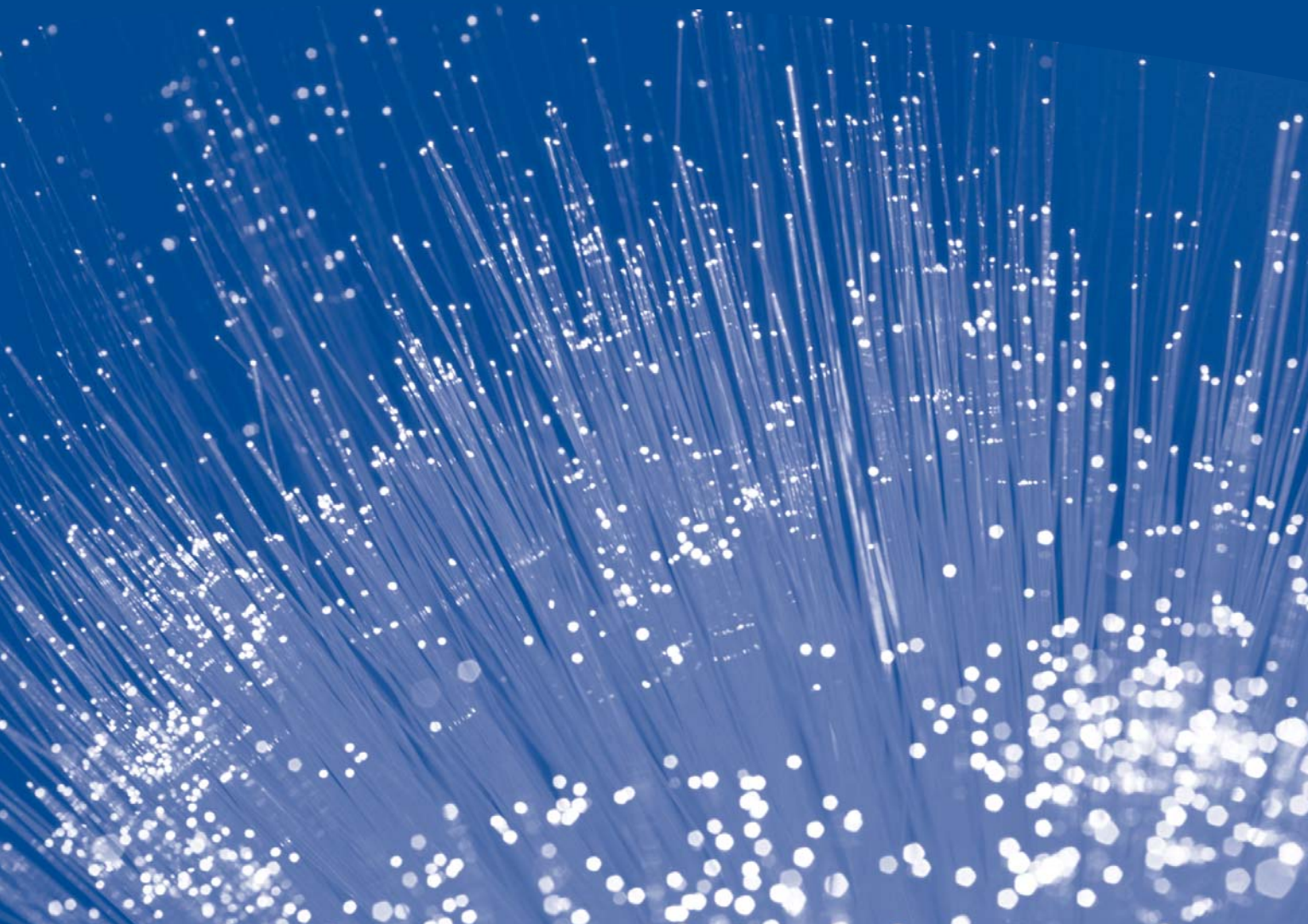


# The Future Healthcare Network

Intelligent learning for leading-edge organisations



# What is the Future Healthcare Network?

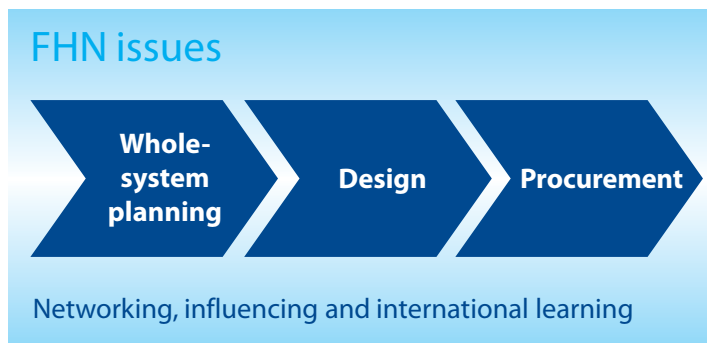
The Future Healthcare Network (FHN) is made up of organisations that are responsible for the largest healthcare-related building programme since the Victorian era. This is a unique opportunity to create new ways of providing services to patients and communities. The members of FHN have come together to create a subscription-based learning network which is part of the NHS Confederation but which has its own management arrangements and dedicated staff.

In spite of the scale of the investment, there has been surprisingly little help available for organisations trying to rethink their services. The aims of FHN are to provide support to its members to help them understand and respond to the factors driving change, connect to leading-edge practice, share information and develop services that are fit for the future.

FHN members represent a significant constituency of leading organisations that also work effectively with other NHS Confederation members to influence policy – particularly in those areas where the policy framework is inhibiting creativity.

## What does FHN do?

There are three strands to the work of FHN members: whole-system planning, design and procurement.



