



# Health and Social Care Tech Cluster



# CLUSTER MISSION

To establish the North East as a leader in healthcare technology and best practice.

The health & social care tech cluster aims to support organisations in the North East and build a peer-to-peer network, showcase what the region has to offer and work collaboratively to tackle the primary pressures facing health and social care.

By creating a community of regional healthcare organisations, including SMEs, academia, public and private sector, the cluster will collaboratively identify opportunities to develop best practice around the use of existing and emerging technology.

The health & social care tech cluster, supported by CGI, is an industry working group that feeds directly into the wider regional agenda led by the North East LEP working in collaboration with the Academic Health Science Network, NHS Business Services Authority, Innovation SuperNetwork and other key partners.

# CLUSTER AIMS

**Connect** employers, support organisations, public sector, and education to create effective partnerships

**Champion** the region's Health Tech sector locally, nationally, and internationally

**Scope** and research sector need and create strategies and deliver action plans to meet them

**Match** clinicians needs with tech specialists' capabilities to drive innovation

**Organise** activities and events to raise the profile of the sector

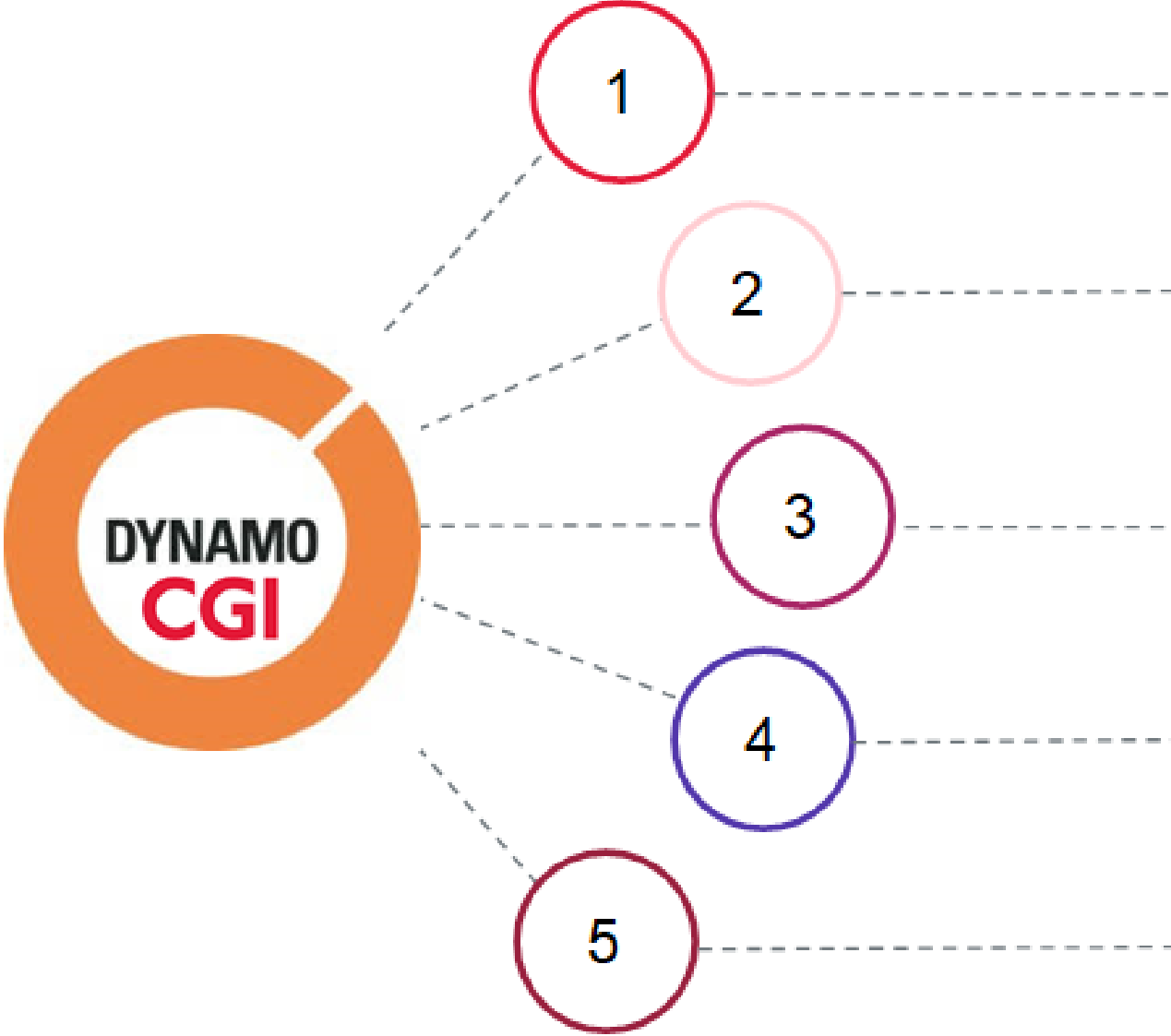
**Network** with other sector groups to develop cross sector links, share best practice and identify opportunities

