# South West Clinical Senate Assembly Annual Conference 2024 Feedback Report

## 1.0 Introduction

The South West Clinical Senate Assembly Annual Conference entitled “Reimagining the NHS…the next 75 years”took place on 7 March 2024.

It was the first in-person conference since 2019 following the virtual conference held in 2021.

It was well attended with around 65 of the 81 registered delegates attending on the day. Positive feedback was received from delegates and speakers both in response to the MS Forms survey circulated after the event and informally.

58% of delegates said that they heard about the conference via a direct email. 42% found out about the conference via word of mouth, staff bulletins or other means.

## 2.0 Delegates general comments and feedback

35 delegates responded to the MS Forms survey post-conference and the overall response was fantastic.

* 91% said their overall impression of the conference was either Excellent or Very Good.
* 100% rated the pre-event organisation Excellent or Very Good.
* 85% rated the pace of the conference Excellent or Very Good.
* 89% rated the content Excellent or Very Good.
* 94% of respondents rated the conference delivery Excellent or Very Good.

Examples of comments made by delegates;

* An opportunity to zoom-out, reflect and horizon scan.
* The quality of the Keynote sessions was excellent and informative providing food for thought as to the future direction of healthcare needs and service provision.
* Stimulating up to date presentations, useful workshops, and an opportunity to network with people from across the whole region.
* A stimulating and thought provoking day, covering ideas that one wouldn't have capacity to think about as part of normal front line work.
* The SW Clinical Senate Assembly Conference 2024 provided, people, place and perspective for participants wanting a context for their clinical practice.
* Great day, really good to be able to get off the service delivery and operational roundabout and have protected time and space to listen, think and reflect. Some inspirational speakers, ideas and work presented. Also key networking and sharing of improvement and learning to take away.
* As a member of the Citizens assembly, I was delighted to be with the Senate after "lockdown" and see everyone face to face. The talent we have in the SW is inspiring - thank you for all the sessions and input. The NHS can be rightly proud of these people.

## 3.0 Conference Speakers

The speakers and workshop leads were well received with excellent feedback. Survey respondents were asked to rate the plenary sessions and the workshops they attended.

All speaker sessions scored over 7.3 points out of a maximum 10 points.

## Comments regarding the speaker sessions include;

* Professor Marmot was an inspiring speaker. Drs Ryan and Stowell gave me so much to think about. It made me think of my whole career, the training made many of us ‘Fear based’ change is essential.
* Many presentations were biased towards adult health care. I would like consideration given to the development of paediatric health care.
* It may be worth increasing the time for questions and discussion and reducing the plenary time a bit – there was real value in the questions and discussion that could provide a greater ‘south west’ focus.
* Timings and length of time allotted to speakers was just right.

## 4.0 Looking ahead to future conferences and events

The South West Clinical Senate asked delegates questions about the conference length, format and whether they would like future conferences to be recorded.

* 100% said the length of the conference was About Right
* 97% said they would prefer future conferences to be held face to face
* When asked whether they would like future conferences recorded the responses varied;

45% said yes, just the plenary sessions.

32% said no, it isn’t necessary.

19% said yes, both the plenary sessions and the workshops.

3% said yes, just the workshops.

Respondents were given the opportunity to offer any comments they would like to share which included very positive comments as well as some constructive feedback;

* Well organised, clear, and informative presentations
* Thank-you very much for a great day. I would recommend to my colleagues.

* Great opportunity to network and meet people – I was surprised the group was relatively small given the size of SW NHS
* The food selection did not meet with NHS England health eating, the lack of healthy options was commented on.
* The role of the Senate still seems a bit fuzzy to me. You could include a short session on things it has done and the different made?
* I am still unclear exactly what the SW Senate is, and it’s raison d’etre!
* I think there was relatively little primary care presence and wonder if that is something to pursue/push for?

## 5.0 Reflections on conference planning and logistics

The conference planning and delivery was led by Ajike Alli-Ameh, Head of South West Clinical Senate with support from colleagues from the wider NHSEI South West: Fiona Baldwin, Ildiko Dan, Wendy Vincent, Rebecca Murphy, Stephen Bennett-Troake and Jenny Simmons.

A meeting was held with the Clinical Senate Management Team capturing some reflections on the conference which included suggestions about revisiting the way the conference is publicised, who is eligible to attend and how the Senate might better leverage the platform as a way of improving knowledge and understanding of the work of the Senate and the Citizens Assembly and as a way to generate interest in joining the Senate Assembly and Citizens Assembly.

It is the general view of the Senate Management team that the venue worked well and delivered what was required on the day however the room was under capacity by a noticeable amount.

The team has also stimulated a conversation with the wider NHS England leadership team around the timing of the event and dovetailing it into the wider NHS England South West Medical Directorate programme of events which might dictate a need to move the conference to an alternative calendar month. It has also been noted the political activity might influence the timing of the next conference.

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Prepared by: Rebecca Murphy, South West Clinical Senate Project Officer

Document Owner: Dr Sally Pearson, Chair of South West Clinical Senate