**Whole-system planning** has grown out of the need to redesign rather than relocate services in the face of significant pressure to change. It is creating sustainable models of care, particularly for children's services and maternity.

Primary and secondary care cannot be planned separately. Whole-system planning is key to robust decision-making. It is important that policies, initiatives and knowledge are pooled and shared in a transparent way between FHN

members and partner organisations. Key planning issues include:

- new models of care – particularly around the integration of primary and secondary care
- regenerating and sustaining rural communities
- looking beyond the hospital.

**Design:** good design can reduce the running costs of healthcare facilities, by making recruitment easier, reducing medical errors, lowering staff turnover and reducing length of stay. These need to be fully taken into account in the PFI affordability debates. Other key design issues include:

- optimising design – new design principles for buildings
- how to replace the workforce with new technology
- improving patient safety.

FHN has run a series of eight seminars – *Optimising design* – which link service redesign and physical design.

**Procurement:** several different procurement approaches are being used in healthcare: PFI, LIFT, national procurement of treatment centres and diagnostics and the National Programme for IT. FHN members are shaping the debate about:

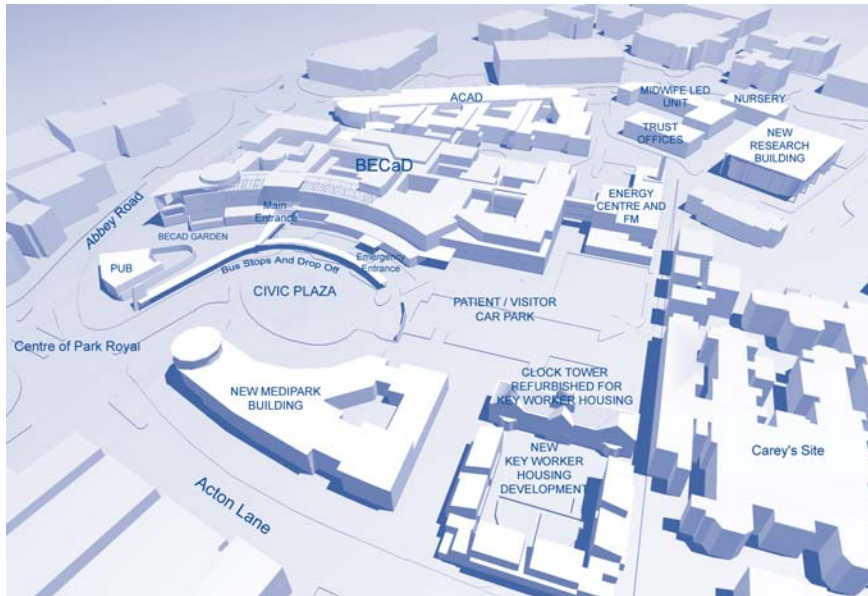
- creating effective public-private partnerships
- the need for PFI to change
- improving links between procurements.

