

Dietetic-led Transformation of Oral Nutritional Supplement (ONS) Supply

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Project Aim

To develop and test a model for dietetic-led ONS supply in two GP practices over six months

Desired outcomes

- Reduce patient numbers, quantity and spend on ONS
- Reduce demand on General Practice
- Reduce variation in nutritional care

Background

NHS Grampian currently spend £1.2m on prescribed Oral Nutritional Supplements (ONS)

30-40% of ONS prescribing is inappropriate and contributing to rising costs in primary care

There is widespread variation in practice and patients are often prescribed ONS without any dietetic advice or monitoring.¹

There is a requirement to transform the service to: ensure patients are seen by the right professional, at the right time; reduce unnecessary demands on GP services; contribute to cost savings in NHS budgets.

Methods

NES AHP Fellowship funding was obtained to test a new, innovative, dietetic-led ONS supply

New model of ONS supply developed.

Practice pharmacists searched for patients receiving ONS

All patients referred to the project team for assessment and nutritional advice

If ONS required, dietitian request sent directly to the Community Pharmacist

2 Practices tested in Phase 1 (September 2017-December 2017)

4 Practices added in Phase 2 (December –June 2019)

Patient, GP, Pharmacy opinion sought before and after the test (via questionnaire)

'Dietitians are the obvious choice for prescribing ONS'

Patient

'The service was excellent and the visits from the Dietitians were helpful'

Patient

'The system works well, but an electronic ordering system would be more efficient'

Community Pharmacist

'I do not have the correct knowledge to prescribe ONS. Dietitians should prescribe'

GP

Results

- 45% patients were not known to dietetics
- ONS were
 - Stopped in 39% patients
 - Reduced or changed in 25% patients
 - Changed to a more cost-effective ONS in 23%
- Reduced number of patients receiving ONS (Figure 1)
- Cost savings of £54,000 over two financial quarters (figure 2)
- 100% staff satisfaction
- 85% patient satisfaction

