

Nottingham-based health consultancy launches report on the future of NHS technology

nuom's Digital Health Horizon 2026 identifies seven critical trends shaping UK healthcare and sets out a blueprint for fixing a system under pressure



Nottingham, Nottinghamshire Mar 17, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - nuom, the Nottingham-based digital health consultancy, has released its *Digital Health Horizon 2026* report, a comprehensive analysis of where the NHS's digital transformation is breaking down and how it can be fixed through better Design, Data, and Delivery.

The report, available to download free at www.nuom.health, arrives at a pivotal moment for UK healthcare. With health spending outpacing national income, a projected global shortfall of 10 million health workers by 2030, and tightening regulatory requirements for AI and digital tools, the era of experimentation is over. What the NHS needs now, the report argues, is systems that work.

"After years of pilots that never scaled and transformation programmes that transformed very little, we're finally seeing genuine momentum," said **Martin Sandhu, Founder of nuom**. "The organisations that are making real progress have figured out that digital health is fundamentally a design challenge. This report maps where the sector is heading and what it will take to get there, but it will be an intense journey for all parties involved."

Spanning ten chapters and drawing on national policy documents, NHS data and international evidence, the report examines seven trends shaping the next five years, including:

- The rise of **AI Governance Boards** as NHS Trusts move from simple AI experimentation to accountable, regulated deployment
- The growth of **virtual wards**, which have expanded from pandemic pilots to national infrastructure, and now cover more than 13,000 beds
- The urgent challenge of **digital exclusion** with 54% of over-75s digitally excluded and at risk of being left behind by digital-first services
- The shift from volume-based to **Value-Based Procurement**, where NHS Trusts pay for outcomes, not features
- The growing imperative to coordinate **health and social care data** to unlock hospital capacity and prevent delayed discharges

The report concludes with a strategic blueprint for 2025-2030, proposing three integrated principles: *Trust by Design*, *Interoperability by Architecture* and *Sustainability by Intention*. As a framework for NHS organisations and health technology companies to navigate the next phase of transformation, the report marks the dawn of a new era for medical care in the UK.

Digital Health Horizon 2026 is free to download at www.nuom.health.

About nuom:

nuom was set up by Martin Sandhu, a Nottingham born-and-bread developer with a love for health and wellness, who wanted to help these industries to create better digital services.

nuom is a full-service digital agency that offers human-centred product and service design for digital health solutions. We help companies and organisations across healthcare and wellbeing, by creating products at speed, using expert research, design and engineering.

Note to editors: Please note that **nuom** is always written in lower case letters.



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