



Summary of Primary Care Net Zero and Climate Emergency Work by Integrated Care Boards in England

Summer 2024

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Foreword from Greener Practice Directors

With this updated snapshot of the ground-breaking work being done by the primary care teams across England, we see a clearer picture of what best practice might look like for all Integrated Care Boards (ICBs). It is uplifting to read that over the last year such tangible progress has been made where such teams have been created, there's a great deal to celebrate!

However, to the best of our knowledge this is an incomplete picture. We hope that by reading about successes in other parts of the country, many more ICBs will be inspired and encouraged to create clinically-led primary care Net Zero and Climate Emergency teams to initiate action as part of their upcoming Green Plan refreshes.

On behalf of all members of the Greener Practice network, we sincerely thank Grace Ridler and Dr Emma Radcliffe for their deep commitment and great tenacity chairing Greener Practice ICB Primary Care Net Zero Leads' groups over recent years. The Clinical and Non-clinical leaders' groups evolved by word of mouth under the Greener Practice umbrella. Through attending the monthly meetings, those who lead (or are interested in leading) primary care's drive to Net Zero have built relationships, shared learning and expanded networks. We look forward to even greater success in the coming year.

Dr Katrina Davies on behalf of Greener Practice directors:

Dr Aarti Bansal, Dr Honey Smith, Dr Tamsin Ellis, Dr Kath Brown

6th October 2024

About Greener Practice

Greener Practice is a Community Interest Company (CIC) and the UK's primary care sustainability network. It was formed in 2017 by a small group of GPs in Sheffield who wanted to help primary care become more environmentally sustainable. We became a CIC in 2021 and have collaborated on projects with many other health organisations such as the Royal College of GPs, the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare, Health Education England and the Health Foundation. We are a member of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (UKHACC).

Over the years we have expanded our network to around thirty [local groups](#) across the UK, from the Highlands of Scotland to Cornwall, with groups in all four nations. We also have national [special interest groups](#) which allow people to share information and best practice on topics such as clinical care, respiratory care, education, nature and health, as well as a vibrant GP trainee forum.

Our [website](#) features information, resources and a [High Quality, Low Carbon Asthma toolkit](#) to make it as easy as possible for practice staff to improve patient care whilst reducing costs and carbon emissions. Following the success of the asthma toolkit, we have received funding for a raft of new "off the shelf" QI toolkits, due for launch in spring 2025.

Background

The purpose of this document is to showcase work that has been done in Primary Care by some ICBs in England as part of their Green Plans in order to meet the Greener NHS net zero targets.

The first version was released in summer 2023, and this version has been updated in summer 2024 with even greater detail to reflect the changing positions and progression of work. This document is here to promote learning, and we aim to highlight work that has been effective and can be replicated elsewhere.

Any ICBs who have been informally associated with the Greener Practice groups were invited to contribute. This is not a comprehensive document, but we are delighted that we have received detailed updates from 22 ICBs - over 50% of all ICBs in England.

This has been an informal, collaborative project in order to rapidly share ideas. Greener Practice has agreed to collate the information which has been contributed, but has not checked the veracity of the content.

We welcome feedback for future iterations - please contact Greener Practice to join the groups: contact@greenerpractice.com.

Never has the need to act been more urgent. However, despite the enormous challenges, Primary Care is rising to the occasion and momentum is building.

Thank you to all those who contributed.

Dr Emma Radcliffe and Grace Ridler
Chairs of the informal ICB Clinical and Non-Clinical Leads Greener Practice Groups

Get involved: [Greener Practice – Greener Practice – UK's primary care sustainability network](#)

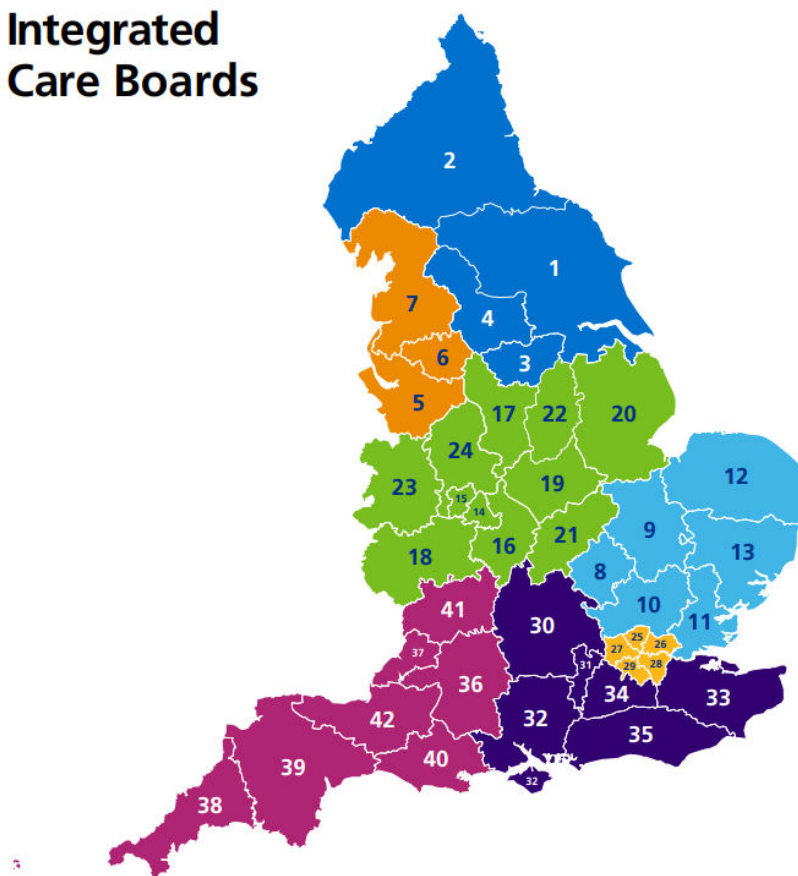
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Integrated Care Boards

There are 42 Integrated Care Boards across England, listed below using the [NHS England ICB map](#).

Integrated Care Boards



North East & Yorkshire 1 NHS Humber and North Yorkshire 2 NHS North East and North Cumbria 3 NHS South Yorkshire 4 NHS West Yorkshire	Midlands 14 NHS Birmingham and Solihull 15 NHS Black Country 16 NHS Coventry and Warwickshire 17 NHS Derby and Derbyshire 18 NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire 19 NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland 20 NHS Lincolnshire 21 NHS Northamptonshire 22 NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 23 NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin 24 NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent	South East 30 NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West 31 NHS Frimley 32 NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight 33 NHS Kent and Medway 34 NHS Surrey Heartlands 35 NHS Sussex
North West 5 NHS Cheshire and Merseyside 6 NHS Greater Manchester 7 NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria	London 25 NHS North Central London 26 NHS North East London 27 NHS North West London 28 NHS South East London 29 NHS South West London	South West 36 NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire 37 NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire 38 NHS Cornwall and The Isles Of Scilly 39 NHS Devon 40 NHS Dorset 41 NHS Gloucestershire 42 NHS Somerset
East of England 8 NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes 9 NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough 10 NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex 11 NHS Mid and South Essex 12 NHS Norfolk and Waveney 13 NHS Suffolk and North East Essex		

