

# NHS South East Coast and NHS South Central

## *Impact Evaluation of NHS Innovations South East (NISE), The Innovation Hub*



### What our client wanted

NISE is a not for profit company supporting NHS staff to develop innovative products and processes. Responsibility for NISE, including majority funding of it, had transferred from the Department of Health to the Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs). They wanted an impact evaluation of NISE's performance and assessment of options for its future structure, operations and funding to understand the best way forward within the context of budgetary pressure and a rapidly changing NHS innovation agenda.

### What Frontline did

We conducted an e-survey of NISE clients focusing on the value of services; potential impact for the NHS from cost savings, better patient care, more efficient workplaces and income from royalties. We also addressed additionality – the extent to which these may have been achieved in the absence of NISE.

We consulted with a range of stakeholders: NHS trusts on NISE impact for them and their willingness to fund; businesses on NISE value in connecting them to NHS collaborators; and other Hubs across England on structures, governance, operations, funding and best practice

We brought this together in a robust impact assessment and developed four future options around different levels of NISE activities and funding. These reflected the SHA duty to promote innovation and the QIPP (quality, innovation, productivity, prevention) agenda, as well as the willingness and ability of parties to continue funding NISE and its ability to generate greater income itself.

### What difference we made

Our evaluation demonstrated the benefits which NISE was generating for its clients and ways in which the service might develop in partnership within a new budgetary and strategic context. The four options, discussed at length with our clients, helped them to understand a service which was not on their radar when they commissioned our work. This helped them to decide what actions to implement.

### What our client said

*“Frontline’s comprehensive review of NISE and the options they developed around operational and funding models helped us to understand the key issues and reach decision on the best course of action going forward.”*

Peter Houghton, Director of Innovation, NHS South East Coast