

Working together for research and innovation in south London

Academic Health Science Centres (AHSCs), Applied Research Collaborations (ARCs), and Academic Health Science Networks (AHSNs) work together to help the NHS and care system innovate and improve. They each have distinct strengths when it comes to discovering and implementing innovation.


AHSCs, ARCs, AHSNs: three distinct, connected roles

AHSCs

Discover new ways of improving health and care

There are six AHSCs in the UK, three of which are in London, based around Imperial College, University College London and King's College London and their associated hospitals. South London's AHSC is King's Health Partners (KHP).

kingshealthpartners.org
[@kingshealth](https://twitter.com/kingshealth)

 KING'S HEALTH PARTNERS
An Academic Health Sciences Centre for London Pioneering better health for all

ARCs

Research and evaluate the impact of new ways of improving health and care

There are 15 ARCs across England, each one bringing together a collaboration of local providers of NHS services and NHS commissioners, universities and local patient organisations. ARCs conduct applied health research and research on the implementation of health and care evidence into day-to-day practice. They are part of the National Institute for Health and Care Research.

nih.ac.uk
[@ARC_S_L](https://twitter.com/ARC_S_L)

 **NIHR** | Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care South London

AHSNs

Implement new ways of improving health and care, spreading innovation across the system

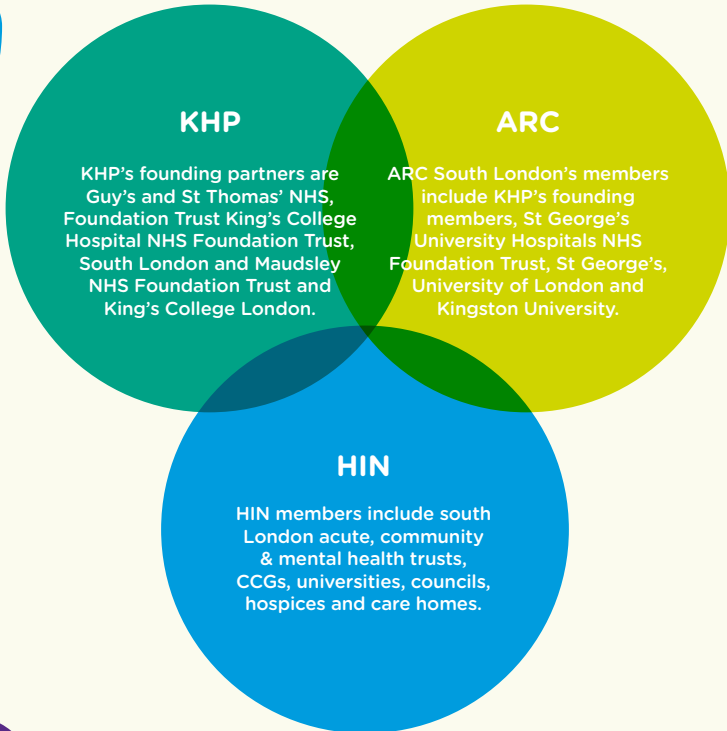
There are 15 AHSNs across England, three in London. Set up in 2013, they exist to give practical support to teams to help them adopt new innovation, connect the NHS with industry innovation and to share learning and insight that helps innovation spread through the system. South London's AHSN is the Health Innovation Network (HIN).

healthinnovationnetwork.com
[@HINSouthLondon](https://twitter.com/HINSouthLondon)

 **hin** Health Innovation Network South London



How we relate



King's Health Partners (KHP), south London's Applied Research Collaborative (ARC) and the Health Innovation Network (HIN) work collaboratively across the different stages of innovation from discovery to widespread adoption. Innovation is rarely a linear journey and the organisations work together at different times to support innovation using their unique skill sets.



Innovation in diabetes: an example of how it works in practice

All three organisations are working together to improve outcomes for south Londoners in diabetes through innovation in education and a greater focus on mental health.

KHP has discovered new ways of integrating physical and mental health care in diabetes, as research evidence shows that diabetes is commonly associated with various types of psychological distress.

ARC South London's research provided real world evidence on why south Londoners are missing out on vital diabetes education and revealed the potential for improvement if south Londoners could access education more flexibly, including offering more digital alternatives. Its applied research looked at local population needs in-depth and

highlighted the need for education that is culturally relevant for people with African and Caribbean backgrounds.

Using this discovery and research, HIN has worked with south London health teams to develop and implement an innovative intervention called Diabetes Book & Learn (see www.diabetesbooking.co.uk). Diabetes Book & Learn has radically improved access to patient education for all people with diabetes across south London by increasing flexibility of education, increasing digital options and supporting local CCGs to commission culturally relevant diabetes courses for people with African and Caribbean backgrounds. Diabetes Book & Learn also includes access to psychological support.