We want to know what you think!

This section of our Long Term Plan is still in development and has been shared at an early stage to allow time to incorporate feedback from local people, our partners and stakeholders.

If you have any comments, questions or think anything is missing, we would really like to hear from you.

Please email elhcp.enquiries@nhs.net before Friday 25 October 2019 so we can make sure your comments are considered before the document is finalised in November.

Environmental and social sustainability

Sustainable development should not be seen as a nicety or an add-on. The NHS already disproportionately bears the impact for many societal health issues including air pollution, poverty and low social mobility.

We need to deliver services which are environmentally sustainable and which maximise the opportunities for wider social value and embed sustainable development principles at the heart of integrated care.

We want to ensure a sustainable health and care system that works within the available environmental and social resources protecting and improving health now, and for future generations.

This means:

• Taking urgent action to reduce carbon emissions and pollution,
• Tackling waste and inefficiency in the system and make the best use of scarce resources,
• Building resilience to the changing climate, both in practical adaptation and community cohesion and
• Nurturing community strengths and assets, capitalising on current work to develop anchor organisations and the potential to increase social value.

These are the cornerstones of our strategic approach going forward.

Building on the success in the City and Hackney local system, we will create two further local system level sustainable development plans – one for WEL and one for BHR. These plans set out how to improve prevention, target environmental hotspots (e.g. air pollution, energy and waste) address national priorities (e.g. carbon reduction) and capitalise on social value from commissioning and procurement activity. The plans will feed into and support individual organisational plans, build on and share current and best practice (local and national), comply with national requirements and legislation, and support innovation between the three local systems.

This means how we:

• Design and deliver healthcare without harm
• Mobilise immediate and effective climate action
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- Make choices that enhance the wellbeing and life-opportunities for our residents
- Make choices that help us to live and thrive within our planetary boundaries
- Ensure that our progress does not leave anyone behind
- Collaborate and co-produce at every level.

Ensuring a successful sustainable development plan for NEL will not only reduce negative impacts – it will create maximum positive impact on the lives of patients and residents.

While the three strategies will support and build on local activity, overarching themes and outcomes will align at a north east London and national level.

We are leading action in four areas based on the Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model:

**Accountability and ownership**
To ensure we meet our sustainable ambitions we will be strategically placing accountability throughout NEL, at various levels of leadership and governing body positions. We are also taking a bottom-up approach to developing our plans to enable our significant workforce in NEL to take ownership of our sustainable development plans and embed them into ‘the way we do things around here’.

**Principles and values of sustainable healthcare**
We are working across our health and care partnerships, and with local residents, to define the local social and environmental priorities. This will help our leaders to bring social and environmental value to the forefront of how we plan and deliver health and care services.

**Travel**
The NHS is responsible for 5% of all journeys made in this country. As a group of organisations, we are committed to encourage active travel, e.g. walking to meetings, cycling, and car sharing and providers are exploring the potential for greater use of bicycles, electric/hybrid cars by staff and patient transport services. Examples of this include restricting new car loans for staff to hybrid or electric vehicles, positively promoting public transport and cycle loan schemes to staff, and we are working closely with Transport for London on specific plans for each of our main NHS locations to encourage patients and visitors to use more sustainable travel solutions.

Across NEL we are supporting staff to obtain maximum benefit from IT solutions e.g. providing portable devices and flexible working arrangements to minimise travel where appropriate. We are currently planning for the redevelopment of the Whipps Cross hospital site in Leytonstone, and are committed for the new facility to be environmentally sustainable.

**Procurement**
We are committed to improving and enhancing the embedded sustainable development and carbon efficiency principles within our procurement systems and processes. Bidders are required to demonstrate how they will meet these expectations around environmental impacts on the delivery of their services. Providers are required through the NHS contract to demonstrate progress on climate change adaptation, mitigation and sustainable development, including performance against carbon reduction management plans, and to provide a summary of that progress in their annual reports.

Significant opportunity to boost social and environmental value through our procurement processes have been identified in C&H and we expect to find the same across wider NEL. Capitalising on these opportunities, collaborating and sharing success will be paramount to our work over the next (length of plan) years.
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Procurement leads from across the partnership are joining together to help standardise improvement across NEL and share best practice and learning.

Facilities management
Facilities management has a key role in making the NHS more sustainable. Sustainable facilities management ensures that environmental impacts are minimised and local economies and communities are supported in the operation of the NHS estate. This means:

- Complying with environmental and other appropriate legislation.
- Making highly efficient use of resources such as energy, water, land and products.
- Preventing and minimising waste.
- Protecting green space and biodiversity.
- Supporting local communities and economies.

At a staff level, all organisations in the partnership are committed to make the most efficient use of resources e.g. by:

- Recycling paper, cardboard, toner and printer cartridges
- Installing low energy light bulbs
- Limiting access to printers via staff ID badges and discouraging colour printing
- Increasing use of online solutions for routine business processes e.g. Workforce online system for staff management and payslips, software solutions for viewing meeting papers on devices.

Buildings
Decisions about the planning, design and construction of new buildings and the refurbishment of existing ones are important opportunities to contribute to health and wellbeing and to a more sustainable NHS.

In all building and refurbishment schemes we are working with contractors to ensure sustainable development objectives are properly specified, understood and delivered, and to meet the formal requirement to apply the BREEAM healthcare environmental and sustainability standard where appropriate.

We are using building projects to trigger improvement in other areas, like designing with wellbeing in mind, promoting active travel and cutting carbon, and expanding green and natural spaces. We are maximising sustainability performance through all phases of a building’s lifetime – planning, design, construction and operation and intend to support a strong and sustainable local economy by involving local suppliers in building projects.

We are also exploring ways we can improve health and wellbeing in primary care networks through sustainable initiatives, for example, supporting food growing networks or enabling small scale community energy project centred around GP member practices,

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**Spotlight on: Barts Health’s approach to sustainability**

The Barts Health Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2013-2020 sets out its ambition for delivering world-class healthcare whilst ensuring that the organisation remains fit to do so both now and in the future. It has set a target to be the most sustainable trust in the UK by 2020.

Key objectives include:

- Reduce the trust carbon footprint by 34% by 2020 (based on a 2007 baseline)
- Reduce the trusts water consumption by 30% by 2020 (on a 2013 baseline)
- Reduce the trusts waste arising’s, per patient, by 15%
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- Fully integrate sustainable and ethical procurement practices into the Barts Health procurement strategy, policy and processes for all goods and services
- Embed sustainable behaviours through active change programmes

Outcomes
We will develop and advance the principles of commissioning environmentally sound and efficient services –from a local and global perspective -and the commitment to social value, across NEL:
- Co-create partnership level sustainable development plans for WEL and BHR that support and enhance organisational objectives and provide structured opportunities to pool resources.
- Highlight opportunities for improvement in current sustainable development plans
- Prioritise a healthcare without harm approach.
- Create engaged and accountable leads, and inspired delivery roles, across WEL and BHR organisations that are equipped to mobilise a fresh sustainable approach to health and care for 2020/21.
- Establish the NEL partnership is a beacon for sustainable best practice.

Summary
- We will work together as a partnership to meet the NHS five financial tests
- We are committed to becoming a sustainable financial system
- We will embed environmental and social sustainability across our footprint and deliver services which maximise the opportunities for wider social value