**Share** information and intelligence across clusters on funding and project opportunities



# CLUSTER FOCUS AREAS

The following focus areas were identified at the cluster kick off meeting, in consultation with SMEs. The list is regularly discussed and reviewed by the Steering Group which aim to create individual workstreams, each led by one of the members to support the development of these key areas.



**Automation and AI**

The role of Automation and AI in Health and Social Care to drive better citizen and patient outcomes

**Patient and Staff Experience**

How we can use technology such as AI to better understand patient and staff experience and how we can take preventative actions with what we learn.

**Population Health**

How we can help the region move to a Population Health approach and what technology we have in the region that can help us to move toward this with a specific focus on health inequalities

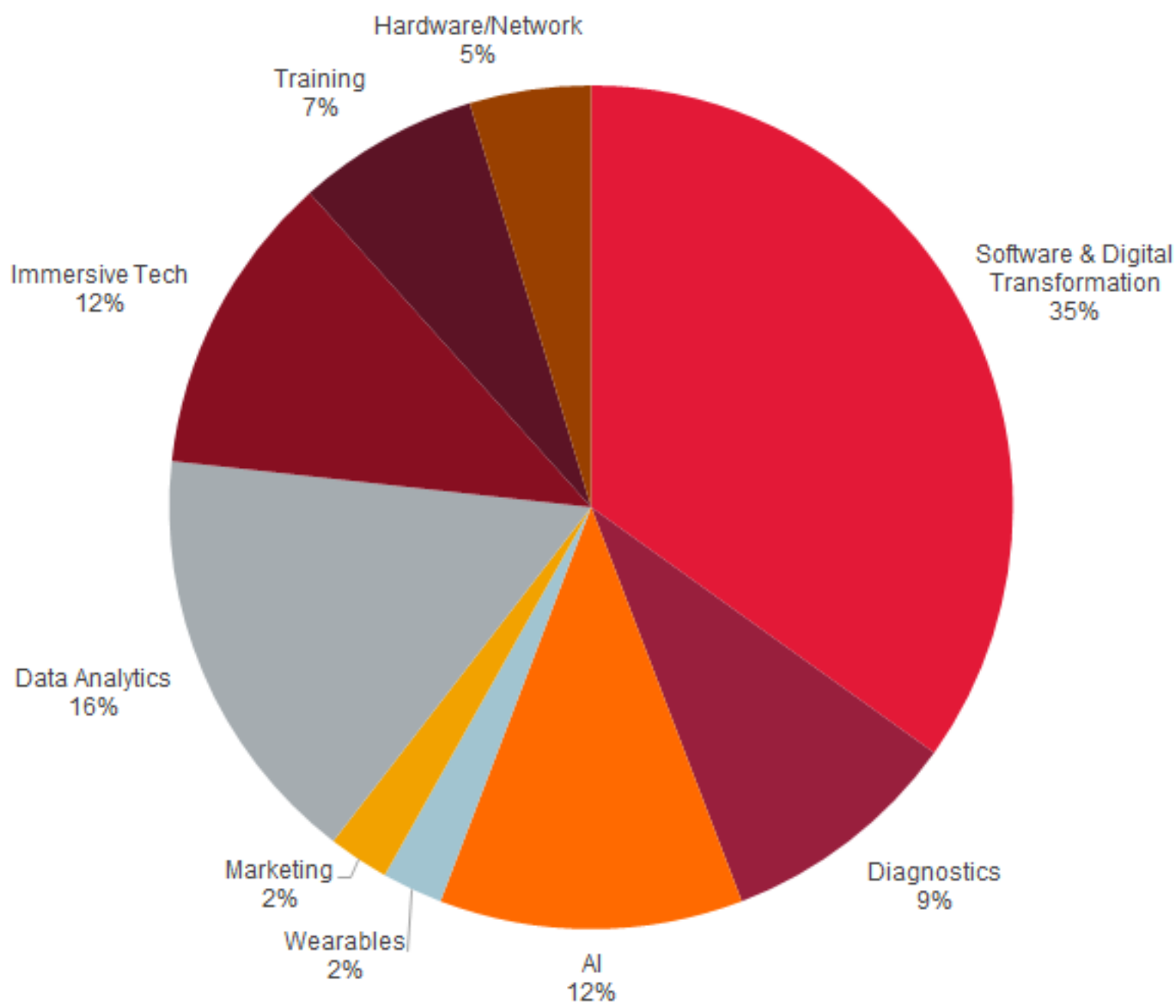
**Waiting Lists**

How we use technology to help us overcome the waiting lists created by the global pandemic

**Access to the NHS for SMEs**

Helping SMEs in the region get access to national and regional NHS bodies to grow NE tech sector

# CLUSTER MEMBERSHIP



## SMEs engaged through the cluster:

- |                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Amazing Interactives        | Forfusion           |
| Biosignatures               | Fuzzy Logic         |
| Cievert                     | Gliff               |
| Clarity Informatics         | Jump                |
