

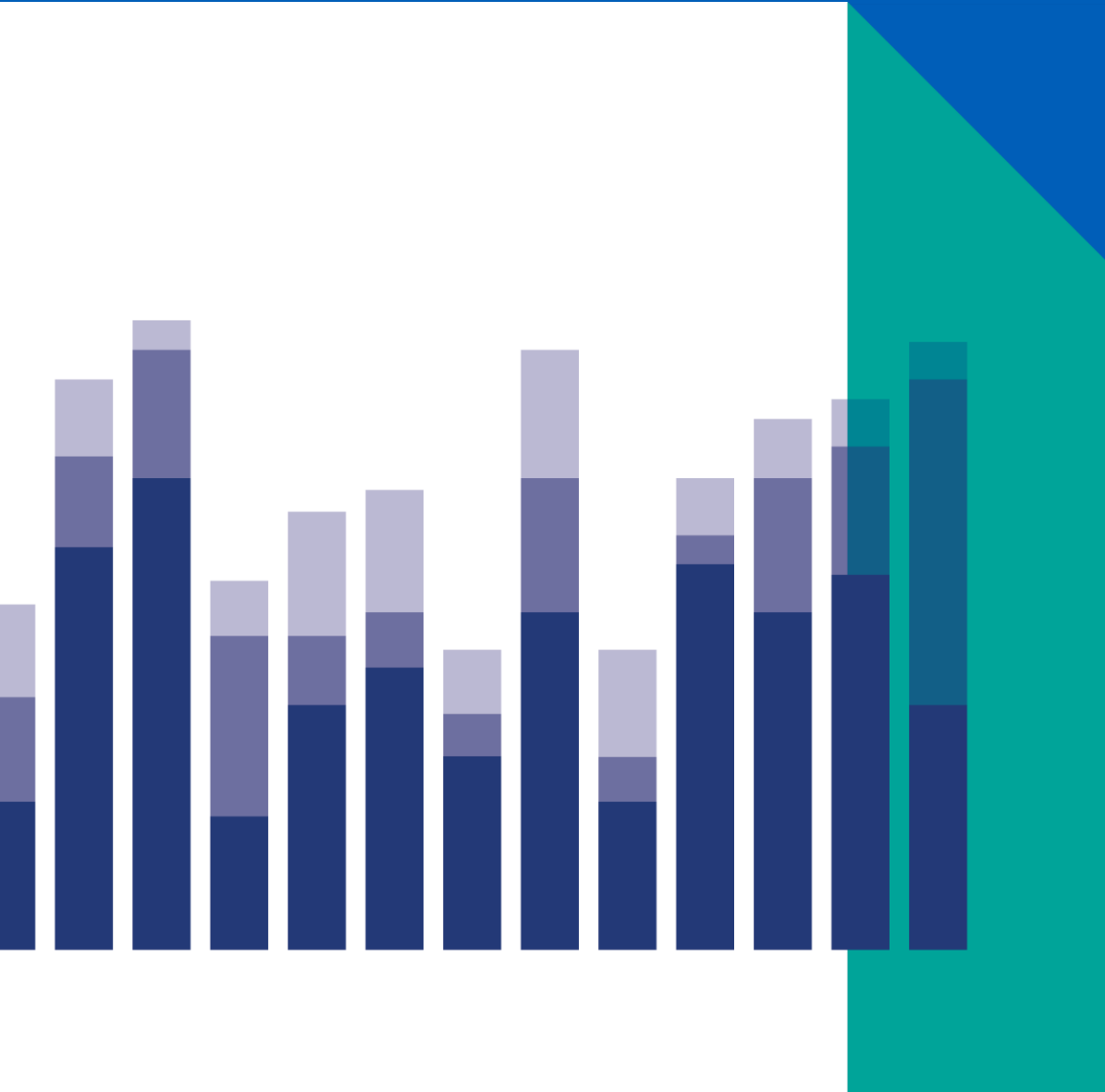


Part of the
**NHS Research Secure Data
Environment Network**



Delivering nationally recognised research





Charlie Kenward

Director of Population Health
Improvement – NHS Gloucestershire &
Bristol, North Somerset and South
Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board

Agenda

Introduction – what is the South West SDE, and how does it support NHS priorities?

Charlie Kenward, SRO

Embedding public engagement and building trust

Sarah Markham, Digital Critical Friend

Research use cases and available data assets

Rachel Denholm, Research Director

Housekeeping

Please use the Q&A function to ask questions

You can upvote other people's questions

The NHS England Secure Data Environment Network

Independent report

**Better, broader, safer:
using health data for
research and analysis**

Published 7 April 2022

April 2022 – Goldacre Review

“Build a small number of secure analytics platforms ...then make these the norm for all analysis of NHS patient records data...”

