

Reimagining Procurement in the NHS

New, practical tool launched, exploring the concept and effectiveness of ‘Best Value’ in the NHS

The [Good Governance Institute](#) in partnership with [Connect Health](#) is today launching “*Reimagining Procurement in the NHS*”- a useful and practical report which provides insight and expert guidance ahead of changes in NHS procurement.

Drafted following a series of consultations with industry leaders from across a variety of specialities, it reflects on the priorities and challenges of procurement in an NHS setting and presents, what we consider to be, some key learnings for the NHS on the implementation of a new procurement approach.

The report was conceptualised in response to proposals calling for legislative change, specifically for Section 75 Regulations to be revoked in favour of commissioners using their discretion to apply a ‘best value test’.

Andrew Corbett-Nolan, Chief Executive, GGI commented: “In the current health environment, it is increasingly important that NHS organisations are able to maximise the value and outcomes achieved through procurement exercises. GGI’s new report, *Reimagining Procurement in the NHS*, published in partnership with Connect Health, describes what a best value procurement approach might look like for the NHS, as well as potential challenges associated with this. Importantly, it also provides a series of case studies, tools and resources which will support organisations to drive improvement in this area. This is essential reading for Boards looking to improve the quality and impact of services through procurement.”

Prof Andrew Walton, Executive Chair of Connect Health added: “With upcoming changes to legislation, we wanted to explore what a new procurement regime could look like and how it could be effectively applied in the NHS. The new report aims to bolster the body of knowledge around ‘best value’, as well as support the creation of guidance which recognises the importance of being outcomes focused, and that there is a collective understanding locally of which metrics need to be measured and captured.”

David Hare, Chief Executive of Independent Healthcare Providers Network added “It’s vital that future changes to NHS legislation are made solely in the best interests of patients, with

any new procurement regime seeking to ensure the best possible provider of care, regardless of who provides it. We therefore welcome this new report which provides practical guidance on what good procurement looks like, including how to ensure choice and competition is retained with a laser-like focus on ensuring value for money for both patients and tax payers alike”

The new report outlines some of the key challenges in the design and application of a new procurement regime. In particular, any new procurement regime must be outcomes focused, defined by patients and the public and not so prescriptive as to prevent local innovation.

In summary, the top eight considerations for the design and application of a new NHS procurement regime include:



[Words of graphic if needed)

- 1: Defining Value
- 2: Definitions of value should be locally led
- 3: Ensure focus is placed on outcomes not process
- 4: Procurement in the NHS and local authorities
- 5: The importance of robust consultation
- 6: Ensure competition and choice
- 7: Continuous improvement
- 8: Practical application and weighting]

For more information and Links to the report visit <https://www.good-governance.org.uk/services/reimagining-procurement-in-the-nhs>

Further reading

GGI MSK Board Assurance Prompts - <https://www.connecthealth.co.uk/blog/msk-a-new-approach/>

Ends

Issued on behalf of Connect Health by The Tonic Communications. For further information please contact connect@thetoniccomms.co.uk or call 0115 8248254.

About GGI

Identified by the Financial Times as one of the top 20 consultancies operating in the public sector, GGI brings a decade of experience working with leaders on the broad canvas of governance. Our reputation as thought-leaders working to review and develop Boards and Governing Bodies places GGI as a recognised partner across health, social care, education, local government, and the charitable and corporate sectors.

GGI's value lies not only in our detailed understanding and expertise in relation to the challenges and opportunities faced by Board members, but also in our ability to bring issues of governance to life through delivering support in strategy, leadership, engagement, and organisational development.

About Connect Health

Connect Health is the largest, independent provider of integrated community MSK (musculoskeletal) services (including orthopaedics, pain, rheumatology and Occupational Health) in the UK, serving over 300k NHS patients pa across 26 CCGs and 100+ businesses. Connect effectively and efficiently delivers care in a lower cost community setting, transforming services around specific quality and financial objectives and dramatically reducing waiting times and improving access to treatment. For more information please visit www.connecthealth.co.uk

Note to explain cancellation of launch event

It is with deep regret that Connect Health has made the decision to cancel the joint event with GGI being held on Thursday 5 March.

As the news that cases of Coronavirus acquired in the UK are likely to increase, Connect Health has instituted a Connect Coronavirus Planning Group (CCPG) as it is a matter the organisation takes very seriously.

As a result, the company is taking immediate action to limit the potential spread of the virus by advising all staff to cancel non-essential travel on trains and planes, especially to conferences, seminars or gatherings where there are lots of people. It is advised instead, that meetings are handled remotely by skype or telephone.

This is to protect the health of all colleagues and maintain service to patients to the best of their ability and is a positive step in stopping any potential threat of infection spreading in the UK.