

NHS Supply Chain Procurement Leaders Network Call

10 February 2026

Agenda

Agenda Item	Item	Presenter
1	Welcome, Introductions and Overview	Natalie Royston
2	NHS Healthcare Uniform	Liessa Newnham
3	NHS Core List	Hamish Makanji
4	In-Trust Inventory Management Systems (IMS)	Frankie Wallace
5	AOB, Q&A and meeting close	Natalie Royston

Welcome, Introductions and Overview

Natalie Royston – Director of Customer Engagement

- Purpose of the new call
- Housekeeping
- Meeting Etiquette
- Member Portal (to be removed if not sharing slides on website)

Forums and Groups

Name	Attendees	Purpose
Regional Advisory Forums	ICS Procurement Leads	A space for collaboration and shared problem solving. The forums explore risks, opportunities, regional priorities, and to escalate issues where needed.
Clinical Advisory Forum	A diverse group of clinical leaders from with the NHS	To represent the clinical voice of the NHS with a focus on the clinical strategy and innovation, patient safety, patient experience and improving clinical outcomes.
Supplier Management Forum	Senior Procurement and Supply Chain NHS Colleagues	The forum brings together Supplier Relationship Management (including Supplier Development), Supplier Assurance (Resilience, Risk, Performance) and Sustainability.

Forums and Groups

Name	Attendees	Purpose
Resilience and Service Support Call	Supply Chain Managers, Supply Chain Team Leaders, Materials Management Staff	This is a regular operational call aiming to provide resilience and supply chain updates to operational teams within NHS organisations. Its primary purpose is to share information on matters affecting supply chain operations.
CPSN Clinical Product Alternative Call	CPSN colleagues	A clinical forum to discuss product alternatives for use in the event of supply disruption.
Category Strategy Development Customer Panels	Varied, and dependent of framework, mix of end users , proc teams, mat man and associated staff	To gain customer input into their requirements and ensure our offering covers customer needs . This should be forward looking at how the market is changing in the category and what are the future service requirement customers may need it to support.

NHS Healthcare Uniform

Liessa Newnham – Head of Implementation and Adoption

NHS Healthcare Uniforms: Background

- Framework launched in June 2024 providing core garments, maternity and cultural wear for staff.
- Started in 2018, involved extensive consultations with patients, service users and visitors.
- Direct engagement with NHS staff and stakeholders through surveys, consultations and on site trials at 10 trusts.
- Designed for the NHS, by the NHS with input from the workforce, trusts tested the garments in situ, ensuring they are fit for purpose and meet wearer requirements. The design team at George at Asda helped with the design features.
- Uniforms are available in an extensive range of sizes for tunics, trousers, dresses, shorts and includes maternity wear and a range of cultural wear including Hijabs and removable sleeves which match the trousers.

After much consultation, five key objectives for the project were agreed.



Project Benefits (at trust level)

Simplification of the ordering process and 90% reduction in codes required with internal data capture for the NHS.

Trusts can still order by individual requisition points but we now get bulk order pricing

The framework runs for 5 years so no need for individual trusts to undertake a tender process.

Roles are much more easily identifiable.

Pricing, style and quality are all set in the framework. Centralised ordering means clear management data, All orders are through NHS Supply Chain e-Direct route

Single website ordering means no need to trawl through catalogues as all the uniforms are approved. Savings in the region of 30-50%

Clear Professional recognition
Great feedback from staff on comfort
Patients really like the bright colours
Menopause and warm environments

Wearable trousers that fit
Uniforms are transferable
No waiting for new starters
Cultural wear included

Suppliers and the design benefits



Formerly Meltemi
21 factories in 11 countries
Family Owned Company



£144m
Group Turnover

UK Office in Preston, Lancashire
320,000 items
manufactured per week



Founded in 1934 in Belgium



Formerly Alexandra and Dimensions
40 Manufacturers in 28 countries



£183m
Group Turnover

UK Office in Castle Donington,
400,000 items
dispatched per week



Alexandra Founded 1850's



Fabric

- 65% polyester / 35% BCI cotton
- Polyester is 100% recycled and the cotton comes from sustainable fields
- 2 in 1 brushed twill with mechanical stretch

Function

- Breast pocket with waterproof pen holder
- Fabric loops inside pocket for keys
- Pockets for iPads and mobile phones