| CloudTrade                  | Komodo              |
| Connect Health              | Mavin Informatics   |
| CPD Match                   | Mistura Enterprise  |
| Dare Technology             | Motivait            |
| Datatrial                   | Nine Software       |
| Difrent                     | Onyx Health         |
| Early Diagnostics Institute | Opencast Software   |
| EDI                         | QuantumDX           |
| Enigma Interactive          | Silverlink Software |
| Equal Experts               | Tali Health         |
| Ethical Healthcare          | Vector76            |
| FDM Group                   | Wordnerds           |
| Floki Health                | XR Medical          |

# STEERING GROUP

The Health & Social Care Tech Steering Group is an informal group, which originated as a result of a collective interest from the Local Enterprise Partnership and key regional healthcare and digital organisations to develop a health-tech network.

## Purpose of the Group

- To enable local industry to connect, scope & tackle a series of digital health and social care problems
- To enhance cross-sector collaboration and opportunities
- Inform the North East LEP's HLS Growth Strategy & identify future pipeline of projects
- Have a cross-sector view of digital health & social care unmet needs and highlight key challenges & opportunities
- Outline where the sector could practically contribute to and support local economic strategy & development, feeding into Government priorities
- Identify, articulate and agree how best to progress the sector's health tech agenda in the North East



