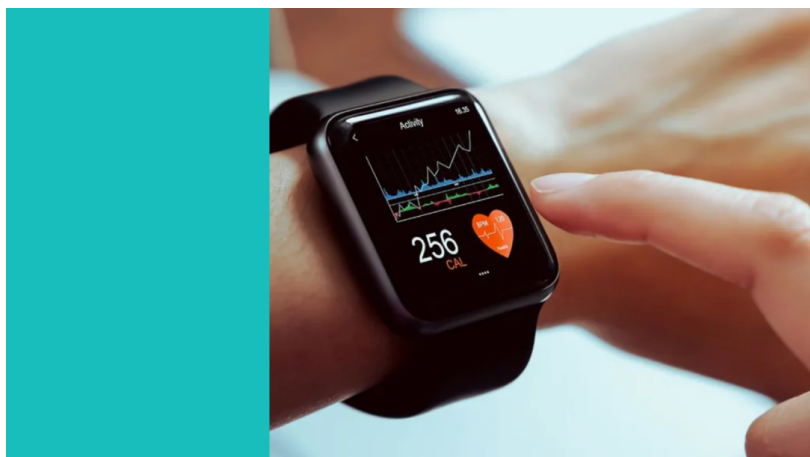




Digitally Enhanced Care in Diverse Environments

July 2026

Welcome



Welcome to the July 2026 DECIDE newsletter.

DECIDE focuses on the rapid evaluation of technology-enabled care. Over the course of the programme, we have now completed five evaluations covering NHS Health Checks Online, technology-enabled remote monitoring for COPD, heart failure and blood pressure, and the spread and scale of home sensor technology in social care.

Across these evaluations, a consistent picture has emerged. Technology-enabled care has the potential to improve care experiences, support self-management and enable earlier intervention, but these benefits are realised only when technologies are embedded within well-designed, adequately resourced care pathways. Our findings have repeatedly highlighted that successful implementation depends on the wider service model, including workforce organisation, interoperability, patient support and appropriate incentives, while more needs to be done to generate and share evidence on long-term effectiveness, cost-effectiveness and equity, which remains limited.

As national policy and local practice continue to evolve, the conversation around technology-enabled care is also changing. There is growing recognition that technology is not a standalone solution but one component of wider service transformation. Patient and community voices are more prominent. DECIDE's evaluations have explored what this means in practice, identifying both the opportunities technology creates and the organisational, technical and social conditions needed for adoption, implementation, use (by patients, carers and staff), spread and sustainable scale.

We are now entering the final year of DECIDE, with an increasing focus on sharing practical learning from across the programme. A consistent message from our work is that successful scale and spread depend on people, infrastructure, evidence, equity and organisational learning—not technology alone. Our final evaluation, undertaken with the DHSC/NHSE Joint Digital Policy Unit as policy customer, will examine AI-enabled triage and navigation at the first point of contact with NHS services. This comes at a pivotal moment, as AI-enabled models of care are developing rapidly and there is an opportunity to generate timely evidence to inform future policy and practice.

**Professor Sara Shaw, DECIDE Director
University of Oxford and Green Templeton College**

Turning digital innovation into better care

How can we ensure digital innovation leads to meaningful improvements in health and social care?

This was the focus of the **DECIDE Centre Impact Forum**, which brought together policymakers, commissioners, industry partners, practitioners and patient representatives to discuss findings from the Centre's evaluations of technology-enabled care.

A new article by **Sara Shaw** and **Sonja Marjanovic** highlights six key themes that emerged from the discussions, identifying the conditions needed for innovation to deliver sustainable, equitable impact:

- **Put people and relationships first** – technology should strengthen trust, communication and continuity of care.
- **Design for equity** – digital services must work for diverse populations and support different ways of accessing care.
- **Embed co-production** – involving patients and stakeholders should be an ongoing partnership, not a one-off consultation.
- **Build the right infrastructure** – scaling innovation requires shared, robust platforms and systems.
- **Invest in skills and capability** – successful adoption depends on new ways of working, collaboration and learning.
- **Generate evidence alongside innovation** – evaluation should support programmes throughout design, testing and implementation.

