

Starting from Scratch

A new Academic Health Science Network, AHSN, created under recent UK government NHS health reforms, needed to prepare a prospectus and business case for submission to the Department of Health in support of its application for a five year operating licence. While the primary objectives of the AHSN organisation is to diffuse research and innovation throughout the healthcare sector, a significant part of the prospectus and business case was to focus on the ability of the AHSN to demonstrate that it was prepared to implement an appropriate system of governance and develop the capabilities required to establish a network and partner management office and deliver change throughout the research and innovation community.

Challenges

The client team comprising mainly clinical and healthcare professionals needed to demonstrate, through the submission of the prospectus, that they understood the capabilities required to manage an academic research network with multiple stakeholders both inside and outside the NHS in industry. In particular the AHSN needed to plan for:

- An appropriate system of governance enabling multiple stakeholder management
- AHSN management systems that would support:
 - Short and long term planning
 - Measuring financial and operating performance
 - Develop talent and learning within AHSN management and staff

pmX Proposition and Solution

The Nottingham University Hospital Foundation Trust engaged pmX and its business partner, PCH Projects, a specialist NHS advisory firm, to provide support to the East Midlands AHSN with the initial design of the partner and network management office for inclusion in the application prospectus.

pmX and PCH professionals also assisted with the preparation of a five year business plan for inclusion in the application prospectus.

Using pmX methodology, the AHSN established its future operating model and implementation strategy for organisational change and deployment.

Impact

The principal benefits to the AHSN from working with pmX included:

- The successful submission of the prospectus and business plan to the Department of Health on time
- A clear roadmap for implementation and operational deployment, including network communications balanced scorecards, key performance indicators and an approach to risk management
- Ultimate award to the AHSN of a five year operating licence supported by an initial funding award of £5m
- The transfer of knowledge to AHSN management and staff from pmX and PCH experienced professionals

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Contact the pmX Team

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