

CyberFocus

Innovation Forge Health and Social Care



CyberFocus Innovation Forge: An Invitation to Shape the Future of Cybersecurity in Health & Social Care

Health and social care teams across the North West are under constant pressure to deliver safe, high quality care in environments where digital systems are essential and often fragile. Cybersecurity challenges aren't abstract IT problems; they show up every day in the form of login friction, workarounds, system delays, and the struggle to keep care flowing safely.

The **Innovation Forge** is your opportunity to help change that.

Over **three interactive workshops in June**, the Innovation Forge brings together people from across the sector, strategic leaders, operational managers, clinicians, frontline staff, digital teams, social care providers, and others, to build a shared, evidence based picture of what is really happening in practice and in policy.

This is a space to be heard, to influence, and to shape change.

What the Innovation Forge Will Do

Across three structured days, participants will work together to:

1. Build a shared understanding of the sector's digital and cyber context

(Workshop 1: 10 June) You'll help map the real ecosystem: the systems, pressures, assumptions, and constraints shaping cybersecurity in health and social care today.

2. Surface the sector's most important cybersecurity problems

(Workshop 2: 23 June) From everyday friction points to systemic vulnerabilities, you'll help identify the issues that matter most; the ones that affect safety, efficiency, and the ability to deliver care.

3. Identify the challenges that stop cyber solutions being adopted in practice

(Workshop 3: 24 June) You'll explore why good solutions struggle to take hold: legacy systems, workflow realities, staffing pressures, procurement hurdles, cultural norms, and more.

Why Your Voice Matters

Not sure if your experiences fit? They likely do. Cyber challenges in health and social care often show up in everyday frustrations, not just major incidents. The examples

below are simply to spark ideas, your reality may look very different, and that's exactly why we want to hear from you.

You might recognise things like:

- Login friction or repeated password resets
- Delays in digital access when moving between roles or sites
- Systems that don't talk to each other
- Workarounds developed under pressure
- Over-reliance on email or informal communication channels
-

These issues are not user errors or simply IT issues; they are symptoms of deeper systemic problems.

Your insight is essential because:

- **Strategic leaders** understand the pressures of regulation, risk, budgets, and system-wide coordination.
- **Operational managers** see how cyber issues disrupt flow, staffing, and service delivery.
- **Clinicians and frontline staff** know exactly where digital friction slows care or forces unsafe workarounds.

Bringing these perspectives together can help us uncover where the real cyber challenges and barriers are, and this is the only way to build solutions that work in the real world.

What You'll Get Out of Participating

A real say in shaping the region's cyber priorities

Your experience will directly inform two major outputs:

- **A Cyber Problem Book** that captures and makes visible the cybersecurity problems facing the sector.
- **An Innovation Adoption Challenges Book** that identifies the systemic factors that block effective implementation.

These will guide future collaborations, funding decisions, and cyber innovation activity across the North West.

A chance to influence future funded projects

CyberFocus is a **£5 million EPSRC investment** designed to strengthen the North West cyber ecosystem. Most of this funding will support **impact projects** co-developed between universities and sector partners spanning multiple sectors.

This Innovation Forge will help shape what some of those projects focus on and who they involve.

Connections you don't normally get access to

The Forge brings together people who rarely sit in the same room: clinical staff, digital teams, social care providers, researchers and system leaders.

This is a rare opportunity to build relationships, share frustrations, and co-design solutions with people who can help make change happen.

Why Now?

Cybersecurity is becoming more complex, more interconnected, and more critical to safe care. Yet the sector's challenges are often misunderstood or oversimplified. The Innovation Forge is a chance to:

- articulate the real pressures you face
- influence regional priorities
- shape future investment
- ensure solutions reflect the realities of care

Your insight can help build a safer, more resilient, more connected health and social care system for the North West.

In Short: Why Join?

Because **your experience matters**, and the sector needs it. Because **cyber challenges are care challenges**. Because **solutions only work when they reflect real practice**. Because **this is your chance to shape future investment and innovation**.

There is no charge to attend the workshops, but places are limited so please register here: [Registration - Health and Social Care Innovation Forge with CyberFocus – Fill in form](#) by 1 June 2026

Find out more about [CyberFocus](#) and our regional aspirations.

Contact the CyberFocus Team: cyberfocus@lancaster.ac.uk