

NHS Supplychain: Collaboration to Maintain Infection Prevention and Control Resilience

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Overview: 3 Things

01

Who NHS Supply Chain are and Why resilience Matters

02

Building resilience for Infection prevention and winter pressures

03

The Future: Strengthening System Wide Collaboration

We are NHS Supply Chain

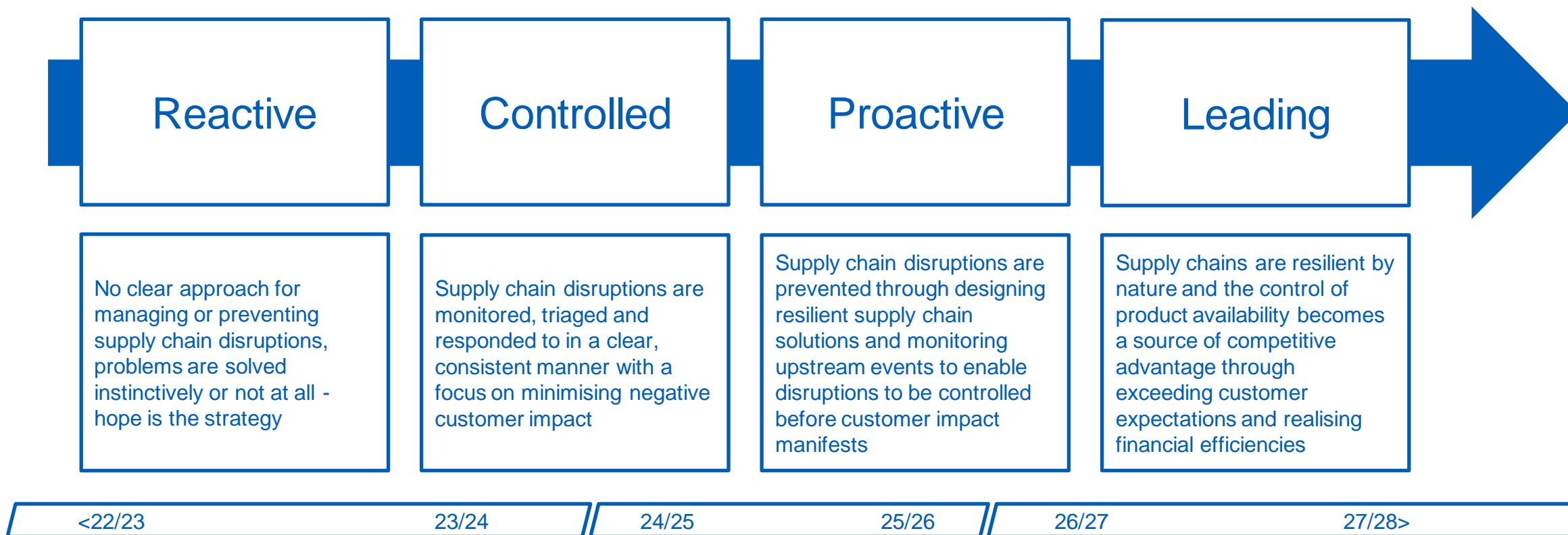
Our role is to source, deliver and supply healthcare products, services and food for NHS trusts and healthcare organisations across England and Wales.

By working in collaboration with the healthcare system and suppliers, we help the NHS to put patients first.

We provide cost-efficient, resilient, clinically assured products that are responsive to frontline needs.

