



## TOWER HAMLETS GP CARE GROUP (THGPCG) POLICY FOR SUSTAINABILITY & CARBON REDUCTION

Date Issued	15th November 2014
Date to be reviewed	Periodically or if statutory changes are required
Title	Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Policy
Supersedes	All previous Policies
Description of Amendment(s)	Policy for employees
This policy will impact on	All staff
Financial Implications	No change
Policy Area	Governance
Version No	1
Issued By	Governance Team
Author	Governance Team
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Review Date	



## **Introduction**

THGPCG recognises that the Sustainability Agenda has now become an integral part of healthcare operations focusing on social, environmental and economic development. Sustainability for the NHS is much broader – it is about how we deliver care, how we create a healthier happier population, and how we ensure we can afford to continue to deliver care in the future. We recognise sustainability as one of the great challenges of society and we intend to make a full contribution through engagement and practical action across all our activities.

Environmental sustainability and responsibility will be promoted as a core value and will be embedded in all our operational activities and investment decisions. Sustainable development will be seen as a process and not an event.”

We will devise a Change Program to support physical, cultural and behavioural changes necessary for a step change in performance that will allow THGPCG to become an exemplar of best practice.

Underpinning this program are commitments to three core values: the prevention of pollution; compliance with legislative requirements (i.e. The Climate Change Act 2008) & continual improvement.

### **Aim:**

- To comply with and exceed where practicable, all applicable legislation, regulations and codes of practice.
- To integrate sustainability considerations into all our business decisions.
- To ensure that all our Practice’s Staff are fully aware of our Sustainability Policy and are committed to implementing and improving it.
- To minimise the impact on sustainability of all office and transportation activities.
- To make patients and suppliers aware of our Sustainability Policy, and encourage them to adopt sound sustainable management practices.
- To review, and to continually strive to improve our sustainability performance.

### **Environmental initiatives:**

#### **Carbon Management and Energy**

- Keep energy usage low. For example, making use of low energy light bulbs throughout
- Ensure that all lights, computers and appliances are shut down after work.
- Commission energy supplies with core values of sustainability.



## **Waste Minimisation and Recycling**

- Appoint “Green Champions” to promote awareness & encourage individuals to contribute to reducing waste to landfill & increasing recycling.
- Recycle as much waste material as possible. Paper recycling Bins have been placed in the Practices.
- Avoid the use of paper wherever possible. For example, sending invoices and quotes via email as PDF files. Only print documents if absolutely necessary print double-sided and 2 sheets to a page.
- Reuse waste paper (from the printer) where possible, making use of the blank side for notes etc.
- Recycling equipment that is no longer of use to the company. For example, returning items such as computers and printers that we no longer use, recycling of printer cartridges, etc
- Purchase products made with recycled paper. For example, paper towels, printer paper
- Purchase products with a lower environmental impact. For example environmentally safe soaps and detergents.

## **Transport**

- Encourage low impact transport for travel to and from work and travel for business. For example, use of public transport to attend meetings and offer staff yearly travel card Loan Scheme.
- Avoid unnecessary travel by making use of instant messaging, audio conferencing, telephone and email.
- Continue our policy of recruiting staff from the local community, which has had a significant impact on staff walking to work numbers.

## **Procurement/Commissioning**

THGPCG will support sustainability across the full range of procurements. We will:-

- Commission services so sustainability is part of the core criteria and support ethical procurement programmes such as Fairtrade.
- Work with the Clinical Commissioning Group to explore possibility of locating services closer to peoples home so they do not have to travel to a hospital (The Ipsos MORI survey revealed that three in four respondents said that this would improve patient experience).

## **Communications, Learning & Development**

THGPCG recognises that the success of our sustainability program depends on the contribution & ownership of every individual member of staff. The Practice Management Team in each Practice will take responsibility for embedding environmental sustainability as a core value within all of their activities. We will:-

- Embed sustainability principles in our Induction and training programme



- Include the sustainability Policy into our Locum Packs and staff handbooks
- Work with Patients, staff and the public on key sustainability issues e.g. recycling, transport, re-use of medicines, etc
- Introduce Sustainability Development to Patient Participation Groups i.e. healthy lifestyle - walking, cycling, eating locally grown fruit and vegetables
- Work with individuals to choose sustainable lifestyles and products e.g. engage in activities, better food, less personal consumption, and more social connection.
- Ensure work place environment is pleasant.

**This Policy is to be updated annually or as needed.**