

Key Messages North Regional Advisory Forum – November 2025

Regional Overview

- National Q2 savings across all regions totalled £32.7M (3.2% against revenue), bringing year-to-date savings to £73.8M; The North contributed £21M year-to-date. Focus remains on maintaining momentum into Q3 while driving collaboration and value-based initiatives.
- There are growing concerns across the region around the sustainability of the future savings pipeline, which may affect long-term financial planning. There are increasing challenges many departments face in maintaining workforce resilience amid capacity pressures and resource constraints.
- The Performance Metrics Dashboard project is progressing, with resources approved and initial meetings underway. A call with volunteers is scheduled for 1 December.
- A proposal was presented to restructure the forums:
 - Introduce a Supplier Management Forum
 - Reduce frequency to three meetings per year
 - Add pre-forum update calls for improved agenda shaping
 - Create a member portal for tracking updates and escalations

NHS Supply Chain Modernisation Programme

- The transformation programme's business case has been approved; detailed design will begin in April 2026 with implementation running to 2029.
- Assurance was given that engagement and transparency will continue as the programme develops.

Trading Transformation and Buying Principles

- NHS Supply Chain plans to simplify trading by moving away from legacy systems toward modern, automated platforms.
- New Buying Principles aim to standardise procurement and emphasise patient focus and sustainability.
- The principle of “buy price equals sell price” remains in place.
- Benefits mapping is underway to evidence outcomes such as fewer invoice queries and greater efficiency.

NHS Core List

- Work is accelerating to drive savings through nationally aligned purchasing of high-volume items.
- Assurance was given that significant analysis is underway to ensure resilience, supplier diversity, and product availability.
- Trust engagement with clinicians is key to reducing variation and making evidence-based decisions.

Winter Planning

- A revised winter planning approach has been introduced, incorporating lessons learned from last year to boost system resilience and agility.
- Early notification is needed when deviating from national infection control policy.