

Key Messages South Regional Advisory Forum – September 2026**Leadership and Forum Development**

- Ross Dunworth, Deputy Chief Executive and Finance Director at Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust, has been appointed as the new Chair of the South East Regional Advisory Forum.

NHS Supply Chain Transformation Programmes

- The Supply Chain Modernisation Programme has completed current-state analysis and is moving into future-state design, focusing on simpler and more consistent ways of working.
- The Commercial Transformation Programme is being refreshed to ensure continued alignment with organisational priorities while remaining on track.
- Trading Transformation work is progressing, including improvements to pricing arrangements and eDirect invoicing processes.

Managing Current Supply Challenges

- NHS Supply Chain continues to actively manage market and supplier challenges to maintain continuity of supply.
- Mitigations are in place for examination glove market pressures through a blended pricing approach.
- Support is being provided to customers transitioning from products affected by Becton Dickinson's decision not to bid for the IV Cannula Framework.
- Supply has largely normalised following the Boston Scientific cyber incident.

Supply Chain Modernisation and Customer Engagement

- Customer feedback continues to play an important role in shaping future NHS Supply Chain operating models, processes and digital solutions.
- Current engagement activity is exploring areas such as packaging, consolidation, delivery frequency, lead times and service expectations.
- Additional customer and clinical engagement resources are being introduced to ensure a broader range of perspectives inform programme design.

Partnership Metrics Dashboard

- The Partnership Metrics Dashboard has received approval to move into the build phase.
- The dashboard will provide trusted performance insights at trust, ICS, regional and national levels.
- It will support benchmarking, trend analysis and identification of improvement opportunities.

Clinical Product Segmentation

- NHS Supply Chain is developing a new methodology to identify clinically critical products and improve understanding of supply chain risk.
- Around 120,000 products will be assessed against clinical and procurement risk factors.
- The programme will support improved resilience planning, risk management and transparency across the NHS.
- Engagement with customers, clinicians and suppliers will continue as the methodology develops.

Key Takeaway

The forum recognised significant progress across NHS Supply Chain's transformation programmes, with a strong focus on customer engagement, clinical input, supply resilience and delivering value. Members welcomed the continued commitment to involving customers in shaping future services while maintaining operational stability and identifying opportunities for savings and improvement.