

A NATIONAL PURCHASING UNIT

3.6 This unit will strengthen education and training procurement through –

- providing a national source of expertise for regional / local buyers to draw on. It will build on work to develop a model contract, including arrangements for auditing the impact of training on service quality
- procuring training which it makes sense to buy nationally (an example is the induction training which NHSU has developed)

3.7 Work is under way as part of the Arms Length Body review to restructure the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) and increase its ability to offer purchasing expertise across a wide range of health procurement. The new unit should be based in the restructured PASA. It will in turn enable and strengthen the capability of -

REGIONAL PURCHASING NETWORKS

3.8 The majority of procurement of education and training will continue to be undertaken at local level – either by SHAs or by individual employers (Trusts or PCTs), depending on the ideal critical mass required for effective procurement. The procurement function in SHAs should be reinforced, making it a more effective purchaser of education and training on behalf of the local health economy and, where appropriate, acting in consortia of SHAs to achieve economies of scale.