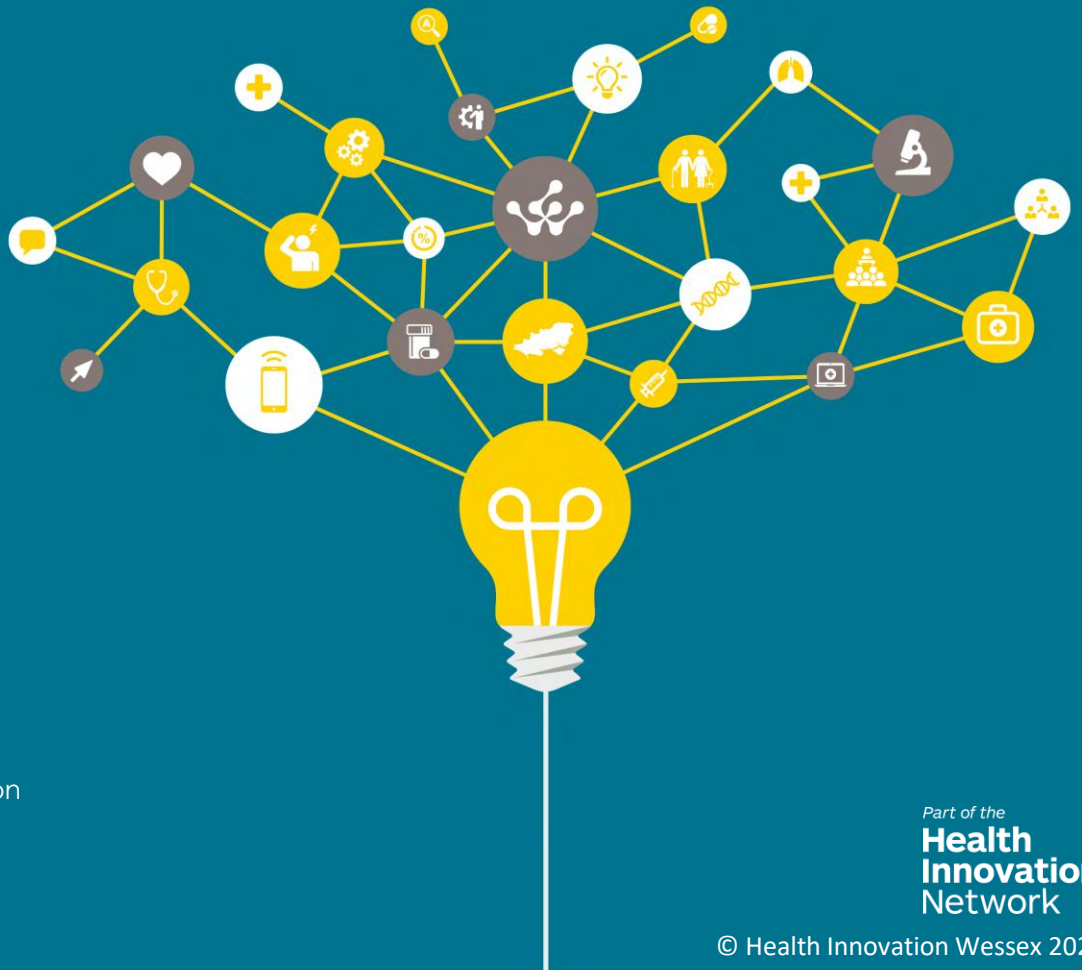
Considerations for healthcare apps in cancer services



Health Innovation Wessex
November 2023

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Senior Programme Manager – Industry & Innovation

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Programme Manager – Cancer Innovations

