

Prime Practice Partnership Sustainability Plan

Context

The Climate Change Act requires the UK to reduce its emission to net zero by 2050 however in 2020 NHS England announced plans to achieve carbon net zero by 2040. Nationally, the NHS is committed to reducing its environmental impact and promoting sustainable development in all its forms. The NHS carbon footprint is currently 6.1 MtCO₂e per year rising to 24.9 MtCO₂e per year when patient and visitor travel is included (carbon footprint plus).

Every person and organisation have an obligation to mitigate the effects of climate change and unsustainable development. This means that the local health systems in which Prime Practice Partnership operate have to focus on sustainable development and carbon reduction. As provider of General Practice services we must continue to deliver safe and cost-effective healthcare, economically and ethically, whilst recognising the negative impact it has on the environment. The production of this Sustainability Plan allows us to clearly demonstrate our commitment to both improving our own sustainability approach and how we influence our partners, employees, patients and users of the service.

Drivers for change

The UK was the first major economy in the world to pass a law to end its contribution to climate change. This means that the UK will aim to balance any emissions generated through emission cutting or removal efforts – so called ‘Net-Zero’. This is reflected in NHS England’s guidance ‘delivering a net zero NHS’ (2020) that gives clear direction for how the NHS will cut its carbon emissions to zero by 2040. Given the size and reach of the NHS, how quickly we can advance to net-zero will affect how quickly the country succeeds. Prime Practice Partnership have our part to play in this to achieve this ambition.

Sustainable healthcare in the NHS is driven through national and international policy, legislative and mandated requirements and healthcare specific requirements from the Department of Health and NHS England.

Introduction

Prime Practice Partnership are embedded in the local communities in which we operate dedicated to serving our population by providing access to health services for residents. We see this commitment as inextricably linked to the protection of a healthier and more sustainable environment, the promotion of prosperity and economic opportunities for all and greater social well-being.

It is essential that we strive to improve the environment and have plans, in conjunction with the Landlords we hold leases with, to ensure we consider

sustainability and environmental factors in our operational delivery, and to hopefully influence the behaviours of others. This Sustainability Plan highlights key areas where Prime Practice Partnership will aim to improve our local environment, some of these areas are aspirational and need some continued focus.

Reducing Unnecessary Travel.

The first option for meetings will be to hold video calls, where possible to reduce unnecessary travel between our Practice sites. Where travel is unavoidable staff will use the most efficient modes of transport.

Prime Practice Partnership will allow flexible working for its core team members to ensure that each person has time to work remotely and reduce the amount of journeys taken each week. These small, achievable steps will help reduce our carbon footprint.

Our practice staff will assign the most convenient locations for our patients and help to reduce journey times for appointments and/or offer video consultation to reduce unnecessary travel. These are small changes to reduce our carbon footprint and become more sustainable.

Encourage environmentally friendly travel

Prime Practice Partnership offers staff members cycle to work schemes to help reduce our carbon footprint, and we will support our colleagues to cycle to work by offering a secure place to lock and store cycles, providing showers and changing facilities, and offering salary sacrifice schemes to purchase bicycles.

Recycle Scheme

Our practices are moving towards paper free with the introduction of technology to manage referral and discharge document workflow electronically. Prime Practice Partnership staff take training to support the management of waste segregation to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill, where we have dedicated bins for Plastics, Glass, Cardboard, Cans and tins, and clinical waste.

We have a dedicated waste contractor to manage segregation including clinical waste management.

Conserving energy in the workplace

We are dedicated to reducing unnecessary energy usage and have the following in place:

- Engage with landlords to install motion sensors for lighting, so they switch off when no one is in the room to minimise energy wastage.
- Our printers have sleep mode to ensure power isn't wasted
- All equipment that is not being used is switched off and unplugged, we have implemented a daily "sweep" system to ensure this is achieved.

- We are discussing sustainability plans with the landlord, which include improving the insulation, and windows to create low energy workspace
- Our heating system is very efficient and is time controlled to ensure power is not wasted.

Paper-Free

We are working towards paper free and very have little paper usage, where paper usage is monitored monitors so that we can ensure this target.

We have taken steps to reduce our paper usage through all clinicians use Electronic Prescription Service, we accept digital certificates and ID where appropriate, we digitise the majority of paperwork (timesheets, notes, patient documents etc), and all rotas are electronic.

Supply Chain

Our focus will be to use an environmentally friendly supply chain, using local providers wherever possible. We will influence our supply chain to support our commitment to Net Zero, working with them to support these ambitions.

Greener Practice Initiative

Prime Practice Partnership are part of the Greener Practice Initiative utilising their network and resources to help us improve our approach to environmental and sustainable issues, e.g. Asthma Care: Pressurised metered dose inhalers (pMDIs) contributed 13% of this carbon footprint in 2019. pMDIs contain hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) propellants which are potent greenhouse gases, 1530 – 3600 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In England, approximately 70% of inhalers prescribed are pMDIs. Dry powder inhalers(DPIs) have a much lower carbon footprint and can be safely and effectively used by many patients. PPP have switched to dry powder inhalers.

