

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board

Sustainability Policy (CG08)

Approved by	Executive Committee
Date approved	14 August 2024
Name and title of originator/author	Simon Beard, Associate Director for Corporate Operations
Name and title of sponsor	Tosca Fairchild, Chief of Staff
Review date	31 March 2026
Description	This policy document sets out the ICBs approach to supporting the delivery of ICS sustainability targets, aligned to the carbon reduction targets set out in the document "Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service".
Target audience	All Staff of NHS South East London ICB (including members of the Unitary Board), Integrated Care Partnership, contractors and bidders

Version Control

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Supersedes	1.0

Document Review Control Information

Version	Date	Reviewer Name(s) and Job title	Change/amendment
0.1	April 2022	Christina Windle	Original Draft from SEL CCG policy
1.1	May 2024	Simon Beard	Update to reflect changes in responsibilities

Relevant legislation and documents	Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service
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1. Introduction

NHS South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) is committed to delivering on its Corporate Social Responsibility obligations; a part of which is the delivery of services in a sustainable and environmentally responsible way.

Sustainability can be defined broadly, and to achieve sustainability multiple factors across a range of disciplines will need to be considered. This policy sets out the ICB's ambition to be a sustainable organisation in the way that it uses resources, minimises negative impact on the environment and communities across south east London, and ensures that standards of health and care and improvements that are implemented can be sustained over the medium and long term.

The policy has been developed to support delivery of the South East London Integrated Care System (SEL ICS) Green Plan and SEL ICS Primary Care Green Plan objectives and targets, by determining its governance arrangements and underlining the ICB's commitment to achieving these ambitions.

2. National requirements

The health system as a whole is committed to reducing its carbon emissions in line with the UK Climate Change Act (2008). The scale of the impact effective management of its emissions by the NHS can achieve is clear – emissions by the NHS as a whole currently accounts for 4% of England's total carbon footprint (NHSE&I: Delivering a Net Zero National Health Service, October 2020).

The NHS Long Term Plan acknowledges that our organisation has a wider social role to play in influencing the shape of our local communities, and that a part of this is our responsible approach to sustainable development. Although significant headway has already been made by the health and social care sector as whole in delivering a reduction in our carbon footprint, there is still some way to go to meet the statutory targets set out in the Climate Change Act, set as a reduction in emissions by 34% by 2020 and 51% by 2025.

In addition to these targets, the NHS England document "Delivering a "Net Zero" National Health Service", published in October 2020, sets out two clear targets in terms of carbon emissions:

- *for the emissions we control directly (the NHS Carbon Footprint), net zero by 2040, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2028 to 2032*
- *for the emissions we can influence (our NHS Carbon Footprint Plus), net zero by 2045, with an ambition to reach an 80% reduction by 2036 to 2039*

3. Purpose & Scope

The ICB Sustainability Policy is intended to define the governance framework and building blocks upon which the Green Plans can be implemented and should be read in conjunction with them.

The purpose of this policy is therefore to:

- Confirm the ICB's commitment to the sustainability agenda and achievement of the Climate Change Act targets
- Articulate the ICB's intentions

- Acknowledge the perceived social benefits as well as the potential organisational benefits
- Describe the responsibilities of officers within the ICB to achieve delivery of the agreed targets
- Define the framework that will be implemented by the organisation to support the delivery of the practical elements of the sustainability programme

The policy applies to all NHS South East London ICB employees when commissioning services and transacting business on behalf of the ICB, and includes the activities involved in the operation of the ICB.

4. Intentions and outcomes

An effective sustainability programme will achieve a number of benefits to the ICB, including:

- Financial efficiencies
- Conservation of resources
- Working practice efficiencies
- Reduction in waste
- Collaboration across the local system
- Wider social and environmental benefits which will also support our population health aspirations

It is the intention of the ICB to act as the co-ordinating organisation to drive ICS activities and work in conjunction with ICS partners, including the local authority, to deliver the objectives of the ICS green plan. Although it is acknowledged that the bulk of our carbon reduction activities can be achieved through our provider Trusts, the ICB will strive to influence its own activities where possible, either through responsible corporate commissioning, activity or influencing of personal commitments.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

The **ICB Chief Executive Officer** is ultimately responsible for ensuring that this policy is implemented and effective.

The ICB senior responsible officer for sustainability is the **Chief of Staff**, who will monitor compliance with our statutory obligations and support the delivery of the ICB's contribution to the SEL ICS Green Plan.

Monitoring and reporting on the operational delivery of the workplan will be the responsibility of the **Head of Corporate Programmes and Sustainability**, supported by the **Associate Director for Corporate Operations**.

All staff and contractors within the ICB must be aware of the provisions within this policy and are expected to operate to the standards set out within it.

6. Operational framework

The NHS organisations within the ICS have agreed a set of detailed objectives, with timescales, to support achievement of their sustainability aims. Responsibilities for the

ICB are detailed within this set of objectives and will be the criteria that are used to assess and monitor the ICB's success.

The reference document for the ICB's sustainability activity will be the ICS Green Plan, which is intended to summarise the targets and activity being undertaken at individual partner organisation level, including the ICB. Collation of this document will sit with the ICB team, with the plan supplemented by a separate Primary Care Green plan.

