digitalhealth



# Helen Thomas

# CEO, Digital Health and Care Wales



Stage Sponsor:





lechyd a Gofal Digidol Cymru Digital Health and Care Wales Helen Thomas CEO

### A systems view on digital health

Rewired March 2024





#### Digital Health and Care Wales

provides the national digital, data and technology services to support health and care delivery in Wales

helping to improve health and care services and achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes



Digital Health and Care WALES

# Wales a devolved, diverse nation



Wales a devolved nation of 3.1 million
Financial challenges combined with high demand
Aging population in Wales aged over 60\* - over 800,000
48% have a long-standing illness
594,000 patients waiting to start treatment
Staff shortages becoming increasingly acute



**Diverse geography, with urban centres and remote rural areas** - Legacy of heavy industry and its impact on health and the economy

# Health and the economy

- Health and economy intrinsically linked
- III health costs the economy £43bn a year
- The UK performs less well on health care outcomes
- Must grasp opportunities presented by digital



## **Policy Context in Wales**

- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act
- Foundational Economy Approach
- Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023
- A Healthier Wales
- Refreshed digital and data strategy



#### DHCW's strategy

### Our purpose: To make digital a force for good in health and care

#### Our aims:

- Provide a platform for enabling digital transformation
- Deliver high quality digital products and services
- Expand the digital health and care record and the use of digital to improve health and care
- Drive better values and outcomes through innovation

#### **Our principles:**

- -Put people first
- Simplify everything we do
- Design for more digital, more data
- Find more value
- Learn from the past, embrace the future

## DHCW's priorities

- More data
- Open architecture
- Empowering people
- Digital medicines
- User-centred design
- Digital maturity
- Digital inclusion
- Cyber security



## The case for digital investment

- Embracing digital is pivotal to improving outcomes
- Research shows the value of digital investment to the economy



## Challenges

#### Changing culture

Different approach to investment and service planning

Developing new workforce models



## Key points

Digital is a force for good

Must be seen as a determinant of health Need to drive change It's all about people



Thank you Diolch