Our Commitment to Net Zero

Prime Practice Partnership is committed to be Net Zero for the emissions we can control by 2040, and those we can influence by 2045. These ambitions are in line with NHS England commitments.

Emission Reduction Targets

To progress achieving our Net Zero ambitions we will collect data to track our progress against a baseline to which we can project a reduction in carbon emissions. It is envisaged that carbon offsetting or technology such as carbon capture and storage will be deployed to achieve the difference between actual and net zero carbon within our reporting.

Carbon Reduction Projects

Prime Practice Partnership has completed the following projects to reduce our carbon emissions. They have included:

- This published Sustainability Plan provides our approach to environmental, social and economic pillars of the primary care activity we undertake of which carbon reduction is an important element.
- Move to agile working that has resulted in reduction of company business travel and commuting, which has reduced dependency on office space through use of MS Teams
- Clinical staff are using video conferencing for patient interaction to reduce trips to surgery
- Reduction in internal combustion engine company vehicles.
- Increasing recycled waste stream, to support the move to significantly reduce landfill waste
- Energy Efficiency: At Broad Street Medical Centre, we've implemented automatic power-off for IT and lighting systems after hours and secured LED lighting up-grades through collaboration with landlords. We've worked with our utilities provider to switch to a renewable energy tariff.
- Building management systems have been upgraded to reduce energy usage.
- Shared Resources: We co-locate ARRS staff and share equipment (e.g. water coolers, sharps boxes) with neighbouring practices (Heathway Medical Centre), reducing delivery mileage and environmental cost.
- Green Prescribing: Our PCN pharmacy team supports the transition to low-carbon in-halers. Over 98% of prescriptions are processed electronically via EPS. Social Pre-scribers link patients with community-led physical activity initiatives, such as walking groups.
- Community Engagement: We work with local voluntary organisations on environmental campaigns. At Broad Street Medical Centre, we run a battery recycling initiative (saving 1,000+ batteries from landfill), recycle toners, and encourage the use of reusable water bottles. Weekly patient sessions include digital and sustainability education, promoting paperless communication and reduced travel.

In the future Prime Practice Partnership hope to implement further measures such as:

- Implementation of ISO 14001 to support our sustainability strategy
- Interventions to reduce power consumption focussed on air conditioning, building fabric, insulation, space heating, ventilation and hot water.
- Feasibility study for onsite renewable energy sources through solar panel installation, in conjunction with the Landlord.
- Purchase of 100% renewable energy.
- Transition to zero emission vehicles. All vehicles purchased or leased to be ULEV towards goal of 90% of total fleet low, ultra-low or zero emissions by 2028 and totally net zero by 2030.

- Requiring suppliers to report their carbon footprint data to us to improve the accuracy of carbon measurement and engaging with suppliers to support our net zero goal.
- Evaluation of all clinical and non-clinical purchased products with specific plans for more efficient use such as reducing single use plastic, switching from disposable to reusable equipment and reducing use of paper. Using low carbon substitutions where possible.
- Active management and reduction of emissions from staff travel and introducing travel carbon budgeting and reporting.
- Deliver further reductions in emissions resulting from commuting to work. Encouragement of staff to use low carbon transport methods such as walking, cycling and public transport as well as a scheme to promote use of low or zero emission cars, including provision of EV charging points.
- Co-develop green estates with landlords through a review and audit of current estate and benchmarking local practices to help make the case for implementing building fabric upgrades, energy-efficient systems, and heat decarbonisation technologies.
- Use digital-first models to reduce paper and travel (e.g. MailADoc, NHS App, HealthTech1)
- Promote active travel with improved cycle parking and engagement with local walking/cycling groups
- Expand community programmes by partnering with local schools and green charities to deliver joint campaigns (e.g. clean air days, community clean-ups)
- Embed low-carbon pathways using tools like the Arden & GEM Net Zero Health and Care Pathway Tool to assess environmental impact of clinical models
- Promote sustainable procurement by selecting suppliers with low-impact, recyclable materials and consolidated deliveries
- Implement the Green Care Pathway Initiative to reduce the environmental impact of healthcare by optimising patient pathways and promoting sustainable practices – including streamlining processes, reducing waste, and integrating sustainable solutions across all stages of care delivery, such as resource and building optimisation.

Sustainability Plan Declaration and Sign Off

This Sustainability Plan and Carbon Reduction Commitment has been completed in accordance with PPN 06/21 and associated guidance and reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans.

Prime Practice Partnership will report and record emissions in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the GHG Reporting Protocol corporate standard and uses the appropriate Government emission conversion factors for greenhouse gas company reporting.

Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions will be reported in accordance with SECR requirements, and the required subset of Scope 3 emissions will be reported in accordance with the published reporting standard for Carbon Reduction Plans and the Corporate Value Chain (Scope 3) Standard.

This Sustainability Plan and Carbon Reduction Commitment has been agreed by Prime Practice's Board of directors.

Signed on behalf of Prime Practice Partnership

Signed... 

Name...Dr Hardip S Nandra

Position...Chair

Date... 1st April 2025