## What has FHN achieved?

The membership of FHN has grown in size and influence since 2001, adding PCTs and community-based projects as well as more acute trusts to the network. It now covers over 80 organisations interested in sharing knowledge about investing sustainably for the future. The emphasis has been on providing links between members through seminars and other events, and supporting the development of leading-edge thinking. FHN has established links with partner organisations and has developed credibility as a key player in leading-edge thinking on planning investment in new facilities.

FHN members have specialist expertise and skills in healthcare planning, design and project management which are needed in all investment projects. They also have a key role in disseminating learning to increase the knowledge pool and to help others to understand how to ‘future proof’ investment in new facilities.

FHN works collaboratively with its sponsors, the NHS Modernisation Agency, NHS Estates, NatPaCT, the Configuring Hospitals project and the wider NHS Confederation membership. FHN also works in partnership with a large number of other bodies including the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, the Private Finance Unit, the National Patient Safety Agency and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency.



- providing a safe space for learning and exchange in 'Leapfrog' meetings where organisations that are further ahead in the process take time to share their learning with those at earlier stages in a confidential environment
- supporting the development of scarce skills, for example capacity planning and project management
- promoting members' interests by lobbying the Department of Health and other organisations

## How does FHN help its members?

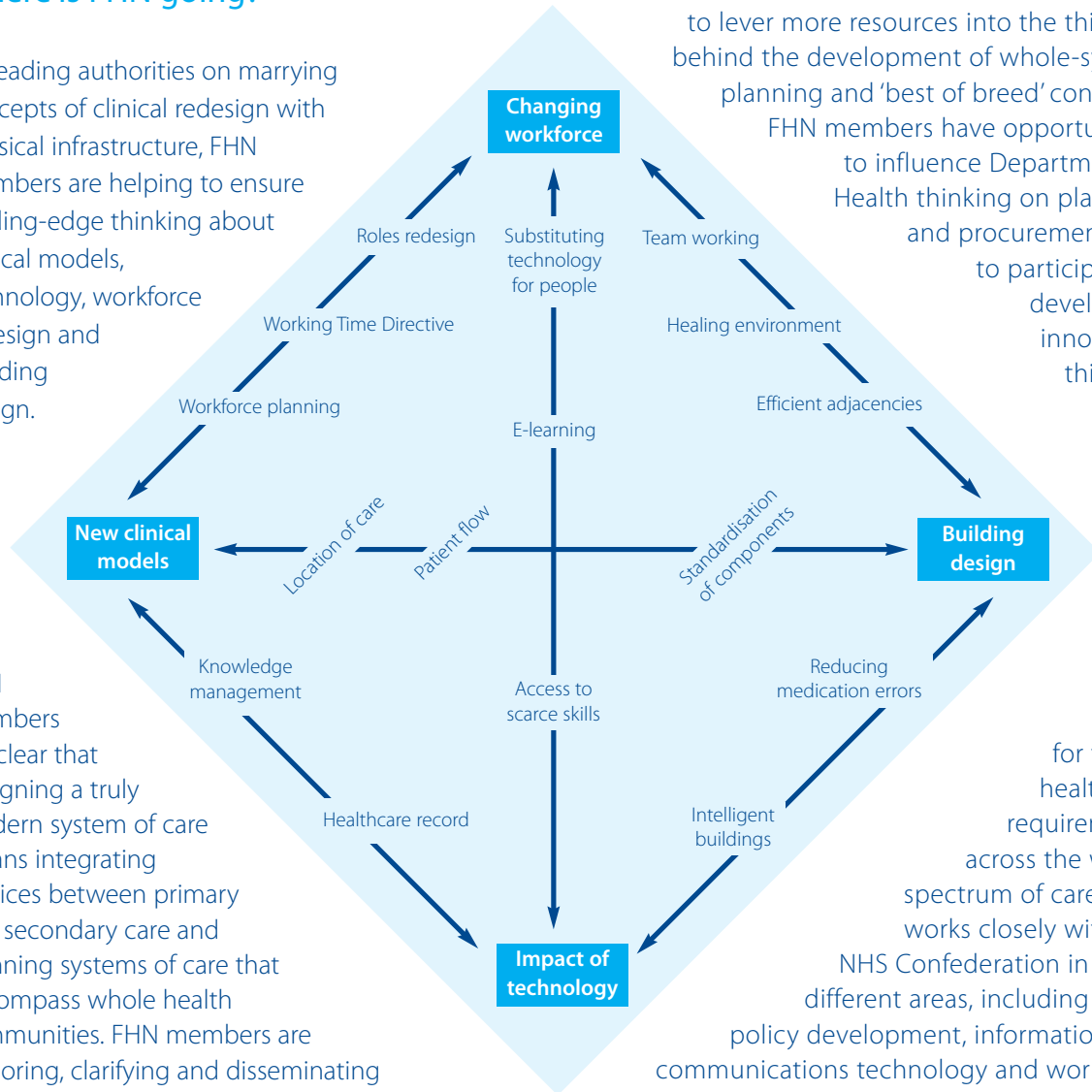
FHN seeks to address the large gap between the current state of knowledge about the shape of health provision and what will be required for 2010 and beyond. FHN helps organisations to plan investment by:

- facilitating information exchange locally, regionally and internationally by providing links for sharing innovative thinking
- connecting members who are facing the same or similar problems and who are at a similar stage in the process, and providing access to experts
