

Key Messages East of England Regional Advisory Forum – June 2026

NHS Supply Chain Update

- NHS Supply Chain Transformation Remains a Major Focus
- Updates were provided on three key transformation programmes:
 - NHS Supply Chain Modernisation
 - Commercial Transformation
 - Trading Transformation
- The establishment of a Customer Advisory Board for Modernisation and regional representation arrangements were highlighted.
- Regional Advisory Forum Terms of Reference drafted and feedback sought, for sign off at the next Forum.
- Members emphasised:
 - Strong clinical involvement in decision-making
 - Structured customer engagement through regional and national forums
 - Effective change management and communication during transformation activities

Regional Update

- Savings performance for the East region and future pipeline opportunities were reviewed.
- Members highlighted the significant financial pressures facing trusts and the increasing importance of deliverable savings opportunities.
- Discussions focused on standardising reporting, improving visibility of cost pressures, aligning workplans with framework timelines and improving communication between category teams, ICS managers and customer services.
- Concerns were raised regarding MPM/NPM arrangements, framework timing and ensuring regional and cluster opportunities are fully leveraged.

Future User Experience – Centrally Buying

Discussion on the future user experience and the implications of centre-led buying models within NHS Supply Chain transformation.

Key opportunities

- Drives more consistent pricing and clearer commitments, reducing local variation and enabling better planning.
- Provides a strong national direction, allowing local teams and clinicians to engage the market with greater confidence.
- Strengthens alignment between local and national decision-making, helping local demand shape national frameworks.

Key risks

- Workforce pressure and unclear role definitions during transition.
- Concern over reduced choice, slower innovation, and clinician autonomy.
- Need for robust assurance of value, quality, and outcomes.
- Risks around clinical adoption and training gaps for nationally selected products.
- Tension between standardisation and local resilience/flexibility.
- Potential fragmentation through “maverick” procurement behaviour if the model lacks buy-in.