Part of the Health Innovation Network

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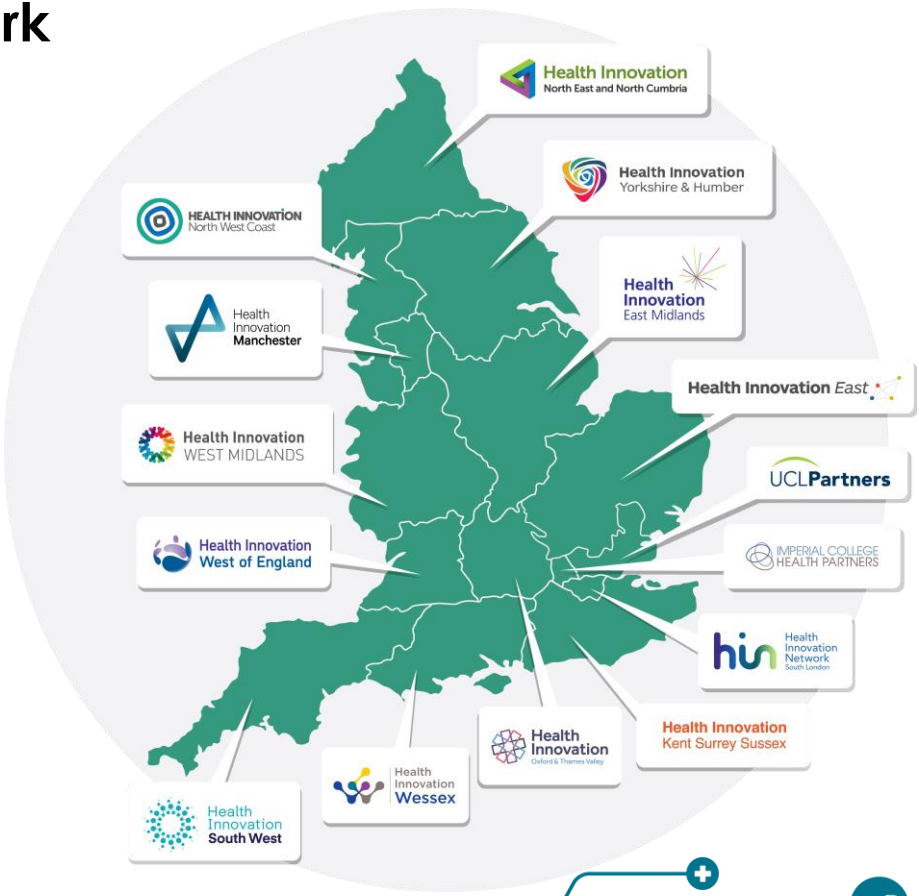
Health Innovation Network

- Previously called the AHSN Network, the Health Innovation Network was established by NHS England in 2013 to operate as the key innovation arm of the NHS.
- Health innovation networks improve lives through health innovation. We support health and care partners to deliver improvements that:
  - Improve the health of patients
  - Save money in health and care, and
  - drive economic growth.
- There are 15 health innovation networks and each one works across a distinct geography, aligning their programmes of work to those of the priorities of their local integrated care boards (ICBs). We operate locally and collaborate nationally to create the right conditions for successful innovation.



Health Innovation Wessex

We support innovators from commercial, clinical, academic or other backgrounds to accelerate the development of their solution to reach patients faster and meet the needs of our NHS.

Our support can be along the whole length of the innovation journey from ideation to implementation and last year, we supported around 3 new innovations per week.

Health Innovation Wessex support

Development & regulatory advice

Navigating the NHS market

NHS market insights

Value prop. development

Real-world impact evaluation

Health economics & business case development

Implementation support

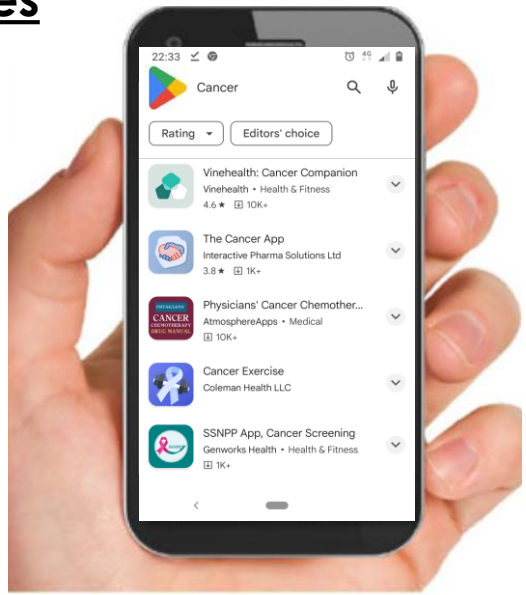
Navigation & advice

Grant funding support

In this first session (~30minutes)