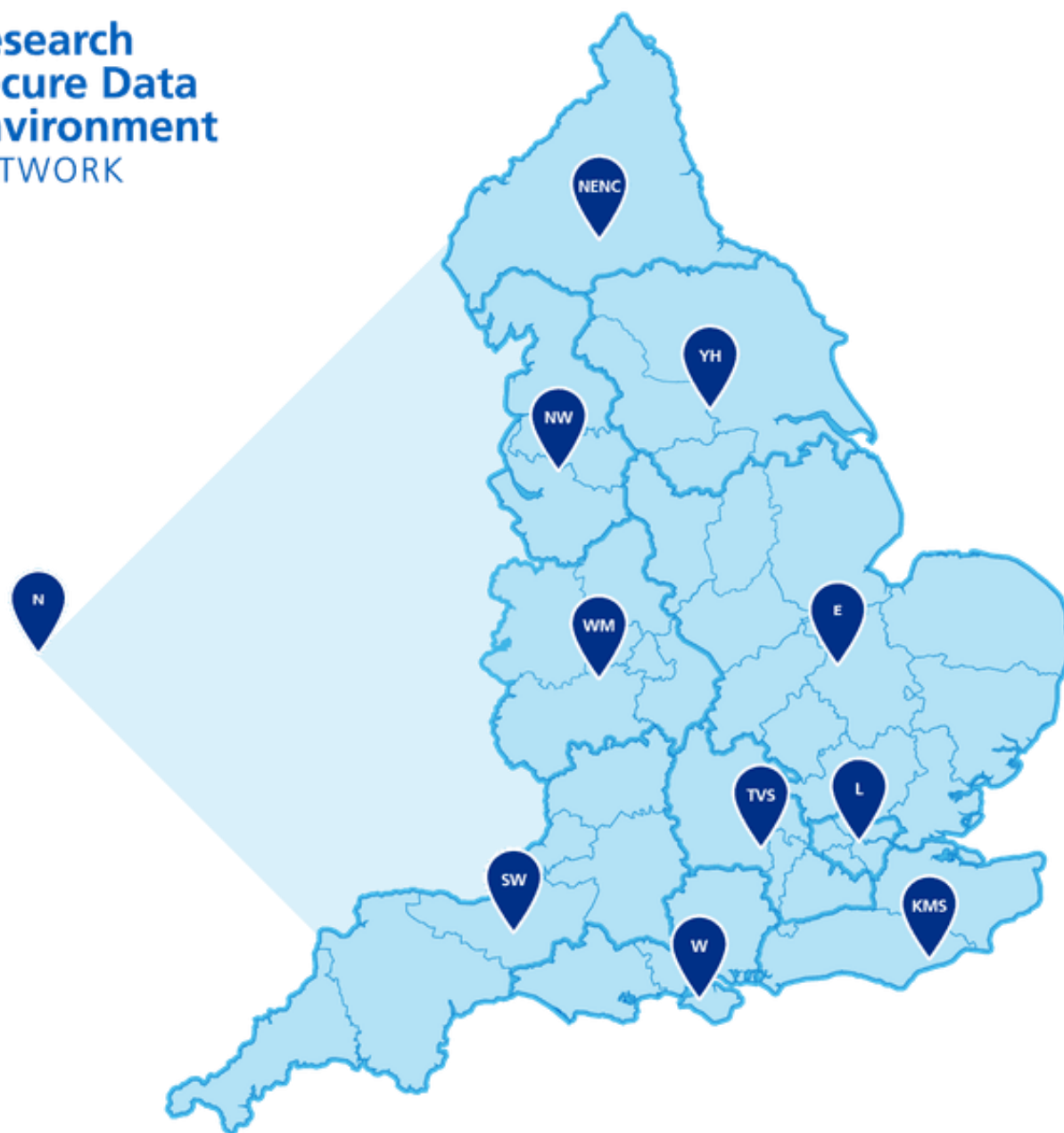
Policy paper

**Data saves lives: reshaping
health and social care with
data**

Updated 15 June 2022

June 2022 – Government Policy

“Most importantly, we will establish secure data environments as the default route for NHS and adult social care organisations to provide access to their de-identified data for research and analysis.”



Secure Data Environments:

N	NHS England
E	Eastern
KMS	Kent, Medway & Sussex
L	London
NENC	North East and North Cumbria
NW	North West
SW	South West
TVS	Thames Valley & Surrey
W	Wessex
WM	West Midlands
YH	Yorkshire & Humber

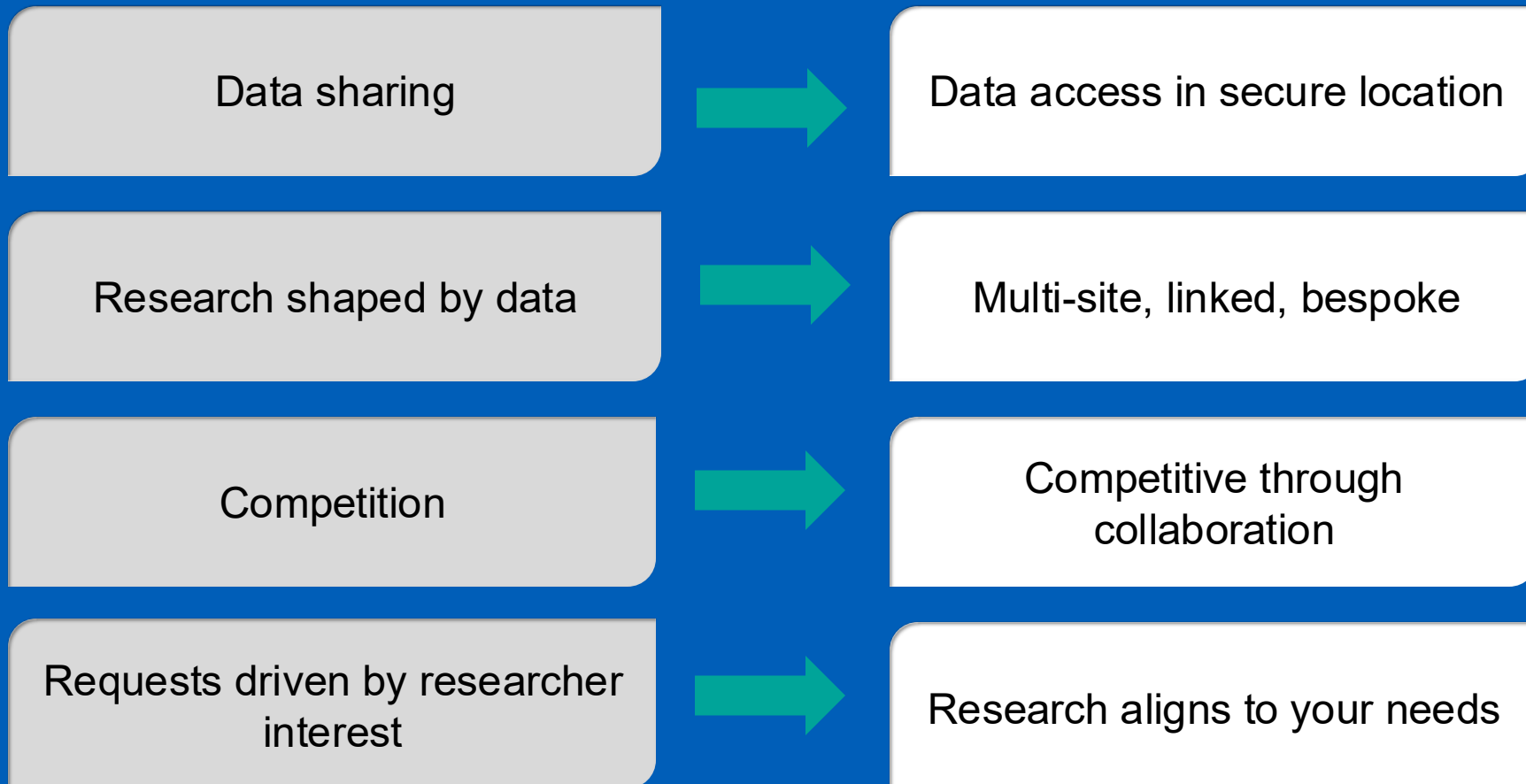
What is a secure data environment?



