

Cloud**Staff** Case Study

Sheffield Teaching Hospital Foundation Trust

Understanding why using The Allocate Cloud for HealthRoster has made both business sense and user sense.



Project Manager, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

When the IT department provided a quote for a new server it was clear the cost of £200,000 would be prohibitive. Furthermore, with IT focused on other business systems projects there was unlikely to be the capacity within the IT department to roll out and support the upgrade on premise. As such the decision was taken to look at 'hosted or cloud' options to run the software.

In 2013 Sheffield Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust took the decision to move its e-Rostering software, HealthRoster, to The Allocate Cloud allowing them to improve mobile access and avoid new IT infrastructure costs. We talk to Rachel Bird who is the lead for the project to understand the rationale for the decision and explore the benefits twelve months on.

What led you to consider The Allocate Cloud?

"We had used HealthRoster for a number of years and had always run the software in house using our own IT infrastructure. I think we all recognise that over time all IT infrastructure require updates as technology moves on, and with the release of HealthRoster V10 it seems like a good time to take stock, so we took the decision to review ours to ensure it was both suitable for the new features and functionality in v10 as well as future versions in the years to come" explains Rachel Bird, e-Rostering

What was the business case?

The trust did a complete options appraisal, reviewing external hosting via a third party hosting provider as well as The Allocate Cloud. The third-party hosting solution had a proven track record of delivering IT hosting to the NHS, however its offer was £35,000 more expensive than The Allocate Cloud.

In addition to the cost benefit, the appraisal uncovered additional advantages of running HealthRoster V10 on The Allocate Cloud including having a single point of accountability for service delivery across both the software and the infrastructure. What is more, the move to The Allocate Cloud would be managed as a single project alongside the migration from HealthRoster V9.5 to HealthRoster V10.

Allocate Cloud Benefits

- More cost effective than in-house or outsource hosting
- Smooth migration from V9.5 to V10, with no migration fee
- Single supplier for all aspects of service
- Exceptional resilience and disaster recovery included
- Future proofed infrastructure
- Easy home access, unleashing the power of HealthRoster for users
- Hassle free upgrades to software – very fast and regular

Online from home providing nursing with real benefits. Upgrades and updates to the software are regular and hassle free, meaning the IT department avoids distracting upgrades and allowing the e-Rostering team to focus on getting the benefits out of new features rather than technical upgrades.

One year on the benefits of running HealthRoster V10 on The Allocate Cloud have been greater than those articulated in the cloud business case. For example, the Cloud support is excellent and the speed at which Allocate can upgrade our system with new functionality has made a real impact, particularly when they released an update with a new report format to help Trusts meet the national safe staffing report requirements,

What have the results been so far?

Rachel and the team believe the migration from V9.5 to V10 was a smooth process in part because the solution was delivered via The Allocate Cloud.

The trust have benefited from working with a single provider, meaning there is a single point of ownership and accountability. They are able to benefit from a training environment, full disaster recovery and a dual N3 connection which means they have a truly high reliance system which is increasingly important as the need to view staffing data moves to a more real-time process.

The Trust has also been able to take advantage of remote access and The Allocate Cloud & HealthRoster V10 is built around secure, reliable remote access. This has meant more users can now access Employee

“Without additional effort from us Allocate were able to update our system and make this available to us within 24 hours of release.”

