



Aspyre delivers effective project management for users at NHS South Birmingham



Looking to move to an agile working environment, NHS South Birmingham's ICT Directorate needed a web-based solution to help deliver effective and consistent IT project management....

CHALLENGE

- NHS South Birmingham's ICT Directorate wanted a solution to help standardise and monitor all of its projects
- It needed a management tool that project managers could log on to remotely
- It was becoming increasingly difficult to ensure that actions from meetings were assigned correctly and actioned accordingly

SOLUTION

- The ICT Directorate rolled out Aspyre – a web-based portfolio, programme and project management application
- Aspyre is used to hold centrally all information relating to programmes and projects and data is easily shared with other key stakeholders
- Aspyre's minITs function is used to record all actions taken from a project meeting and quickly assigns them to the correct people.

RESULTS

- Duplication of effort has been minimised thanks to Aspyre. It helps share data and any lessons learned by more experienced project managers
- Senior managers using Aspyre can see at a glance which projects are taking place and their current status
- Any risks and issues associated with a project are easily tracked and can be monitored effectively
- Meetings are now far more productive and the meeting minutes can be produced effortlessly

The ICT Directorate has approximately 30 people working on a variety of projects across the organisation including the implementation of new systems at the Dental Teaching Hospital.

Challenge

The ICT Directorate was looking for a way to standardise documentation and monitor progress across all of its projects and Aspyre provided an excellent tool to support this. Also, as the ICT Directorate was looking to move towards an agile working model, meaning that many staff will be able to work remotely, a web-based application was needed that would allow project managers to log any project-related information from wherever they were working, be it from home or from another office.

One of the ICT Directorate's goals was to help project meetings become as productive as possible so that all attendees had a clear view of the actions that they had been assigned across a range of closely related but separately managed projects.

Solution

Having considered a number of software products for programme and project management, the ICT Directorate in NHS South Birmingham turned to Mosaique, to roll-out its web-based, portfolio, programme and project management application, Aspyre, to help manage and monitor the delivery of programmes and projects.

Having worked with Mosaique previously, Peter Goodair, a senior manager within the Directorate became aware of Aspyre and felt it would meet their needs: "Aspyre is unique and covers all the bases of



project and programme management. I haven't seen anything else remotely close to it."

Aspyre enables project and programme managers to log all data relating to a programme or project in a central repository. All data then becomes fully visible across the organisation enabling anyone involved in a particular project to track progress and provide real time status updates.

Aspyre's dashboard provides senior managers with visibility of which projects or programmes are underway within their department or at an organisational level. It is extremely intuitive and easy to use and can quickly generate reports on any part of a project such as risks and operational issues.

Aspyre also has a function within it called 'minITs' which helps to significantly increase the effectiveness of a meeting. MinITs enables the meeting administrator to input any data taken at the meeting directly into it and assigns actions to the relevant people.

Results

"Aspyre is helping us to monitor, manage and document projects far more effectively. It is really helping us to standardise our risks and issues logs and Aspyre's built-in templates ensure that we have less variation, therefore significantly contributing to best practice," said Goodair.

Aspyre has a range of different users, some with full, editable, access and some with 'read-only' access. The most intense users are project co-ordinators and project

managers. Many other people within the organisation also indirectly benefit from it, e.g. those who are issued actions from the minITs application.

Those project and programme managers already using Aspyre are benefiting significantly from having all key project documentation in one place and Aspyre's intuitive dashboard allows senior managers to see which projects and programmes are being worked on, who is working on a specific project, the current status and any risks or issues that have been flagged.

Aspyre is also helping to reduce duplication of work. Historical data is captured and made available to other users, making it easy to share knowledge and skills.

Project-based meetings are also proving to be more effective now that minITs is used to capture the meeting's actions. Now, by the time anyone attending the meeting is back at their desks, their actions have been automatically documented and sent to their Inbox.

Aspyre is completely configurable to any environment. As Goodair explains: "We reviewed the Department of Health's 'Standards for Better Health' document to identify categories of benefit such as clinical effectiveness and improved patient experience that we could establish in Aspyre and then track the extent to which the investment in IT would contribute to these areas.

Goodair also believes that Aspyre could be beneficial in other areas: "A clinician in our rehabilitation centre has seen Aspyre and expressed an interest in the possibility of using it for patient programmes. So, for example, if he has a patient who's sustained a serious injury, he could potentially use it to develop a recovery programme for that patient. He's now looking into the feasibility of using Aspyre in this way for patient programmes and this demonstrates just how flexible it is as a management tool.

"After an excellent training programme facilitated by Mosaïque, Aspyre is now in the blood stream of some of our project managers and it must be used for any new projects and programmes. It is already helping those using it save a great deal of time and work more effectively. I fully expect other parts of the organisation to benefit from it in the future," concludes Goodair.