

Creating an environmentally sustainable health and care system together

Delegates' Recommendations

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

Seminar held 15 November 2024



Leading for Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care



The 'Leading for and Environmentally Sustainable Health and Care System' summit took place at MK Conferencing in Milton Keynes on 15th November 2024

Hosted by BLMK Integrated Care Board (ICB), delegates came from a wide variety of organisations including: NHSE, Local Authorities, Acute Trusts, Primary Care, Community Trusts, Public Health, Universities, Ambulance Trusts, Healthwatch, IEMA, local Youth Councils and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector

Attendees heard from a variety of speakers regarding the health impact of Climate Change and the challenges of achieving Net Zero within the health and care system.

Delegates were then asked to commit to shaping a new Integrated Care System Green Plan to improve the health and wellbeing of local people by introducing policies to tackle the impact of climate change.



Forming the new Green Plan

Breakout tables discussed what good looks like and agreed recommendations for inclusion in the Green Plan across five topics:

- **Leadership & Culture** - Giving sufficient weight to environment in decision-making and delivery
- **Climate Resilient Communities** - Social cohesion and community support to reduce vulnerability
- **Economics & Finances** - Delivering emissions reductions in the face of limited funding
- **Alternative Care Models** - Preventative care and alternative models to reduce use of resources
- **Partnerships & Suppliers** - Close working with VCSEs, anchors & suppliers to be more environmentally sustainable



As the generation who will be most affected by Climate Change, Youth Councillors reflected on the main recommendations and gave their hopes and ideas for the future.

For more details of the event, visit:
<https://blmkhealthandcarepartnership.org/leading-for-a-sustainable-health-care-system/>



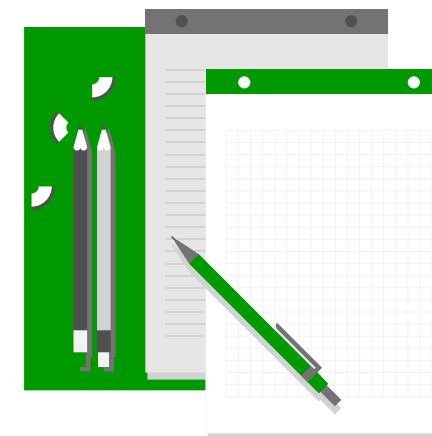
What now?

The following slides give an overview of the recommendations from the event. These will help to shape the refreshed ICS Green Plan for 2025 and beyond.

It will include a demonstration of how the plan relates to, and has been developed, using the recommendations and further engagement.

Some of the main points raised included:

- **Increased Climate Change & Health Impact education**
- **Stronger leadership to enable change**
- **Governance processes emphasising Environmental and Social impacts of decisions**
- **Funding resource for sustainability projects**
- **Utilising the strength of all the Anchor Institutions* to enable economies of scale**
- **Major focus on prevention and enablement of healthier lifestyles**
- **Collaborative working across organisations and VCSEs**



*[Anchor organisations](#): large organisations with a connection to the local community, through history, size or other influence.

Get Involved

The Green Plan will be developed over the coming months.

During this time, drafts will be shared and discussed with all ICS partners, Healthwatch and VCSEs before being finalised with an expected sign-off and adoption in mid-2025.



If you would like to feed into the discussions, please contact the BLMK ICB Team on BLMKICB.sustainability@nhs.net

For more information about the event please visit our dedicated webpage [here](#)

Leadership & Culture

Recognition of knowledge gap



Increase Carbon Literacy:

- Mandatory sustainability training for all staff
- Tailored learning sessions for teams and roles to deliver most impact
- Use proactive language i.e. “What more can you do?”
- Include sustainability in staff objective setting
- Use Green plan as engagement tool to clarify connection of health, business & climate



Staff as change agents:

- Staff promote & activate sustainable behaviours
- System Sustainability Champions group – incl. Primary Care
- System staff Green Award
- Utilise Cranfield University students for health and care projects
- Clinical Fellows



NHS and local authorities work together as change agents:

