

# Case Study: Health Innovation South West



## The Client

[Health Innovation South West](#) (previously The South West Academic Health Science Network) is one of 15 Academic Health Science Networks set up by NHS England in 2013 in light of the unprecedented demographic, financial and capacity pressures facing the UK's health and social care system. This pressure led greater focus being given to the role of wellbeing, early intervention, preventing ill-health and enabling individuals to take greater control of their own care.

It works with partners across the health and care system to deliver on the following four key areas:

- Finding and connecting innovators to health and care systems
- Developing, testing and evaluating innovation in the real world
- Adopting and spreading proven innovations at scale
- Creating the conditions to innovate

## Our Role

The Good Economy was commissioned to assess the opportunity to develop VCSE (voluntary, community or social enterprise organisation) models of health and social care in the South West region and raise new sources of social investment to support their development.

Our team explored the “priority needs” NHS commissioners believed VCSE providers could help meet. We also explored what VCSE providers could deliver and the role of finance in making this happen.

We reviewed the evidence, conducted interviews and held workshops to test our emerging findings.

## The Findings

Our report *Innovation in Health and Care: the opportunity for VCSEs in the South West* revealed two broad priority areas for health commissioners: these were “Care for the Elderly and Aging Better” and “Healthy Lifestyles”.

The study identified five strategic opportunities for commissioners and VCSE organisations to work on these priorities and explored what financiers could offer to back this innovation.

A short version of the full report is here: [Innovation in Health & Care: The Opportunity for VCSE](#)

*“The Good Economy brought together a knowledgeable and experienced team whose work was influential in developing our strategy.”*

- Jon Siddall, CEO, Health Innovation South West