- providing information exchange mechanisms, including international visits, seminars, publications, a question-and-answer service, and through an expanding web-based library
- extending knowledge gathering into the independent sector and abroad
- identifying and sharing good practice
- developing a user-friendly knowledge pool which supports the development of new facilities
- disseminating distilled knowledge to organisations within and outside FHN.

## Where is FHN going?

As leading authorities on marrying concepts of clinical redesign with physical infrastructure, FHN members are helping to ensure leading-edge thinking about clinical models, technology, workforce redesign and building design.

FHN members are clear that designing a truly modern system of care means integrating services between primary and secondary care and planning systems of care that encompass whole health communities. FHN members are exploring, clarifying and disseminating related issues.



FHN will continue to use its collective muscle to lever more resources into the thinking behind the development of whole-system planning and 'best of breed' concepts. FHN members have opportunities to influence Department of Health thinking on planning and procurement and to participate in developing innovative thinking

for future healthcare requirements across the whole spectrum of care. FHN works closely with the NHS Confederation in many different areas, including acute policy development, information and communications technology and workforce development.

## Who should join FHN?

FHN welcomes acute trusts, PCTs and whole-system projects and their partners. Membership is by subscription. Organisations outside the NHS can receive FHN briefings and access to leading-edge thinking by becoming NHS Confederation associate members. FHN wants to start working with mental health organisations interested in whole-system planning, design and procurement.

## What do you get if you join FHN?

You get early access to leading-edge thinking from the UK and abroad, intelligence about PFI and LIFT, opportunities to influence policy development and to share thinking with organisations facing the same issues... and much more. Please contact Sylvia Wyatt on 020 759 7255 or [sylvia.wyatt@nhsconfed.org](mailto:sylvia.wyatt@nhsconfed.org)



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