

## Key Messages South Regional Advisory Forum – June 2026

### NHS Supply Chain Update

- The NHS Supply Chain Modernisation Programme launched in April, focused on improving agility, resilience and user experience across care settings through co-design with NHS organisations.
- Regional representatives reported positive and meaningful engagement to date, particularly around system integration, regional readiness and provider change requirements.
- Commercial and Trading Transformation Programmes are progressing to simplify commercial processes, improve category management, streamline pricing structures and enhance operational efficiency.

### Hyperinflation

- NHS Supply Chain has introduced a formal governance process for temporary hyperinflation price increase requests, with approvals capped at two-month periods and subject to evidence review.
- Members highlighted challenges relating to catalogue price volatility, supplier behaviour, finance planning and administrative burden.
- A pricing impact dashboard is being developed to improve organisation-level visibility and reporting.

### Regional Update

- Development of the Partnership Metrics Dashboard continues through a newly established Steering Group, with a fuller update expected at the Procurement Leaders Network on 18 June.
- National savings performance closed at:
  - £69.8m for Q4
  - £178.8m full year savings
- Across the South region:
  - Q4 savings reached £17.4m
  - Full year savings totalled £42.7m
- A strong 2026/27 savings pipeline has been identified, with £27m in annualised opportunities across the South region, though several projects remain pending mobilisation or clinical approval.

### Future User Experience

- Strategic discussion focused on the potential shift towards a more centrally led NHS commercial and procurement model.
- Members recognised potential benefits including:
  - Greater standardisation
  - Reduced duplication
  - Improved purchasing leverage
  - Enhanced data sharing and regional collaboration
- There was support for standardising commodity products nationally while retaining local flexibility for specialist clinical items.
- Risks identified included:
  - Clinical resistance to reduced product choice
  - Over-standardisation creating supply vulnerabilities

- Need for stronger clinical and executive sponsorship
- Members agreed that future progress would require:
  - Clear governance and decision-making structures
  - Stronger supplier management
  - Engagement of finance, medical and executive leadership teams
  - Early proof-of-concept projects to demonstrate value and build confidence