Comfort

- Pleated back allows stretch without rising
- Lowered shoulder ensures cooler temp.
- Extensive sizing range with loose fit garment

Design

- Clearly identifiable colours for each of the professions or roles
- Inclusive size range with cultural wear

Colourways: Nursing and Midwifery Directorate



Nursing Associate
Sky Blue



Registered Nurse
Hospital Blue



Registered Midwife
Postman Blue



Team Leader
Plain Navy



Enhanced Nurse
Royal Blue



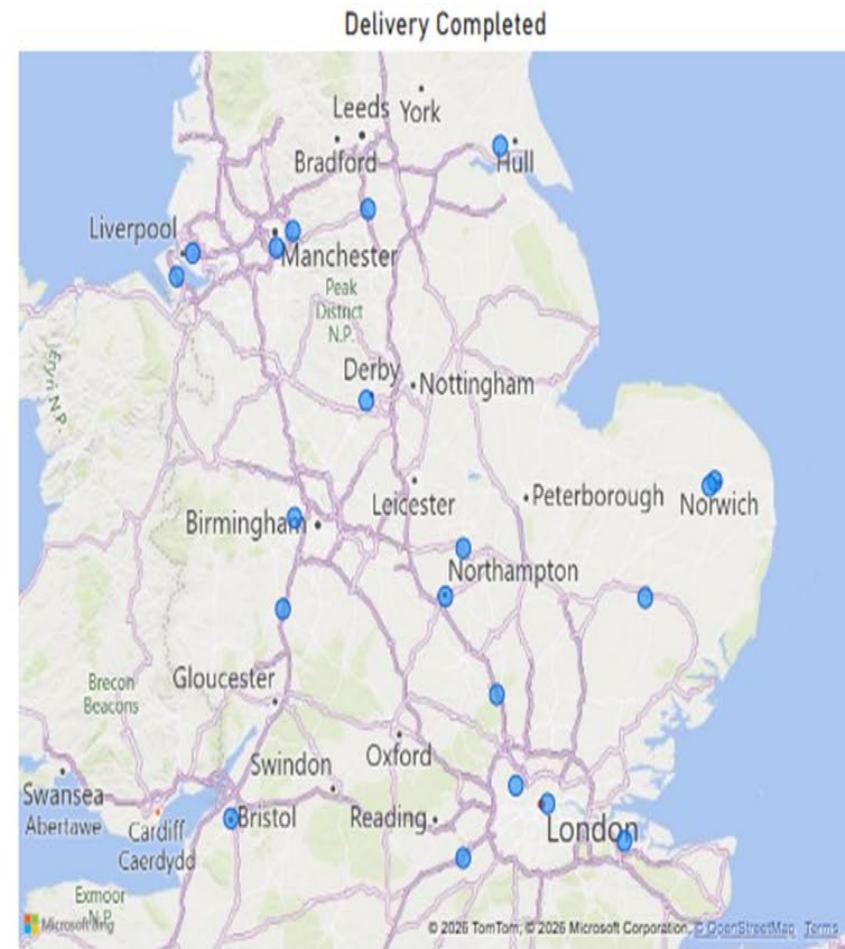
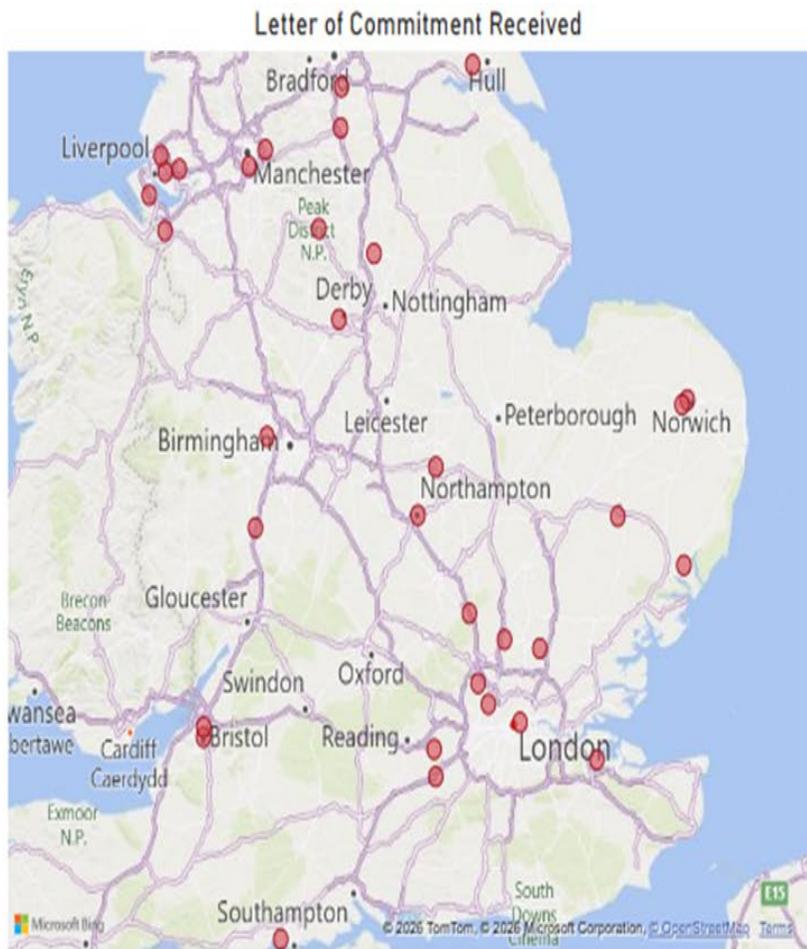
Advanced Nurse
Navy & red