=



Unlocking the potential of routinely collected data



SDE-managed process

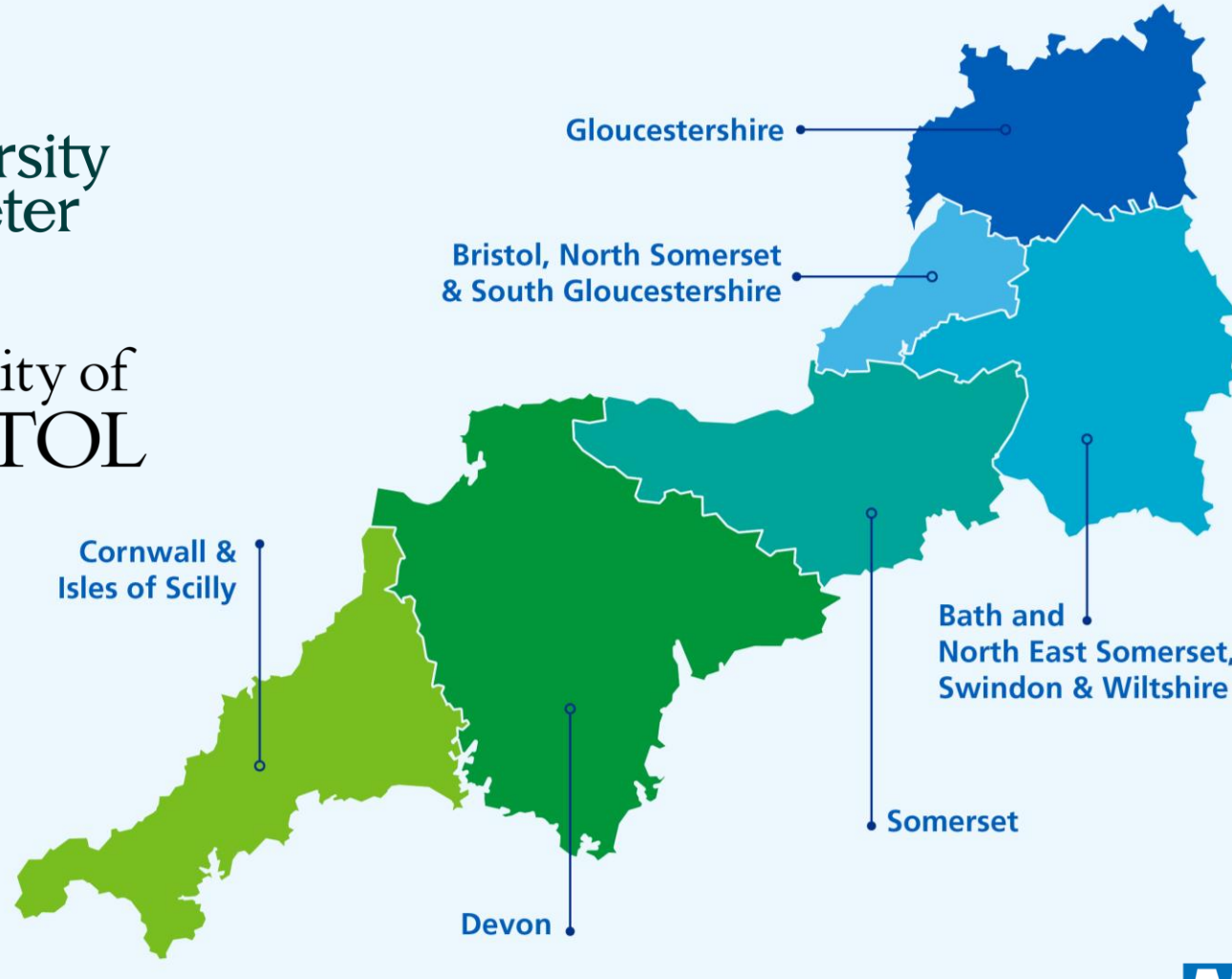




University
of Exeter



University of
BRISTOL



**Bristol, North Somerset
and South Gloucestershire**
Integrated Care Board



Devon



**Cornwall and
Isles of Scilly**



**Bath and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire**
Integrated Care Board



One
Gloucestershire

Transforming Care, Transforming Communities



**South Western
Ambulance Service**
NHS Foundation Trust



Somerset
Integrated Care Board



South West
SECURE DATA
ENVIRONMENT

Part of the
**NHS Research Secure Data
Environment Network**

NHS ICBs

**Health and care
providers**

Local authorities

System
Knowledge
Expertise

Training
Tools
Expertise

South West Analytics & Infrastructure in Healthcare

**South West
Secure Data
Environment**

Research
Networks
Consistency

Challenges
