

JUNE - INTRODUCTION DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Purpose of the discussion

Tracey Walker, the Director of Operations for Yorkshire & Humber Secure Data Environment (Y&H SDE), met with the group to:

- Introduce herself and her background
- Explain the programme's governance (Programme Board, Strategic Advisory Forum (SAF))
- Discuss how patient and public voices, including the PAG, can contribute to strategic decision-making across the programme.

Governance structure

The Yorkshire & Humber SDE is overseen by:

NHS England → **Commissioner**
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust → **Host organisation**
Programme Board → **Strategic oversights and decision-making**

The Programme Board was established in May 2026 and provides leadership across the Yorkshire & Humber region.

5 priorities for 2026:

1. Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)
2. Information governance
3. Technology platform development
4. Data provider onboarding
5. Project growth

PPIE was highlighted as a key factor in the Y&H SDE's success, ***"PPIE has supported and enabled us to get where we are."***

The Strategic Advisory Forum (SAF) is being developed to:

- Advise the Y&H SDE executive team
- Bring together representatives from across Yorkshire & Humber
- Include PAG members as key stakeholders
- Influence future strategy and priorities

Potential areas of focus by the PAG

- Reducing health inequalities
- Measuring the impact of SDE- enabled research
- Understanding who benefits from health data use
- Increasing public understanding of health data
- Data literacy and education, especially for children and young people
- Future developments (AI, emerging technology)

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What matters most to PAG

Focus on real-world impact

PAG stressed the importance of:

- SHaring examples of how data improves health outcomes
- Demonstrating the benefits for communities
- Showing evidence of success and impact via real life case studies

Tackle health inequalities

There is a need to:

- Understand which communities benefit from SDE research
- Address underrepresentation
- Ensure diverse voices are included in decision-making

Improve health data literacy

Suggestions included:

- Working with school and public health partners
- Raising awareness of the value of health data
- Helping younger generations understand healthcare research

PAG also emphasised that lived experience should be valued equally alongside professional expertise within the governance and advisory structures.

What PAG want to see

- Communities genuinely consulted and listened to
- Greater transparency when recommendations are not implemented
- Clear evidence of PAG influence at Programme Board level
- Diverse representation across all governance structures
- Opportunities for people to 'see themselves' reflected in the SDE and understand how it relates to their communities

PAG members will play an important role in shaping the future of the Y&H SDE, helping ensure that governance, decision-making and research priorities remain patient and public centred, inclusive, transparent and focused on improving health outcomes across the region