

2025

OUR IMPACT

In brief

Future Care Capital



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CAPITAL

Introduction

Future Care Capital (FCC) is the UK charity breaking down barriers and creating lasting impact in health and care.

Health and care systems are under heavy pressure. Workforce shortages, fragmented pathways and stretched decision-making all make it harder to deliver consistent care – and harder still to adopt new approaches at scale. Innovation, evaluation and investment are all growing, but they're rarely joined up. That makes it difficult for promising ideas to translate into lasting improvement.

In 2025, FCC continued a deliberate shift from supporting individual innovation projects to acting as a catalyst for system-level change. The focus moved to the conditions that allow innovation to be adopted at scale, not just developed. This was an important step for us, building on previous years and pushing further into the gap between early-stage development and real-world adoption.

We also strengthened how we think about impact. Rather than measuring it after the fact, we embedded impact planning and learning into delivery itself – so that evidence actively shapes decisions as they happen.

Our goal is to connect innovation, evaluation and investment more effectively – helping promising ideas translate into real improvements in access, experience and outcomes.

1: Innovation Management

Across health and care, strong ideas and robust evidence often don't translate into routine practice. System silos, fragmented commissioning routes, workforce pressures, governance complexity and short-term funding cycles can all prevent adoption at scale. FCC's role is to bridge that gap.

Preventing underweight births

Around 7% of UK babies are born with low birthweight – more than 50,000 each year. In London's most deprived communities, the rate is higher. The risk factors are well understood: smoking, poor nutrition, inadequate maternal health support.

So why does prevention remain so fragmented? FCC was invited to address this in Northwest London. We defined what an integrated, prevention-focused maternity pathway would need to include to work within NHS services – covering risk identification, behaviour change tools, governance structures and commissioning realities.

The work gave NHS leaders, commissioners and public health teams a clearer picture of what system-wide change would require.

Reframing discharge as a lever for system performance

13,000 patients, on any given day of the year, have been in hospital for at least 14 days longer than they need to be. Delayed discharge costs the NHS over £2 billion a year.

Yet the problem often remains an afterthought. Collaborating with Autumna and the Better Care Fund, FCC reframed discharge as a strategic lever for system performance.

We examined how real-time care home capacity data and cross-sector coordination could reduce these delays, and we published our findings as sector-facing thought leadership.

Treating neonatal jaundice at home

FCC explored how neonatal jaundice pathways could be redesigned to support safer and more sustainable home-based care.

The condition affects around 60% of term newborns and up to 80% of preterm babies in their first week of life. Earlier postnatal discharge means jaundice may increasingly develop or worsen at home, creating additional pressure on families and frontline services.

Working with NHS stakeholders, FCC mapped neonatal care pathways across multiple sites and assessed remote bilirubin testing and home phototherapy solutions against clinical, operational and implementation requirements.

The work focused not only on the technologies themselves, but also on the workforce, governance and pathway changes required to support adoption safely at scale. FCC helped move the programme from isolated pilot activity towards a more coordinated and adoption-ready model.

By strengthening system readiness and supporting greater alignment across stakeholders, the work created stronger foundations for future rollout and positioned remote jaundice care as a credible pathway for delivering safer, more sustainable neonatal care.

Building the case for XR in NHS workforce training

NHS workforce training is under heavy pressure. Over 100,000 roles lie vacant. Long-term projections offer little reassurance. One early pilot, though, shows promise: extended reality (XR). Immersive technologies that simulate clinical environments and scenarios allow healthcare professionals to practice skills in safe, controlled settings.

FCC led a detailed market and system analysis of XR in healthcare education. We combined evidence review with structured engagement across clinicians, educators,

professional colleges, developers and system leaders. We engaged NHS England, the European Connected Health Alliance, the Helsinki XR Center and the XR Health Alliance. The report has been referenced by international sector networks and helped reposition XR as a credible component of NHS workforce development.

Translating digital smell care research into clinical practice

Could a new kind of sensory intervention improve outcomes for people living with neurological and neurodegenerative conditions? Olfactory stimulation (smell care) technologies have shown early promise. But without early focus on governance, implementation and service integration, promising research may be confined to academic settings.

FCC joined a University College London-led consortium -led consortium to address this directly. We translated academic insight into practical system language, identifying governance, regulatory and workforce considerations before wider rollout. Clinical pilots are now planned across multiple locations.

2: Evaluation

Without the right evaluation design, it's much harder to find evidence that supports decision making, minimises burden, and clearly maps the routes to adoption. FCC's evaluation group helps partners and system leaders understand what works, for whom, and under what conditions.

Moving AI adoption in the NHS from hype to helpfulness

AI is increasingly visible in health and care pilots, procurement decisions and strategic plans. Adoption hasn't kept pace. Promising technology often stalls at the point of implementation - because the social and organisational realities of healthcare haven't been fully understood.

