

Key Messages South Regional Advisory Forum – March 2026

NHS Supply Chain Update

- NHS Supply Chain priorities remain as Modernisation, Commercial Transformation and Trading Transformation.
- 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.

Regional Update

- National FY25/26 savings: £107.1m YTD (3.2%), incl. £31.1m in Q3.
- South region savings: £25.2.6m YTD, £6.4m in Q3.
- Joint savings work plan: £13.3m annualised opportunities, incl. £2.5m at go live; £3.6m still to explore; £3.7m pending decision.

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.

National Commitment

- NHS Supply Chain's ability to secure strong national deals is limited without firm commitment from trusts to use national agreements.
- Without mechanisms to underwrite demand, suppliers are less willing to offer better pricing or terms.
- Clearly presenting the cost of non-commitment, what savings and benefits the NHS loses if trusts do not align with national procurement could strengthen system engagement.

Stronger Commercial Approach

- Participants suggested NHS Supply Chain may need to take a bolder commercial stance, clearly outlining what savings are achievable with full system commitment.

Communicating Impact

- Procurement savings should be framed in real-world terms, such as the number of nurses funded or operations delivered, to demonstrate the impact on patient care.