



Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2021-2026

Directorate of Finance, Procurement and Estates

Southern Health and Social Care Trust

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Director's foreword

This document provides an update on the progress made with our Sustainability Plan since it was first introduced in 2017 and sets out our plans for the future to establish our roadmap for improving our ongoing environmental performance.

Spending on health and social care accounts for £1 in every £10 of the gross domestic product, (GDP) – more than £190 billion a year. Any activity on this scale inevitably has consequences for the natural environment.

Increasingly, health and social care will need to be delivered in ways that are not only financially sustainable, but environmentally sustainable too. This means minimising avoidable environmental damage while also ensuring that services are capable of responding to the health impacts and operational consequences of anticipated environmental changes.

We have a responsibility to set a positive example for our staff, patients and the community. One of the Trust's objectives is to support people to live, long, healthy, active lives, this means building a healthcare system that cares for people and the planet.

The Trust will lead on driving forward this strategy, but we cannot do this alone. We will encourage and support each and every staff member to play their part. We will have Environmental Sustainability Champions in every Directorate and we will reward teams for increased efficiency. We will work collaboratively with community groups, voluntary sector, patients and clients representatives, other environmental agencies and our suppliers to assist us with delivering this strategy.

Helen O'Neill

Director of Finance, Procurement and Estates



1.0 Introduction

The Triple Bottom

What is Sustainability?

Within the Trust, this means **working** within the available environmental and social resources to **protect and improve health**, now and for future generations. In practice this requires us to **reduce** our carbon footprint, **minimise** waste and pollution, make the **best use** of scarce resources and **build resilience** to a changing climate, while **providing** uninterrupted healthcare and wellbeing services to the local community.

The objective is to achieve a positive impact on the 'triple bottom line', the right balance between environmental, financial and social priorities.

Financial priorities – ensuring that the health and social care system is financially viable in the long-term

Social Priorities – through helping our community live healthier lives, we must also acknowledge the value of our environment and social assets



Environmental priorities – recognising the links between pollution and improvements in air quality leading to multiple health benefits

An evolving strategy for an evolving Trust

This strategy builds upon the previous Sustainability Strategy 2020 and incorporates the key environmental priorities for the Trust.

Through this strategy, the Trust aims to promote a proactive approach to environmental management to maximise benefits and minimise risks to service users, staff, visitors, contractors and others through responsible management.

It is structured to give an update on what we have already achieved and what we are aiming to achieve by 2026.

Our strategy is organised around 5 priority areas:



Estates, assets and Utilities



Travel and transport



Waste



Sustainable purchase of goods and services



Greenspaces and biodiversity



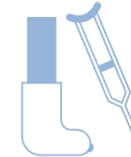
2.0 A Bit about us

We are a large organisation providing a diverse range of health related services for a population of 380,000.



226 Buildings
on 58 Sites

141,000
Emergency Department
Attendances



13,600
Staff

The Trust in Numbers

400,000
Outpatient Attendances
and Day Cases



885 Beds

58,000
Inpatient Admissions



Annual
Budget £810
million

5500
New Arrivals
each year





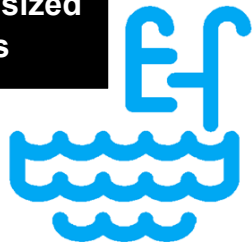
Our facilities use 112,000 MWh of gas, oil and electricity each year; the same as powering 13,000 homes

We produce over 3,075 tonnes of waste a year, the same as filling over 24,600 household wheelie bins



3.0 Our Environmental impact

Our sites use around 295 million litres of water which is the same as filling around 118 Olympic sized swimming pools



We spend £790,000 on photocopying and printing



Our staff currently commutes over 13.5 million miles a year same as circling the earth over 540 times



We have reduced our carbon footprint by over 5,000 tonnes and electricity consumption has remained static despite increased facilities between 2015 and 2020



We have promoted the cycling to facilities through provision of shelters for bicycles and cycle purchasing schemes



4.0 Our achievements so

In recent years we have significantly invested in the improvement of facilities that includes installation of combined heat and power plants, replacement of oil fired heating boiler to natural gas (approximately 25% of our estate) and installation of low energy lighting (approximately 30% of our estates) to reduce energy consumption



Each year the Trust generates 310 tonnes of reusable and recyclable materials



5.0 What we want to achieve by 2026

We want to deliver sustainable healthcare, by reducing our environmental impact, protecting the natural environment and enhancing social value

Our sustainability objectives are to:

Empower our staff to put sustainable and environmental issues at the heart of their work, giving them the necessary tools, resources and training to make responsible decisions



Measure and report on the Trust's progress against statutory targets

Manage our buildings and resources in the most effective way to minimise our environmental impact



Our strategy is organised around the five priority areas of



Estates, Assets and Utilities



Travel and Transport



Waste



Sustainable Purchase of Goods and Services



Green Spaces and Biodiversity

They set out our aims, proposed actions and how the success of those actions can be measured



Estates, Assets and Utilities

We consume a substantial amount of oil, gas, electricity and water;

**112 MWh total energy consumption
293 million litre of water**

The reduction in our carbon footprint by over 5,000 tonnes has been very successful over the last 5 years. This has been attributable to ‘green electricity’, the installation of combined heat and power plants and upgrading the thermal efficiency of our buildings.