The darker the colour the more senior the role



These roles are shared across professions but only nurses wear blue.

Current Implementation: Letters of Commitment through to delivery



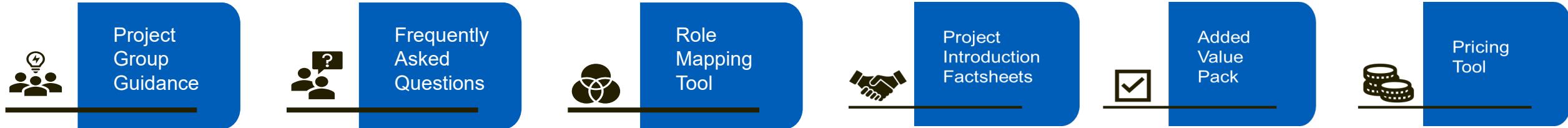
Purchases to the end of November 2025 for the first 15 pathfinders

Garment	Quantity	Total sales
NHS Smart Scrub	171,743	£998,101.31
NHS Trouser Style 2	102,208	£527,651.20
NHS Dress	31,557	£274,760.20
NHS Trouser Style 1	36,755	£190,508.01
NHS Shorts	1,654	£8,794.78
NHS Maternity Smart Scrub	900	£7,144.62
NHS Maternity Trouser	399	£3,195.17
NHS Maternity Dress	172	£1,660.16
NHS Cultural Wear	19	£104.37
Total	345,407	£2,011,919.82

Savings tracking between 30-50%
BAU currently at 84% average uptake

Implementing the Uniform takes a Team!

We have developed a range of documents and tools to help trusts through the process



Really positive feedback from staff and patients

Uniform is comfortable, cooler in the warm weather and menopause friendly

Helpful to see colours on posters so we knew who everyone was

'We have posters everywhere that show the job roles and colours, and patients have been really positive, especially those who are elderly or visually impaired'

'Nurse explained to me I was to be seen by SALT team and what colours they wore so I knew who they were and kept a lookout.'

'This is the first uniform for nurses, designed by nurses, All these small changes make a big difference.'

'I'm amazed by how many healthcare professionals attend wards. I loved uniform spotting during my stay'.

'We get lovely feedback and people coming to model how nice they look. Our corridors are much more vibrant'

Bright colours make it easy to spot the person you need to speak to

Staff are easier to identify which helps when you need something so you know who to ask

Latest Nursing Updates

NHS

Supply Chain



Duncan Burton – NHS England Chief Nurse with Karen Jones, Matron for Uniforms at Frimley Health on our stand at Nursing Live



Very happy nursing staff at UH Bristol & Weston in their new uniforms

NursingStandard

New NHS uniforms: most nurses choose scrubs rather than dresses

Alison Stacey - @alibaabra

Posted 27 November 2025 - 13:00

Nurses and patients at an NHS trust are praising the new NHS uniforms, and 90% of staff are choosing scrubs for comfort, breathable material and practicality



Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust staff in their new uniforms Picture: Stewart Turkington

How to get involved

We are now able to offer trusts a more phased approach so trusts don't have to complete in one year.

