of diverse and deprived communities; more clinicians involved in research; stronger focus on inequalities	More real-world studies truly representative of population
Environmental benefits and Net Zero strategy support	Reduced environmental impact of data centres/ storages	Reduced carbon footprint
Compliance with national standards and policies	Information governance; medical confidence; patient, public and professional engagement; cybersecurity; clinical coding; SDE accreditation; collaborative procurement	Greater confidence among patients and clinicians in SDEs being secure and trustworthy
Increased quality and volume of research activity	Transparent sharing of analytical methods and scripts; Combining data from different organisations to richer insights	Improved confidence in research outcomes; increased adoption of findings