The key areas of focus for the ICB will be on the changes we can make to our day-to-day activities that can impact carbon reduction in the following areas:

- Medicines management
- Facilities and buildings management – although it is acknowledged that as a tenant in most of our buildings we will need to work in collaboration with our landlords on most initiatives
- Workforce – influencing behaviours and reviewing ways of working to achieve sustainable efficiencies
- Responsible Commissioning which supports the sustainability agenda

Staff engagement will be key in achieving delivery of these ambitions. It is the intention of the ICB to encourage staff to work in a “green” way and consider the impact on the environment of their actions. The staff intranet and regular communications will be employed to promote sustainability and share case studies. The staff network will also be engaged to support delivery of the sustainability agenda and ensure sustainable principles are embedded in the general business of every directorate within the ICB.

7. System partnership working

The ICB will act as the convener for health partners within south east London to collaborate and share information and insight on sustainability matters, as well as representing the south east London system at Regional and National forums.

Using the ICS Green Plan as a basis for target monitoring, the ICB team will support partners in the delivery of their local objectives and report and monitor achievement against national and locally defined targets.

Operationally, this activity will involve:

- Representing south east London at the London Region Greener NHS Board and operational forum
- Convening the ICS Sustainability Oversight Board, chaired by the ICB Chief of Staff and comprising the Senior Responsible Officers for sustainability from each of the ICS's health providers, to provide strategic oversight and direction to the system's sustainability programme
- Convening and chairing the Sustainability Network meeting, formed of the operational leads from each of the systems health provider organisations to share insight, best practice and promote collaborative working in the sustainability space
- Supporting the Primary Care Sustainability Steering Group, a GP-led group sharing Place-level updates, insights, best practice and promotion of collaborative working within primary care

- Maintenance of the Green Plan, bringing together representatives from across the system and the ICB to provide input to appropriate, ambitious and realistic future iterations of Green Plans

The ICB team will also seek to maximise system working and identify development opportunities for the benefit of system partners.

8. Governance arrangements

The ICB has appointed a Senior Responsible Officer for our sustainability planning, which is the Chief of Staff.

The contents of the ICB specific policy will be approved and ICB delivery monitored by the Executive Committee. An annual report on progress will be presented to the ICB Board for assurance and oversight of ICB activity.

In relation to the systems broader approach to sustainability, approval of the ICS Green Plan and monitoring of delivery on an ICS-wide basis will be the responsibility of the ICS Sustainability Oversight Board which comprises the Sustainability SROs of the partner health organisations within south east London.

9. Review

This policy will be reviewed on a two-yearly basis, or sooner if circumstances require it.

10. References

[Greener NHS \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/greener-nhs/)

[delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/delivering-a-net-zero-national-health-service.pdf)

[nhs-long-term-plan-june-2019.pdf](https://www.nhs.uk/longtermplan/long-term-plan-june-2019.pdf)

Appendix A Equality Impact Assessment Screening

This is a checklist to ensure that relevant equality and equity aspects of proposals have been addressed either in the main body of the document or in a separate Equality & Equity Impact Assessment (EEIA)/ Equality Analysis. It is not a substitute for an EEIA which is required unless it can be shown that a proposal has no capacity to influence equality. The checklist is to enable the policy lead and the relevant committee to see whether an EEIA is required and to give assurance that the proposals will be legal, fair and equitable.

The word “proposal” is a generic term for any policy, procedure or strategy that requires assessment.

Equality Analysis Screening Tool

Date of Assessment	9 May 2024
Assessor Name(s) & Job Title(s)	Simon Beard, Associate Director of Corporate Operations
Organisation	SEL ICB
Name of the project/decision	SEL ICB Sustainability Policy
Aim/Purpose of the project/decision	This policy is intended to define the framework of activity for the ICB to enable system delivery of the Greener NHS objectives.

1. Do you consider the project/decision to have an *adverse workforce equality impact and/or health inequality impact* on any of the protected groups as defined by the Equality Act 2010? Write either ‘yes’ or ‘no’ next to the appropriate group(s).

Protected group	Yes/No	Protected group	Yes/No	Protected group	Yes/No
Age	No	Pregnancy/Maternity	No	Marriage/Civil Partnership (employment only)	No
Disability	No	Race	No	Socio-economic / Deprivation	No
Gender	No	Religion/Belief	No	Carers	No
Gender reassignment	No	Sexual orientation	No		

2. If you answered 'yes' to any of the above give your reasons why

n/a

3. If you answered 'no' to any of the above give your reasons why

There is no anticipated detrimental impact on any equality group from this policy. This Policy will be applied to all NHS staff employed by the organisation and there is no evidence that the policy will impact, disadvantage or discriminate against any particular protected characteristic group.

4. Please indicate if a Full Equality Analysis is recommended:		NO	YES
Signature of Project Lead: Simon Beard	Date completed 9/5/24	X	
Signature of reviewing member of Equality Team: Karean Jalloh Halima Dagia	Date reviewed: 12/07/24	IF YES, BEGIN TO GATHER DATA FOR COMPLETION OF A FULL EQUALITY ANALYSIS	