# STEERING GROUP

## Key Themes and Focus Areas:

Population Health

Automation & AI

Data Integration

Training & Immersive Tech

COVID Response

Patient Experience

Digital Inequalities





# STEERING GROUP



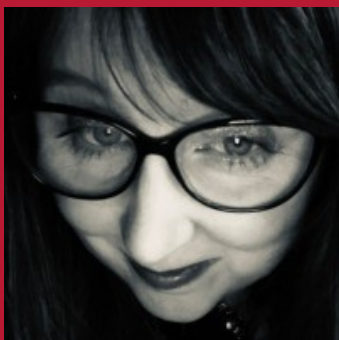
**ANDREW BESFORD**

Non Executive Director at  
Northumbria NHS Trust



**ALEX COOK**

Programme Manager at National  
Centre for Immersive Technologies



**STEPH DOWNEY**

Head of Adult Social Care at  
Gateshead Council



**ABIGAIL DURRANT**

Co-Director of Open Lab & EPSRC  
Centre for Digital Citizens



**RACHAEL FORBISTER**

Head of Quality & Improvement at  
TSA: The voice of Technology  
Enabled Care



**NICK O'REILLY**

CTO at NHS BSA



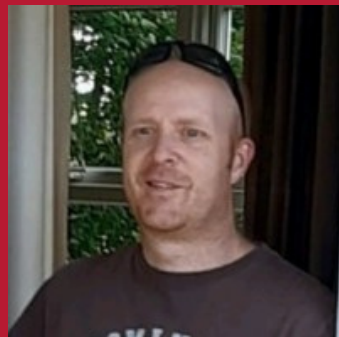
**NIC PALMARINI**

Director of National Innovation  
Centre for Ageing



**MICHAEL SWALES**

Managing Consultant - Digital  
Advisory at CGI



**RUSS WATKINS**

Commercial Director at Academic  
Health Science Network



**MARIA WILLIAMS**

Digital Programme Manager  
at NECS



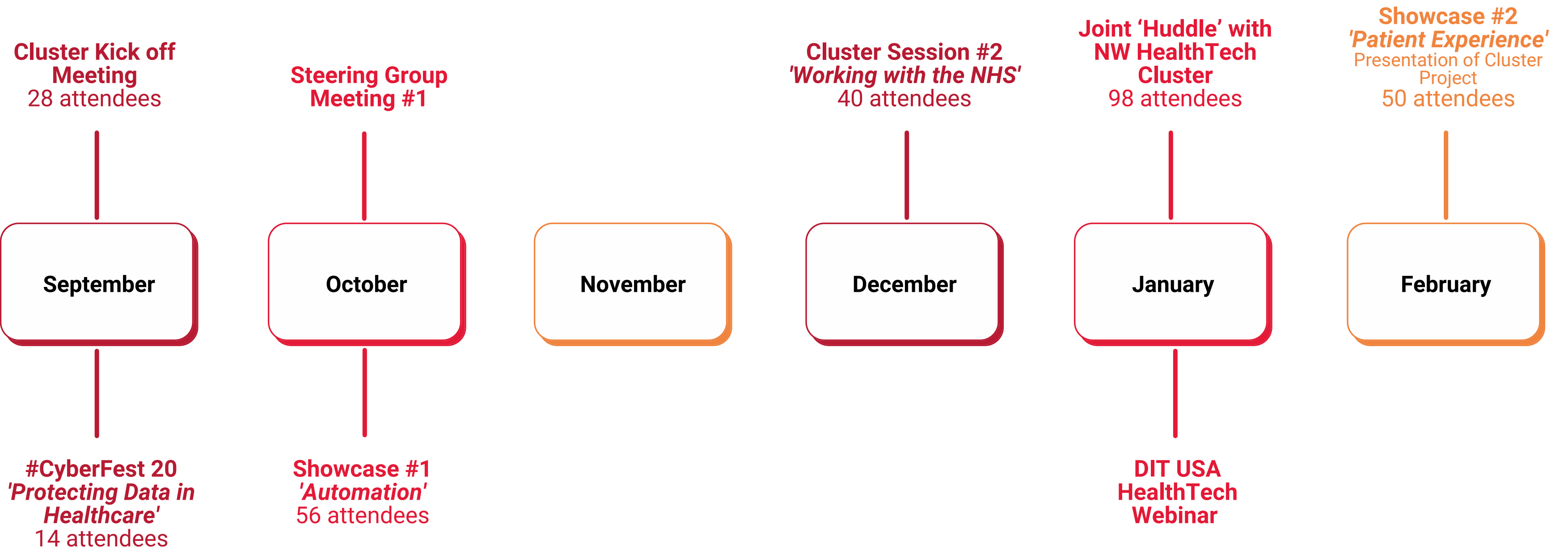
**TBC**

Health & Life Sciences Lead



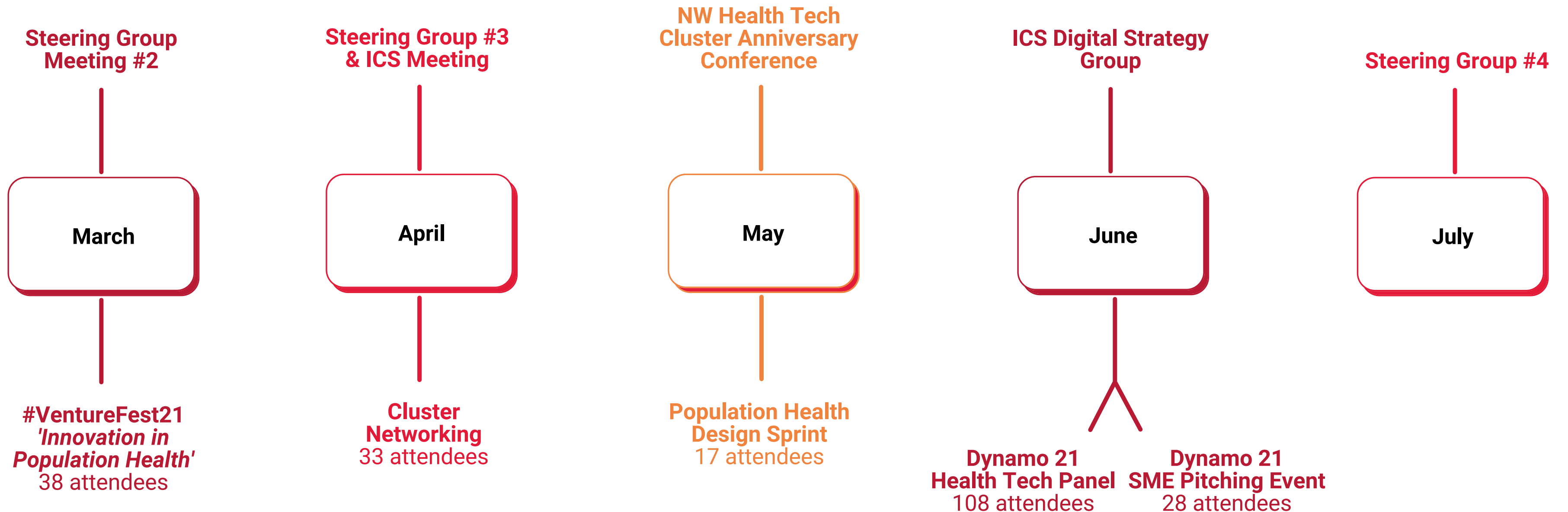
# CLUSTER ACTIVITY

2020 - 2021



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2020 - 2021





# EVENT STATS

July 2020 - June 2021

Events:

25

Speakers:

53

Attendees:

807

Minutes of Content:

1,210

# AUDIENCE

The Dynamo Health and Social Care Tech Cluster has attracted the interest of health & social care professionals from a range of Trusts & Local Authorities, increasing the profile of both CGI and Dynamo:

- **Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Sunderland & South Tyneside NHS Trust**
- **NHS Business Services Authority**
- **NHS Digital**
- **Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust**
- **Gateshead Council**
- **Newcastle City Council**
- **North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust**
- **NHS England / Improvement**
- **NHS Grampian**
- **North Lanarkshire Council**
- **Royal Free London NHS FT**
- **Somerset NHS Foundation Trust**
- **Sunderland City Council**



# CASE STUDY: BUDII

Our Population Health Innovation Challenge, a three part event series, brought to our attention Budii. Budii is a regional start-up working on an innovative home monitoring system, designed to enable longer, healthier living at home, to reduce the need for transfer into a residential care setting.

