Video transcript: WM-ADASS How we did in 2021-22

Paul Furnival: An interesting year, a very Covid-dominated year. I think we're all particularly proud of having kept going during Covid. The pressure and the demands have been absolutely immense.

But we haven't wanted to just dominate our feedback in terms of Covid, so you can see there the things that have come out of the discussions, the feedback, the meetings that we have and the wider networks that we operate within.

Some of the things particularly that partners and citizens have said....and you know we've just had our branch meeting and we were reflecting on how well networked we are as a set of people, and the colleagues that we work with across social care, and people like Richard who very much get the voice of ADASS in regionally and nationally, to all the things that we do with individual people and with individual organisations and this is a little snapshot of some of that feedback.

Marc Greenwood: I'm the chair of the digital and the workforce networks, and I think one of the highlights for me this year has been the way that we've come together with the commissioning network to actually start to identify ways in which we might be able to innovate around commissioning approaches, think about digital technologies, but also what the workforce implications are.

There are so many opportunities at the moment with [what] we've been introduced to over the last two years, bringing together like-minded people to work through real problems [and] seeing the energy and enthusiasm from colleagues who really want to make a difference.

Abby Vella: my primary role was - and I'm still seconded from the LGA - to come and support our regional digital programme of work which I've been doing through our new and pretty active digital network.

We were essentially tasked with leading a new pilot to try a new model of digital leadership, creating some capacity within regions to support the national and a local digital agendas.

And actually where we've got to now is a point where other local government regions want a similar role in a similar setup to what we've to what we've pulled together over the last few months, and I think that is a testament to the people, resources, and values that we keep close to us at West Midlands ADASS Improvement.

Ed Willis: From and LGA point of view, and I'm in a joint role between the Local Government Association and what's now the NHS transformation directorate – NHSX that was – that's been a great source of support as well as to us at the LGA.

We've clearly seen the benefits of this sort of approach that has been pioneered here in the West Midlands.

Messages on the care technology digital switchover, and the asks around that has really informed NHS Transmission's actual thinking on that, and we're now taking forwards work to consider the source of funding round that, to consider the sort of support that can happen.

Feedback on the digital health and care strategy, on data, which the West Midlands ADASS were unique in doing, again fed into national thinking.

Also the other point to highlight is the support in making joint working with ICSs work, for digitalising social care, and putting council leadership sourced work at the forefront there.

Robin Miller: I'm Robin Miller Professor of Collaborative Learning at the University of Birmingham. It's just been a really exciting 12 months I think in relation to the joint working between ADASS and the various networks in the university.

We've known for a while that there's a huge opportunity I think to collaborate together to provide new research evidence and new practice insights, but I think only the last 12 months have we actually been able to make that happen.

There's many examples we could share. We've got the fantastic project we're doing on the implementation of strength-based practice which we're doing very closely with the OT and the PSW and the commissioning networks, and there's many other examples.

You know we've also got the securing of the funding for research champions and number of colleagues in the region have supported colleagues of Birmingham and Warwick and Keele in terms of developing research grants.

We've brought research money into the region as well, and I think we're finally starting to understand each other when we talk to people about the clinical research network and the research design service we're starting to get a common language, although it has taken a while.

Andrea Shilton: The collaboration with ADASS and other partners in the region has been an absolute delight and a highlight of this year. It really feels like we've got joined up working and its going to make a difference in the future having relevant social care research happening in the region so I'm certainly proud to be working in that partnership.

Rebecca Davis: I'm Rebecca Davis, I'm chief executive of West Midlands Employers, the employers' organisation, which is owned by the 32 councils in the region. For us it's been absolutely brilliant be able to work, particularly with Pete and the team at ADASS West Midlands around some of the work and innovations we can do.

I think there's huge potential there, you know, across the workforce. There are real challenges we know we're facing now, but there's some really innovative things that we are starting to do and particularly looking at that as a long term commitment between WME and ADASS about how we can work together to agree annual outcomes and real objectives about what we want to see different.

Paul Johnston: I think one of the real successes for West Midlands ADASS and also one of the platforms that we can build on for next year, and take into next year's priority, is the relationship with the West Midlands Care Association Providers Forum.

That Forum has a real willingness to address some of the big challenges that we're facing, so things like workforce, things like cost of care, very much on the agenda for collaborative working.

Abby Vella: Over the last few months we've had a specific, more established partnership with TLAP, which is influencing our thoughts and ambitions for doing co-production generally better across our improvement programme.

I don't think by any means we're a master of co-production yet, but I think we are really kick-starting an honest and authentic conversation about how we can make our improvement programme more democratic and more participatory, and I think it's just a really exciting time to be here with West Midlands ADASS.