This paper is presented to the May 2024 Moray IJB to give an update on the progress of the Moray Growth Deal, Rural Centre of Excellence for Digital Health and Care Innovation

This £5 million UK Government funded programme of the Rural Centre of Excellence (RCE) Research and Development (R&D) programme as part of Moray Growth Deal, commenced in late 2021 with the ambition to create a unique ecosystem in the Moray region to foster economic development and create jobs through the creation of a physical Demonstration and Simulation environment (DSE) at UHI Moray, underpinned by a virtual R&D infrastructure, five living labs and a robust skills and workforce development programme.

Working closely with the citizens, health and social care Moray, NHS Grampian and third sector organisations, the living labs methodology uses co-design approaches to validate and address key national and local strategic priorities in order to release clinical and care capacity and make services more accessible enabled by digital to meet targeted demand, and to improve the health and wellbeing outcomes for the citizens of Moray. http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_114144.html

The image below provides a visual representation of the R&D infrastructure, assets and Living Lab (LL) R&D themes and the skills programme being progressed within the RCE.
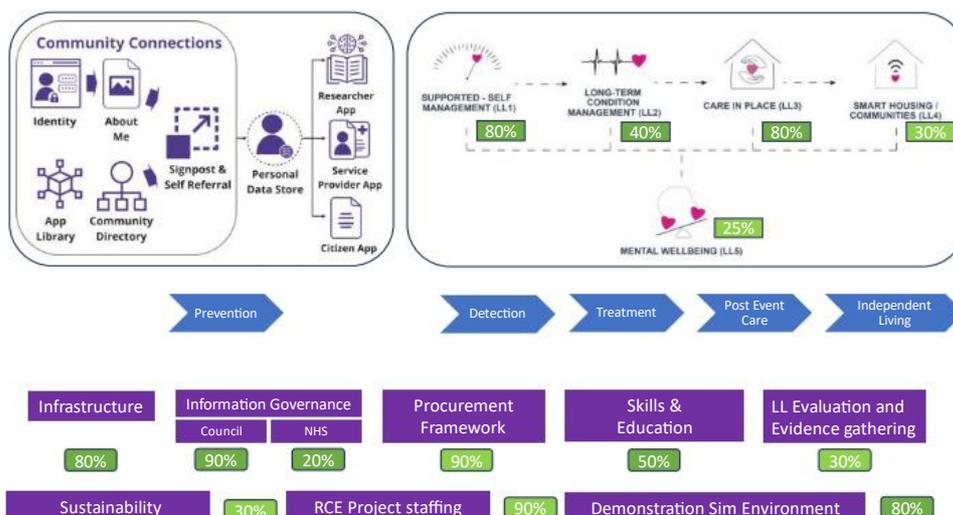

Image 1: Key R&D assets and the 5 Living Lab (LL) Themes

RCE Activity Update March 2024 to May 2024

Living Lab Updates

LL1 Supported Self-Management and LL2 Long Term Condition Management (NHS), have now been aligned to share a common infrastructure while retaining their individual outputs. These will now be delivered over three campaigns with campaign 1 offering patients (Initially from Elgin Health Centre) living with high BMI and/or type 2 diabetes access to trusted digital tier 1 self-management information via the Community Connections @ Moray (CC@M) platform, with the option to self-refer to community facilities for non-clinical weight management and lifestyle support (Initially Moray Leisure Centre) as shown in figure 2. Campaigns 2 and 3 will continue to develop clinically guided pathways ready for testing once campaign 1 is completed and evaluated. These will focus on the management and support of the campaign 1 cohort directing them to the most appropriate service at any given point in their journey across dietetic and diabetic clinical services, and community or online based non-clinical support based on personal data store information.
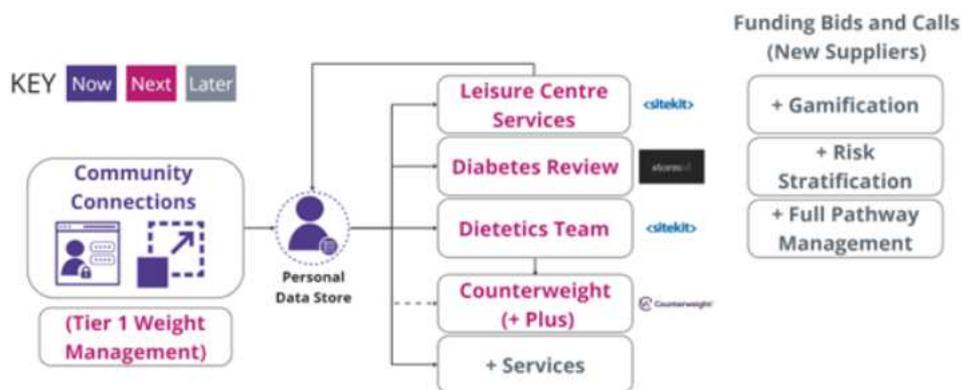