Through a design sprint, 1-1 support and an opportunity to pitch to an expert panel at Dynamo Conference 21, Budii have secured interest from a national healthcare organisation as well as a global IT organisation. We are also able to offer funding & investment support and ongoing business support through our cluster partners.

This success demonstrates the power of the cluster, even at this early stage, and its potential to have a positive impact on the economic growth of the sector.

*“Being connected to Dynamo North East through a colleague has been a lucky introduction for us here at Budii. Dynamo has opened up all manner of conversations for us from both their business and personal contacts, and they are proving very useful. I would encourage anyone with a business interest in the north east to engage with Dynamo and accept the excellent support they can offer”*

**Bob Croll, Founder.**

# PARTNER PROFILE

Through our partnership, CGI's reputation has grown and is now seen as a driving force behind the cluster, establishing the organisation as thought leaders and industry experts in health tech.

Now a familiar name in the region, CGI's links with a not-for-profit organisation such as Dynamo has opened doors, with invitations to provide input into regional strategies, projects and focus groups such as:

- **Health & Social Care Tech Cluster Steering Group**
- **Integrated Care System (ICS) Digital Strategy Group**
- **Academic Health Science Network (AHSN) Digital Skills Hub**
- **AHSN Evaluation Ecosystem**
- **Gateshead Council Health & Care Digital Adoption Programme**
- **NHS Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm PreHab Project**

Through cluster activity, CGI have forged partnerships with local tech SMEs with innovative new products or services to add to the CGI portfolio.



# TESTIMONIALS

*“Wordnerds is a North East-based tech startup with no healthcare background at all. When we realised the NHS were a great potential client of our software, we had absolutely no idea where to start. Not a clue. The whole organisation just seems so nebulous and impenetrable. Dynamo's Health & Social Care Tech Cluster gave us a door in. A credible platform from which to engage the right people, both in the NHS and the wider healthcare sector.*

*Dynamo allowed us to meet the people in the sector that we were relevant for, to talk to them about the big problems Wordnerds can help them solve and to understand why and how we might be useful to them and to build credibility with them through our Patient Experience project that we ran with the help of our wonderful partners at CGI. A few months later we've just closed our first ever contract with the NHS and are confident and sanguine about expanding further into the sector. All of which is pretty bloody cool if you ask us.”*

**Pete Daykin, CEO & Co-Founder - Wordnerds**

*“Dynamo's health tech cluster has proved extremely beneficial to understanding the landscape and to share some common problems experienced by innovators in healthcare... CGI is an instrumental part of this solution and has supported us with elements of an Innovate UK fund grant application draft...if successful will make a quantum shift for us in the facilitation of a community based solution, development and customer discovery.”*

**Fenwick Smith, Chief Executive: Floki Health**

# PARTNER PROMOTION

## Read, Watch, Listen

**READ**

**A Game Changer for Net Zero**

Climate-related financial disclosures, a guest blog by Rich Hampshire, Vice President Consulting Expert at [CGI UK](#).

**WATCH**

**Explained: The history and meaning of Earth Day**

Today is Earth Day, an annual event aimed at highlighting efforts to protect our planet. Since its inception more than half a century ago, the pressures on the environment have become more severe - as has the need to save it.

**LISTEN**

**CyberNorth In Conversation with Anastasia Aspioti**

Anastasia Aspioti, Offensive Security Specialist, Global Security at Sage talks to Phil Jackman about what attracted her to study information technology and the gender imbalance within the tech sector.