Considerations for healthcare apps in cancer services

1. What do you want to achieve?
2. How to go about it
3. Considerations for purchasing ready-made apps
4. Considerations for in-house development
5. Who can help
6. Q&A (10-15min)



1. What do you want to achieve?

- What's the problem / unmet need?
- What's the improvement you need to achieve?
- Who wants it?
- Who will use it?
- Who will pay?
- How will the cost be justified?
- What does the team think?

2. How to go about it

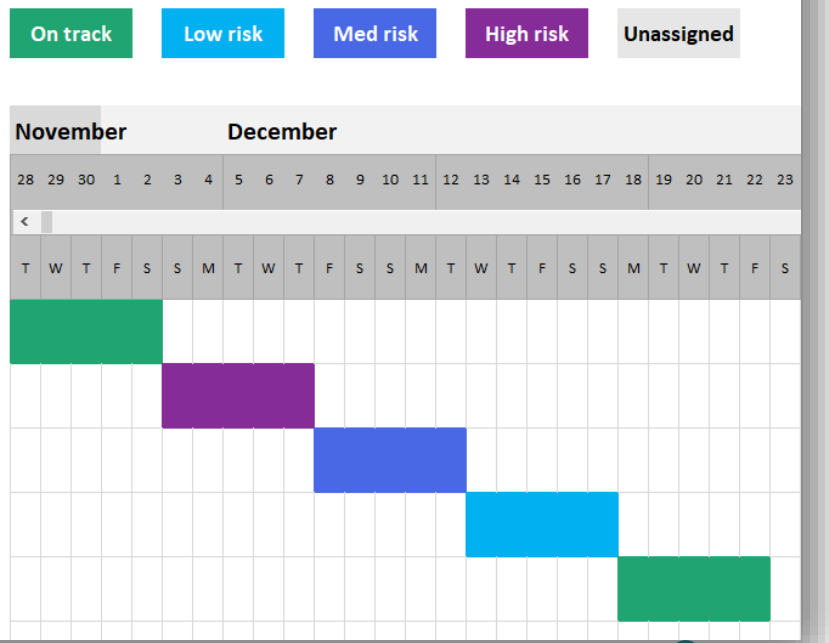
PROJECT TITLE: Solving our cancer service problem with an app

Company name: My Hospital

Project lead:L Goodness that will be me...

Project Start Date: 27/11/2023

Milestone description	Category	Assigned to	Start	Days
1. Project Plan	On Track	Me	28/11/2023	5
2. Stakeholder engagement	High Risk	Me	03/12/2023	5
3. Business case	Med Risk	Me	08/12/2023	5
4. Specification	Low Risk	me	13/12/2023	5
5. Market appraisal	On Track	Me	18/12/2023	5



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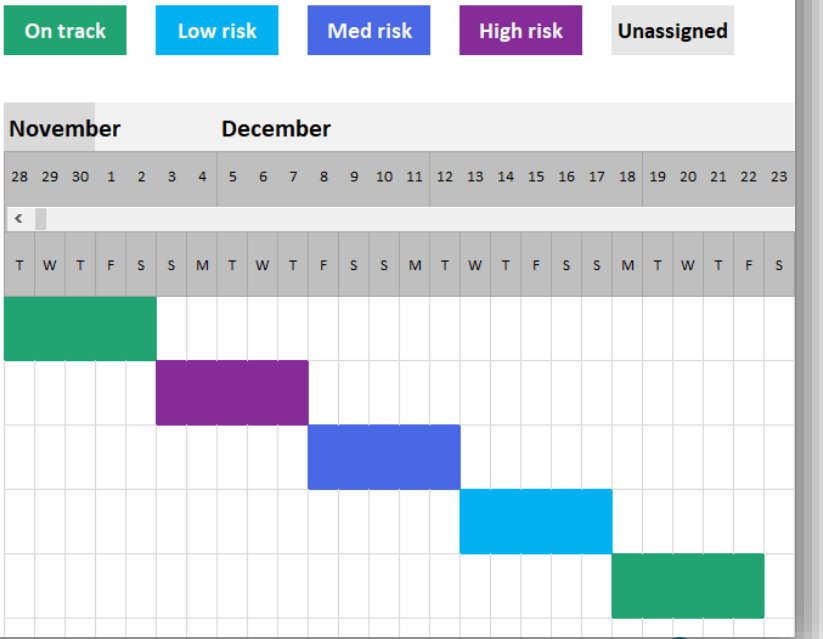