Priorities

South West research universities and NIHR infrastructure

NIHR Research
Delivery
Networks

NIHR Biomedical
Research
Centres

NIHR
HealthTech
Research Centre

NIHR Clinical
Trial Units

NIHR Applied
Research
Collaboration

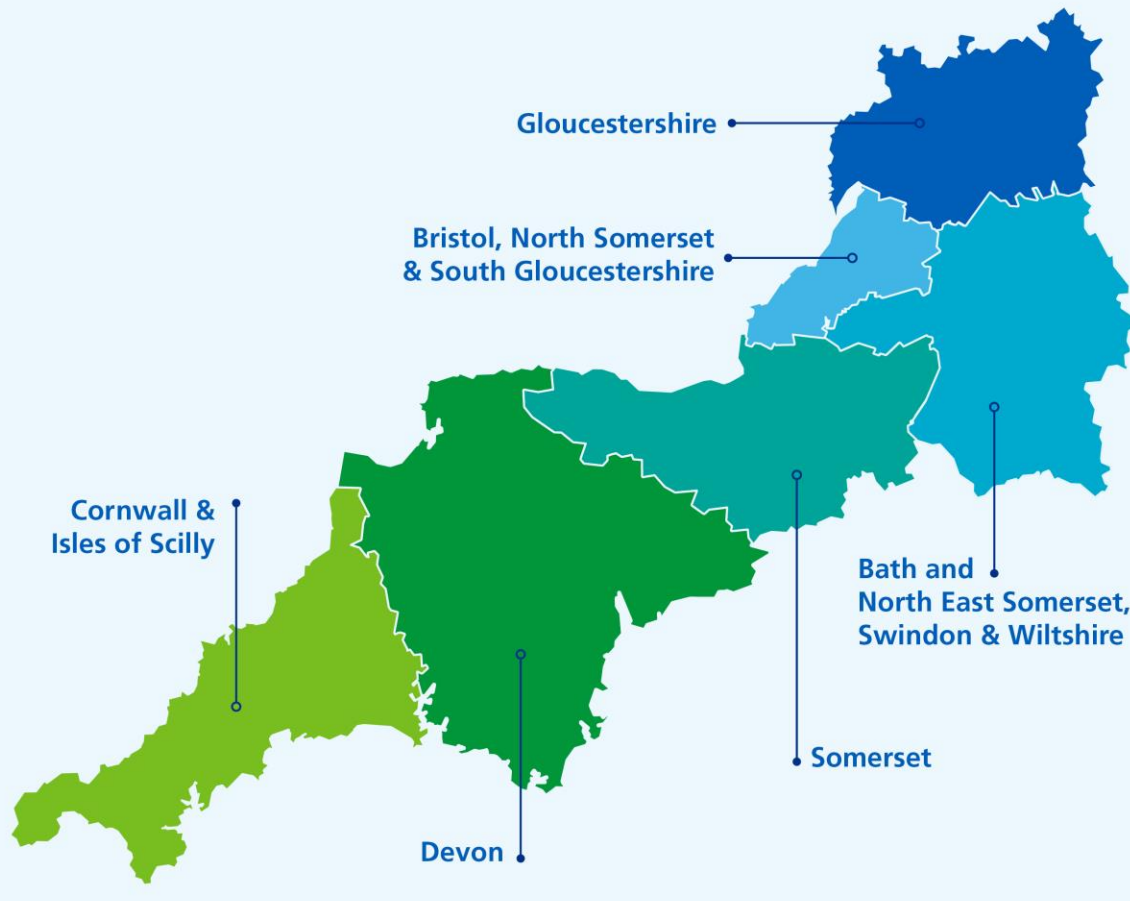
HDR UK SW

Hub for Quantitative
Modelling in
Healthcare

Institute of Data
Science and AI

LEAP Digital
Health Hub

Jean Golding
Institute



5 million plus population

Capability for Images, audio, structured

Linked Acute, community, primary, council, and more

Only allow time limited access

Protect anonymity, highest security standards

Faster

Fairer

Safer

NHS 10 Year Health Plan – ‘Fit for the Future’

The NHS 10 Year Health Plan, published in July 2025, is built around three major shifts in how health and care is delivered: from hospital to community, from analogue to digital, and from sickness to prevention.