The discussions reinforced that while innovation is plentiful, real impact depends on creating the right conditions for technology-enabled care to improve outcomes at scale.

[Read the full blog here](#)



Adopting technology-enabled remote monitoring in the NHS: generating evidence that is fit for purpose



[This commentary](#) by Sara Shaw and Stephanie Stockwell explores why technology alone won't transform the NHS.

To realise the benefits of tech-enabled care, we also need to generate—and act on—evidence that supports informed adoption decisions in complex, real-world settings.

Many evaluations focus on whether technologies *work* under controlled conditions, while paying less attention to how they perform in everyday NHS practice. Yet successful adoption depends on far more than the technology itself. It is shaped by clinical workflows, workforce capacity, organisational priorities, patient capabilities, data infrastructure and models of care.

Drawing on the work of the DECIDE Centre and other rapid evaluation teams, Sara Shaw and Stephanie Stockwell outline how rapid evaluation approaches can generate timely, practical evidence to support the effective implementation of technology-enabled care—and why this is essential for improving health and care services.

Key publications from DECIDE rapid evaluations to-date

- [Implementation and use of technology-enabled remote monitoring for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease](#)
- [Adopting and embedding home sensors in social care](#)
- [Enabling scale and spread of technology-enabled remote monitoring of blood pressure at home](#)

NHS Health Check Online evaluation

Our DECIDE team, led by **Associate Professor Chrysanthi Papoutsis** at the University of Oxford, has now submitted their findings report to the Department of Health and Social Care on the NHS Health Check Online programme.

The evaluation aim was to examine the development, implementation and use of NHS Health Check Online during the limited cohort and 'private Beta' phases and to draw timely, transferable lessons that can inform and support wider roll-out and potential future evaluation.

The report sets out key findings from the evaluation including on patient and staff experiences, and areas where further alignment with general practice routines and capacity is required. We also provide considerations and a plan for future evaluation. The aim of the report is to support specific programme development needs following discussion with the policy and delivery teams. Further publications and outputs are planned to disseminate findings to different audiences.



New policy brief: Unlocking the potential of home sensor technology in social care

As part of our work to raise the profile of social care within technology-enabled health and social care transformation, the DECIDE team has published a new policy brief exploring the potential of home sensor technology to support proactive care for adults with social care needs, enabling people to live independently in their own homes for longer.

The brief sets out 11 recommendations for policymakers, with insights intended to inform the Casey Review and wider policy discussions. The recommendations focus on four strategic priority areas:

- Strengthening national guidance and standards for proactive care technologies.
- Addressing national data infrastructure and governance challenges.
- Embedding technology-enabled proactive care within the long-term social care workforce strategy.
- Supporting sustainable business models for innovation and adoption.

The policy brief highlights the action needed to ensure technology can play a meaningful role in delivering more proactive, person-centred social care.

[Read the full policy brief here.](#)

HSR UK 19th Annual Conference 2026, 30 June – 1 July, University of Manchester

We had a strong presence at HSR UK this month.

Stephanie Stockwell presented on the hidden work of technology enabled remote monitoring, drawing insights from across five of the DECIDE evaluations conducted so far. **Steph** also presented on the home sensors project, highlighting key recommendations that we made in our policy brief that was sent to Baroness Casey to feed into the Casey Review. **Chrysanthi Papoutsis** presented key findings from the Online Health Checks evaluation and discussed the potential of hybrid provision where some parts of the health check are offered online and others in person. **Sonja Marjanovic** hosted a workshop on understanding and navigating the realities of rapid evaluation. The session was well attended and, in addition to sharing our experiences from the DECIDE centre, encouraged discussion among participants. Some key insights shared included how people have overcome challenges with rapid evaluation, considering how to better commission rapid evaluation, and complexities of feeding back timely insights to policy and programme leads with the impact that might have on the evaluation process.

