

Progress in Practice

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Driven by a Good Corporate Citizenship Committee, good practice includes local procurement, sustainable construction and a green transport plan – all clearly communicated to staff and the public via the Trust website.

Summary

Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust established a Corporate Citizenship Committee in 2005 to put the organisation at the forefront of the agenda, help reduce health inequalities and make a positive social, economic and environmental contribution to the communities served by the Trust.

Shortlisted for the HSJ Good Corporate Citizenship Award 2007, the organisation prides itself on its 'whole trust' approach and has used the NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model to help provide assurance against Healthcare Commission performance standards. Such is their dedication to sustainable development, they have created a series of "Corporate Citizenship" web pages on the Trust website.

Community Engagement

The Trust is committed to engaging with the local community and with its 15,000 members. Quarterly newsletters, a dedicated good corporate citizenship website, open days and seminars aim to involve and inform local people about news and developments within the Trust.

As members of the Gloucestershire Strategic Partnership, the Trust have been involved in the development of the Gloucestershire Local Area Agreement, Energy Strategy and Heritage Urban Regeneration Company.

Working under the Gloucestershire Compact, they are keen to further develop partnerships with the voluntary and community sector.



Transport

Transport is a serious matter and by 2012 the Trust aim for a significant reduction in staff driving to work.

The Gloucestershire Hospitals Green Transport Plan has been instrumental in:

- Creation of a Park and Ride scheme
- Prioritising car parking spaces for staff who share cars
- Creation of a shuttle bus running between their two acute sites.

Most recently, the Trust sponsored the Gloucestershire County Council's cycle maps which guide cyclists safely around Gloucester and Cheltenham using approved routes.

A mobile chemotherapy unit was set up in February 2007, funded by the Hope for Tomorrow charity. This service aims to reduce journeys to and from the hospital and increase the accessibility of treatment.

Links and organisations involved: NHS Good Corporate Citizen Assessment Model (www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk), Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (www.gloshospitals.org.uk/content/citizenship.html), Gloucestershire First (www.glosfirst.co.uk), Gloucester Heritage Urban Regeneration Company (www.gloucesterurc.co.uk), Gloucestershire Compact (www.gloshub.org.uk/compact.html), Hope for Tomorrow (www.hopefortomorrow.org.uk); Gloucestershire County Council (www.gloucestershire.gov.uk); WRAP (www.wrap.org.uk)

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Rob Rees: local celebrity chef and former member of the Food Standards Agency is a food consultant to the Trust.

New Buildings:

The Trust's Design and Construction Requirements (TD&CR) reflect energy efficiency, sustainability and waste reduction, with challenging carbon targets. Each capital development scheme, refurbishment or new build has a specific TD&CR with identified targets.

Examples reflecting these practices include:

- Crushing and re-use of demolition materials - as hardcore for car parking. This helps to minimise both transport, and waste to landfill.
- Waste minimisation targets are being set for contractors with assistance from WRAP, an organisation that supports the construction industry to use resources more efficiently and reduce waste.
- Growing use of grey water waste systems, whereby waste sink and bath water is cleansed and used for flushing toilets.
- Minimal use of air conditioning – restricted to limited cases where there is a clinical need for air quality.

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Procurement

The region encompasses a wide range of local food producers, and between 2004 and 2007 the Trust increased expenditure with local suppliers and producers from 18% to over 30%. By supporting local farmers they are reducing food miles and supporting the local economy.

Rationalisation of catering facilities has also reduced the movement of heavy goods vehicles.

The Trust works closely with Gloucestershire Food Vision. In recognition of these initiatives, the catering department has in fact been selected by Gloucestershire First as the county's best performing department for sustainable procurement.

"The provision of excellent healthcare will always be our number one priority, but as a large organisation we have a responsibility to support and sustain our local economy and reduce our impact on the environment we serve, especially considering the public health benefits."

John Henry, Chair of the Corporate Citizenship Committee & Non-Executive Director of Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust

Key Learning Points:

- A Good Corporate Citizenship Committee can be very effective in co-ordinating and delivering change.
- A Good Corporate Citizenship section on the Trust website raises both the profile of the trust and the profile of the issues for staff and the local community.
- Including challenging targets in the design and construction requirements of a development ensures sustainability is built in from the outset.

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