1 April 2023

List of Integrated Care Boards by Region

- North East and Yorkshire

- NHS Humber and North Yorkshire
- NHS North East and North Cumbria
- NHS South Yorkshire
- NHS West Yorkshire

- North West

- NHS Cheshire and Merseyside
- NHS Greater Manchester
- NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria

- East of England

- NHS Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
- NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
- NHS Hertfordshire and West Essex
- NHS Mid and South Essex
- NHS Norfolk and South Waveney
- NHS Suffolk and North East Essex

- Midlands

- NHS Birmingham and Solihull
- NHS Black Country
- NHS Coventry and Warwickshire
- NHS Derby and Derbyshire
- NHS Herefordshire and Worcestershire
- NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland
- NHS Lincolnshire
- NHS Northamptonshire
- NHS Nottingham and Nottinghamshire
- NHS Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin
- NHS Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent

- London

- NHS North Central London
- NHS North East London
- NHS North West London
- NHS South East London
- NHS South West London

- South East

- NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West
- NHS Frimley
- NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight
- NHS Kent and Medway
- NHS Surrey Heartlands
- NHS Sussex

- South West

- NHS Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire
- NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
- NHS Cornwall and The Isles of Scilly
- NHS Devon
- NHS Dorset
- NHS Gloucestershire
- NHS Somerset

Summaries from Integrated Care Boards

North East and Yorkshire Region

NHS Humber and North Yorkshire

Leadership:

- Pete Thorpe, Interim Executive Director of Strategy and Partnerships. Board level SRO for sustainability
- Stephanie Porter. HNY ICB AD Estates, Infrastructure and Sustainability
- Dr Aarti Bansal. HNY Clinical Net Zero Lead. Focus on inhaler carbon footprint.
- Dr Rumina Onac. Nimbuscare Sustainability Lead (Role ended March 2024) (Nimbuscare is primary care at scale provider owned by 11 York Practices)

Achievements:

- Green Plan approved at Board Level and measure on inhaler environmental sustainability integrated into HNY ICB Joint Forward Plan
- Development of HNY Sustainable Medicines Group and linked Pharmacy and MO Green Plan strategy 24-28 (respiratory, diabetes, medical gases, antimicrobial stewardship and medicines waste)
- New HNY Asthma Guidance highlighting ICS-combination inhalers and DPIs.
- Training on Better and Greener Asthma Care for the whole ICB through webinar.
- Medicines Management Enhanced Service (improving patient care incentive) approved for reducing SABA overuse and increasing DPI prescribing with implementation guide. It also includes an indicator to increase uptake of reusable pens/insulin cartridges where appropriate and introduction of SMART insulin pens.
- Visual Guide for Optimising Asthma Reviews supported by HNY ICB “Sheep Shed” awards produced and nationally endorsed.
- 15k from Healthier Futures Action Fund used in North East Lincs (Oct 22-Jun23) for bespoke support in asthma care led to improvement in poorly performing area.
- Formation of Greener Practice York and North Yorkshire Group for engagement of local GPs
- Annual training to Hull Generalist School on Sustainable Quality improvement
- Blister recycling Scheme.
- GIFH engagement of 11 Nimbuscare practices
- Membership of the North East and Yorkshire Sustainable Medicines Group

Contact:

- aarti.bansal1@nhs.net

Website:

- [Green Primary Care - Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care Partnership](#)
- [Diagnosing and Treating Asthma in Humber and North Yorkshire](#)

NHS North East and North Cumbria

Leadership:

- *No data available.*

Achievements:

- **ICS Level**
 - Design and pilot of [Greener Inhaler campaign](#) to promote responsible disposal and benefits of respiratory reviews, rolling out across NENC in 2024-25. Inhaler recycling scoping identified opportunities and barriers to implementation of a community pharmacy inhaler recycling scheme.
 - The '[At A Glance](#)' [respiratory guidance](#) has been designed by the NENC Respiratory Network to improve patient outcomes through better respiratory disease control. By prescribing the most appropriate inhaler for each individual person with consideration for lower carbon options (where suitable), it will ultimately have an impact on the environment.
- **Place**
 - Gateshead PEP- All practices asked to appoint a climate coordinator, attend training, complete travel audits and create action plan
 - South Shields- training and small financial grant for practices to write own sustainability plan or complete Green Impact for Health Toolkit.
 - South Shields and Sunderland asthma guidelines updated to label 'green' options
 - North Cumbria general practice sustainability scheme 2022-23 including clinical carbon footprint, non-clinical carbon footprint, staff engagement and public engagement.
- **Education**
 - Appointment of Sustainability teaching fellow post at Newcastle Medical school
 - Teaching sessions for GP trainees in the Northumbria GPVTS
 - Teaching sessions for GP TPDs on incorporating sustainability into sessions
 - Student SUS QIP
 - Two HI NENC virtual workshops on greener prescribing, including inhalers, for PCN pharmacists and practice nurses.
 - All North Cumbria practices have at least one champion who has completed Carbon Literacy training, and most practice staff have completed eLFH 'Building a Net Zero NHS'.
- **PCN**
 - Easington Central PCN public facing campaign and pharmacy technician reviews to improve convenience for patients, and reduce medicines and travel waste. The project saved 813 miles of travel equivalent to 275kg carbon equivalent.
- **Examples of work by individual practices (members of Greener Practice)**
 - Talks to practices
 - Pessary QIP to change from Vagifem to Vagirux
 - Change from oil fired heating system to air source heat pump and solar panels
 - Green issues on regular meeting agendas
 - Deprescribing QIPs
 - Inhaler QIPs as per GIFHT
 - Introducing recycling schemes- blister packs, recycling boxes, proper labeling of clinical waste bins
 - Staff travel audit

Contact:

- *No data available.*

Website:

- *No data available.*

NHS South Yorkshire**Leadership:**

- Dr H Smith (Clinical Sustainability Lead SY ICB (1 day / week)
- Kavitha Sethumadhavan (formerly Net Zero Senior Programme Manager SY ICB)

Achievements:

- Green Plan approved at Board Level
[NHS SY Sustainability and Green Plan V1.0 Sep 2022.pdf \(syics.co.uk\)](#)
- Active South Yorks Sustainable Respiratory Group (chair Deb Leese: respiratory lead pharmacist for Sheffield), has supported work on Asthma Right Care, a successful Inhaler Returns campaign, work on appropriate antibiotics prescribing in asthma and COPD, sustainability- focussed Asthma and COPD guidelines for Sheffield.
- Successful student selected component for 4th year medical students who spend 6 weeks learning about the CEE as a health and clinical issue, sustainable health care and who deliver sustainability outcomes to SY GP practices.
- Support (across SY and WY) of Clinical Fellow working on encouraging active travel for primary care / GP visits across several practices.
- Ongoing work of SY Greener Practice (Fran Cundill, Chair) - 6 weekly meetings engaging primary care, and respiratory event as a protected learning initiative
- Waiting room videos created for medicines and inhaler returns, reducing medicines wastage and active travel to surgeries.
- £5,800 Healthier Futures Fund bid won to extend a successful pilot project on reusable coil packs for GP surgeries, and now ready for roll out .
- Sheffield PCNs have funded Dr Fran Cundill as sustainability lead for a group of PCNs to achieve sustainability objectives e.g. working on switch to reusable tourniquets in GP.
- Medicines wastage reduction campaign underway involving collaboration between primary care, community pharmacists and patients. LES on medicines wastage in place
- Several practices have achieved first level accreditation on ModeShift through the work of Fran Cundill and other Greener Practice members