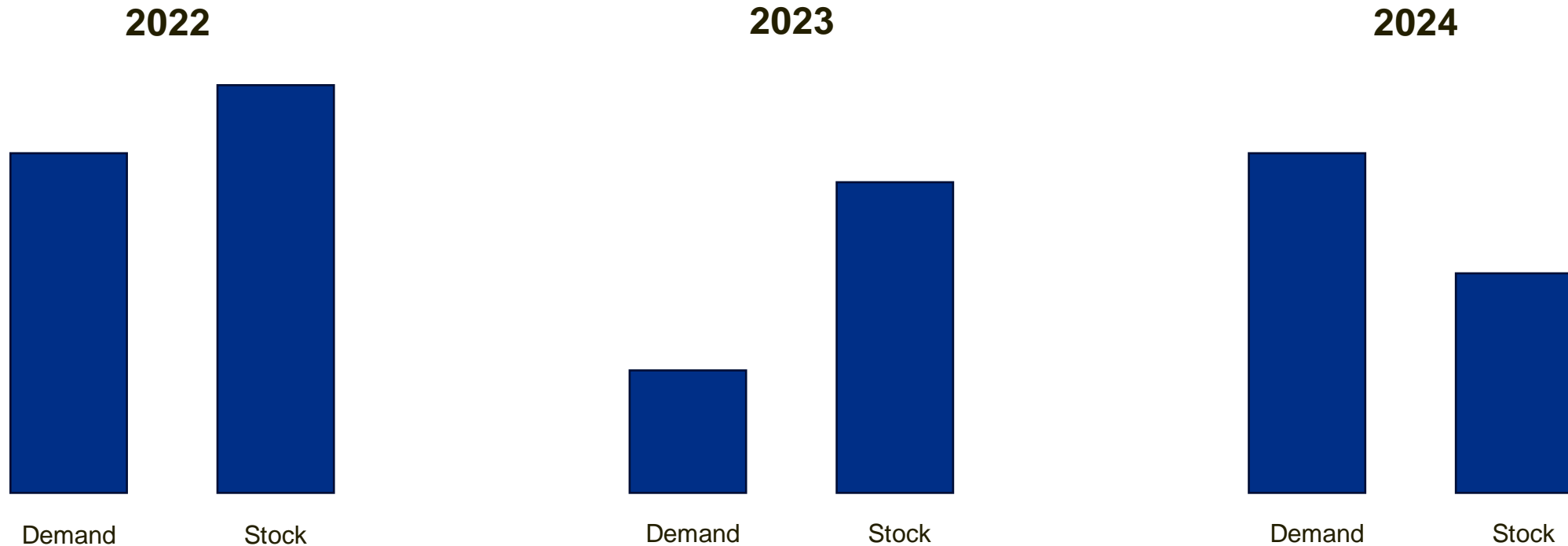


Resilience Maturity Road Map



Why? And Why Now?

- Ensuring robust winter preparedness is a key priority for NHS Supply Chain.
- 2024 saw system-wide residual stock deplete, coinciding with a quad-demic spike in demand.
- Collaborative national response prevented major disruption – lessons learned pointed to a need to adapt.



* Illustrative data

What Are We Doing Differently?

- Winter 2025/2026 operated with enhanced treatment strategies, to reduce the risk of supply disruption.
- Following a lessons learned review, we identified several areas to strengthen our approach to:
 - Enhance collaboration
 - Identify of critical products
 - Improve engagement
 - Align with national strategies



Dedicated Winter Planning Workstream stood up in May



~6000 additional products with enhanced stock holding Nov-Feb



Customer Collaboration – product list, demand insights, comms approach, demand capture



Enhanced supply controls – stock, forecasting, monitoring, inbound management, escalation



Robust issue management – National Incident Response



Supplier collaboration with early forecasts to support capacity planning

IPC & Clinical Considerations around winter

Seasonal IPC Guidance Changes

Winter brings regular NHSE and UKHSA IPC updates in response to flu, RSV, norovirus and emerging pathogens. We monitor changes and assess impacts on clinical products and stock availability.

Masking & PPE Protocols

Masking requirements shift based on regional transmission and risk. Early insight helps us adjust stock levels proactively.

HCID Triggers

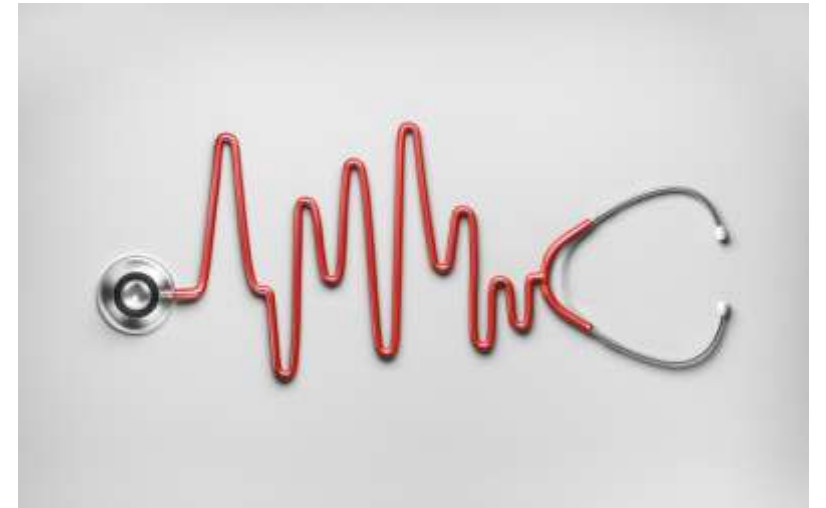
Local or regional HCID declarations can increase demand for specific PPE. Close links with IPC leads ensure rapid awareness and response.

Data-Driven Clinical Insight

Flu surveillance, hospital activity data and infection trends inform our demand forecasting and stock planning.

System-Wide Information Sharing

Regular intelligence sharing across NHS Trusts, IPC teams, public health partners and NHS Supply Chain supports a consistent, safe winter response.



IPC Collaboration - Winter Focus

- A key lesson learned in 2024 was that changes in IPC guidance can result in supply challenges
- 2025 saw proactive communication, meeting regularly with regional IPC leads
- Reviewed changes in guidance, and infection rates – using insight to inform forecasts
- Buying decisions were informed by IPC insight
- When guidance changed, we were among the first to know
- As a result, local needs were met throughout winter, with contingency in hand
- Feedback has shown NHS trusts have found inventory and forecasting information has improved their decision making.



IPC Collaboration- Future ways of working

