George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust reduces costs and improves service levels with Advanced On-Demand

Since moving to Advanced On-Demand, George Eliot has experienced cost savings because of our competitively-priced proposition in combination with the economic benefits of jointly procuring the service with South Warwickshire Hospitals.

George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust has been using Advanced eFinancials since 1998. The system was originally being delivered as a managed service by another provider. However, George Eliot decided that it wanted us to fully support its Financial Management System and, in partnership with South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust, moved to Advanced On-Demand in February 2009. We delivered the Software as a Service application as well as providing the cloud and managed services platform on which the eFinancials software sat.

In addition to providing a more economical alternative, Advanced On-Demand has given George Eliot access to an experienced team of IT professionals who fully understand the software systems. As the Trust does not have a high level of internal IT resource, this was a key incentive for the Trust to migrate to the service.

Richard Parker, Head of Financial Accounts from George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust says, *"As a medium-sized general hospital, we have a small IT department and therefore require off-site support of our finance system. We recognised that Advanced,*

the software author of the finance system, would be best placed to fully manage it for us. We were also reassured to know that Advanced already had a number of trusts using the managed service and so clearly knew what they were doing.

After discussions with South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust we decided to purchase Advanced On-Demand as a joint procurement arrangement. Whilst not strictly a shared service, we recognised that joint procurement and sharing project management resources would help us to reduce costs."

The Managed Service Experience

George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust is now using Advanced's Financial Management System with integrated electronic procurement and business intelligence functionality (using SAP Business Objects). The system itself is located at our Bridgwater data centre and George Eliot users access it via the web using the N3 NHS network.

Client >
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

Sector >
NHS

Project >
Advanced On-Demand

"With Advanced fully managing our system, this has removed the associated risks of us having to manage it ourselves. We are also enjoying ready access to the Advanced team which is especially reassuring."

Richard Parker > Head of Financial Accounts > George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

CASE STUDY

George Eliot Implements Advanced On-Demand

Richard Parker says, *"Our service level agreement with Advanced guarantees access to the Bridgwater-based system via our N3 web link all day, 5 days a week. The system is provided with updates as soon as they are available to ensure that we have access to the very latest technology and if the users experience any problems, the Advanced support team is on hand to provide advice and resolve any issues."*

Advanced eFinancials comprises general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and project accounting applications. Using the integrated business intelligence solution, the Trust can extract the data held within the finance system, query it, analyse it and produce reports when required, providing the Trust with the level of information they require for making informed business decisions.

The electronic procurement functionality was added in September 2009 as the Trust wanted to move to a more efficient, paperless procurement process and required electronic requisitioning for non-stock items. This additional functionality also complies with the recent national requirement for NHS Trusts to have an electronic catalogue to ensure purchases are more tightly managed.

Parker says, *"We were keen to move to paperless procurement to replace the inefficient, manually-intensive processes we had in place. We recognised that electronic procurement would reduce the amount of paper moving around the Trust and make us far more efficient in the way we order goods and services."*

Reduced Costs and Risks

Since moving to Advanced On-Demand, George Eliot has experienced cost savings because of Advanced's competitively-priced proposition in combination with the economic benefits of jointly procuring the service with South Warwickshire Hospitals.

Parker says, *"But it wasn't just about the costs of doing it, it's about having experienced and knowledgeable Advanced experts supporting our system. With Advanced fully managing our system, this has removed the associated risks of us having to manage it ourselves. We are also enjoying ready access to the Advanced team which is especially reassuring."*

"We can now procure goods and services more efficiently than ever before and have much greater control over procurement, whilst being smarter about what we procure and from whom. This has allowed us to more tightly manage costs. At a time when public sector budgets are under increasing scrutiny, effectively managing our spend is key."

Richard Parker > Head of Financial Accounts > George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust

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