Contact:

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Website:

- [South Yorkshire – Greener Practice](#)
- [Publications: South Yorkshire I.C.B \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS West Yorkshire**Leadership:**

- *No data available.*

Achievements:

- WY Health and Care Partnership have declared as one of their 'Big Ambitions', "We aspire to be a leader in the delivery of environmentally sustainable health and social care through increased investment, mitigation and culture change throughout our system." We promote this via [Climate change :: West Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership \(wypartnership.co.uk\)](https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/Climate-change)
- Formation of a West Yorkshire Greener Practice Network. The group meets several times a year, usually remotely, to share ideas and innovations, inviting speakers from varied fields to spark debate and combine thinking. We promote the resources on the [Greener Practice – Greener Practice – UK's primary care sustainability network](https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/Greener-Practice) and encourage practices to use the Green Impact for Health Toolkit <https://toolkit.sos-uk.org/greenimpact/giforhealth>
- We provide regular green updates to practices via Primary care bulletins.
- We have an active West Yorkshire Pharmacy Network for Sustainability and the Environment [Medicines, pharmacy and the environment :: West Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership \(wypartnership.co.uk\)](https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/Medicines-pharmacy-and-the-environment)

Contact:

- Frank Swinton frank.swinton@nhs.net West Yorkshire Sustainability Lead
- Judith Churley Judith.churley2@nhs.net West Yorkshire Greener Practice

Website:

- [Climate change: West Yorkshire Health & Care Partnership \(wypartnership.co.uk\)](https://www.wypartnership.co.uk/Climate-change)

North West Region

NHS Cheshire and Merseyside

Leadership:

- Dave Sweeney, Associate Director of Partnerships and Sustainability
- Becky Jones, Sustainability Programme Lead
- Mandi Cragg, Sustainability Programme Manager
- 1 Chief Sustainability Officer's Clinical Sustainability Fellow (Sep 23-Aug 24)
- Dr Kiki Lam, GP Padgate medical centre, Warrington, and Dr Nadja van Ginneken, GP Vauxhall Health Centre Liverpool. Co-leads on the ICB Primary Care Green Plan implementation strategy (unpaid)

Achievements:

- Refreshed the [10-Point Green Plan for Primary Care](#) to include dentistry, optometry and pharmacy alongside general practice (2024)
- Completed carbon footprinting of two optometry practices in Liverpool. Subsequent report and advice for optometry will be promoted during autumn 2024.
- £20k funding provided to Cheshire and Merseyside Greener Practice for sustainability pilots / projects commenced September 2024.
- Increased engagement from general practice and PCNs with the Anchor and Social Value work. In early 2024 we celebrated the first PCN and first GP practice signing the [Anchor Charter](#).
- ICB Sustainable Travel Plan has been completed for publication for 2025.
- Working with partners from general practice, NHS trusts, police, fire service, local authorities and third sector in Cheshire to provide a comprehensive social prescribing directory of activities, support and providers.
- Greener Breaths: implementing a strategy to prevent inhaler overuse and educate on the new GINA-based asthma guidelines (ongoing)
- Medicines waste campaign: core group of ICB Chief Pharmacist, place lead pharmacist and primary care leads working on adapting the Dorset meds waste campaign to Cheshire & Merseyside.
- Central Liverpool PCN level sustainability lead (pilot) by Dr Nadja van Ginneken, (paid 1 session per month since December 2023 for 1 year initially).
 - Deprescribing project with network pharmacists (Dec 2023-Sept 2024): focus of deprescribing brought into SMR reviews for those on > 10 repeat meds. This simple refocussing intervention doubled the deprescribing rates amongst pharmacists
 - Air quality project with geography students: assessing air pollution around Central Liverpool PCN (CLPCN), and estimating air quality impacts of tree screens in most polluted areas (due to have results Nov 2024).
 - Green Impact for Health Toolkit : pilot across 4 practices in CLPCN (submitting in September 2024).
 - 2 pocket garden projects in GP surgeries (Vauxhall Health Centre and Brownlow Health@Princes Park) , which have included joint work with gardening collaboratives and schools, and a series of winter workshops for patients and staff.
 - Energy audits across all 10 practices of CLPCN (ongoing)

- proposal submitted to Groundswell research project for 'reconnecting to green spaces': ensuring accessibility from GP practices to local green spaces, green space improvement, workshops (e.g. on growing, physical activity).
- Greener Practice-ICB meeting alternate months; Greener Practice member meetings alternate months.
- Taking part in research projects with sustainability aim:
 - Kidzmed study (switching from liquid to tablets/ teaching kids to take tablets) - taking part in this.
 - Deprescribing in Palliative care (research project)

Contact:

- Nadja van Ginneken candmgreenerpractice@gmail.com
- Mandi Cragg, Sustainability Programme Manager - mandi.cragg@cheshireandmerseyside.nhs.uk

Website:

- [Sustainability - NHS Cheshire and Merseyside](#)

NHS Greater Manchester

Leadership:

- 1 Sustainability Programme Director
- 1 Senior Sustainability Programme Manager
- 1 Senior Sustainability Project Manager
- 1 Chief Sustainability Officer's Clinical Sustainability Fellow (Sep 23-Jul 24)
- 0 Primary Care Clinical Leads - Dr David McKelvey retired March 2024. Thank you for your passion and tireless dedication to the green agenda in Greater Manchester!
- (1 voluntary GP supporting programme 1 session per week)

(note: Primary Care Clinical Leads are the only roles focused specifically on Primary Care, but there is input and involvement from wider team on specific projects)

Achievements:

- Continued promotion of [10-step plan to Greener Primary Care](#) (adapted from Cheshire & Merseyside 10 point plan).
- GP Practice energy reduction project completed in Salford Locality, [report available with lessons learned & top tips](#). Average annual cost & carbon savings of £4,400 and 7,510kgCO2e. Next steps are to include learning from report in the System Primary Care Estates approach.
- Completion of Healthier Futures Action Fund 2022 project to develop and roll out a pilot for incentivised Primary Care travel survey & travel plan creation: the Healthier Greener Travel toolkit. Opportunity promoted for providers to participate and have the opportunity to bid for funding to support interventions. 110 providers registered interest, and 40 providers participated in the travel surveys; 2,057 patient responses and 204 staff responses received. Survey results shared with TfGM for insights. 8 providers (all GP) submitted completed toolkits and received financial incentives. 5 providers submitted successful bids for sustainable travel interventions including purchase of e-bikes, cycle shelters, and repairing shower facilities. Healthier Greener Travel toolkit currently under review following feedback, for wider release in 2024.
- [Short Guide to Cycle to Work Schemes](#) created (adapted from Cheshire & Merseyside guide).

