

About the organisation and the Q team

The Health Foundation

We are an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and health care for people in the UK.

Our aim is a healthier population, supported by high quality health care that can be equitably accessed. We learn what works to make people's lives healthier and improve the health care system. From giving grants to those working at the front line to carrying out research and policy analysis, we shine a light on how to make successful change happen.

You can find out more about the Health Foundation at <https://www.health.org.uk/>

The Q Initiative

Q is an ambitious initiative connecting thousands of people with expertise in improvement across the UK, shortly to expand across Ireland. It is being led by the Health Foundation and supported and co-funded by the lead organisations responsible for supporting improvement in the health sector in each part of the UK.

Q makes it easier for people from a wide range of backgrounds to learn, share and collaborate, so that the existing skills and the £billions spent on innovation and improvement in the health sector stretch further. Ultimately, our mission to support continuous and sustainable improvement in health and care.

Following a design and set up phase in 2015, we have established a strong brand, communications infrastructure and set of activities, a novel approach to grant funding and a way of making progress on complex problems.

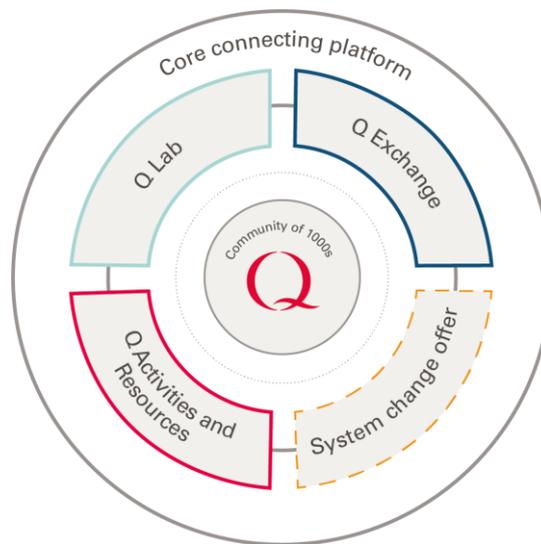


A community of thousands

At the centre of Q is a community of thousands of people, who demonstrate expertise in structured approaches to improvement. In joining Q, they commit to sharing and collaborating with other Q members, as well as within their own organisations and networks.

Core connecting platform

The core connecting “platform” - consisting of Q’s website, group collaboration spaces, online directory and communications channels - is the foundation for everything Q does. It provides members, partners and others with easier, faster ways to reach improvement practitioners, as well as making the rich and varied improvement work underway across the UK more visible. Q has partnerships with other organisations which are also a critical part of this platform.



Activities and resources

Q provides a range of flexible development, learning and networking opportunities. The annual conference attracts hundreds of members, providing a safe and creative space to share the best and most current learning in improvement. Monthly site visits enable members to learn from leading work in health and care and in other industries such as manufacturing, engineering and IT. Downloadable tools on creative problem solving and design methods are available for members, as well as access to a number of online learning resources. Q specialises in flexible, interactive opportunities that make the most of sharing between peers.

Q Lab

The Q Lab works with Q members and others to make progress on specific complex challenges that organisations are grappling with across the sector. The Lab undertakes a fast-paced research and discovery phase, pooling the best available evidence about an issue and drawing on the ‘hive-mind’ of Q to draw out practical wisdom from patients and practitioners. It works with frontline teams to develop and test improvement ideas in practice, sharing learning about promising interventions and insights.

Q Exchange

Q Exchange is a participatory funding programme that draws on the collective intelligence of the Q community to identify projects that offer the greatest potential to benefit patients and the work that others are doing in the community. Up to £30k is available for projects that have been refined, developed and strengthened with the knowledge and expertise of the Q

community. Q Exchange encourages alignment with what's already known, emphasising collaboration as much as competition. Participants learn and support each other through a transparent process where the community has a say on which projects receive funding.

You can read more about Q at <https://q.health.org.uk>

Q: future developments

We recently secured funding and support from the Health Foundation and our partners for a further 10 years. This makes it a particularly exciting time to join the team. Q will continue to deliver at scale, while also developing and expanding into new areas, exploring new partnerships and sources of income.

This includes developing the Lab approach and network, with a second Lab in Wales. We will be growing the community and making the most of the connections between the different elements of what Q offers. We will also be introducing a new paid-for membership offer, bringing together organisations involved in leading change across whole countries and systems to learn from each other; tap into the expertise of the Q team, and learn from those working in practice.

The Q team and how we work

There are 22 people in the Q team, working in a matrix structure, with people from different functions coming together to design and deliver the various offers and opportunities that Q provides.

Our culture emphasizes iterative learning and improvement, partnership working and collaborating with members and others to design and refine our offers. We have developed a strong ability to communicate visually, work well with groups, listen and act on feedback quickly and adapt in response.

