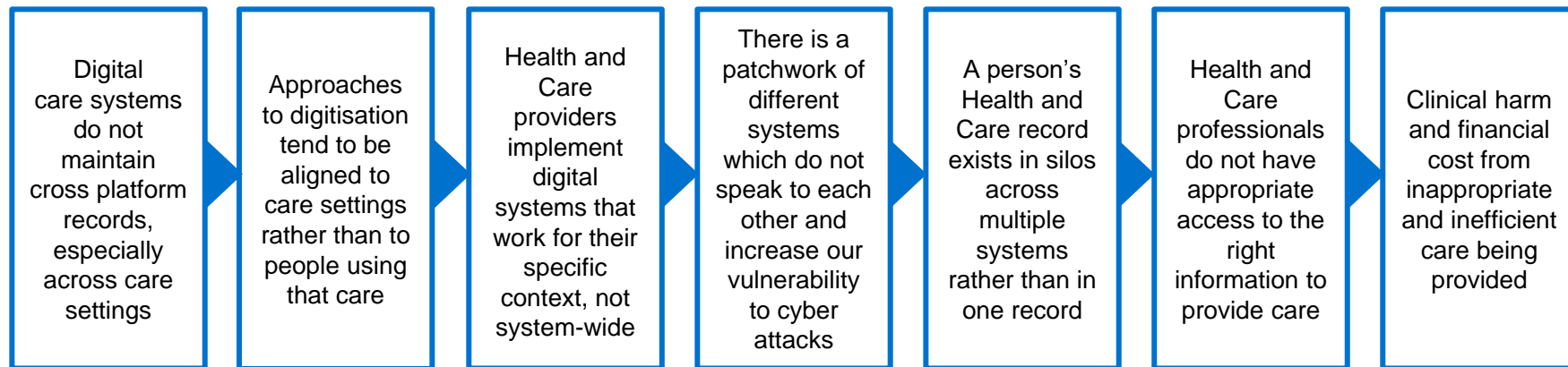# Convergence in Action

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1. Why do we want it?

2. What is it?

3. What are the benefits?

4. What are the challenges?

Why do we want it?

Current state of the nation…

Digital care systems do not maintain cross platform records, especially across care settings	Approaches to digitisation tend to be aligned to care settings rather than to people using that care	Health and Care providers implement digital systems that work for their specific context, not system-wide	There is a patchwork of different systems which do not speak to each other and increase our vulnerability to cyber attacks	A person's Health and Care record exists in silos across multiple systems rather than in one record	Health and Care professionals do not have appropriate access to the right information to provide care	Clinical harm and financial cost from inappropriate and inefficient care being provided

The majority of health and care professionals do not have appropriate access to the right information to provide care and siloed data does not support the creation of teams centred around care to the patient.

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What is it?

o The establishment of Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) has provided the opportunity, and is beginning to, make the vision of for joined-up care across the health and social care sectors a reality.

o When a variety of organisations are involved in meeting the needs of one person, it makes sense that the digital infrastructure to support this should be available in one place.

o The primary aim of infrastructure consolidation and convergence is to move, over time, towards digital infrastructures and patient records maintained at an ICB level.

Key principles:

  o Journey not an destination

  o Incremental, sustainable change

  o ICS-led strategies

Complimentary with interoperability

NHS

Convergence

Investment at an ICS level should be managed to create common digital infrastructure, from shared data centres to common electronic Health and Care records. Through shared contracts, ICSs should seek to converge to common clinical systems and support applications to drive integration and efficiencies.

All professionals involved in the care of an individual have appropriate access to the right information at the right time to provide care.

Interoperability

Ensuring that data is collected and stored to agreed standards. so that it can seamlessly flow irrespective of the system being used (through standard APIs).

Challenges

- Collaboration is compromise

- Variety of existing commercial arrangements

- Limitations of current software solutions

- Standards aren't all in place

- Not the only show in town

Benefits

NHS

- Improved patient care

- Enabler to integrating health and care services

- Improves workforce experience

- Better value for money

- Can free up resource to focus on more transformational IT