- [NHS Guide to Installing Solar Power](#) developed with Greater Manchester Combined Authority to provide information and signposting for providers considering installing solar power, including cost modelling.
- Average carbon footprint per inhaler reduced from 13.16kgCO₂e in April 2023 to 12.95kgCO₂e in April 2024. Switch prompt for generic salbutamol & Ventolin inhalers to Salamol has been approved through medicines optimisation governance, to be rolled out with an updated greener inhaler communications campaign. Low carbon inhaler dashboard in use for GM monitoring and promoted to GP practices and trusts to enable accurate monitoring.
- Introductory sustainability training videos are currently being developed with Greater Manchester Training Hub for their Introduction to Primary Care course (due to launch October 2024), with plans for a further high quality low carbon asthma care training module.
- Sustainability KPI included in Salford locality locally commissioned service scheme focusing on action in practices and high-quality low carbon asthma care. General Practice Sustainability Advocate Forum created in pilot approach, for consideration for roll-out in the other 9 Greater Manchester localities.

Contact:

- Grace Ridler, Sustainability Manager - grace.ridler@nhs.net

Website:

- [Green Plan | Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership \(gmintegratedcare.org.uk\)](https://gmintegratedcare.org.uk)
- [Sustainability - GM PCB](#)

NHS Lancashire and South Cumbria

Leadership:

- Exec Lead: Sam Proffitt, Chief Finance Officer
- Director Lead: Alistair Rose, Director of Strategic Estates, Infrastructure and Sustainability

Achievements:

- Clinical Lead recruited 1 session/ week from February 24. Has trained over 100 trainee GPs. Trainees are encouraged to undertake a final year project around environmental sustainability.
- Series of 6 lunchtime webinars for Great Big Green week. Recorded and now available on our Greener ICB internet site here. An average of 30 staff attended each session.
- New Greener Practice Lancashire & Cumbria Group has been approved June 24. 43 members on primary care Greener WhatsApp Group. 16% of our practices have nominated Green lead.
- 29 GP practices signed up to Destination Net Zero programme which provides free audit, carbon reduction plan and funding advice. 23 have already received their audit from the Chamber of Commerce. This is now being offered to other areas within primary care with half day in-person workshops scheduled for July and September to share learning.

- Active Travel Lancashire has enabled 9 GP practices to improve their cycling infrastructure, 2 of which now use electric bikes for patient visits, further funding has recently been released and is currently being applied for.
- Environmental Sustainability at Regional Nursing and AHP Conference and Digital Town Hall. A staff member from all 275 practices has received an introduction to the Green Plan, usually via practice manager forums.
- Medicines Management team hosted a drop-in session for practices to support sustainable medicines. Checklist is on the primary care area of the Greener ICB site [here](#)
- ICB decarbonisation bid to SALIX for £2m on behalf of CHP primary care buildings (Darwin and Yarnspinnners) has been successful. This will be rolled out over the next 2 years.
- NuGreen granular waste audits within 4 GP practices, summary report is expected shortly.
- Inclusion of 'Kidzmed messaging' in OptimiseRx for antihistamine liquids. The impact will be assessed in October (end of summer)
- ICB Joint Working Project with Astra Zeneca to optimise asthma treatment: Implementation has begun across 5 different networks within the ICB. Completion due end of August and evaluation report available end of October re scalability.
- Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) bid submitted by Redmoore Health was successful. £100k to be spent developing a digital roadmap to net zero- 10 practices have signed up to the pilot stage.

Contact:

- Net Zero Project Manager Allison.sathiyathan@nhs.net

Website:

- [Greener NHS: Home \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://icb.nhs.uk)

East of England

NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Leadership:

- *No data available.*

Achievements:

- Sustainability Training for Practice Managers
- Green Tool for Dentistry-see case study
- RAPID ASTHMA PROJECT: Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Asthma Review Service- A pilot supplementary asthma review service in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough to drive a rapid transition to a situation in which local asthma care has improved clinical outcomes, reduced inequities, much lower carbon footprint, and there is a reduced workload for practices.

Contact:

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Website:

- [Greener NHS | CPICS Website](#)

NHS Suffolk and North East Essex

Leadership:

- Amanda Lyes, Director of Workforce is SRO for Sustainability
- Andrew Urquhart, Sustainability Lead

Achievements:

- **Inhaler switches.** An integrated programme which was awarded Presqipp winners in Sustainability in 2022 has continued.
 - Forming an ICB working group with leads from Sustainability, respiratory, transformation, GPs and LPC
 - Ensured Low Carbon inhaler Option at every step at asthma and COPD guidelines.
 - High and Low carbon symbols on all inhalers on guidelines for easy identification
 - Information around appropriate inhaler disposal
 - Using community pharmacy New Medicine Service to support inhaler switching.
 - Training sessions on low carbon inhalers
 - Patient focused communications
 - Resources in practices to support with low carbon inhalers.
- Project continues to focus on patient communications, staff training, appropriate prescribing scheme and innovations such as ***Improving asthma care through implementation of the SENTINEL programme***. Key findings from the pilot site included SABA prescribing reduced in North Colchester PCN at the end of the

12-month pilot compared to before launch. Patient feedback was positive about switching to MART inhaler from the engagement workshops.

- **Medicines waste project.** Has been initiated with LPC, Primary Care and ICB Medicines Management Team. A phased programme is being developed to have a system-wide approach to advice patients and healthcare practitioners on reducing medicine waste and safe disposal.
- **Health innovations** work included trialling cold chain solutions within refrigerators to reduce medicines waste at three general practices. [Improving cold chain with BioPCM®- platform based Apollo™ Smart Panels - Health Innovation East](#)
- **Primary care digital records.** Over 50,000 primary care paper records digitised plus securely and sustainably destroyed.
- **System wide digital carbon challenge.** Collation of best practice and digital interventions alongside behaviour change programmes to reduce electricity usage.
- **Air quality and activities to reduce air pollution.** In partnership with SCC Public Health working with general practices and patient groups. Engagement to listen to patients and residents' lived experience of the impacts of air pollution on health. Training to nurses on the impacts of damp and mould on health and interventions that be made. The work is informing our approach on how best to support primary care and patients. **Indoor air quality pilot project** on signposting warm homes team to improve housing conditions that also reduce carbon of the patient's home and the care pathways through less travel, hospital admissions and prescribed medicines.
- **Fuel Poverty workshop training.** Through our role in Charing the Essex Climate Anchors Working Group (in partnership with system partners, Essex County Council and Citizens Advice Bureau) 546 individuals in front line services received training in Essex in 22/23.
- **Gloves off project.** ICB Nursing team has led the system partners on developing gloves use reduction project to reduce our single use plastic consumption, this is also being rolled out to care homes and GP surgeries. Training sessions, marketing materials and mentoring is provided. Five general practices currently onboarded.
- **Social Value in procurement** inclusion on procurement (LES) contract seeking to add value through the social value model and reducing carbon emissions.
- **Community Gardens in general practices.** North East Essex Alliance. Kennedy Way Medical Centre, Clacton on Sea in partnership with NHS Property Services and Abbeyfield Medical Centre, Colchester. Have created community gardens within their Practices. Working with VCFSE organisations to plant areas and create safe spaces. These include raised beds, men shed and the addition of a wildlife pond (both Kennedy Way). The spaces are used by social prescribers, care homes for dementia patients (Abbeyfields) and a variety of community groups including veteran support schemes utilising the green space for preventative and rehabilitative activity. The areas also act as a focus for individuals and communities to visit to combat loneliness. More sites are earmarked for development to expand the green spaces concept across SNEE.
[Kennedy Way Community Garden \(youtube.com\)](#)
- **Green & social prescribing.**
 - **Nature based prescribing introduced in West Suffolk Alliance with RSPB.** RSPB Nature Prescriptions are a guided conversation between a healthcare professional and their client supported by tailored materials with the aim of strengthening a person's connection to nature to benefit their wellbeing. Nature Prescriptions are designed as prompts for people to bring nature into their everyday lives, wherever they live. There is no need to travel or join groups, and they are free for the recipient to use. Following a

