

## NHS Supply Chain National Advisory Board - Key Messages October 2024

### Key points

#### Feedback and Escalations from the Regions

- The financial challenge remains the most significant priority. Delivery of savings is key, concern that local CIP targets are higher than NHS Supply Chain's targets.
- Sharing best practice of opportunities to enable faster pace of savings delivery is required.
- Service level issues are being experienced in the North-West, supportive of the work being undertaken to resolve.
- Staffing levels and recruitment of staff remains a concern.
- Reward schemes are an issue, these present a lack of control and governance for procurement.
- Request for a central repository of information on NHS Supply Chain's approach to sustainability to support trusts with managing their boards' expectations.
- Positive feedback on the partnership ways of working pilot with North Central London.

#### NHSE Update

- Stuart Nelson (DHSC Chief Commercial Officer) has joined the CCF Board. The board aims to encourage collaboration between NHS Supply Chain, NHSE, DHSC and the wider system. Programmes such as Core List and IMS are reported on at the monthly meetings.
- Keith Nurcombe has been appointed as a new crown representative, the aim will be for four crown representatives to work in collaboration with strategic suppliers and the wider system.
- The National Procurement Forum is being held next month for all Heads of Procurement.
- Supplier resilience is now a top 10 corporate risk for NHSE. A project is in place to understand how resilience teams from across different functions can work together more effectively.

#### National Clinical Advisory Forum Update

- The forum is focused on supporting NHS partners to adopt opportunities to improve Care Pathways through the adoption of innovative products and novel ways of using existing products/medical devices. There is a need to do this at pace and scale.
- Valuing the Clinical Procurement Specialists who work across the system is key.
- Central to what we do is focusing on patient safety. It is essential that clinical engagement on products and medical devices which could cause the most harm are prioritised.

#### NHS Supply Chain IT and Supply Chain Modernisation

- This is a revised end to end future supply chain strategy, to maximise efficiency and resilience, and support growth. Plans to modernise NHS Supply Chain's IT infrastructure and broaden the Supply Chain network have been brought together under one coherent programme.
- Engagement on the proposed strategy has been undertaken with the National Advisory Board and Supply Chain leaders from across the NHS. The board are supportive of the strategy and recognise the criticality of the programme to provide business continuity and an improved service to the NHS.

#### Savings Delivery

- NHS Supply Chain is targeted by NHSE to deliver £71 million net savings in 2024/2025 and thus is resourced appropriately to achieve this. The organisation is expected to achieve in excess of this figure. Concern that if local CIP targets are higher, this causes challenges as different parts of the system are misaligned.
- Suggestion that NHS Supply Chain resource should be focused on supporting the most challenged systems.

## **Core List**

- As part of the CCF 26 interventions, NHS Supply Chain have been tasked to create a core list of products. 300 core products have been identified, now focused on expanding this list to include four - five more clinically focused areas where rationalisation can be achieved to drive efficiencies.
- A comprehensive communication plan will be implemented to ensure that systems are briefed of the changes before the strategy is enacted in January.

## **Sharing Data and Analytics within the NHS Family**

An environment to support more effective sharing of static data will be created by NHS Supply Chain. In addition, there is a need to develop a self-service platform to share data with NHS colleagues, this carries challenges due to security requirements and the scale of users that will require access.

## **Sourcing to Launch Improvement Programme**

An update on the key metrics that will be used to measure the success of the programme was shared. These will be focused on quality, accuracy of information, customer experience and pace of communication when issues occur.