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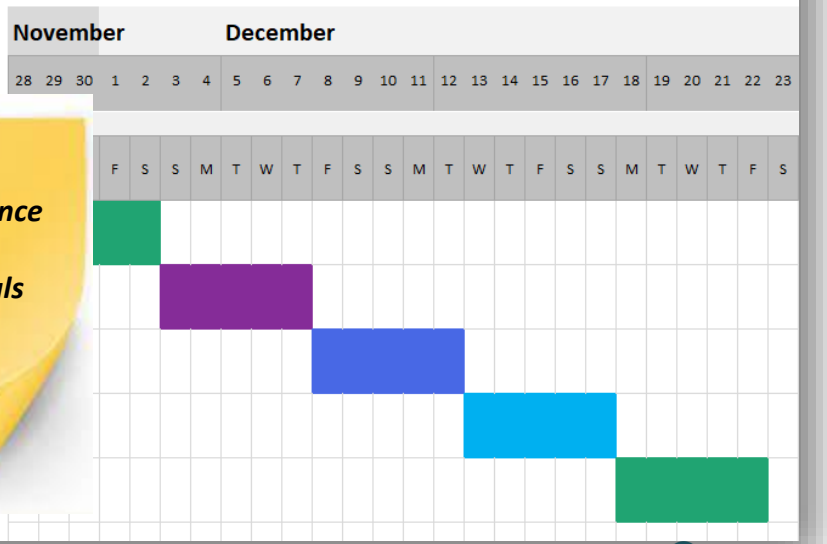
On track | Low risk | Med risk | High risk | Unassigned

Milestone description	Category
1. Project Plan	On Track
2. Stakeholder engagement	High Risk
3. Business case	Med Risk
4. Specification	Low Risk
5. Market appraisal	On Track

Information governance
IT
Other HC professionals
Clinical colleagues
Manager
Matron
Patient comms lead
Procurement



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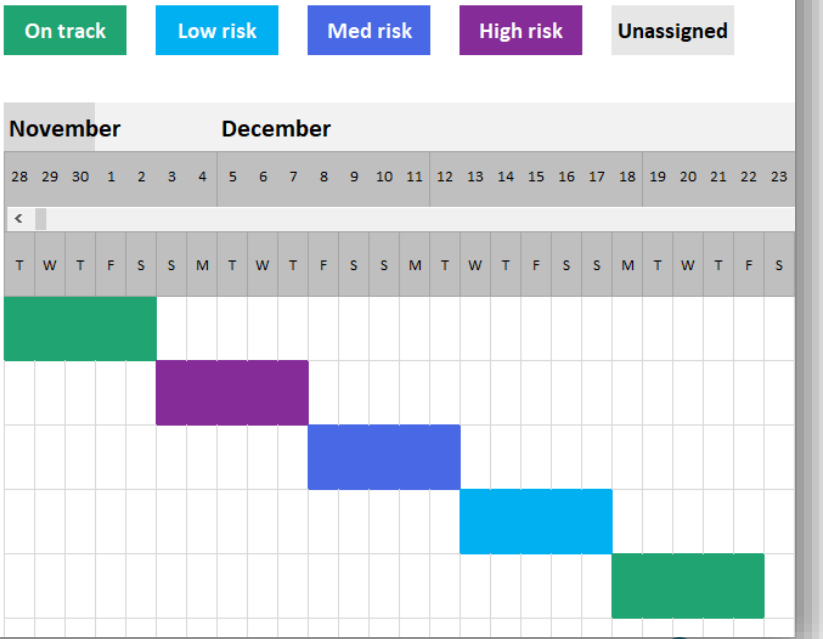