successful pilot in Primary Care in 2020/21, RSPB Nature Prescriptions are being delivered across England and recently RSPB secured funding from external partners to deliver a Nature Prescriptions project with healthcare professionals in West Suffolk. It is early days for the project, but planning is underway with the next step being to pull together Social Prescribing Link Workers from across the Alliance.

- **The Food Museum project is called the “outdoor wellbeing experience”.** It offers a place where people can be supported and benefit from natural settings. Participants are supported through green therapies such as conservation and food-based activities:

- Gardening and planting in the walled garden area,
- Work with the bird of prey release programme,
- Laying of hedges,
- Learning plant/animal identification,
- Participants can choose their interest and develop skills in that area.

The aim of the project is to enable people to feel more connected and confident in their communities through participation in the 10-week programme and take part in 2 sessions per week. They then go on to be volunteers within the museum and can be mentors for the next programme. It has been excellent for its sustainable support and ongoing opportunities for participants. Participants have seen an average increase in their personal wellbeing scores of 25%.

- **Greenlight Trust** has worked closely with Suffolk PCNS and Alliances to develop a programme that supports patients with complex needs and support. Using nature and woodland settings as a conduit for therapy and support. Benefits of the Greenlight Trust partnership include patient wellbeing scores improving, average reduction of 10 GP visits per patient per annum and benefit to public service of £1.71 to every £1 invested. [Our Impact Explained | Green Light Trust](#)

- **Active travel, walking and cycling prescriptions.** Successful joint funding social prescribing active travel bid attracting £1.4m investment to Suffolk County Council to encourage walking, cycling to improve health and climate outcomes. [Active travel social prescribing pilots: local authority allocations - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The scheme is in year two and the ICB, General practice, University of Suffolk and Suffolk County Council are working in partnership to this integrated project.

In North East Essex the Alliance continues to work closely with Active Essex and VCFSE partners to improve walking and cycling through our social prescribers and general practices

- **Dental Healthcare Suffolk**, part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, delivered a Sustainable Quality Improvement project on the reduction of single use plastics in dental procedures making potential savings of 33168 kg of CO₂e, 75.8kg clinical waste and £1085.44, if rolled out over all 8 dental clinics service wide. Dental Healthcare Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough all won a bronze award for working through the Green Impact for Dentistry Toolkit and are working towards a silver award for 2024.

Contact:

- Andrew Urquhart, SNEE ICB Sustainability Lead andrew.urquhart@snee.nhs.uk

Website:

- SNEE Green Plan [NHS SNEEICS - Green Plan](#)

- SNEE ICB [Sustainability - NHS Suffolk and North East Essex ICB](#)
- SNEE ICS [Environmental Sustainability - Suffolk & North East Essex Integrated Care System \(sneeics.org.uk\)](#)

Midlands Region

NHS Coventry and Warwickshire

Leadership:

- Two Sustainability fellows in place - Aspiring Leaders fellowship (1 year term) in Sustainability. Funded 2 sessions per week.

Achievements:

- Continued the meetings set up for greener practice Coventry and Warwickshire branch by the previous year's fellows. Regular meetings and newsletter quarterly now sent out to summarise updates.
- Written local 10-point plan to feed into Coventry and Warwickshire ICB green plan.
- [Coventry & Warwickshire Green Plan Refresh 2022-25 \(covwarkpt.nhs.uk\)](https://www.covwarkpt.nhs.uk/greener-practice)
- Initiated "Bronze award in a Day" programme to engage practices with the Green Impact for Health Toolkit and promote best practice.
- Promoting the "Kidzmed" project locally (started by North East and North Cumbria Healthcare) to encourage pill swallowing and reduce liquid medicine prescribing.
- Rewriting APC guidelines for inhaler prescribing to promote greener choices as first line and reduce prescribing of MDIs.

Contact:

- katie.benge@trinitycourtsurgery.nhs.uk - Aspiring Leaders Fellow - Sustainability

Website:

- [Coventry and Warwickshire – Greener Practice](#)

NHS Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Leadership:

- No funded role. Clinical Lead for Greener General Practice Oct 22-Mar 23 funded by Healthy Futures Action Fund

Achievements:

- Development of Green Plan for General Practices as part of Healthy Futures Action Fund bid. Published Summer 2023
- Medicines Optimisation Green sub-group - working on reducing the carbon footprint of inhalers, reducing medicines waste and overprescribing.
- Green Champions identified in each practice.

Contact:

- amanda.woodgate@nhs.net

Website:

- <https://leicesterleicestershireandrutland.icb.nhs.uk/our-work/greener-general-practices/>

London Region

NHS North East London

Leadership:

- Four sessions a week for Net Zero Clinical Leadership (currently under consultation as a result of ICB running cost reductions)

Achievements:

- Hosted Primary Care focused Greener NHS webinars. [Recordings available here.](#)
- Providing carbon literacy courses to primary care sector via SEE Sustainability (in 2024, no budget to continue this offer at this time)
- Huge education package delivered across ICB. Providers included the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH). See 2024 [prospectus](#)
- Over two years engaged over 500 people at in person events, talks, conferences etc.
- A gold, silver and bronze for the Green Impact for Health (GIFH) toolkit awarded to practices within North East London
- Hackney has included the Green Impact for Health Toolkit into a Local Enhanced Service (LES) for 2024/2025
- Created dedicated space for Primary Care Professionals [Green Primary Care – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)
- [Green Team competition](#) with CSH saved over 27,872Kg CO2e and included two projects involving GP practices.
- The team have advocated for clean air, active transport, greener spaces and healthier diets through national and local campaigns, social media and through the medical press.