Figure 2: LL1 and LL2 Asset Convergence

LL2 Long Term Condition Management (Community): This pathway focuses on the development of digital tools to support the Community Occupational Therapy Service via self and supported self-management assets. The steering group will commence in May and a working group will be set up to design and create the content for self-management via the CC@M platform. The current call to industry will close on 27/5/24 and seeks a development partner to support triage of referrals to the OT service, and the option of digital assessment

where appropriate for lower-level need aimed at reducing waiting times for basic equipment provision.

LL3 Care in Place: Final iteration of the R&D Community Connections platform and Personal Data Store assets are nearing completion with both R&D assets now live. This lab will move to a phased real world evidence stage in the next few weeks for a minimum of 6 months across the Forres and Lossiemouth areas with a focus on unpaid carers and frailty. An evaluation framework is being implemented to support this.

LL4 Smart Housing/Smart Communities: The first steering group was held on 7th of May, with a broad group of stakeholders representing health and social care, digital office, RCC, housing and third sector. Working groups will now be set up to manage each of the following R&D pathways:
- Development of smart housing specification for new builds and telecare services
- Population stratification platform for holistic data collection, analysis, and alerting
- Development of an exemplar smart enabled, low-carbon, low-cost modular house

The RCE continues to work closely with the Moray Analogue to Digital(A2D) project and aims to collaboratively develop, test, and evaluate alternative device and platform options to achieve improved proactive/predictive outcomes for citizens and services. This will allow the partnership to consider innovative service redesign and procurement opportunities as part of the required replacement of the remaining Moral Lifeline analogue Telecare devices with digital devices by December 2025.

RCE are also exploring R&D opportunities with the 5G Smart Rural project based in Hunty, which aims to evidence the effectiveness of a connectivity infrastructure in rural/ poor signal areas for transmission of data via Internet of Things (IOT) enabled devices which can be used to gather data related to activity, health, and environment.

LL5 Mental Wellbeing: Engagement is ongoing with statutory, and third sector services to agree most beneficial scope for this living lab.

Skills and Workforce Development

The University of Oxford have now completed their review of workforce training tools to identify gaps in Moray, with a focus on innovation skill and needs. The findings are now being reviewed and will inform the next skills grant scope in order to publish an academic call later this year.

Health and Social Care VR Learning Grant application was successful. This grant provides 12 weeks of free access to the FLO platform which comprises a range of immersive learning content tailored specifically for the health and social care sector.

Micro-credentials (Digital Essentials for Carers) - Delivery of Unit 3 (Digital Care: the Moray Context) has been agreed for 17th May 2024.

Robertson Trust Internship (to support Moray RCE team) - officially starting on a 3-day a week basis from early June – 9th Aug.

Potential collaboration opportunities with Young Minds Saves Lives: Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) project aimed at teaching S3 students about responding to medical emergencies (such as CPR) and raising awareness about healthcare career options and volunteering opportunities.

Comms and Engagement

The RCE won the TSA 'Up and Coming Innovation' award along with two key RCE industry partners; Mydex CIC & Archangel, with the win announced at the annual conference on the 18th of March in Birmingham. This is one of the UK's biggest annual sector events therefore provided great exposure for the RCE programme.

An exclusive for P&J newspaper was published on the 16th of March 2024, which also received front page coverage on other local news outlets.

A Facebook/Instagram campaign was launched in tandem to the P&J article to target people to sign up to citizen panel alongside four information events which took place w/c 18th March which were well received.

Fortnightly GSA Led co-design sessions scheduled; Burghead on 27th May, Buckie on 21st June 2024 for general theme topics such as delegated access and digital security. A full schedule is being developed.

RCE also has a space in GSA summer show on 14/15th June and will treat as a pop-up engagement

Evaluation

A logic model framework for the academic evaluation continues to be developed by UHI to capture the integrative and living lab specific outcomes across the whole programme. Qualitative data is also being collated to evaluate the impact of the RCE on the Moray region to evidence increased service, technology and business readiness for R&D and innovation.

Sustainability

The sustainability of the RCE continues to be a key focus, supported by a working group with a range of bids underway to ensure further funding is leveraged into the RCE in preparation for the end of the UK Gov funding period for RCE. Preparation and discussion around service readiness and needs for asset adoption continues to be progressed with H&SCM and NHS Grampian.