1. Hospital → Community

Care closer to home



2. Analogue → Digital

Technology-enabled care



3. Sickness → Prevention

Technology-enabled care

Clinical relevance and working with the NHS

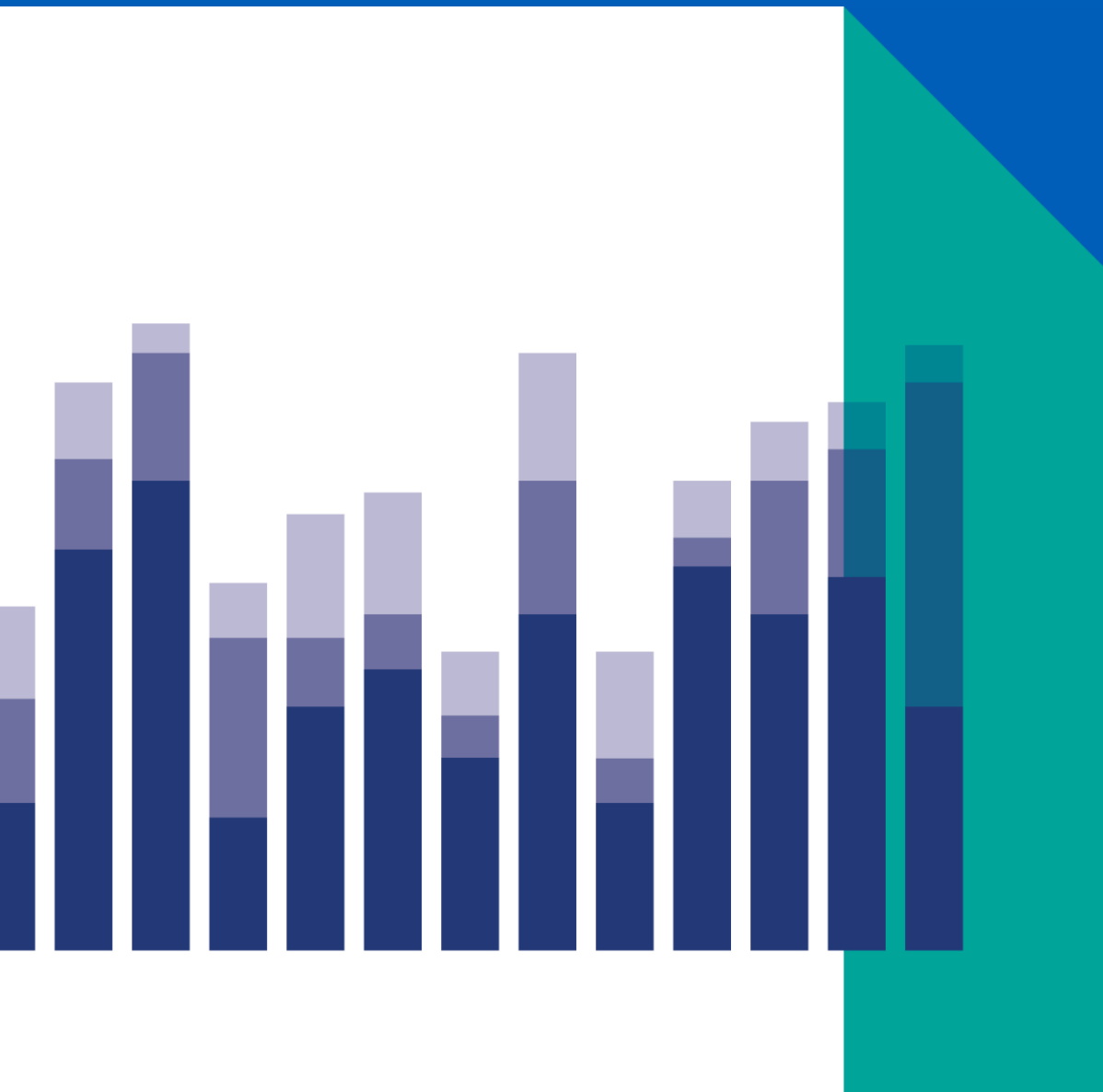
Speak to clinicians - What is clinically relevant?

What data is available?

Make sure you have a clear research idea and data spec – smooth pipeline process

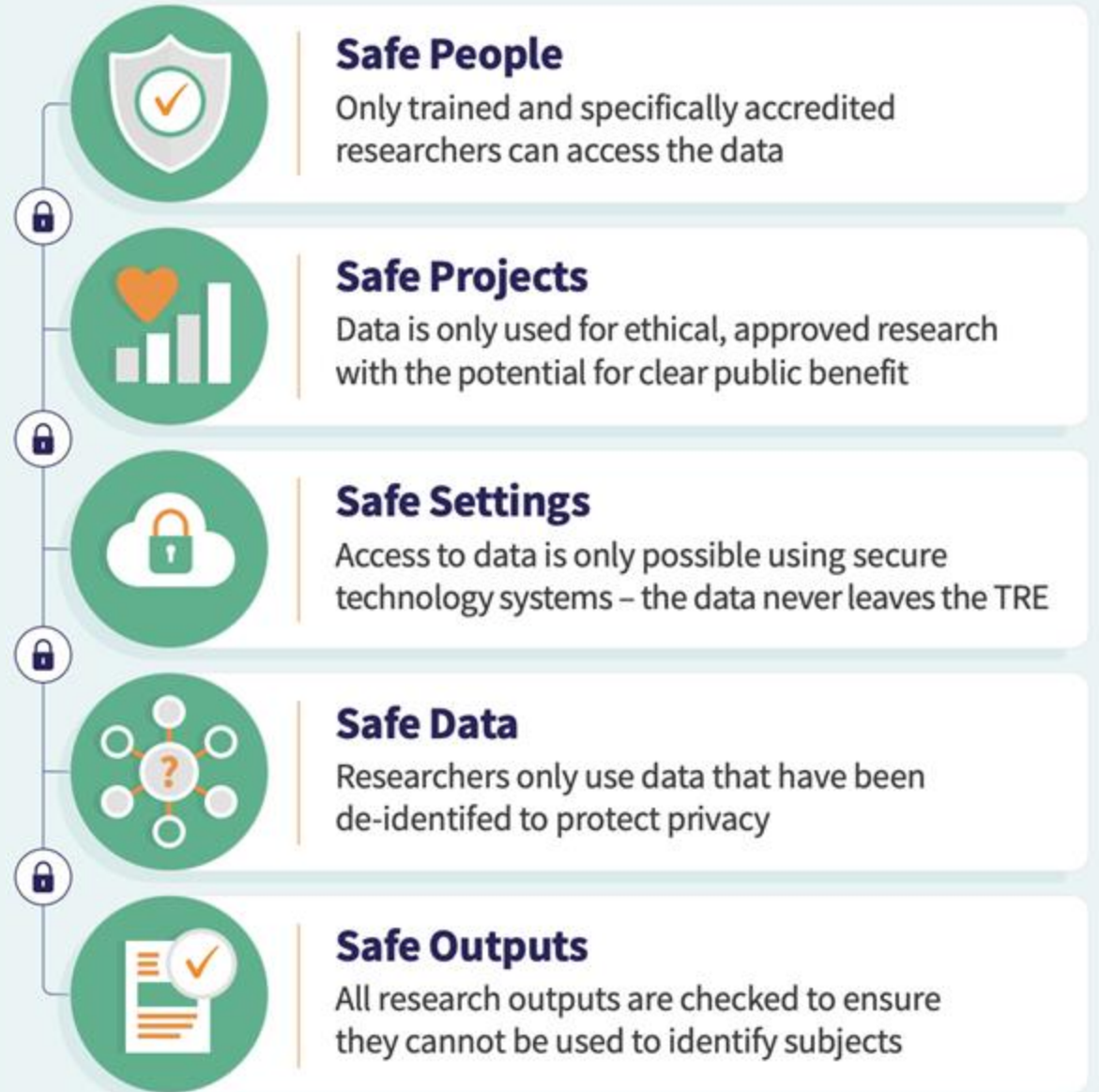
Collaboration between NHS and universities – how to work together?

