

Key Messages North Regional Advisory Forum – March 2026

NHS Supply Chain Update

- The 26/27 business plan is nearly approved, with no major changes to core priorities expected.
- New communication forums are being introduced to strengthen partner engagement.
- Recent supply disruptions are being actively managed, with work underway to stabilise and maintain continuity of supply.
- Middle East developments (Gulf region) are being monitored; no current concerns, with immediate communication planned if the situation changes.
- The group emphasised the need to look at supplier monopoly in categories, especially regarding ongoing bone cement disruption.

Regional Update

- National FY25/26 savings: £107.1m YTD (3.2%), incl. £31.1m in Q3.
- North region savings: £30.1m YTD (3.1%), £8.9m in Q3 (2.6%).
- Joint savings work plan: £18.1m annualised opportunities, incl. £1.4m at go live; £11.9m still to explore; £2.3m pending decision.
- Strong focus on best practice sharing to maximise regional value.
- Cost pressures have been accounted for; mitigations are in place.

Vision, Mission and Identity

- NHS Supply Chain is launching a new vision, mission, and visual identity centred on:
 - Smarter, simpler, more connected care
 - Greater collaboration and simplification across the system
 - Improved connectivity for partners and stakeholders

Future User Experience

A session explored how the group can influence the future user experience for NHS commercial teams.

- **Balanced Governance** – National standards with local flexibility.
- **Smart Standardisation** – Consistency where it improves value and safety, without compromising clinical choice.
- **Strategic Procurement** – From transactional buying to insight led, system wide procurement.
- **Risk and Resilience** – Stronger national intelligence to support safe local decisions.
- **Digital Transformation** – Automated, real time, digital first processes for visibility and planning.
- **Clinical and Local Engagement** – Continued clinical and procurement input to ensure adoption and relevance.
- **Future Ready Culture and Infrastructure** – A shift towards shared goals and support for clinically assured alternatives.