Contact:

- nelondonicb.nelgreenteam@nhs.net

Website:

- For ICS Green Plan [Green plan - North East London Health & Care Partnership \(northeastlondonhcp.nhs.uk\)](#)
- For Primary Care Professionals [Green Primary Care – North East London \(icb.nhs.uk\)](#)

NHS North West London

Leadership:

- NWL Primary Care Sustainability Lead
- (Previously funded post 'Primary Care Clinical lead for Green Agenda - Ealing Borough' ended June 2024)

Achievements:

- 'Inhaler Management' presentation at the Primary care Webinar (June 2024)
- Launch of the NW London Training hub Green Initiative website
- Ealing Weekly Newsletter for Primary Care Team
- Ealing Green Champions meetings - quarterly

- NWL Pharmacy Green and Sustainability Working Group
- NWL Primary Care Sustainability Group - individuals who attended Primary Care Sustainability course (delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare), funded by NWL ICB
- 'Green Initiative' specification included for the 2nd year in Ealing Primary Care Specifications 2024/25
- General Practice Award 2023 finalist - 'Clinical Improvement Award: Public Health & Prevention' - NWL ICB Ealing Primary Care Team
- Work with Turner & Townsend - sustainability programme looking at ways of working with regard to energy, inhalers and waste management etc.

Contact:

- vasusiva@nhs.net

Website:

- <https://nwltraininghub.co.uk/boroughs/ealing/ealing-green-initiatives/>
- <https://www.greenerpractice.co.uk/ealing/>

NHS South East London

Leadership:

- 18 individuals from SEL Primary Care have attended 21 courses delivered by the Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH) using the ICB purchased voucher codes to upskill themselves.
- SEL ICB has hosted a Chief Sustainability Officer's Clinical Fellow placed under the integrated medicines optimisation team Sept 2023-24 working closely with the ICB Head of Corporate Programmes and Sustainability.
- Partnership Southwark piloting impact assessment guide to help ensure the sustainability angle is covered in all integrated decision making.

Achievements:

- Achieved reduction in CO2e in mean carbon impact of around 31.4% kg CO2e per [salbutamol inhaler prescribed](#) in March 2024 compared to March 2022. [Asthma guidelines](#) for adults, children and young people have been updated to promote starting greener inhalers (ICS/LABA) first line and reduce SABA use for asthma management. Following SEL ICB management restructure, there are now pharmacists with sustainability included in their new roles and job descriptions. Sustainability has also been considered in new or revising existing clinical guidelines, contract tender requirements for pharmaceuticals and other products by the Meds Op team where applicable.
- Rolled out of [SEL inhaler recycling pilot](#) commissioned by NHS England using existing NHS infrastructures in 20 community pharmacies and SEL hospital Trusts. Multi-stakeholders involving voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, local councils, local waste teams.
- Co-hosted [London Greener NHS virtual week](#) May 2024 with London Greener NHS Regional team which featured several speakers from SEL.
- Monthly SEL ICS Sustainability Network bulletins being cascaded to Green champions, key stakeholders involved in the ICS Green Plan and within ICB. Bi-monthly primary care sustainability meetings are held virtually to engage SEL staff with the SEL ICS Green Plan and provide feedback.

- Brockwell Park Surgery Herne Hill, Lambeth borough has a practice garden designed to offer a therapeutic and participatory outdoor environment to their patients. The garden is divided into areas for fruit, vegetables, herbs, woodland plants, and flower borders. Clinical staff can refer patients for social therapeutic horticulture sessions, which take place via the practice garden group. In 2020, the GP practice was the winner of a Blooming Lambeth Award in the category of Community Food Growing.
- Blackfriars Medical Centre and Elm Lodge GP practices undertook the Mayor's Business Climate Challenge which is an energy efficiency programme that provides no-cost support to private businesses to make their workplaces more energy efficient, reduce energy costs and support businesses on their pathway to zero carbon.
- Completion of two primary care focussed active travel projects:
 - Partnering with Cyclepods, successful installation of 60 high-security cycle storage pods across the General Practice estate
 - Partnering with the active travel charity Sustrans, successful delivery of a programme of education around cycling, walking and wheeling (including the provision of pool bikes) in PCNs across Lambeth, Bexley and Bromley.
- Some primary care estates have invested in renewable energy like solar panels where one owner of a SEL community pharmacy has won [Sustainable Pharmacy of the Year](#) in 2023. E-bikes for community nursing visits at Guys and St Thomas' – for more information click [here](#).

Contact:

- James Colley, Head of Corporate Programmes and Sustainability, SEL ICB - james.colley@selondonics.nhs.uk

Website:

- [Our Green Plan - South East London ICS \(selondonics.org\)](https://selondonics.org/our-green-plan-south-east-london-ics)
- [Sustainability in Primary Care - South East London ICS \(selondonics.org\)](https://selondonics.org/sustainability-in-primary-care-south-east-london-ics)
- [Joint Forward Plan - Sustainability \(selondonics.org\)](https://selondonics.org/joint-forward-plan-sustainability)

South East

NHS Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West

Leadership:

- ICB Head of Net Zero: Robert Bowen, Deputy Director of Strategy and Partnerships
- Net Zero Primary Care Lead: Julie Dandridge, Head of Primary Care Infrastructure, Head of Pharmacy, Optometry and Dentistry, Lead for Primary Care across Oxfordshire

Achievements:

- Established a PC Net Zero Working group with representation from place and meds ops team.
- Contributed and included Net Zero principles and goals in the PC strategy.
- Begun establishing connections with PCNs via a 'programme launch' event.
- Begun establishing connections with potential group procurement facilitators for solar panels in GP Surgeries.

Contact:

- Julie Dandridge julie.dandridge@nhs.net, Jonathan Stevens jonathan.stevens@nhs.net or Hannah Cole-Hall hannah.cole-hall@nhs.net

Website:

- <https://bobicb.nhs.uk>

NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Leadership:

- Lead GP represents primary care on the ICS Sustainability Board
- Presentation made to GP leads across HIOW.

Achievements:

- Supported and judged the first HIOW Green Practice award.
- Using the SHAPE Atlas to develop a support package for GPs on primary care.
- Good progress on inhaler substitution

Contact:

- Andy Wood, Deputy Director of Finance (Capital, Estates and Sustainability)

Website:

- [Integrated Care Board: NHS Hampshire and Isle of Wight \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://icb.nhs.uk)

NHS Kent and Medway

Leadership:

- Alison Watson - Greener NHS Lead, NHS Kent and Medway
- Simon Brooks-Sykes - Deputy Director for Strategic Estates and Sustainability, NHS Kent and Medway

- Cath Cooksey - NHS Kent and Medway, Lead Medicines Optimisation Pharmacist
- Sam Coombes - East Kent Hospital University Foundation Trust, Lead Medicines Information Technician

Achievements:

- Roll out of the **Green Impact for Healthcare Toolkit (GIFHT)** across Primary Care and roadmap to net zero. One practice has achieved the Gold Standard Award which means they have implemented significant steps to reduce their carbon emissions and impact on the environment which also delivers better patient and staff experience and intend to apply for Platinum in September 2024. One PCN has achieved Bronze. Another PCN has incentivised practice sign up which has achieved 100% practice engagement with the toolkit. The ICB is looking at how we can support practices to engage and the development of an ICB-wide dashboard with the toolkit developers.
- **Gloves Off Campaign** raising awareness of the appropriate use of disposable gloves and Infection Prevention and Control support for when glove use is not necessary.
- Sustainability training has been delivered to **ST2 GP Registrars** at Maidstone Post Graduate Centre.
- Year 1 sustainability **Student Selected Component** launched at Kent and Medway Medical School with a Year 2 option coming soon!
- **Re-hale inhaler recycling** in partnership with Chiesi. [East Kent inhaler recycling: NHS Kent and Medway \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk) Estimated carbon savings if 10% of all inhalers prescribed in EK are recycled: 186,222 kg Co2e plus the added benefits of all other inhaler components from DPI and MDI being recycled. Currently 100 sites have signed up. Winner of Sustainability Hero award at NHS Sustainability Partnerships awards and Pharmacy Congress CPC Awards
- **Inhaler switch** - Nov 23 data shows 45% reduction in Ventolin prescribing - estimated carbon footprint savings 730,000 kg Co2e. Patient experience videos created and promoted demonstrating benefits of switching from MDI to DPI. As of Feb 24, 75 practice reviews now complete. 3700 patients reviewed, 2500 stopped salbutamol inhalers, and increase from 27% to 73% of patients using DPI rather than MDI.
- **Chief Sustainability Officers Clinical Fellow** starting in September 2024 for a 1-year placement to engage practices on green agenda and supporting roll-out of GIFHT and Gloves Off Campaign across Primary Care.

Contact:

- Alison.watson25@nhs.net - NHS Kent and Medway Greener NHS Lead

Website:

- [Home: NHS Kent and Medway \(icb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.icb.nhs.uk)

South West

NHS Bath, North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire

Leadership:

- BSW ICB has hosted a Chief Sustainability Officer Clinical fellow Angela Willis for one year on secondment working in the estates team, secondment ends August 31st 2024. As part of the secondment Angie has engaged with PCN's and led the below project.

Achievements:

- Successful bid to obtain funding from the NHSE South west Net zero fund for primary care initiative.
- Delivered 3 sustainability educational events across BSW in May to a range of primary care professionals using the funding.
- 27 Practices have signed up to the Green Impact for Health Toolkit through a financial incentive scheme using the funding. Previously there were only 2 practices signed up to the toolkit.
- Two practices have now achieved Bronze, and one silver to date (July 2024), with ongoing progress towards to the Green Impact for health awards.
- Greener practice representatives identified at practice level to work collaboratively with other practices who have signed up to the Green Impact for health toolkit to work towards sustainability in primary care.

Contact:

- bswicb.estates@nhs.net

Website:

- [Greener BSW - BSW Together](#)

NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire

Leadership:

- Dr Jess Wynter Bee & Dr Rob Chisman - ICB Primary Care co-leads for sustainability (funded by Health Inequalities fellowship & Newly Qualified GP fellowship). Nil ICB funding. Dr Marion Steiner - Involved in Green Social Prescribing & nature promotion - voluntary.

Achievements:

- Asthma & COPD inhaler guidelines updated & ICB-wide SABA overuse project in development.
- Healthier with Nature pilot site - 2yr project to promote green social prescribing and develop projects in ICB. Now funded for further time. Not achieved by us but worth mentioning as helpful if other areas want to implement something similar.
- Regular 2-monthly Greener Practice meetings & newsletter
- ~20 practices engaged with meetings, taking action + some uploading evidence for GIH toolkit.

- Starting CATCH (Communities Acting Together for Climate and Health) programme. A collaboration between primary care and the local VCSE alliance to develop community-based projects with a climate and health focus. Started to try and recreate the Cornish Climate network in our ICB.

Contact:

- greenerpracticebristol@gmail.com

Website:

- <https://remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/bnssg-icb/greener-practice/>

NHS Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Leadership:

- Primary Care Climate Resilience Programme, funded by the ICB until Sept 2024, employed under third sector org Volunteer Cornwall. Team includes 3 ICA Project Officers (1 FT, 2 PT). 1 Data Officer (PT). 1 Programme Manager (PT). 2 Clinical GP Leads (2 sessions per month per clinician). 1 Green Ranger (PT mostly for secondary care, funded by RCHT).

Achievements:

- WellFed Cornwall - Project tackling T2 Diabetes through community grown veg box prescriptions [WellFed Cornwall | Cornwall Climate And \(healthandclimateresilience.net\)](http://WellFed Cornwall | Cornwall Climate And (healthandclimateresilience.net))
- String of Green Pearls - Project pioneering green spaces for health [String of Green Pearls | Cornwall Climate And \(healthandclimateresilience.net\)](http://String of Green Pearls | Cornwall Climate And (healthandclimateresilience.net))
- £150k successfully secured through grant applications.
- 50% of practices audited through energy charity CEP. At least £60k of immediate savings identified. All money paid for energy audit goes straight back into the community through CEP.
- Multiple Cornwall Greener Practice learning sessions. Fortnightly newsletters. Annual in person Health and Climate Skills Lab event.
- 80% of practices registered to the Green Impact for Health Toolkit. 60% awarded, including 3 Platinum.
- Continued partnership working with secondary care, service providers, ICB, public health.
- Much more! Take a look at our website!

Contact:

- Emily O'Reilly emilyo@volunteercornwall.org.uk

Website:

- [home | Cornwall Climate And \(healthandclimateresilience.net\)](http://home | Cornwall Climate And (healthandclimateresilience.net))

NHS Gloucestershire

Leadership:

- Cath Leech, Chief Finance Officer and Sustainability Lead NHS Gloucestershire ICB
- Dr K Bristol Primary Care Environmental Sustainability Lead

Achievements:

- Practices chose from up to 3 out of 15 funded Sustainability QIMPs in tax year 23-24
- PCNs were funded to hold a sustainability workshop to facilitate the QIMPs
- 91% of practices got their forms back
- 8 of the 15 QIMPs were quantifiable giving an estimated 300 tonnes of CO2e saving.

Contact:

- Katherine.bristol@nhs.net

Website:

- [Environmental Sustainability in Primary Care | Useful Resources | G-care \(glos.nhs.uk\)](https://glos.nhs.uk)

NHS Somerset

Leadership:

- Christine Young, Sustainability Manager, NHS Somerset ICB.
- SRO: Alison Henly, Chief Finance Officer, NHS Somerset ICB

Achievements:

- Somerset ICB have supported the development of the Somerset Greener Practice Network (SGPN), this has been led by the Sustainability Team at Frome Medical Practice. The team have reached out to all practices across Somerset to understand the level of engagement there has been with sustainability up to now.
- The team then launched Bronze Now sessions to support practices to use the Green Impact for Health Toolkit. To date over a third of practices have attended the sessions and it is hoped all these practices will achieve at least Bronze Award level. The sessions have also acted as 'protected time' for practices to work on their own green plans.
- It was recognised that having a way to connect with other practices was key, so the team have developed a Mighty Network space for Somerset practices to get on demand support for the Green Impact for Health Toolkit. It is also a place for others outside Somerset and/or primary care to engage with the work happening in the county.
- Along with Frome Medical Practice and RCGP - Severn deanery, **Somerset ICB co-hosted the Green Impact for Health conference** - *Working towards a wellbeing economy*. The conference took place in July at Frome Medical Centre and focussed on the work done in Frome and beyond. Delegates came from across the country to focus on the environmental sustainability agenda and discuss ways to move focus to health creation.
- 'Show me your meds, please' – NHS Somerset Foundation Trust (SFT) project funded by SBRI and led by Dr Deborah Gompertz from SFT
'Show me your meds please' is a new model of care asking a simple screening question, during routine home visits by community staff, and provides the potential for massive reduction in medicines waste with subsequent environmental and cost saving benefits, along with improved individualised patient care. This campaign is being rolled out across primary and secondary care in Somerset and includes a package of training support around how to have meaningful conversations with patients regarding their medicines.