Whilst a significant amount of data analysis has been undertaken to understand the use of utilities; further work though the installation of metering systems and building management systems is needed. This will provide the Trust with ‘real time’ consumption monitoring of utilities and enable systems to be controlled automatically and remotely.

The Trust has an ageing infrastructure and a conditions survey is needed to ascertain current status and assist in the identification of poorly performing facilities for improvement.



Estates, Assets and Utilities

What do we want to achieve

- Continue to reduce our carbon footprint, in line with Government climate change targets
- Understand the condition of our facilities infrastructure to assist in the identification and prioritisation of improvements
- Improve monitoring and the measurement of the consumption of utilities to identify opportunities for improvement
- Support staff to understand their environmental impact and how to reduce their impact in the workplace
- Put sustainability at the centre of our Estates strategy, adopting energy and water conservation in significant refurbishments and new build facilities
- Ensure compliance with environmental legislation and best practice

How will we achieve it

- Baseline and benchmark current performance, identify opportunities for improvement and seek to align with best practice within the sector
- Carry out survey of our facilities
- Continue to invest in building and services infrastructure to reduce energy consumption
- Develop ambitious targets to reduce energy and water consumption. This will be underpinned by a focused action plan of targeted schemes which seek to improve efficiency
- Collaborate, engage and share knowledge internally and with external organisations
- Inform and educate staff, patients and visitors about how their actions affect energy and water consumption
- Respond quickly to maintenance events which lead to energy or water waste
- Review new building and service technologies and where feasible pilot test application suitability for wider implementation

How to measure what we are doing

- Analysis of facilities survey information and identification of infrastructure priorities for improvement
- Utility consumption, carbon production and cost reports

Key milestones by 2026

- Completion of thermal comfort strategy by 2021
- Setting benchmarks for utility consumption, 135 facilities by 2021
- Completion of metering utilities, 135 facilities by 2021
- Installation a minimum of 15000 LED lighting fittings which will reduce CO² emissions by over 500 tonnes; installation of 5,000 LEDs by 2021
- Completion of controls, automatic monitoring and alert systems for utility consumption by 2026
- Install renewable heating/ power equipment/ plant in 2 facilities annually
- Carry out 10 energy audits annually



Travel and Transport

Air pollution impacts upon human health from before birth to old age.

It has been linked to a wide range of poor health outcomes including asthma, coronary heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer, with emerging evidence showing impacts on low birth weight, diabetes and neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Disease.

In the UK, air pollution is responsible for an estimated 6 million sick days every year, with estimated total economic costs of £20 billion.

The Trust has widely dispersed facilities in many locations with limited public transport which has resulted in a high dependence on use of cars. The promotion of information on public transport and encouraging staff on alternative modes of transport are needed to reduce this dependence.

With Government policy on electric vehicles; appropriate electric charging points will be needed for staff and visitors.

The COVID pandemic has accelerated the use of video conferencing technologies and reduces the need for personal staff meetings and some in-person patient appointments. The pandemic has also changed the way the Trust conducts its business with some staff remote working; which has led to reduced travel.



Travel and Transport

What do we want to achieve

- Keep a significant proportion of our outpatient appointments as telephone or video consultations
- Reduce the amount of business travel across and between our sites
- Reduce demand for car parking and single occupancy travel
- Work with suppliers to increase the efficiency of deliveries and to minimise the associated carbon emissions
- Increase active travel and use of public transport by staff, service users and public

How will we achieve it

- Work in collaboration with clinicians to remove unnecessary journeys for patients to clinical appointments
- Continue to invest in Trust wide facilities for teleconferencing, video conferencing and homeworking to reduce business travel
- Support staff to consider different options for travel to and from work
- Promote forms of active travel, including walking, running and cycling across our sites provide sufficient secure lockers, changing and shower facilities
- Move towards 'green fleets' across our organisation, ensuring that when electric or hybrid options are available that diesel engines are phased out
- Set progressively lower emissions standards for any external suppliers from whom we procure services
- Roll-out of electric charging points available to staff and visitors across our sites
- Carry out travel surveys to improve our understanding of how staff and patients travel to our sites
- Raise awareness of the harmful impacts of air pollution through campaigns

How to measure what we are doing

- Travel survey
- Carbon emissions from travel
- Proportion of Trust fleet that is electric or hybrid
- Provision of electric vehicle infrastructure
- Proportion of video and telephone outpatient consultations

Key milestones by 2026

- Development and implementation of electric vehicle charging strategy by 2021
- Installation of 15 bicycle shelters, showers and lockers 10 by 2022
- Installation of 100 electric vehicle charging points; 30 by 2022
- Work with transport providers to encourage increased use of public transport by staff via fare concessions by 2022



Waste

The Trust produces over 3,075 tonnes of waste each year.

