

Manchester Rare Conditions Clinical Innovation Exchange

First Event: Highly Specialised Services and Rare Conditions Service Development

2 December 2026 | Hyatt Regency Hotel Manchester

At a glance

Date	2 nd December 2026	Venue	Hyatt Regency Hotel Manchester
Format	In-person event with plenary sessions, panels, networking and table discussion	Audience	Clinicians, researchers, patient/public contributors, commissioners, operational colleagues and partners
Focus	HSS, service development, commissioning, research, patient voice and network priorities	Speakers	Speakers and contributors will be confirmed in the near future

Why attend?

Learn from established services Practical lessons from highly specialised and rare conditions services.	Understand the landscape Commissioning context and how HSS sit within wider rare conditions work.	Connect research with care How research, data and innovation can strengthen clinical services.
Keep patient value central Lived experience to test priorities against what matters to families.	Shape future collaboration Define what a useful Manchester rare conditions network should do.	Build the right connections Links across clinical, research, patient, commissioning and partner communities.

A light-touch event designed for practical learning, visibility, signposting and useful collaboration , not a new layer of governance.

Launch event program

Speakers and contributors will be confirmed in the near future.

Time	Session	Format	What the session will cover
11:30 - 12:00	Registration, refreshments and networking		
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch and networking	Networking	Opportunity to meet colleagues and connect before the formal programme begins.
13:00 - 13:05	Welcome and introduction	Plenary	Opening welcome, introduction to the Exchange, and overview of the first event aims.
13:05 - 13:20	Commissioning Highly Specialised Services	Plenary	A practical overview of the commissioning context for highly specialised services and what this means for rare conditions services.
13:20 - 13:30	Overview of Highly Specialised Services in Manchester	Plenary	A short orientation to the Manchester HSS landscape and how it sits within wider rare conditions activity.
13:30 - 14:00	Setting up and running a Highly Specialised Service	Panel discussion	Practical learning from established services, including service development, delivery challenges, enablers, sustainability and lessons learned.
14:00 - 14:30	Research and innovation in a rare conditions Highly Specialised Service	Panel discussion / focused discussion	How research, data, innovation and clinical care can strengthen specialist services and support better outcomes.
14:30 - 15:00	Refreshment break		
15:00 - 15:15	Patient perspective	Plenary	Lived experience contribution to ground the day in what matters to patients and families.
15:15 - 15:30	Industry perspective	Plenary	Perspective on appropriate partnership, innovation and support for rare conditions service development.
15:30 - 16:00	Designing a useful Manchester rare conditions network	Facilitated group discussion	Table discussions on what a Manchester rare conditions network should do, who it should support and how it could add value.
16:00 - 16:30	Agreeing priorities for the network	Feedback and plenary discussion	Groups report back, identify common themes and agree early priorities for the developing network.
16:30 - 16:45	Closing remarks and next steps	Plenary	Summary of key themes from the day and next steps for the Clinical Innovation Exchange.

This meeting has been supported by Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease. They have not been involved in the agenda or content.