

Policy Framework Statement 2013-16

Sustainability

1. National Context

The Climate Change Act (2009) continues to drive sustainability measures across Scotland including annual targets for Co2 reduction, duties to maintain and protect biodiversity and the requirement to actively consider climate change adaptation. The challenging national commitments are reflected in public sector duties and targets and specific requirements for NHS Boards. These are set out in the Policy on Sustainable Development for the NHS in Scotland and the Revised Sustainable Development Strategy (January 2012) and link to the national outcomes including:

- We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.
- We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect it and enhance it for future generations.
- We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.

NHS Boards are required to have clear governance and leadership arrangements in place to ensure that all legislative and mandatory requirements relating to sustainability are met. This includes the development of an annual Sustainable Development Action Plan, and regular assessment and reporting using the Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model (GCCAM). GCCAM sets out a framework for sustainable development focusing on:

- Travel
- Procurement
- Facilities
- Community Engagement
- Workforce
- Buildings

2. Local Context

NHSGGC is committed to a comprehensive approach to Sustainability focused on demonstrable improvement across the six themes of GCCAM.

The Board's Sustainable Development Action Plan is led by the Sustainability Planning and Implementation Group. Progress has been made across all the six themes and in meeting legislative and mandatory requirements. However, energy costs are a significant and growing cost pressure for the Board due to increases in gas and electricity tariffs, carbon charges and changes to supply arrangements. Further increases in gas and electricity tariffs are expected in future years. Achieving sustained reductions in energy use is a core part of cost savings plans and a key aim of this framework.

To achieve reductions in use requires a combination of better capital planning, improved 'housekeeping' and individual behaviour and management of buildings, introduction of more energy efficient equipment and an increase in energy and environmental awareness. Site specific energy reporting is now available to support local action.

3. Key Issues for Planning Frameworks

In developing outcomes, planning frameworks should consider:

- The potential for service redesign to include reduction in costs due to energy use and carbon emission, by considering accommodation, use of buildings and travel arrangements for staff and patients.
- How communities will be engaged in service developments.
- How programmes of work to shift the balance of care will enable a shift away from high cost and high intensity areas, and support self management and development of local communities.
- Effective use of greenspace in the Board and its contribution to therapeutic outcomes.

Specifically, the Primary Care planning framework should consider how accommodation strategies for independent contractors will include sustainability and environmental concerns.

4. Additional Direction for Development Plans

A large number of actions in the Board's Sustainable Development Action Plan will be led by the relevant Board wide leads, including for Procurement, Waste, Capital Planning and Facilities, under the direction of the Sustainability Planning and Implementation Group. Development plans (primarily the acute development plan) should include the actions which those Board wide leads will take for their area of responsibility.

All development plans should demonstrate how they will support this with local action in the following areas:

- Reducing energy use, using site energy consumption information as a baseline and measure of progress. This should include:
 - Supporting local implementation of the Ecosmart campaign, ensuring that key messages are communicated to staff, supporting local champions and enabling staff in high impact roles to attend environmental training.
 - Taking a more active role in understanding and addressing the use of facilities, including conducting local environmental audits and taking action to address the issues raised.
- Ensuring local building managers (e.g. health centre managers) take a more explicit and central role in reducing energy consumption.
- Ensuring that arrangements for joint planning with Community Planning partners support progress on:
 - Transport and travel, including the development of infrastructure for walking, cycling and public transport.
 - Use of green space and biodiversity.
 - Development of local suppliers.

- Community engagement and cohesion.
- Promoting active travel through:
 - Supporting alternatives, e.g. good cycle facilities, cycle/walking access routes, information on alternatives.
 - Supporting car sharing or pooling.
 - Carrying out a travel plan for major sites.
- Ensuring staff are aware of and able to access local recycling facilities, and support staff to segregate clinical and waste appropriately.
- Support staff and workplace health through:
 - Health at work initiatives. Achieve at least silver Healthy Working Lives award and commence plans for Gold.
 - Flexible working practices.
 - Increasing options for active travel and healthy food choices.
- Including sustainability issues in individual objective setting and performance review, and in local induction.

The overall targets we aim to meet through these approaches are:

- HEAT E8-1: Reduce Co2 emissions for fossil fuel related usage by 3% year on year till 2014-15.
- HEAT E8-2: Continue to reduce energy consumption based on a national average year-on-year energy efficiency target of 1% by 2014-15.
- Good Corporate Citizenship Toolkit: continued improvement in self assessment scores for each of the six themes.
- Compliance with Corporate GREENCODE.
- Reduction in domestic waste to landfill – 100% landfill avoidance.
- Excellent BREEAM Healthcare rating in new buildings, and a Very Good rating in refurbishments.
- Reduction in water consumption in our buildings.
- Reduction in Co2 emissions from road vehicles used for administrative purposes.