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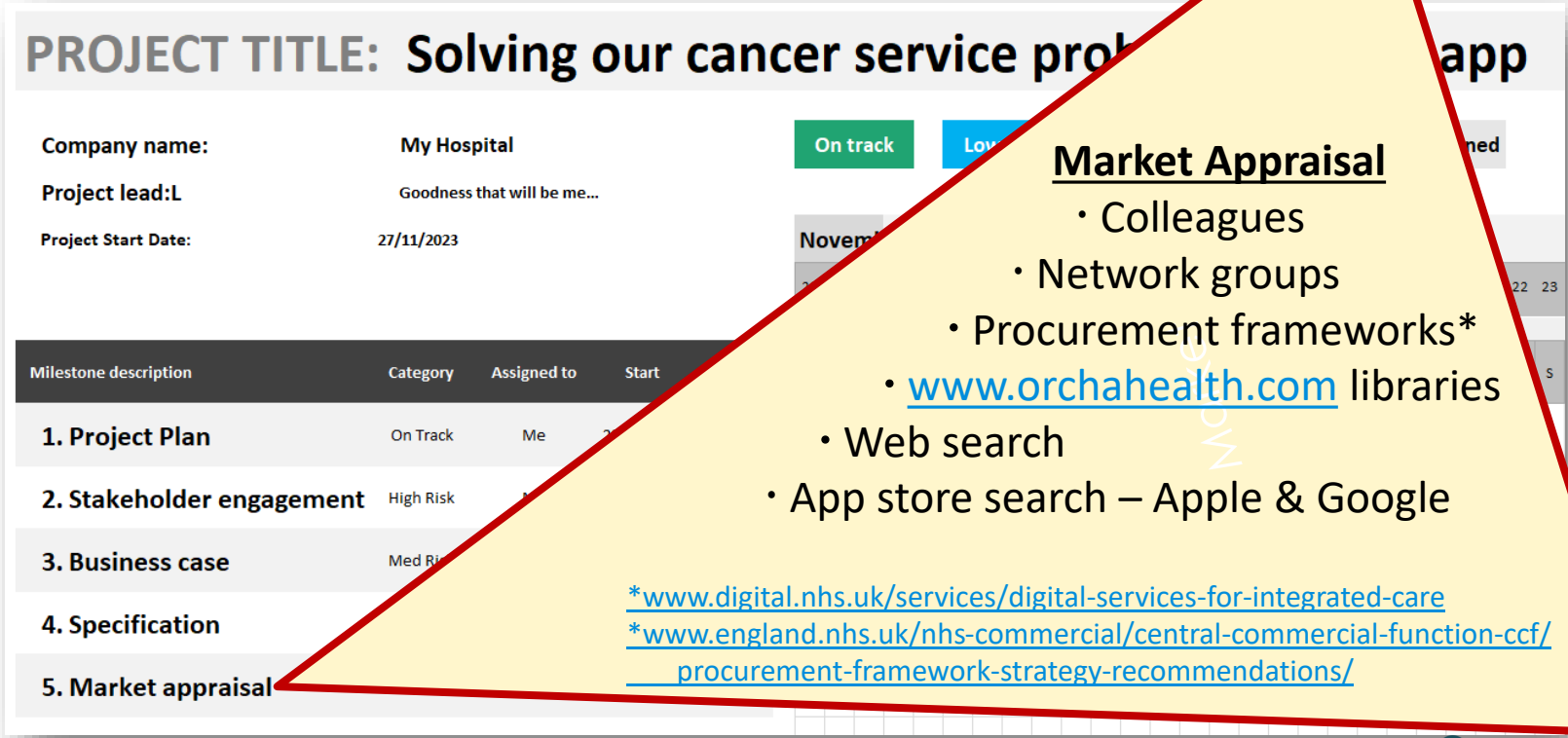


Market Appraisal

- Colleagues
- Network groups
- Procurement frameworks*
- www.orchahealth.com libraries
- Web search
- App store search – Apple & Google

