

Progress in Practice

Welsh Health Supplies

Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, North West Wales NHS Trust and North East Wales NHS Trust are pioneering a new supply chain model through working with Welsh Health Supplies to ensure a more collaborative and sustainable approach to meat procurement, initially by sourcing local Welsh beef.

Summary

Welsh Health Supplies is the central contracting and materials management provider for the NHS. With the supply of a consistently high quality of meat as one of their key objectives, they have recently taken the opportunity to remodel their meat supply chain with the aim of securing a regular and local supply. In doing this, not only do they meet the NHS' quality standards in food production and preparation, conform to EU regulations and keep within the negotiated price but they also support the NHS' sustainable development agenda. The initiative contributes to the local economy, supports local farming communities and reduces negative impacts associated with food transportation.

Welsh Health Supplies (WHS) has been working closely with the Welsh Procurement Initiative (WPI), the contracted suppliers in North Wales, a local processing plant and catering managers from Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, North West Wales NHS Trust and North East Wales NHS Trust, to pilot a scheme to secure Welsh beef that has been reared and slaughtered within the region, later to be supplied directly to local hospitals. This ensures a more collaborative approach to food supply, preparation and consumption.

If the pilot proves successful WHS plan to discuss rolling out the model with Trusts across South Wales thus securing a consistent supply of Welsh sourced beef across the principality; other cuts of meat such as lamb can then be considered. Following this, WHS will review how the supply chain model could be incorporated into other areas, and the WPI will ensure that this good practice is shared across all the other public sector bodies in Wales.



"Pilots such as this mean consumers can be confident they know where their meals have originated from, Welsh Health Supplies is able to demonstrate to suppliers what can be achieved by working together, and the NHS is able to actively support, and make a difference to the local economy and promote sustainable production."

David Ince, Catering Manager at Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust, and Chair of the All Wales NHS Catering Advisory Group.

Key Learning Points:

- Engaging with all parties in the supply chain will ensure that open communication channels exist.
- Agreement of the overall objectives with all parties at the outset will ensure that everyone remains focussed on the end goal.
- A willingness to work together and be open-minded must exist if new approaches and working practices are to be developed.

Links and organisations involved: Welsh Health Supplies: <http://www.whs.wales.nhs.uk>
<http://www.buy4wales.co.uk> . The Welsh Beef pilot is being run with Conwy & Denbighshire NHS Trust: <http://www.conwy-denbighshire-nhs.org.uk/>, North West Wales NHS Trust: <http://www.northwestwales.org/> and North East Wales NHS Trust.

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