Gateway reference: 17626

Richmond House
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21 June 2012

Dear Colleague

ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE NETWORKS

Following the publication of Innovation Health and Wealth in December 2011, we agreed to work with the NHS, universities and industry to designate Academic Health Science Networks with the first networks going live in 2012/13.

We asked Sir Ian Carruthers, OBE to work with colleagues from around the country to produce guidance on the designation process. He has had the insight and support of an external reference group made up of representatives from across the country and this group has helped produce the attached guidance.

The guidance sets out the opportunity that Academic Health Science Networks offer for the NHS and universities to work with industry to not only improve the delivery of innovation but to link this with participation in research, translating research into practice, education and training, wealth creation and service improvement. It includes the criteria and process to establish Academic Health Science Networks including how they will promote equality and reduce inequality as part of their application and establishment. This will be taken into account as part of the selection process.

We are determined to build on the energy and enthusiasm for this proposal and so the guidance asks for expressions of interest for local Academic Health Science Networks by 20 July 2012.

We look forward to hearing of your plans and working with you to create successful networks that help ensure patients benefit from proven innovations and best practice without any undue delay.

If you have any questions or would like to submit your views via email, please contact: ihw-ahsn@dh.gsi.gov.uk

With best wishes,

Sir David Nicholson

NHS Chief Executive

Professor Dame Sally C Davies

Chief Medical Officer

Chief Scientific Adviser