

Spark Innovation Programme



The Spark Innovation Programme is the Frontline Innovation arm within the HSE that enables and empowers healthcare workers to implement solutions to problems that they face every day.

Our problem space...

High demand for services, aging population, increasing complexity & rising costs of care

Innovation is required to adequately respond to the challenge

Frontline often in best place to identify problems and potential solutions to those problems

Innovation not currently given same emphasis as research – no protected space or time

Staff lack the tools required to innovate, the time and remit and the insight into the National Picture

“How might we engage and empower frontline staff to generate and implement innovative solutions to persistent challenges for the benefit of patients, staff and the health service?”



Spark was originally established in 2017 as a national programme under National Doctors Training and Planning (NDTP) to encourage and support Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors to implement innovation solutions in their area. Since 2020, there has been exponential growth within the programme. It has grown to include Nurses, Midwives, all twenty-six professions within Health and Social Care Professionals and now, all frontline services within the HSE incl. hospitals, public health and the community. With support from the Office of the Nursing and Midwifery Services Director (ONMSD) and The National Health and Social Care Professions Office (NHSCPO) there is multi-disciplinary buy-in and considerable engagement with the programme across the country.



The Spark Programme creates value by:

- Harnessing the ingenuity and lived experience at the frontline
- Building capacity within the system by developing new ways of working
- Enhancing job satisfaction through empowerment and agency building
- Prioritising projects and innovations for scale and growth in line with National Priorities.

The Spark Programme prides itself on its ability to reach clinicians working directly at the point of care and its skills in supporting and effecting positive change for staff and patients in the Irish healthcare setting. The Programme acts as a catalyst to enable staff to undertake improvement and innovation projects in their individual domains and to facilitate the scale and spread of successful projects across the system. In line with the goals of the Clinical Design and Innovation arm of the HSE, the Spark Programme seeks out people and projects that can contribute to the quadruple aim of achieving better health outcomes, improving patient experience, improving clinician experience, and lowering the cost of healthcare. The Spark Programme has a growing portfolio of successful projects that demonstrate a tangible impact on achieving this quadruple aim.

The 7 Pillars of the Spark Innovation Programme:

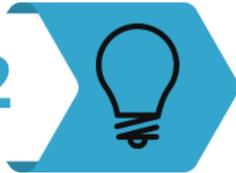
01



Engagement

Providing engagement opportunities for our innovation collective across the health service.

02



Initiatives

Creating opportunities to develop skills, secure micro funding, access mentorship and embed innovation.

03



Design

Implementing user informed change and innovation

04



Network

Gathering and connecting our internal and external partners

05



Research

Contributing to the body of research in the frontline innovation space both nationally and internationally.

06



Pioneering

Leading the way with new product and services and ways of working through pilots and validation studies.

07



Professional Development

Developing our staff for agency and impact.

Thank you, for your time, your effort and your bravery in challenging the norms and striving to deliver the best care possible for your patients! We look forward to meeting you at our Workshops, Conferences, Boot-camps, Roadshows and other events around the

country. Click on the tabs to learn more and follow us on social media to never miss an event!



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