**CGI invests to help grow region's health tech sector**

GLOBAL IT and business services consultancy CGI has partnered with regional tech network Dynamo

## Featured Member News



CGI partners with North East start-up Wordnerds to provide **CGI Text Analytics Services (TAS)**  
An industry focused advisory approach to sentiment analytics



CGI announced a partnership with Newcastle-based text analysis and insight platform provider, [Wordnerds](#). The relationship will see the company combine its multi-industry and advisory expertise with Wordnerds' unique software platform to create a new offering – CGI Text Analytics Services (TAS) – which delivers meaningful data insights to its clients.

The partnership comes as a result of CGI's drive to extend its ecosystem of regional Emerging Technologies partners to accelerate the Digital Transformation of key sectors across the North of England. The [TechMarketView Innovation Partner Programme](#), sponsored by CGI earlier this year, aimed to attract Northern-headquartered SME tech organisations with innovative emerging technology capabilities such as artificial intelligence (AI).

[Read more](#)

## Member News

**CGI PARTNERS WITH BETTER MEDS EPMS**

The [North Cumbria Integrated Care NHS Foundation Trust \(NCIC\)](#) has appointed CGI, alongside [Better](#), to implement an ePMA (e-Prescribing and Allergy Monitoring) solution across their acute and community hospitals.

The solution will allow the trust to take another step to achieve their ambition of moving away from paper-based systems, which is not only intended to improve the level of service to more than half a million people but will also make strides towards a greener and more environmentally friendly approach to the issuing of prescriptions. As well as efficiency, the system will also provide increased safety, thanks to more effective tracking of medication and related allergies. [Read more](#)

## Read, Watch, Listen

**READ**

**Neurodiversity: a different way of living life**

Dynamo's EDI Manager Fareeha Usman explores the term 'neurodiversity' and what it can mean for people living with neuro-minorities such as ADHD, OCD and dyslexia.

**WATCH**

**Patient Experience: What aren't patients telling us?**

Dynamo's Health & Social Care Tech Cluster's showcase event focussed on the topic of Patient Experience, presenting the findings of our first research project on Patient Experience in partnership with CGI and Wordnerds.

**LISTEN**

**Meet the Innovator: Bottlepay**

Hear Bottlepay founder Pete Cheyne explain how his company is transforming our ability to quickly, securely and seamlessly move currency, including bitcoin.

## Dynamo Updates



**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**

The #HERO campaign aims to find local people working to make the sector more inclusive and equal. Please help by [filling in this questionnaire](#), which will help us recognise our unsung heroes, role models and mentors playing an important part in the North East tech sector. Read more in the #HERO press release [here](#). Contact [Fareeha Usman](#) to get involved in Dynamo's EDI agenda.

Listen to Fareeha's latest podcast [here](#).

**Healthtech (in partnership with CGI)**

Our December cluster meeting attracted 40 attendees and focused on showcasing successful projects and partnerships between regional SMEs and the NHS. 15 SMEs, all 5 regional universities and 4 NHS organisations were in attendance, along with a variety of other public and private sector stakeholders, really demonstrating the keen interest in this area.

Contact Cluster Lead [Emma Whitenstall](#) if you would like to get involved with the Healthtech cluster.





# FUTURE PLANS

After a successful year developing a new cluster in the region, through networking, consultation & collaboration, we have now achieved our initial goal set out at our cluster meeting back in September 2020 of gaining direct access to the NHS, through the ICS Digital Strategy Group.

This brings a unique insight into the needs, plans and pain points of the North East and North Cumbria ICS. By working together with this group of CIOs from each of Trusts, we will encourage a 'buy local' mindset when thinking about the digital solutions they need, boosting the regional economy and resulting in new products, services and jobs across the SME landscape, firmly placing the North East as a hotbed of innovation in health tech.

Our schedule of activity from Autumn 2021 onwards will commence with a one year anniversary cluster event in September, reflecting on what we have achieved so far and consulting once again with the SMEs, ensuring the co-design of a relevant and effective programme of activity.