CASE STUDY
NHS SOUTHERN DERBYSHIRE CCG
LUTEINISING HORMONE RELEASING HORMONE (LHRH) ANALOGUES FOR PROSTATE CANCER ACROSS DERBYSHIRE

THE PROJECT

- Historically there was a service across Derbyshire that allowed consultants to use any LHRH product in the treatment of prostate cancer.
- Continuation of treatment then continued in the primary care setting under the supervision of GPs.
- GPs and consultants could select from a limited range of products that are licensed for this use.
- This has resulted in a disparity of rates prescribed and administered by GPs and at a varied cost rate to the CCGs.
- These products had never been tendered for and there were no contractual arrangements in place with providers.
- The total annual expenditure was approximately £1.6m.

WHAT WE DID

- The expenditure of 1.6m per annum was in excess of the EU procurement thresholds therefore a formal procurement was necessary to ensure compliance to EU procurement regulations and also to ensure that the process was transparent, fair and made best use of NHS resources.
- Derbyshire commissioners have a legal responsibility to provide comprehensive, effective and accessible health services to its population within a finite resource, which includes the provision and administration of LHRH analogue products.
- One of the objectives was to support the standardisation of prescribing in Primary Care across Derbyshire to ensure best practice and consistency across all GP practices.
- Attain facilitated a procurement process utilising the OPEN Procedure for PART A Goods and Services.

OUTCOMES

- The procurement process bought about cost reductions through the aggregation of expenditure across Derbyshire.
- The preferred provider was able to offer substantial discounts on national tariff pricing, resulting in cash releasing savings of £368,745 (22%) against annual expenditure of £1.6m in year one.
- The standardisation of prescribing ensured best practice and consistency across all GP Practices both in terms of pricing and service provision.
- The introduction of a robust service specification ensured high standards on product quality were maintained.
- The rationalised product range contributed towards the reduction of clinical and patient risks.
- Thus, risks were reduced by familiarity with a preferred product and in its administration.