Will the research be of public benefit?



Sarah Markham
Digital Critical Friend

How is my data safeguarded?



What did we learn from the public?

Public awareness

Inform the public about the Secure Data Environment and the national opt-out option.

General support with conditions

People generally agree if:

1. Confidentiality is protected.
2. Data Security is assured.
3. Research serves the public good not private profit.
4. Opt-out options are clearly communicated.



Desire for transparency

Participants want to know how their data is used and access resulting research

Charging for access

Acceptable if it is to cover costs/benefits the NHS

Digital Critical Friends (DCFs)

Digital Critical Friends are members of the public who have undertaken training to support their involvement in the South West SDE.

Training on:

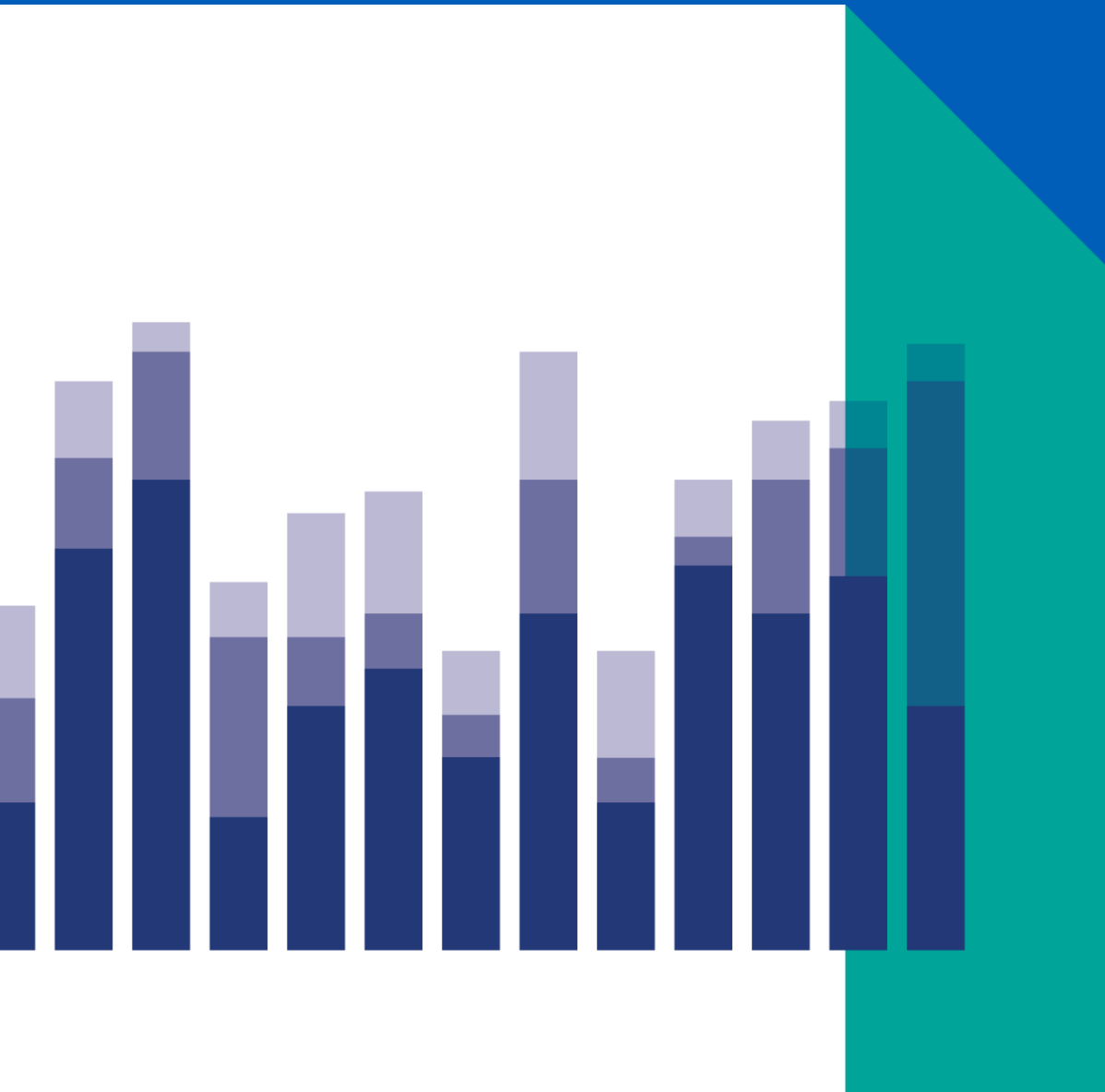
- What is a Secure Data Environment
- The Five Safes
- The secondary uses of data, including research
- The ethical questions raised by using unconsented health care data for research.