Most projects are supported by both procurement and clinical teams through the Chief Nurse

Point any interested parties to our website at: <https://www.supplychain.nhs.uk/categories/facilities-and-office-solutions/uniforms/nhs-healthcare-uniform/>

Trusts can find an FAQ section, download publications and formally register their interest in the project.

We also have a mailbox for customers to send enquiries into:- nationaluniforms@supplychain.nhs.uk

Download our publications ▼

NHS Healthcare Uniform - Colourways Palette

Download and share the Colourways Palette for the NHS Healthcare Uniform.



NHS Healthcare Uniform - Uniform Project Values

Download and share the Uniform Project Values.



National Healthcare Uniform Workforce Consultation - The Results

The results of the workforce consultation on the National Healthcare Uniform proposals.



Questions?

NHS Core List

Hamish Makanji – Head of Category

NHS Core List

We have been commissioned to develop and implement a new NHS Core List of products, as part of a Strategic Framework for NHS Commercial.

The Strategic Framework for NHS Commercial sets out how simplifying and speeding up procurement processes, removing unnecessary bureaucracy and embedding consistent application of commercial standards and practice can deliver improvements in how we work.

The NHS Core List is one of the “How We Work” interventions aimed at:

- ensuring full leverage of the NHS’ national buying power by commissioning the national supply management organisation, NHS Supply Chain, to manage the sourcing and supply of a core range of standard commodities (to be known as the NHS Core List) on behalf of all NHS providers
- achieving high levels of compliance, cost containment and supply resilience
- managing and coordinating key supply markets through effective NHS-wide collaboration including across key clinical networks.



This activity is further supported by NHS England’s Operational Planning Guidance.

NHS Core List will provide confidence in the products bought, work towards having our lowest possible prices and deliver a more reliable and resilient service.

Procurement Benefits

NHS Core List will deliver value to the system through a single procurement route. Meaning our collective buying ability is leveraged.

Accredited Frameworks

Our frameworks meet the required accreditation (reference CCF framework accreditation).

Assurance

NHS Core List products will be supported by clinically identified alternative products, where applicable. This further strengthens the confidence and assurance in availability. All suppliers are also assessed for Modern Day Slavery and sustainability (Evergreen).

Benefits to Our Partners

Delivering a Simplified Buying Experience

Our partners will enjoy a streamlined and consistent purchasing process through approved suppliers and systems.

NHS Core List

Designed to make buying easier, more efficient, and fully accountable - helping partners save time and maintain confidence in every transaction.

Simplified Product Range

NHS Core List will deliver clinically appropriate products whilst removing unnecessary variation.

Reliability and Resilience

Through our enhanced relationships with suppliers, we'll achieve an even higher level of confidence in delivering the right product at the right time.

High Service Level

NHS Core List will be supported by a high service level, with minimal risk to patient care through partnership with Trusts and sharing of data and insight.

NHS Core List is live!