*www.digital.nhs.uk/services/digital-services-for-integrated-care
*www.england.nhs.uk/nhs-commercial/central-commercial-function-ccf/procurement-framework-strategy-recommendations/

3. Considerations for purchasing ready-made apps

Product

- **Best fit to specification:**
  - Functions and features
  - Review panel of clinicians and patients
  - Evidence – validation, effectiveness, impact, on-site testing
  - Be flexible – if not perfect, is it good enough / adaptable?
- **Support offered:**
  - Implementation planning
  - Training
  - Updates
  - Helpline
- **Due diligence for UK / NHS suitability:**
  - Medical device regulation
  - Information governance
  - NHS interoperability
  - NHS DTAC
  - Call with a reference site

Process

- **Financials:**
  - Full cost incl licence, maintenance, implementation, per-usage charges
  - VAT
  - Business case
- **Compliant procurement process:**
  - Use of procurement frameworks
  - Open market appraisal
  - Formal procurement above ££ threshold
- **Pathway redesign:**
  - What work practice has to change to adopt it
  - What job roles have to change
  - How to manage the change

4. Considerations for in-house development - 1

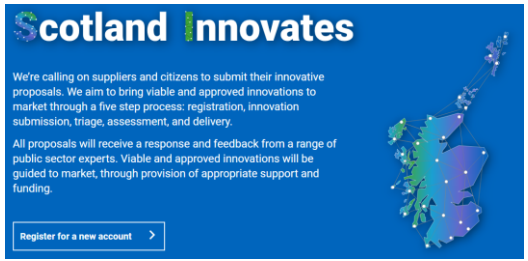
- **Is there really no suitable product available?**
  - Buy-don't-build is almost always better
  - Best fit / adaption?
  - Written justification for why none suitable
- **Issues:**
  - Effort of development
  - Capacity for design and testing, including colleagues
  - Cost – difficult to define a full final cost in advance
  - Compliance – eg medical device regulation
  - Risks:
    - Project failure – waste of funding and time
    - Service capacity while focused on project
    - Undetected error in clinical use

4. Considerations for in-house development - 2

- **Considerations for success**
  - **Choose the right developer**
    - Review their portfolio
    - Experience with health app development and medical device requirements
    - Quality of their response to the specification
    - Use a procurement framework
    - Call a reference site
  - **Detailed design specification**
  - **Designate sufficient project time**
  - **Advisory & oversight board**
  - **Co-design & testing**
  - **Commercial prospects for finished product**

5. Who can help

- Trust commercial / innovation leads
- Health innovation networks (England)
- Life Sciences Hub Wales
- Scotland Innovates Assessment Portal



Hwb Gwyddorau Bywyd Cymru
Life Sciences Hub Wales

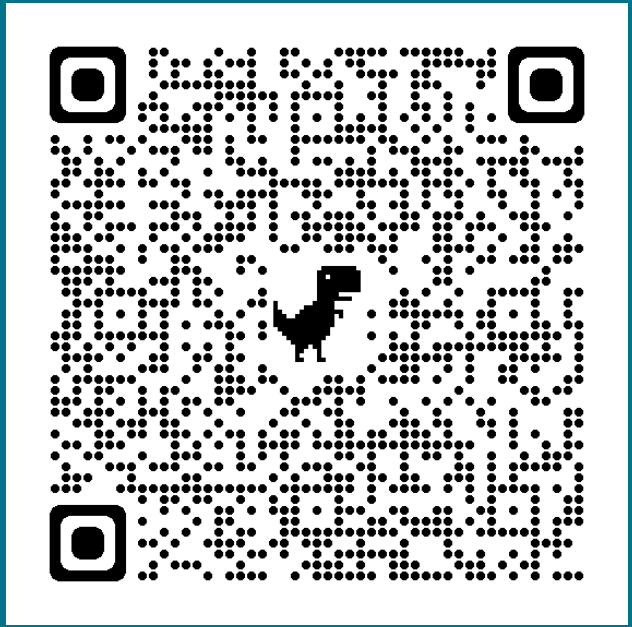
Questions….?

Health Innovation Wessex

Like support from us?

Complete our Engagement Form:

(LINK)



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