Diversity of gender, ethnicity and geography.

Expanded in number from three to 14.

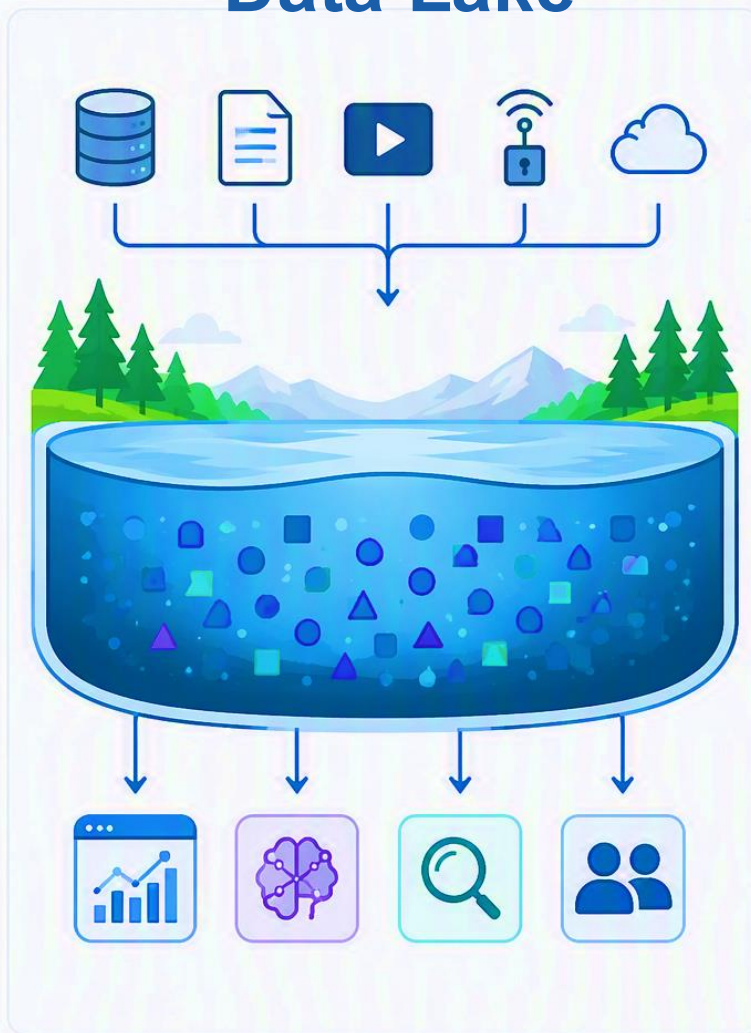
Two or three DCFs are embedded in each workstream of the SDE.

They make up a minimum of one-third of our Data Access Committee (DAC), i.e. six people.



Rachel Denholm
Research Director

Data Lake



Data-When-Needed



Datasets accessible:

- Primary care
- Secondary care
- Genomics
- Community services
- Mental health
- Social care
- Genomics
- Prescribing
- Emergency services
- VCSE (voluntary, community and social enterprise) sector

Data services:

- Provision of a single data set
- Access to multiple linked data sets
- Pseudo at source
- Creation of bespoke linked data assets
- Bring your own data
- Work across the SDE network

Platform services:

- Azure Secure Workspace standard package
- Project archive
- Re-activation of archived data for re-analysis/follow up
- Bring your own tooling
- Bring your own code

Our data partners



Co-development of novel and bespoke data assets

- NHS South West Secure Data Environment Data Accelerator Fund for Novel and Emerging Assets (DAFNEA) - launched Dec 2025
- £1 million fund to prepare and link new datasets for research via South West SDE
- £25k – £125k per project
- Aim to accelerate access to novel, unique, multimodal data for research
- 10% funds ring-fenced for voluntary, community and social enterprises (VCSEs)

Successful applications

11 projects funded:

- 5 acute trusts in the region
- 1 mental health service
- 4 VCSE
- 2 research studies

Data

- >15 data assets
- Structured, imaging, genomic, text, videos
- One regional programme

Readily available data – examples

Dataset	Lead organisation
Routinely Collected EPIC data, OMOP ES pipeline applied	Royal Devon and Exeter University Hospital
AWP Eating Disorders cohort	Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
Community health dataset of Bristol's global majority communities	Caafi Health CIC (VCSE)
BrisDoc Urgent Care Multimodal Assets	BristolDoc Healthcare Service Limited (VCSE)
Multimodal dataset of investigations of stroke and control subjects	University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust
Energy and property related poverty data assets	Centre for Sustainable Energy (VCSE)
Perinatal & maternal care & outcomes dataset	University of Bristol & University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Trust