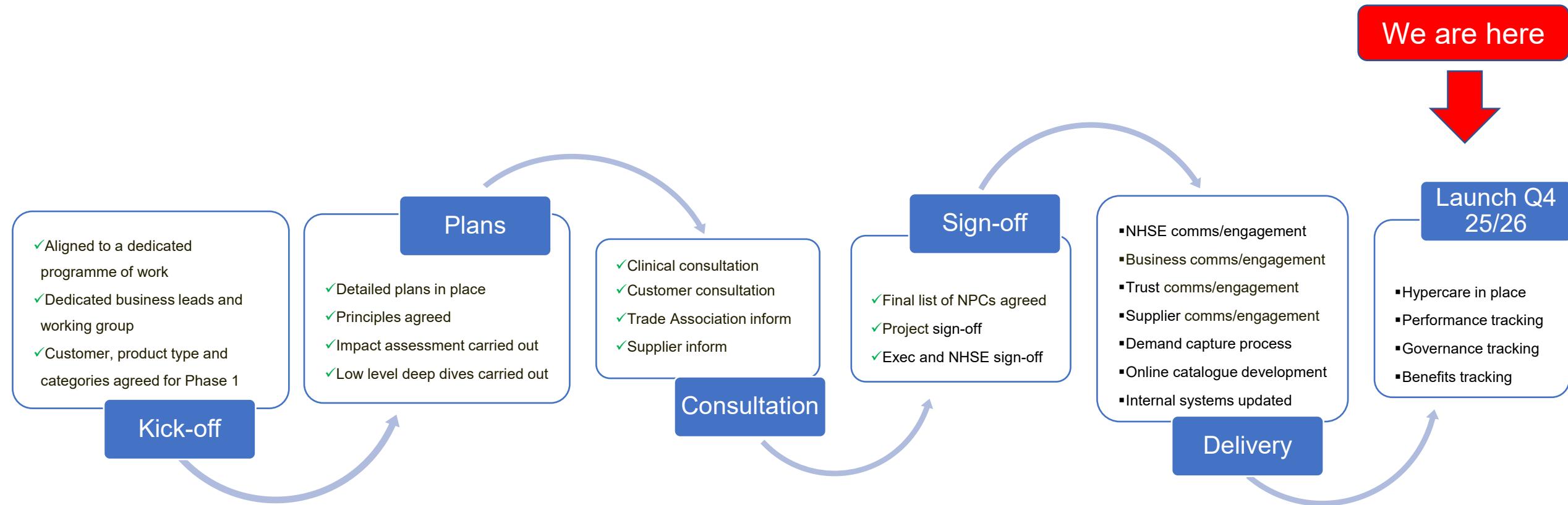
Phase one launched on 2 February 2026, covering Single Use Scissors and Waste Bags. Pressure Infusers will be added shortly.

These three categories have recently been rationalised, with like for like alternatives within the range where possible

Phase one product list:

Category	Product Description	No: of Products
Pressure Infusers (10)	Pressure Infuser Disposable (Single Patient Use)	8
	Pressure Infuser Reusable	2
Single Use Scissors (22)	Scissors Mayo straight	1
	Scissors blunt	1
	Scissors blunt sharp	3
	Scissors Iris straight	1
	Scissors Lister bandage	1
	Scissors sharp	3
	Single Use Scissors Other	12
Waste Bags (36)	Orange 18 Micron	4
	Orange 21 Micron	6
	Orange 35 Micron	4
	Orange 40 Micron	2
	Orange 45 Micron	2
	Yellow 18 Micron	6
	Yellow 21 Micron	8
	Yellow 35 Micron	2
	Yellow 40 Micron	2
Total		68

Programme Progress – Phase 1



- Phase 1 Hypercare to continue
- Impact/Opportunity Analysis to be shared through your ICS Managers
- Customer Working Group to be stood up
- Phase 2 development on-going – workplan in development (to launch Q2 26/27)
 - Exam Gloves and Blood Lancets being considered as a priority through mini-competitions

Our Ask of You

System wide collaboration is critical to the success of the NHS Core List.

Please support NHS Core List by:

- Implementing changes as soon as possible
- Share feedback
- Offer suggestions for future phases
- Share any supplier/product insight
- Support reporting requirements



Questions?

Inventory Management and Point of Care Scanning Programme

Frankie Wallace – Data Standards Engagement Manager

Inventory Management and Point of Care Scanning Pilot Programme

– Delivery Status



- Live in 19 trusts
- 85 'Go-Lives' to date in 10 specialities
- £4.8m has been delivered in 2025/26 (with a further £2.3m with trusts in sign off process)
- Average 700+ hours clinical time saved per trust
- Bolton returned one full time nurse back to clinical duties released from stock admin (in one theatre alone)
- Teams increasingly focused to support trusts in process and cultural change to release available savings.
- All pilot trusts engaged by Benefits Realisation Managers to support on quantitative benefits tracking

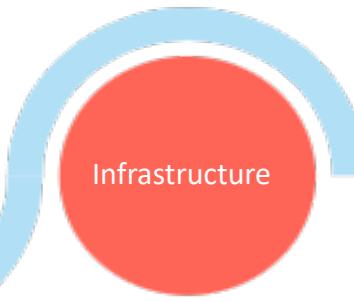
- Maintain a single and accurate catalogue system.
- Ensure GTINs are validated for accuracy and compliance with GS1.
- Prevent incorrect / duplicate product records through approval workflows.



- Enable seamless data flows between systems, reducing manual work/errors.
- Ensure all parties share a clear vision and expectation for how systems work.
- Require active stakeholders to prioritise integration and remove blockers.