Figure 2

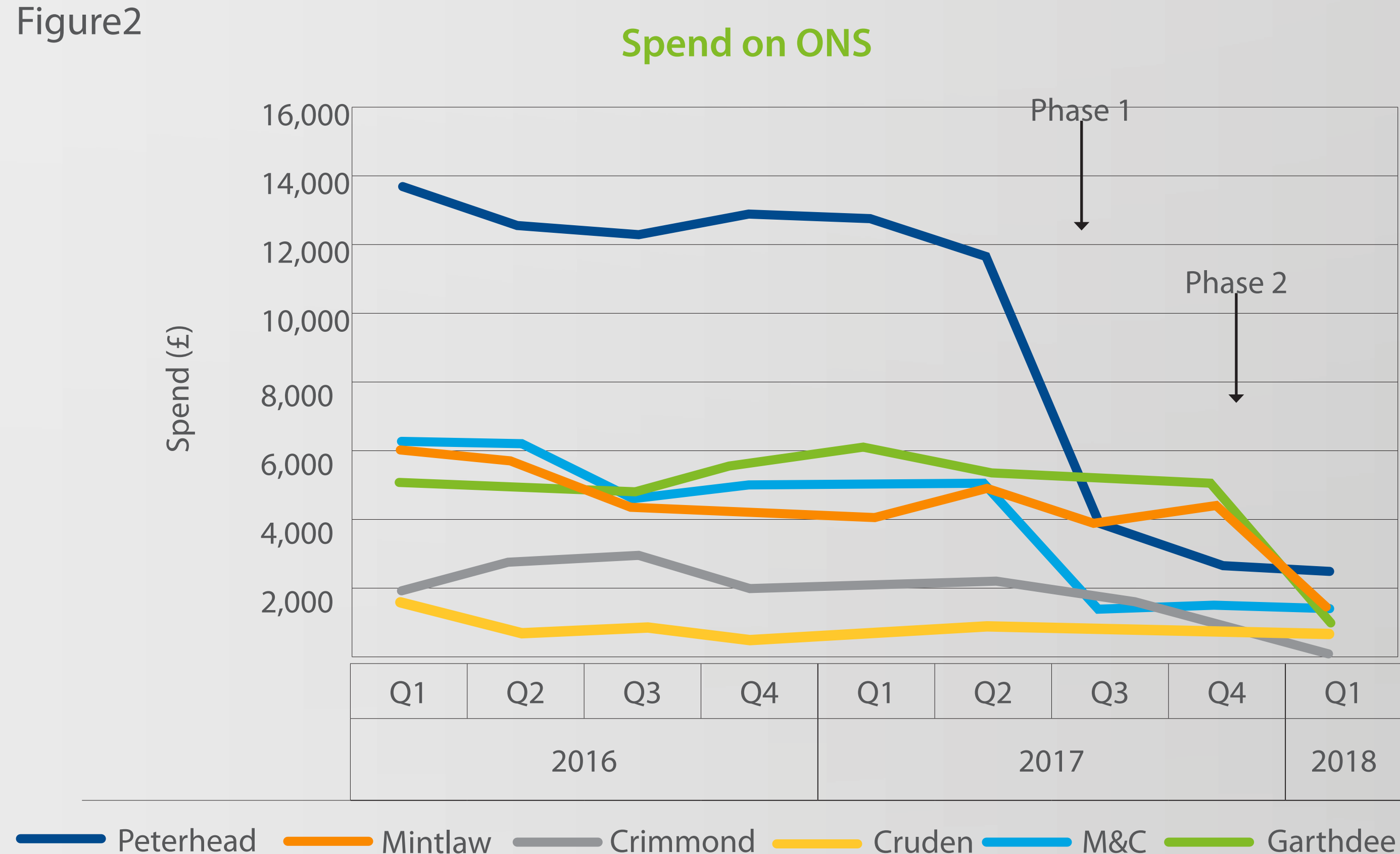
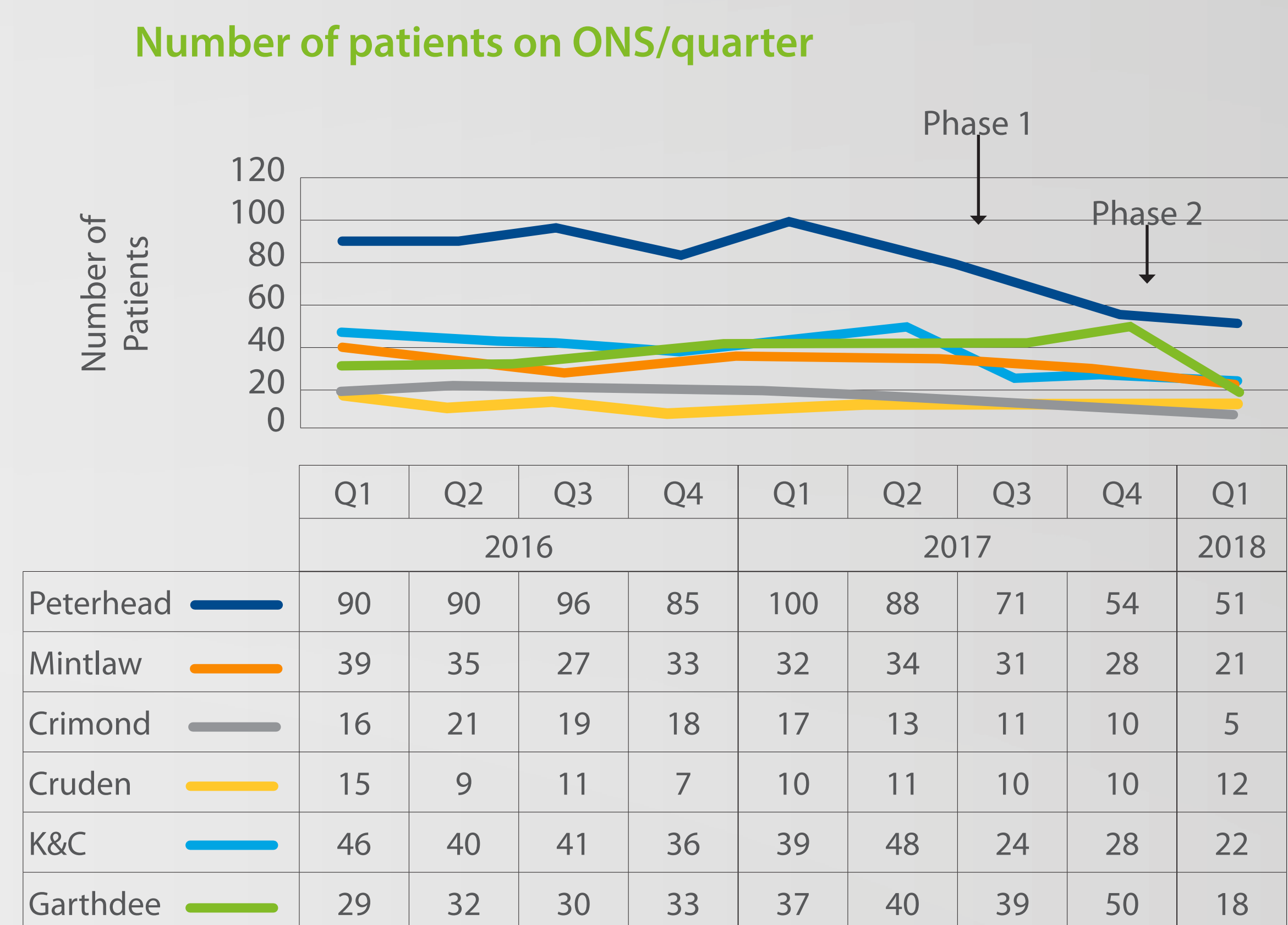


Figure 1



Next Steps

It is predicted spend can be reduced by £350-£450,000 by roll out of a dietetic-led model

Funding has been approved to roll the new service out across NHS Grampian from April 2019

References

1. Scottish Oral Nutritional Supplements Short Life Working Group (ONS SLWG) Report and recommendations. April 2018