



Lincolnshire Community Health Services revolutionises the delivery of projects with Aspyre



Looking for a software solution to help with the successful delivery of projects and programmes, LCHS turned to Aspyre, a web-based portfolio, programme and project management solution (PPM).....

CHALLENGE

- LCHS needed a project management tool to help guide new project managers on how to record data relating to projects and programmes
- The organisation was also keen to use technology to help make its meetings more effective
- LCHS wanted to standardise all project reports to give senior managers a clear and accurate view of a project's status

SOLUTION

- LCHS rolled out Aspyre – a web-based portfolio, programme and project management application
- Aspyre holds centrally all information relating to programmes and projects and data can be easily shared with other project managers
- Aspyre's miniITs functionality records all actions taken from a meeting and quickly assigns them to the correct people

RESULTS

- Aspyre is being used to manage a wide range of programmes and projects including working collaboratively with external organisations
- Aspyre has enabled LCHS to share data virtually and reduce valuable time and expenses travelling to meetings
- Any risks and issues associated with a project are easily tracked and can be monitored effectively
- Meetings are now far more productive and meeting minutes can be produced effortlessly

Lincolnshire Community Health Services (LCHS), part of NHS Lincolnshire, provides a range of health services to the local community, including hospitals, community nursing, rehabilitation, school nursing and smoking cessation services.

Keen to capture the benefits of any new services it delivers to the community and share any lessons learnt, LCHS needed a cost effective, project management tool which could help manage and evaluate any new projects that were being carried out.

Challenge

Many of LCHS' projects are lead by experts in a clinical field so although that person may have clinical expertise, they may not be experienced at managing projects. LCHS needed a software solution that could help those new to project management to log all details relating to a project or programme simply and quickly, and to provide a centralised platform from which to move the initiative forward.

LCHS was also keen to standardise all project reporting. Reports were often produced sporadically and in different formats, which made it difficult for the LCHS board to accurately establish the status of a project and develop an understanding of risks or issues identified by staff.

Finding a tool to help make project meetings more effective was also a priority for LCHS. The reporting of minutes from a meeting was a laborious and inefficient process which was resulting in individual actions slipping or falling by the wayside completely.



Solution

Following a review of similar products, LCHS selected Aspyre from Mosaïque and implemented the solution in pilot form for a six month period.

Aspyre is a web-based, PPM solution designed to help with the successful delivery of programmes and projects.

“Aspyre is extremely cost effective and is the ideal solution to meet our needs. It’s a practical tool which is simple and intuitive, even for those with little or no project management experience,” said Joanne Wright-Lakin, innovation manager, LCHS.

Aspyre enables project and programme managers to log all data relating to a programme or project in a central repository. All data can then be made fully visible across the organisation providing those involved in a particular project with real time status updates.

Another function of Aspyre that was of particular interest to LCHS was minITs, a web-based tool designed to help improve the effectiveness of a meeting. It allows an administrator to input data from the meeting as it happens and any actions are immediately assigned to the relevant individual.

Results

Following a successful pilot, Aspyre was permanently deployed and has been very well received:

“Experienced project managers like the fact that Aspyre is a practical tool. There’s no need to sit with a text book, it just lets you plan and map out a project clearly and succinctly,” said Joanne Wright-Lakin.

“Many have asked if Aspyre is PRINCE2 or MSP, but it doesn’t force you down either route. You can choose the project methodology you usually work to and it will support you.

“Our less experienced project managers are also finding Aspyre to be intuitive and easy to use. It helps them learn from more experienced team members as they can easily access information on previous projects and use it to ensure the success of their own.”

At a glance, Aspyre’s dashboard provides LCHS’s management team with visibility of which projects or programmes are underway within the organisation’s three boards: service excellence, business innovation and business development. They now have a complete picture of all projects that are taking place in a standardised format.

Aspyre is also being used to help LCHS rollout its NHS National Programme for IT (NPFIT) and manage CAF (common assessment framework), across an organisational project that LCHS is conducting with the County Council’s health and social care team.

LCHS is also working on a Telehealth hub project with the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) and using Aspyre to manage the programme. This project encompasses a number of organisations from across the East Midlands. Thanks to the solution the travel requirements across all organisations have been greatly reduced, since all the information relating to a specific project is shared, enabling key individuals to hold virtual meetings from their various locations, each accessing the information required from the centralised platform.

Katie Robertson Bailey, IT Project Manager for the Telehealth project said: “This project is really using Aspyre to its full potential. Virtual meetings are saving us considerable amounts of money and time as we no longer need to waste time travelling. For all NHS IT programmes, Aspyre is a real gift.”

In the current economic climate, having the ability to capture and report specific benefits of an NHS project is crucial. When a project is complete, it is key to evaluate what has been achieved and whether or not the end goal was reached. Aspyre allows organisations to do this quickly and effectively. Joanne Wright-Lakin concludes: “Now thanks to Aspyre, I am able to quickly deliver a highlight and a benefits report to the board and use this information to cascade any shared learning across the organisation.”