

Local Members Interest
N/A

Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee Monday 11 April 2022

NHS approach to Climate Change - Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Integrated Care System (ICS) Plan March 2022.

Recommendation(s)

I recommend that:

- a. Colleagues note the UK Government commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2050 and the two supporting targets for the NHS in achieving that commitment:
 - i. The NHS Carbon Footprint: for the emissions we control directly, to be net zero by 2040
 - ii. The NHS Carbon Footprint Plus: for the emissions we can influence, to be net zero by 2045.
- b. Note the plans the NHS has brought forward to address the challenge of climate change across the areas of focus outlined in this report
- c. Offer feedback to support further development and delivery together with opportunities for Local Authority and NHS ambitions to be jointly pursued.

Report of Name Chris Bird, Director of Partnerships, Strategy and Digital, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust and Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent ICS Senior Responsible Office for Sustainability.

Summary

What is the Overview and Scrutiny Committee being asked to do and why?

The NHS has ambitious targets to become net carbon zero by 2045 in support the UK Government commitment to be net carbon zero by 2050.

This will require the NHS to adopt a wide-ranging programme of change across several areas which are set out later in this report.

The NHS will not be able to deliver all of these measures in isolation and will require the support of, and ability to work with, a wide range of partners including Local Authorities at both upper and lower tier level.

The Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Integrated Care System (ICS) is required to produce an ICS Green Plan by 31st March 2022. This captures the work that has been done to date, the work currently in progress and the work that will need to be done through collaboration across partners over the coming years.

Report

1 Background

NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) vision is to deliver the world's first net zero health service and respond to climate change, improving health now and for future generations.

Climate change poses a major threat to our health and planet - the environment is changing, change is accelerating, and this has direct and immediate consequences for our patients, the public and the NHS.

The UK government has made a commitment to reach net zero carbon by 2050 – health and care system contributes c4-5% of the country's carbon footprint and therefore has a major role to play.

The report [*Delivering a Net Zero Health Service*](#) sets a clear ambition and target for the NHS.

Two clear and feasible targets are outlined:

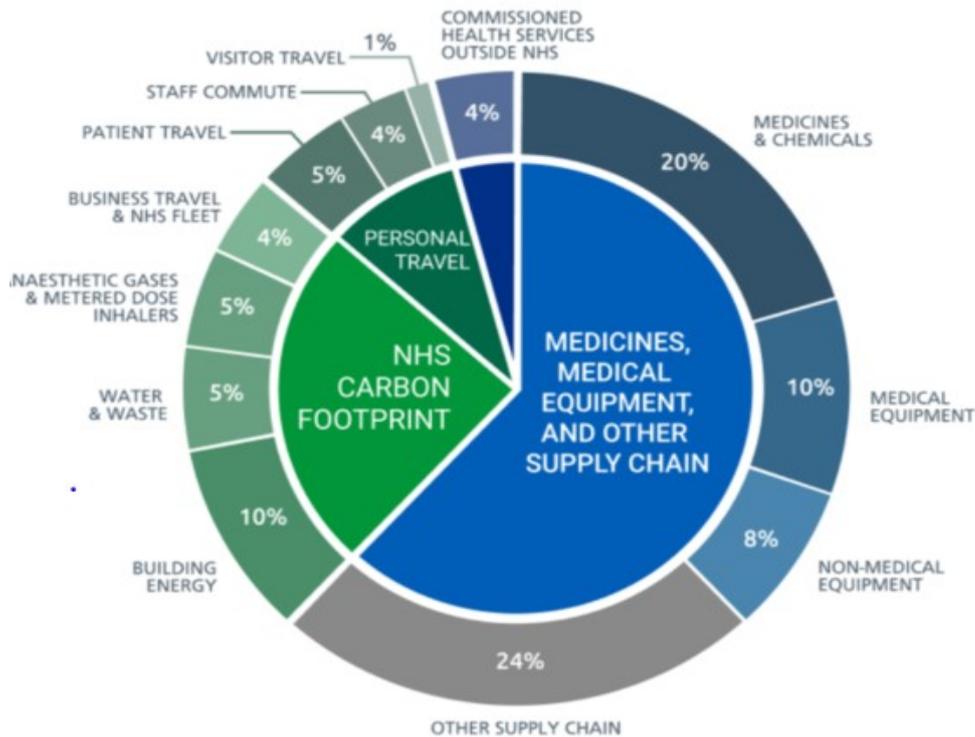
- The NHS Carbon Footprint: for the emissions we control directly, to be net zero by 2040
- The NHS Carbon Footprint Plus: for the emissions we can influence, to be net zero by 2045.

Each NHS Trust has produced a Green Plan and over recent months this has been expanded to include the ambitions and programmes of change that partners across the Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent geography have developed. This is captured in the ICS Green Plan which will be published on 31st March 2022.