FCC examined the barriers and facilitators to AI adoption in NHS community settings, drawing on interviews with clinicians and healthcare leaders across the South West of England. The finding was consistent: trust, workflow fit and governance matter as much as technical performance. The right question to ask is "what needs to be true for AI adoption to be safe and effective?"

Making integrated neighbourhood teams work in practice

Many systems are pursuing neighbourhood models and multidisciplinary approaches. Yet the journey from concept to sustainable practice is rarely straightforward.

Evidence suggests Integrated Neighbourhood Teams (INTs) could reduce demand for GP appointments by around 6%, but getting there requires understanding what makes them work.

FCC evaluated the model at Arbenek Primary Care Network in Cornwall - capturing what makes integrated working real rather than aspirational. The answer was rarely structural. It came down to shared purpose, trust and practical coordination: the human infrastructure beneath the formal frameworks.

Generating evidence for social prescribing

Health is shaped by social connection, belonging and participation. Which poses a question: can community events support prevention and resilience as effectively as clinical approaches?

Working with Oxford Brookes University, FCC submitted a proposal to the ESRC to test whether community events could become a structured social prescribing pathway.

Building the evidence base for SEND nutrition

150,000 children attend state-funded special schools in England. They face clear barriers around eating and food environments - and the evidence base is limited.

Working with the University of Hertfordshire, FCC submitted a proposal to NIHR to evaluate the Adapt-Ed Nourish school food programme.

Strengthening evaluation capability in mental health and beyond

Good evaluation can't be taken for granted.

Organisations need the tools, language and confidence to do it well, particularly in a sector where demonstrating impact is increasingly expected but the capability to do so is not always there.

FCC delivered evaluation workshops for over 35 members of the Association of Mental Health Providers - organisations collectively delivering more than 3,000 mental health services across England and Wales.

We also presented to the Health Innovation Network Evaluation Network on assessing AI-enabled interventions. The goal in both cases was the same: to make rigorous evaluation feel practical rather than academic.

3: Social Impact Investment

FCC helped health and care charities navigate the journey into impact investment - informed, responsibly, and aligned with charitable purpose.

Giving charity trustees the confidence to invest for impact

Many health and care charities face real barriers putting capital to work: governance, risk, regulation and board confidence all create uncertainty.

In June 2025, FCC convened over 20 leaders from health and care charities for Investing with Intention – a workshop exploring governance, risk appetite and trustee confidence. The response reflected a sector at a transitional moment.

As one participant put it: "We need to stop seeing this as high risk and start seeing it as a different way of delivering impact." Multiple organisations are now pursuing trustee-level conversations and investment readiness support as a direct result.

4: RYSE Special Opportunities Fund

In 2023, FCC committed £3 million as a cornerstone investor in the RYSE Special Opportunities Fund, embedding impact, governance and beneficiary outcomes within the fund's investment objectives from the outset. The fund has since backed five early-stage health and care innovators.

Braingaze – Clinically validated digital tools designed to reduce the time in limbo for the 540,000 waiting for an ADHD diagnosis in the UK as of March 2025 – 144,000 of whom had waited more than two years. A paid NHS pilot in North Ayrshire expanded in scale over 2025, with discussions underway at multiple additional Trusts.

Curio – Digital therapeutics for pregnancy and the postnatal period. In 2025, Curio secured US health plan reimbursement, expanded across New Jersey and Pittsburgh, and partnered with the Mayo Clinic on women's health AI algorithms.

Skin Analytics – AI-enabled skin cancer detection, now deployed across 24 NHS partners and trusts and supporting more than 15,000 patient assessments per quarter. NICE early value assessment secured in 2025.

Ten63 – AI-driven drug discovery targeting previously undruggable cancers. A 2025 partnership with the Gates Foundation focuses on HPV-related cervical and head and neck cancers, which disproportionately affect populations with limited access to early diagnosis.

Second Nature – Clinically validated weight management platform with NHS contracts supporting obesity and diabetes pathways. Over 270,000 participants have been supported to date.

Working together to make lasting impact

None of this happens in isolation. Across every area of our work, FCC brings together innovators, providers, policymakers and investors – aligning perspectives, building shared understanding, and helping complex challenges move forward.

Our mission is to use our endowment to create lasting impact. In 2025, that meant building the conditions for good ideas to travel – from early development through to real-world adoption – and leaving health and care systems better placed to do the same again.

Future Care Capital is the UK charity dedicated to breaking down barriers and enabling sustainable, measurable impact in health and care.

[FUTURECARECAPITAL.ORG.UK](https://futurecarecapital.org.uk)

