

Responding to the news that NHSX had published its listening to digital health innovators report, David Hancock, healthcare Executive Advisor, InterSystems said:

“I am not surprised by standards being rated the most important priority because to address the challenges of new NHS structures, new models of care, patient inclusion, improving patient safety, etc, we need interoperability standards.

“However, despite a consensus on the need for standards, no reference in the report is made about how to get these adopted. Adoption and use don’t happen with the mere fact that they are created. Implementing these standards is not just a technical challenge but a cultural challenge too, because they demand changes to ways of working and offer opportunity to change clinical and care workflow.

“At InterSystems we are trying to make adoption easier by making all the new Care Connect Interoperability Standards freely available to our customers who use our interoperability solutions.

It is going to be very interesting to see how NHSX delivers on its statement that the NHS will not buy solutions that do not adhere to key standards. This really will cut across the standards priorities, but other themes too such as procurement and engagement. As vendor co-chair of INTEROPen, I believe that engagement is key and this is the community that brings together all the stakeholders to make interoperability happen.”