



Case study: Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust

Anne Greaves, Digital Communications Officer at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust on how Convene has reduced their printing by nearly 60,000 pages a year.

The main driver for switching to Convene was the amount of time and money we were spending on printing. The average board pack was 104 pages, with 14 participants and 11 meetings a year. That's 16,000 pages. Then for the Trust Executive Group, which has 12 meetings a year, we were printing another 42,500 pages.

It was just crazy. You could be at the printer for an entire day. And the printer would break and jam because it was overheating. It's actually funny to think back to the days we couldn't use the printer for anything else for a couple of days because we were printing committee and board papers!

“We did a lot of research”

Before choosing Convene to help us go paperless we did a lot of research into the different products. We considered Dropbox and Google Drive but being in the NHS we've got such a high level of security that those options were not appropriate for us.

We then did a compare and contrast with a few specialist products, including Convene, and met with the different companies too.

There were several factors that swayed it in favor of Convene. One was the cost. And another was the fact that Convene is cross-platform and works on Android, Windows and iPad too, whereas some of the others were just iPad.

Plus we got the sense there was a lot more flexibility in terms of moving Convene forward and adapting it to our needs, which wouldn't necessarily be the case with the other providers.

This has proven to be the case. For example, we recently asked Azeus if we could have two different administrator levels. We wanted a 'super-user' level to have control over creating accounts and configuring settings, with the secretaries who create the meetings and add the papers being administrators. That was implemented for us and gave us exactly what we wanted.

Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust is one of only four children's hospital trusts in the UK, specializing in treating children up to the age of 18 and employing around 3,000 staff. They have been using Convene since Spring 2014

Sheffield Children's 
NHS Foundation Trust

“ It used to take around five hours to prepare packs for a board meeting. Now it takes about 30 minutes.”

Anne Greaves, Digital Communications Officer
at SC.NHS Foundation Trust

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Time –v– paper saving

	Manual	Convene
Pages	58,500	0 ✓
Hours per pack	5	0.5 ✓

Paper savings

Average board pack	
Pages	104
Participants	14
Meetings a year	11
Pages per year saved	16,000 ✓
Trust Executive Group papers	
Pages	104
Participants	26
Meetings a year	12
Pages per year saved	42,500 ✓

“ As an NHS organization, we are constantly striving to work with greater efficiency. By being the first group in the Trust to use Convene, the Board of Directors has been able to lead by example, actively demonstrating to staff that new approaches can lead to more efficient ways of working.”

Judith Green, Associate Director of Corporate Affairs

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Email: us_sales@azeusconvene.com
 Telephone: 1 800 795 2024

"Overcoming skepticism"

Azeus was really good about letting us trial the product before buying the licences, because it was a big culture change and we had to get the executives on board.

There was a bit of skepticism at first so for the first couple of board meetings we printed paper packs as well. Then, next time, we'd have just a couple of paper packs there. Then we took the paper away altogether, and that worked fine.

"It's really handy"

The administrative time it has saved is incredible. It used to take around five hours to prepare packs for a board meeting. Now it takes about 30 minutes.

The user experience is very important and the drag and drop is great – it just pulls it all in for you and converts it to pdfs on the fly as well. That's really handy.

Executives find the portability very useful too, particularly if they are having to travel around. And they like that with Convene you can download and then work offline, so you're not dependent on internet access. Basically it's helped us be more efficient because we can do everything more quickly and with less fuss.

"Rolling it out"

It was always our plan to start with the board and roll it out a bit further which is what we are now doing.

We're using Convene for all the board meetings and sub-committee meetings too, and it's also used for our Trust Executive Group, which is for anyone at executive or associate director level, so a bit like a senior management team.

People are starting to know about it and like it. We're finding people saying to us 'Can I use it for my meetings too?' People are taking notice of it and want it for themselves. There's a lot of potential.

Anne Greaves, Digital Communications Officer at Sheffield Children's NHS Foundation Trust
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Accreditations, Affiliates, Partners and Integration



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