

Innovation Day hailed as huge success at Northern Care Alliance

An interactive innovation day brought together frontline clinicians and NHS suppliers to look at advances in healthcare to enhance the quality of patient care.

The event was the first of its kind to be held by the Northern Care Alliance NHS Group (NCA) and was organised by the organisation's procurement team, with an aim to redefine how suppliers work with the NHS. Now, thanks to its success, another Innovation Day event will be held in early December.

Existing and potential suppliers were invited to showcase their products, under one roof, so frontline healthcare staff working in Radiology and Theatres could find out more about innovative developments that could potentially be introduced into their departments.

Joe Lever, Group Procurement Director for the Northern Care Alliance, said: "My view has always been that we can't drive true innovation and value without involving suppliers in the discussion; the Innovation Day event marked the start of this discussion involving colleagues from Radiology and Theatres.

"It was pleasing that so many members of staff from across the NCA came together and contributed to the day in order to truly develop a different way of working, helping our clinical colleagues continue to deliver a high standard of care to our patients."

The event has already started to deliver benefits with savings made on existing Radiology and Theatres contracts.

Gill Gallagher, Theatre Manager at Rochdale Infirmary, met with a supplier who had created a device to reduce needle stick injuries during surgery. She said: "It's the first time I have seen something like this and I will definitely be taking the idea back to colleagues as it will help reduce injuries thanks to the use of a simple piece of equipment."

The event was organised with the support of Health Innovation Manchester, whose role it is to support new innovation and initiatives in the delivery of patient care.

Jonathan Priestley, Radiology Business Manager at Salford Royal, said: "As a manager, I spend so much time at supplier meetings but having everyone in the same room so I am able to meet five or six companies within the hour is a more efficient use of my time.

"It's great to see that the suppliers are thinking outside the box and using innovation to see how we can improve the things we do every day and maybe look at doing things differently in the future."

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