- Housing and prevention
- Local areas/ neighbourhoods
- Bring in expertise where required
- Overarching plan with mix of small, medium and larger schemes



Corporate Values:

- Ensure include Social Values
- Values based recruitment – include sustainability
- Sustainability & Social Impact Assessment part of business case assessment process

Economics & Finance

Greater focus on triple bottom line



Investment:

Long-term cost perspective – shift focus from short term “return on investment (ROI) to lifetime ROI

Definition of value – including both monetary and social aspects

Grant officer role in ICB for funding opportunities

Funding for sustainability projects

Funding and Support for VCSEs for resilience

Funding for Social Prescribing services



Improved use of technology:

Reduce unnecessary activity – better planning for visits, upskilling staff to take on more duties



Infrastructure:

Infrastructure to enable modal shift – cycle lanes, bike racks, bus routes, bus stops, trains

Infrastructure – Electric vehicle fleet, solar, LEDs, insulation – reduce energy use and make savings

Work with large local organisations – use their ideas

Economics & Finance

Greater focus on “triple bottom line”



Economies of scale – purchasing power, pooling resources for clinical leadership:

- Specific sustainability ambitions in tenders e.g. ownership of recycling of products
- Use market force to encourage suppliers to be more sustainable
- Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations in all tenders
- Evergreen assessment for all procurements
- Look at National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Funding for system plan



Decision-making - Business cases to include:

- Carbon calculations
- Environment and Social Value impact assessment output
- System wide approach. Tie in with cost improvement
- Strengthen the environmental sustainability or green voice in our decision-making
- Create Cost Improvements Programmes for BLMK

Climate Resilient Communities

Positive Conversations



School Engagement:

Tailor the message to different generations

Change the message to promote the immediate positive benefits

Create more links with young people e.g. mental health links in schools and youth clubs

Raise the youth voice to influence politics

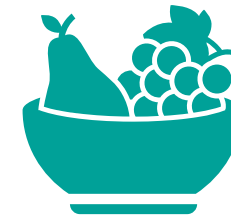


Business as Usual in all Health & Social Care conversations:

Build the green message into general comms around promoting healthy living

Ensure a strong comms plan

Green plan to provide a description of ambition but also a clear call to action



Promoting Healthy Lifestyles:

Youth movement – help promote healthy foods, non-processed, veggie/vegan, plant/eat/grow schemes

Infrastructure changes e.g. Bike racks to promote active travel

Provide public transport information when sending appointments

Climate Resilient Communities

Strengthening our VCSEs



Collaboration:

GPs working with VCSEs to support “frequent attenders” and reduce health inequalities

GP collaboration with leisure centres

Family hubs linking with and signposting to other services

Community Toolkits – knowledge/skills/experience sharing

Neighbourhood teams lead the collaboration for NHS and local authorities (LAs)

Use the skills of VCSEs and develop authentic and meaningful partnerships



Investment:

Funding and support for VCSEs to increase resilience and ensure continuity of services



Governance:

ICB/LAs provide support in VCSE governance

Strong leadership emphasis and specific targeting to ensure action



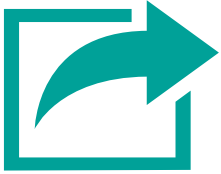
Community Spaces:

Increasing community spaces for interaction to reduce isolation

Condition-led tailored art/ craft/ exercise/ social sessions

Partnerships & Suppliers

Using the Green Plan to Harness the power of Anchor Institutions



Simple and Clear Green Plan:

Unified plan – Trusts, ICB and communities

Alignment of goals – financial & sustainability

Targeting the biggest impact areas

Powerful commitments

NHS greener guidance a priority

ICS to identify how to measure a baseline in each trust

Meet regularly to network



Economies of Scale:

Purchasing and contracting power

Pooling resources for clinical leadership

Chamber of Commerce collaboration to inform and influence suppliers

Support call for a Shelf-Life Extension Program (SLEP) for tablets/capsules



Action and Education for biggest impact areas:

Assisting providers to calculate carbon footprints

Community Engagement - schools, VCSEs, communities, councils