The waste disposal systems are established with segregated waste streams and compliance with environmental legislation.

General waste that cannot be recycled is reducing. This waste is diverted from landfill and used as Refuse Derived Fuel.

Auditing waste streams is needed to assess the effectiveness of systems in place.

A key area for waste reduction is the minimisation of packaging on the products that we consume; working closely with suppliers will be needed to achieve this.





Waste

What do we want to achieve

- Reduce the amount of waste that cannot be recycled
- Minimise the amount of waste created and promote recycling alternatives
- Reduce the amount of food waste produced across our outlets
- Influence suppliers and on-site retailers to reduce packaging
- Improve our measurement and monitoring of waste streams
- Ensure compliance with environmental legislation and best practice

How will we achieve it

- Inform and educate staff, patients, visitors and suppliers about what can be recycled, and disposed to ensure better segregation of waste at source
- Dedicated recycling initiatives in key clinical areas about what can be safely recycled or reused
- Replace single use products with reusable alternatives across our clinical and non-clinical areas where feasible, including through purchasing systems
- Use our purchasing power with suppliers to minimise packaging
- Promote a culture of reuse and refurbishment of items where it is cost effective, rather than buying new

How to measure what we are doing

- Auditing of waste streams
- Measure the amount of overall waste recycled
- Proportion of products reused

Key milestones by 2026

- Update and publish all staff information on SharePoint by 2021
- Completion of spillage procedures by 2021
- The provision of recycling infrastructure in all facilities by 2021 and set benchmarks for waste production by 2022
- Carry out 40 waste audits annually
- Upgrade of 3 external bin storage areas annually
- Complete staff waste reduction campaigns in 2022 and 2024

£

Sustainable Purchase of Goods and Services

A review of how sustainability influences and impacts on current procurement practise is needed.





Sustainable Purchase of Goods and Services

What do we want to achieve

- Develop an in-depth understanding of the sustainability issues relevant to specific consumables
- Engage with suppliers to promote awareness of ethical and sustainable approaches in their supply chains
- Consider 'whole life' costs and impacts when assessing equipment for purchase or lease
- Purchase goods from sustainable sources with a focus on those from local, ethical and fair trade suppliers, where appropriate
- Promote social value through our contracts and suppliers
- Purchase and/or prioritise those items that have a high recycled content

How will we achieve it

- Establish baselines for impact of procurement on the Trust carbon footprint
- Include in our tender processes eligibility and evaluation criteria that take into account environmental issues, sustainability, local economic and social value factors as appropriate
- Work in partnership with our suppliers to support our sustainability priorities including reducing packaging
- Raise internal awareness of sustainability issues as part of the purchasing of goods and supplies through the promotion and communication of information
- Work in collaboration with centres of procurement expertise

How to measure what we are doing

- Carry out an impact assessment

Key milestones by 2026

- Key milestones and timescales to be determined from impact assessment



Greenspaces and Biodiversity

Buildings and the way they are used can have a strong influence on health and well-being of all users. We should ensure design and use of our estate maximises opportunities for all who use our sites to adopt healthy behaviours.

We will introduce the use of green space on or near our facilities for staff, patients and visitors to use for exercise, rest, relaxation and recovery.





Greenspaces and Biodiversity

What do we want to achieve

- Improve awareness of green space to the community, patients and staff by identifying and communicating what we have
- Promote and enhance natural environment
- Improve provision of greenspaces across our sites
- Promote physical activity in our greenspaces

How will we achieve it

- Assess greenspaces across the Trust, with the aim of understanding which sites and areas might be under provided for or not properly utilised
- Work with external organisations to enhance green spaces and biodiversity
- Raise awareness of our greenspaces to provide a staff and patient haven for recovery and rest
- Promote and encourage use of green spaces via easily accessible information and introduction of external gym equipment
- Implement tree planting and improvements to biodiversity

How to measure what we are doing

- Frequency of planting events
- Number of areas developed into greenspaces

Key milestones by 2026

- Planting 15,000 trees; 6,000 by 2021
- Completion and implementation of a biodiversity strategy by 2022
- Developing a range of greenspaces annually for staff and patients as determined by the Greenspace Working Group

6.0 Reporting and Governance

New sustainability policy has been developed and is currently progressing through the Trust's approval process. This will initiate a Trust wide Sustainability Committee to be convened to set direction and implementation of sustainability proposals and programmes.

We will report annually through the sustainability section of the SHSCT Annual Report and Accounts.

This sustainability strategy is underpinned by a sustainability action plan which will be monitored by quarterly Sustainability Committee meeting.