Research example 1

HELP Flag

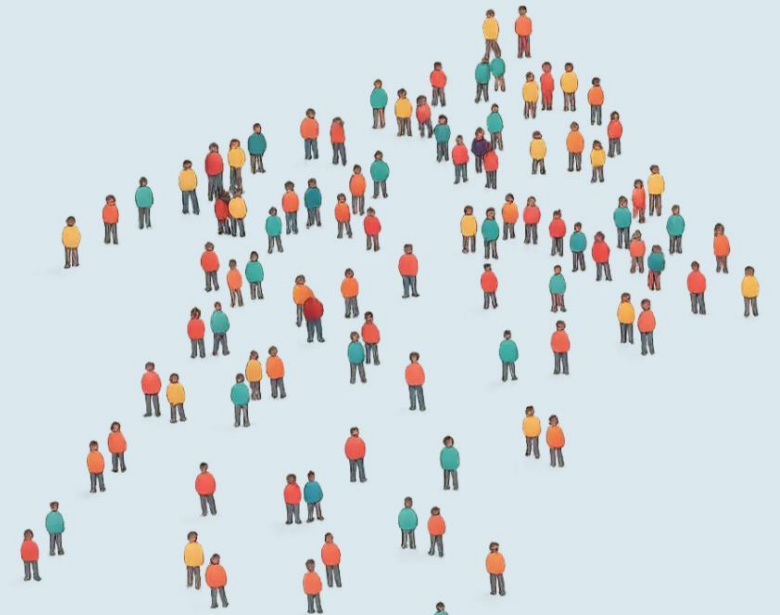
Raised platelet counts are associated with higher cancer risk.

Routine blood tests used to identify patients with increased risk of cancer.

Evaluation of HELP Flag pathway as an early detection tool to speed diagnosis

Age- and sex-adjusted advice on a routine blood test.

HELP Flag alerts clinicians to a raised platelet count that might need investigation.



Research example 2

Alright my Liver

The impact of early assessment of chronic liver disease in at-risk populations on diagnosis rates in South West England.

Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire ICB; University of Bristol

Evaluate pilot community outreach service in Bristol which delivers Community Liver Health Checks.

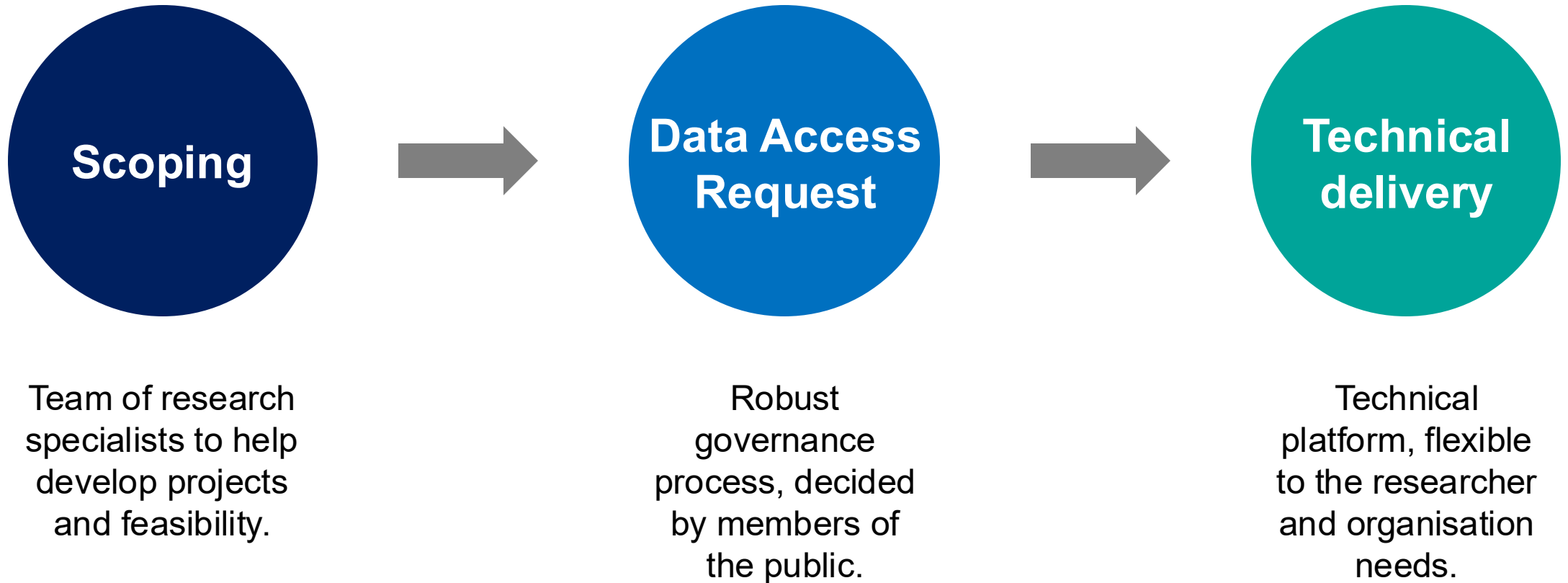
Aggregated data of BNSSG ICB Systemwide dataset.



Alright My Liver

Alright my Liver are part of an NHS pilot aiming to identify and help people with unknown liver disease. We carry out targeted screening for people at risk of liver disease, using a FibroScan machine.

How does access work?



Next webinars

Using data in the South West SDE for research

Thursday 24th September, 3-4pm (online)

Commercial partnerships and the South West SDE

Wednesday 30th September, 1-2pm (online)

www.southwestsde.nhs.uk/explore-connect-collaborate-autumn-research-events/



Questions



Contact us

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www.southwestsde.nhs.uk

LinkedIn:

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Bluesky:

[@southwestsde.bsky.social](#)

Thank you