

Creating an environmentally sustainable health and care system together

Delegates' Hopes for the Future

Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes
ICS Green Plan – refresh 2025

Seminar held 15 November 2024



“What are your hopes for the future in addressing Climate Change?”



The following slides are an overview of the delegates' hopes from the Leading for an Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care System seminar held on 15 November 2024.

Comments were received through a Menti poll before the seminar, and leaves added to the “Hope Tree” on the day.

Three clear areas of focus are apparent:

- **Business** – Leadership, Investment and Government Policy
- **Community Involvement** – Prevention and Resilient Communities
- **Future Proofing** – Sustainability Education, Young People and Technology

These hopes will be used to inform the case for change in the refreshed Integrated Care System Green Plan and, alongside the recommendations, will help to shape its focus.

What are your hopes for the future regarding Climate & Health?

"I hope to leave the planet in a reasonable state for future generations"

Leaders stop using climate change as a political 'crowd pleaser' and start taking meaningful action

"That the crises of today don't crowd out the work needed to save the world from the bigger crises of tomorrow"

"Healthier lives and not so unhealthy planet"

"Everyone Joins in!"

"Communities that work together, share resources and care for each other"

Leadership

Leaders stop using climate change as a political 'crowd pleaser' and start taking meaningful action

To have a Climate and Health lead to assess business cases and decisions to be supported by senior management

Climate and Health to be more than a tick box exercise for all businesses

GPs fully on board with green social prescribing

Ensuring that the health impacts of climate change are front and centre of conversations

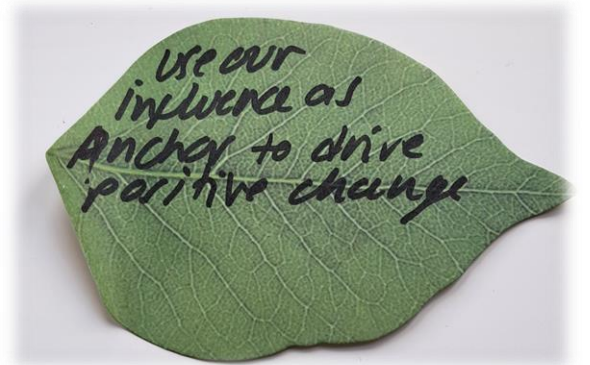
Concrete delivery of social and environmental works

Short and long-term sustainable targets

That a healthy and resilient natural environment is prioritised in decision making, and recognised as supporting general health and wellbeing

Genuine and authentic commitment to working towards net zero. True collaboration between statutory and VCISO's

Use our influence as Anchors to drive positive change



**Hopes for the
future:
Business**

Investment

Greater investment into walking and cycling infrastructure and initiatives.

More community gardening/ growing schemes

For resources to support the long term changes required

For the financial investment for the user to be beneficial for example, buying an electric car does not make financial sense, but re-usable menstrual products does

That we take it seriously and use our huge spending power to elicit change

Government Policy

Stronger national leadership on climate change

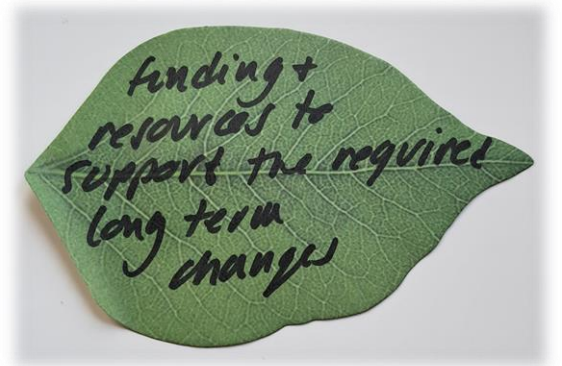
Infrastructure and government policy changes make it easy for everyone, irrespective of economic status, to act in a way that benefits the environment

All public sector buildings powered by green energy and with charging points by 2030

No public service serves meat

Supply chain mandated to be green by 2035

Put actions in place to minimise the effect extreme weather events caused by climate change affect people's health



Hopes for the future: Business

Prevention

A strong partnership across our system partners with VCSE to deliver initiatives to engage in green spaces to improve health and wellbeing; reducing carbon footprint and burden to NHS

Recognition that primary prevention is fully coterminous with the environmental agenda, benefiting people, the environment and wider society

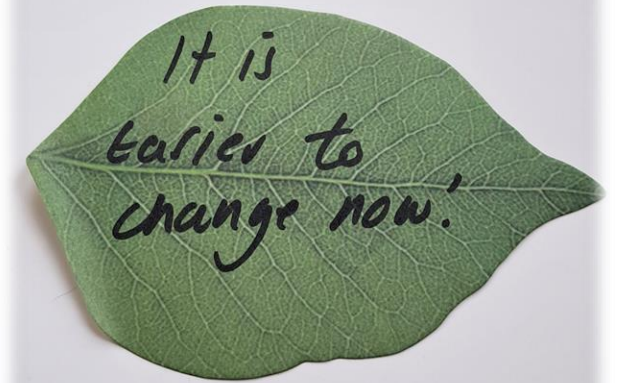
The health facilities in our communities are spaces that support healthy living and lifestyles, as well as enabling sustainable practices by members of the communities accessing those spaces.

For health budgets to be linked to prevention outcomes that are delivered together with local authorities and voluntary sector eg better housing, better access to green space, better transport options

Cleaner air, cleaner waterways and sea, reduce plastic , healthy food choices and improved cost, improved access to sports and recreation, sense of society / community , reduction in inequalities

Healthy towns and cities focusing on Nature Based Solutions

Improvement in patients' understanding and preference for prevention - ie strong preference for better food choices and more physical activity rather than medicine and treatment.



**Hopes for the
future:
Community
Involvement**

Resilient Communities

That everyone involved in healthcare, social care, Councils, Public Health, VCSEs and residents are aware of how they can have an effect on slowing climate change

Embrace wider social value not just carbon reduction and use our influence as an anchor organisation to drive positive changes on our communities

That the NHS does not go back on its promise, that the population better understands the link between climate change and health and that we all understand and work on our different roles

That we all understand the part we can play in supporting joined up action on climate change and improving people's health outcomes - with a particular focus on the drivers and impact of inequality

That it becomes another route for us to work with our communities to drive home the importance of sustainability and that it needs to be something we all consider in all parts of our lives

That we can look to improve practice and work with the VCSE to promote better communities and strengthen society's responses to climate issues and improving issues that cause poor health.

That 'good for health, good for climate' arguments can help societies move more constructively, fairly and quickly towards mitigation and adaptation needed before we run out of time

Communities working together can have greater impact than organisations or individuals on their own.



Hopes for the future:
Community Involvement

Sustainability Education

The link between climate and health is recognised and acted upon by all. Where everyone considers sustainability & green skills as their responsibility. A safe, healthy world now & for the future.

Network and gain knowledge and inspiration for my sustainability works

We educate everyone but, in particular, our children to understand the link between climate change and health

Understanding of the fundamental value of the local environment on health to be wide spread!

That we can spread accountability for this across our workforce and embed 'a greener approach' in all that we do

To really understand the link between climate change and health

We link climate & health in all our work

Mandatory Climate Change education for schools, employees and organisations



**Hopes for the
future:
Future Proofing**

Young People

The future generations and current ones get involved in climate action and understand it affects everyone

I hope to leave the planet in a reasonable state for future generations.

Concrete action will take place to help climate change and leave a sustainable legacy for future generations

Technology

That we can get some real carbon reductions agreed and used. Also that carbon capture tech becomes a reality



**Hopes for the
future:
Future Proofing**