2 The Carbon Footprint of the NHS

The health and care system contributes c4-5% of the country's carbon footprint and the carbon footprint of the NHS can be summarised in the schematic below:

The Carbon footprint of the NHS



In order to address the challenge of climate change and deliver reductions in the carbon footprint, a number of programmes of change have been developed:

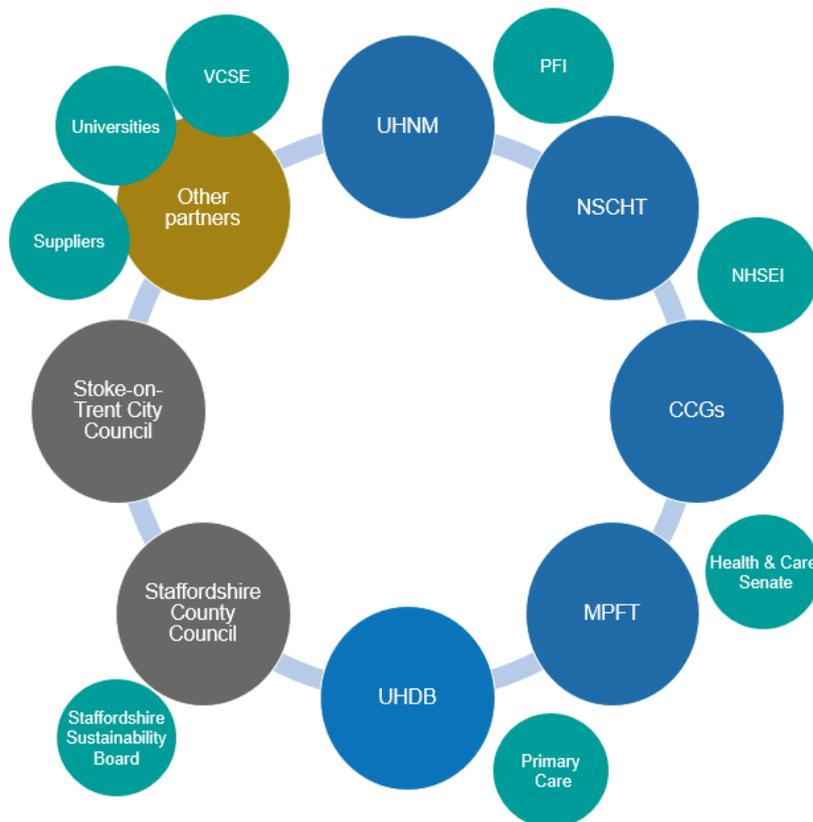
- Awareness raising and training via carbon literacy
- Promotion of active travel options
- ULEV/ZEV vehicles – fleet and lease
- Reducing Desflurane usage (an anaesthetic gas)
- Reducing pressure metered dose inhalers and inhaler recycling
- Reducing medicines waste
- Energy efficiency / renewable energy via energy audits
- Net Zero Supplier roadmap - procurement frameworks and work with suppliers of goods and services
- NHS Plastics Pledge / PPE
- Sustainable models of care (including digital transformation)
- Adopt 'Anchor Institution' type approach – promote connection to local communities.

3 Working in Partnership

The nature and scale of the change required to achieve the net zero carbon targets is too broad and deep to be coordinated through a single officer and will require senior, expert input from a broad range of disciplines and functions and organisations.

The SSOT Greener NHS Group was established in Autumn 2021 to coordinate the production of NHS Trust Green Plans and has since been expanded to include representation from a wide range of partners to help coordinate the ICS Green Plan and support delivery of the ambitions set out within that Plan.

The schematic below shows the membership of the Group and associated interdependencies.



4 Case Study

The ICS Green Plan builds on some of the great work already being delivered by partner organisations, an example of this is the **Keep well, Keep warm** project delivered through University Hospitals North Midlands (UHNM).

Designed to prevent hospital readmissions of vulnerable patients whose health conditions could be made worse through living in cold/damp homes it is an example of partnership working across NHS, Voluntary Sector and local industry to provide direct benefit to local communities.



In essence, the installation of solar panels across UHNM estate provides UHNM with lower cost, more resilient supply of energy. As well as reducing UHNM demand on the National Grid it also generates a return to private industry together with a surplus which accumulates into a community fund.

The community fund resources 'Beat the Cold' to help alleviate fuel poverty in Staffordshire. Referrals to 'Beat the Cold' come, in part, from UHNM clinicians whose patients are presenting with health conditions linked to their home environments. Colleagues from 'Beat the Cold' then work with those individuals to help identify options for improving those environments and so reducing the risk of exacerbations in their care needs and representation to emergency care portals.

Contact Details

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