- Ensures networks, hardware, and connectivity can support new processes.
- Reduces deployment risk by removing technical blockers.
- Enables consistent performance across supported department.



- Provides clear authority to drive decision making and resolves blockers.
- Builds commitment and engagement at all levels.
- Champions the change, reinforcing its importance and long-term benefits.

- Ensures everyone understands the change, why it's needed, and what it means.
- Reduces resistance by engaging teams early and supporting through the transition.
- Drives sustained adoption, ensuring benefits are realised long after go-live.

Cohort 2

- Funding agreed for next 5 years to deploy Inventory Management Systems (IMS) to acute trusts that don't have one and to bring all trusts to a consistent standard
- Engaged with a small group of trusts to test new toolkit and methodology and doing preparatory work with them in advance of formal April start date
- Emailed trusts before Christmas with a Pre-Deployment Questionnaire - the results will help prioritise on-site assessments
- Finalising governance process and prioritisation criteria for trusts joining the programme
- Next steps:
 - Step 1: Trusts complete the Pre-Deployment Questionnaire (PDQ) [here](#)
 - Step 2: On-Site Assessment by NHS Supply Chain
 - Step 3: Trust Feedback Meeting

Scan4Safety Framework

- The tender has been published with lots for IMS only, Point of Care Scanning (PoC) systems only, a combined lot for IMS and PoC and a fourth lot for devices and associated hardware
- The deadline for submissions is 11 February with a proposed award date of 13 March and framework commencement of 26 March. It will run for 4 years
- Trusts will need to undertake a mini-competition to select a vendor and will be able to contract for up to 10 years

In Development

- Quality and Safety KPIs
- IMS Safety Maturity Index

Questions?

AOB and Q&A

Core List

Q1. What support is available to help Trusts manage internal change and communication to bring core list products onboard? (Simon Moore)

Please liaise with your local ICS Manager in the first instance. We will also look to discuss size and scale of change in the customer working group to understand support required.

Q2. We all operate a 'core list' in our organisations using the ranges available in NHSSC so the concept is not new. I do wonder whether we can also use core list to deliver value through innovative solutions e.g. improvements in packaging/dispensing, greener solutions or future specification developments. Also, how can we engage with you to engage our local clinical teams in the work, having a feedback mechanism from the frontline will be really important. (Liam Horkan)

A Core List Customer Working Group is being established, this group will guide how existing insight and activity can help shape NHS Core List.

Q3. Fully support the core list, I understand non core list items will be moved to E-direct will NHSSC move alternative products to the stock route to manage supply disruption? (Andrew Jackson)

Within core list we have alternative products which are available through the same route, so there shouldn't be a delivery time lag in terms of eDirect versus stocked. If we get to a situation where there are no stock alternatives, then we will absolutely look at how we minimise disruption through bringing products into stock.

Q4. Will NPMs be removed? (Rachel Pell)

As an organisation we are looking to simplify and then the aim is to ultimately remove national pricing matrices.

Uniforms

Q5. What is the lead time from bulk order to manufacture and delivery and what quantity of stock is held locally in the UK? (Stephen Dubery)

Four to six months, depending on volumes and which supplier.

Q6. We have delayed the implementation of the NHS uniform based on the long lead times from measurement to delivery of uniforms. (feedback from pilot sites). We would like to move on a staff group level. Is there now a stock held by suppliers to reduce lead times? (Liam Horkan)

A phased approach is now available to roll out.

IMS Deployment

Q7. relating to IMS toll out, will funding continue after 5 years or will this fall to trusts? (Katrina Horton)

The funding through NHSE is agreed for five years, nothing else is agreed post five years at the moment.

Q8. What is the plan for ambulance trusts that may have a different set of requirements? (Stephen Dubery)

The funding is for acute trusts, however there is work being done on how to support ambulance trusts.

General

Q6. Can NHSSC give an update on the progress towards a Greener/lower carbon supply chain, regarding the timing of the roadmap and dates of any new features coming soon. Thank you (Sue Wales)

Sustainability strategy slides issued post call, there is a webinar 19 March 2026.

Q9. Will the slides be shared post meeting for our own internal updates (Liam Horkan)

Yes, they will be on the NHS Supply Chain website. Link sent to all attendees.