[‘Show me your meds, please’: the impact of home-based medicines assessments - The Pharmaceutical Journal \(pharmaceutical-journal.com\)](#)
<https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/>

Contact:

- Richard Podmore, Sustainability and Evaluation Lead, Green & Healthy Frome, Frome Medical Practice richard.podmore1@nhs.net
- Christine Young, Sustainability Manager, NHS Somerset ICB.
Christine.young36@nhs.net

Website:

- Somerset Greener Practice Network (Mighty Network)
https://somerset-greener-practice-network.mn.co/share/r8BAQRqSoV1NAQeX?utm_source=manual

Case Studies

Case studies have been submitted by ICBs to showcase their projects in more depth.

- Case Study 1: NHS Somerset Greener Digital Project
- Case Study 2: NHS Somerset 'Gloves Off!' Campaign
- Case Study 3: NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Greener Dental Care

All current national case studies are listed at [Greener NHS » System progress \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/system-progress/).

Case Study 1 – NHS Somerset Greener Digital Project (Nov 23 - Mar 24)

Funded by NHS England, the project consisted of two strands. One that focused on Social Value in Digital Procurement, the other on Carbon Risk Tooling.

Procurement Guidance produced by NHSE was tested across the ICS partnership (local authority, Trust and ICB). Some important learning came out of this, including the need to allow appropriate timescales for wider stakeholder engagement to understand what the market can deliver in terms of social value, what environmental opportunities might look like and how the procurement can better support the voluntary sector. The 10% weighting as driven by PPN 06/21¹ can often be wasted due to short timescales to deliver the procurement, and a disconnect between the commissioning authority objectives and the local community objectives. There is real opportunity here to deliver meaningful outcomes to our population through effective collaborative working.

Another key outcome from the project was the commencement of the two-year pilot programme testing 'Loop', a social value monitoring and measuring tool.

The carbon risk tooling included testing tooling produced by NHS England, and other climate risk tools that are available. The question around whether it's appropriate for risk management and analysis should sit with Sustainability or with Emergency Preparedness, resilience and response (EPRR) has been discussed frequently. There is also a shared concern that there are many different toolkits being used. Key outcomes from the project included a consistent approach to planning and guidance – not reinventing the wheel. A robust approach to redundant data is imperative. The electricity required to store around 3,500 emails (of 5MB each) produces as much CO₂ as driving a car over half a mile, and the importance of working with EPRR around developing robust mitigations and strengthening risk management to include broader risk around climate change, with particular focus on primary care.

¹ [Procurement Policy Note 06/21: Taking account of Carbon Reduction Plans in the procurement of major government contracts - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/taking-account-of-carbon-reduction-plans-in-the-procurement-of-major-government-contracts)

Case Study 2 – NHS Somerset ‘Gloves Off!’ Campaign

Collaborative project across sustainability and Infection prevention and control. Led by Christine Young, Sustainability Manager and Lucy Champion, Infection Prevention Control (IPC) Quality Improvement Nurse.



SOMERSET, TAKE YOUR GLOVES OFF!



Clean, bare hands that are washed regularly with soap and water or alcohol hand rub are just as effective as gloves where there is no exposure to mucous membrane or bodily fluids.

Disposable gloves are one of the biggest environmental hotspots, with 1.4 billion gloves being used across the NHS each year. Despite this usage there are many circumstances where glove use is unnecessary. Somerset ICB is on a mission to encourage healthcare professionals to reduce unnecessary use of non-sterile gloves. Using gloves when they're not needed not only contributes to environmental damage, but it also disrupts good hand hygiene practice.

Our 'Gloves Off' campaign ran in conjunction with National Hand Hygiene Day (05 May 2024) from 29 April – 12 May 2024. The campaign was rolled out across primary care and our care homes and received some great engagement. This is part of a wider sustainability and IPC campaign that will continue throughout the year focusing on various initiatives that reduce our environmental impact.

[Resources - NHS Somerset ICB](#)

[Using Gloves appropriately in healthcare \(Full VERSION WITH SUBTITLES\) \(youtube.com\)](#)

Case Study 3 – NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Greener Dental Practice

From April 2023 ICSs became responsible for commissioning primary care. We wanted to promote sustainable healthcare and enable colleagues reduce their carbon footprint. The carbon footprint of the NHS dental service is 675 kilotonnes carbon dioxide equivalents (CO₂e). From an emissions perspective, nearly 2/3 (64.5%) of emissions related to travel (staff and patient travel), 19% procurement (the products and services dental clinics buy) and 15.3% related to energy use. (B. Duane, 2017)

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough ICS led a Healthier Futures Action Fund bid, to relaunch a behaviour change tool, free to access by all dental practices in England.

The success of this project is due to the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the Steering Group and engagement panel of stakeholders (NHS Regional and ICS colleagues, a leading academic in Dental sustainability, a Local Dental Network Chair, sustainability fellows and a clinical policy manager from the Office of Chief Dental Officer England, as well as Students Organization Sustainability UK, (a charity)). The strength of the toolkit is that is underpinned by academic research and content and functionality shaped by sustainability and dental professionals. It is developed by the sector for the sector. Students are trained as assessors and this provides a meaningful work experience for undergraduates, external validation of progress and supports this low-cost model.

We worked through professional bodies and associations, to spread the word, explain the concept and provide support. We continue to raise the profile across teaching bodies and professional and membership organisations.

What are the results/impact?

As of August 2024, 273 dental teams have registered on the toolkit and are working towards awards. These practices have implemented 3,736 positive sustainability actions and reached 1.6 million patients through the programme. [Toolkit link here](#).

We are particularly delighted by the engagement of our Community Dental Service, whose experience in 2023 is recorded below:

“The dental teams decided to aim for a bronze award, we felt this was achievable given the added workload onto already busy days. I worked with the senior nurses to pick actions that were most in line with our Trust’s Green Plan and that staff felt most passionately about. This helped create ownership and a sense of achievement.

With various clinics and sites, we agreed each team had to pick what best suited their location and service provision. Our teams are really enjoying working through the toolkit, it has generated good conversations and changes within our organisation as well a bit of healthy competition. We hope to take part again next year and aim for silver or gold. Now that we have a plan of how the teams work, if we take part next year, we will be ready to go straight away.” Louise Brooks, Dental Nurse/Green Champion, Cambridgeshire Community Services



Our courtyard garden where staff can sit at lunch time and enjoy the sunshine, birds, and insects which we have attracted into the garden as part of action B021 on the toolkit. We have put up a bird feeder, water bath, bug hotel and bird box.

Cambridgeshire Community Services.