

Integrating health and social care in Wakefield using govroam

For Wakefield CCG, the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust and Wakefield Council, the ability to connect seamlessly at govroam-enabled locations was key to their vision of connecting health and social care, as it allows multidisciplinary teams to work effectively across the district.

Wakefield Council and the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust are supported by the Yorkshire and Humber Public Services Network (YHPSN). YHPSN is a collaborative partnership which connects local authorities, blue light services and transport, as well as healthcare providers (from GPs to acute hospitals), over a unified data communications network

One of the programme's aims was to allow health and social care staff to work from any public sector building in the region. The ability for multidisciplinary teams to operate effectively across the district, even in shared premises or when visiting other organisations, was a key element of this vision of "connecting care", enabling the transformation of health and care services.

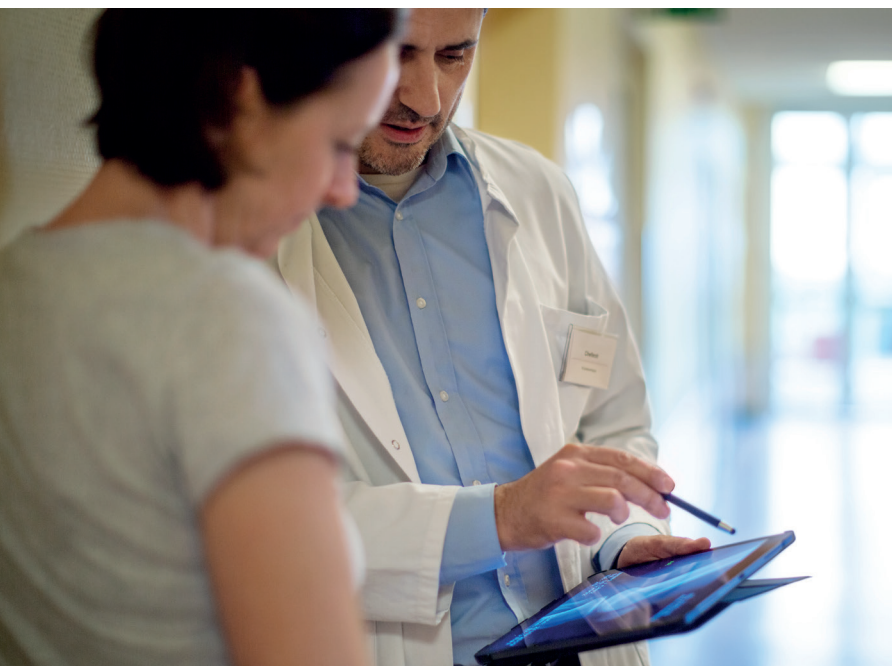
YHPSN saw govroam as the solution to this requirement and became an early adopter of the service, establishing a govroam federation across the Yorkshire and Humber region. Govroam is easy to implement and use and it allows organisations to control which devices are authenticated to use the service; YHPSN sees these benefits as essential in ensuring that people make use of govroam and that security requirements are met.

The case in Wakefield

Wakefield Council has been working with the Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust for several years, assisting with the discharge needs of patients who need support to live as independently as possible when they return home.

Initially, the council installed a communications link to a dedicated, fixed computer in a small office within Pinderfields Hospital which allowed a social worker to access the council's social care system. But this involved much time wasted in walking to and from the office, and there was only space for a single member of staff at a time. Later the accommodation was expanded through relocation, but the connection to the social care system was lost.

Now the council and hospital have installed govroam and it is available across their sites. As a result, these social workers can connect to the council's systems from anywhere in



Pinderfields Hospital. This simplifies patient contact time and increases the number of discharges that can be processed in a day. The work environment is more productive and beds are freed up faster for new patients.

Wider impacts

Because govroam is available across the hospital trust's estate and across the estates of other NHS and council organisations in the locality, it is easier for the council to deploy social workers to neighbouring hospitals in Dewsbury and Pontefract, as well as the wider YHPSN federation including Halifax, Leeds, and Bradford.

The benefits of govroam in Wakefield were immediately apparent to their sustainability and transformation partnership (STP) in West Yorkshire and Harrogate, and other neighbouring areas. Linked to other initiatives such as the NHS implementation of wifi to hospitals and GP surgeries, govroam directly supports the greater alignment and delivery of health and social care services both at STP level and in place-based services.

As well as these operational benefits public sector staff across the region now find it easier to access the resources they need in the course of their work, from any participating site. This includes managers from the council working with their partners at hospitals or clinical commissioning group (CCG) premises, as well as NHS staff attending council locations.

Govroam is currently available at **1,519 locations** across **48 organisations** in the Yorkshire and Humber region.



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