Partners in Sustainability: Carillion & The James Cook University Hospital

Putting Old Linen to Good use...

Carillion operate a full Laundry service at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough. Historically, the Trust disposed of linen and garments deemed as not fit for purpose. However for a number of years, our Laundry has begun to re-cycle and re-use Linen that would normally be thrown away. Below are some examples of our recycling approach.

Re-cycling Old Linen

- Bed sheets are checked for non-removable stains and modified to create baby linen and smaller bed sheets
- Gowns beyond repair or damaged by the client are now modified to create dignity gowns for the breast clinic and oncology departments
- Towels are now cut to smaller sizes for the childrens’ wards and some re-used as rags
- Modifications are made to patients’ clothing sent to the laundry for re-using, these are then passed on to the elderly care wards or donated to people with no fixed abode
- Patients’ clothing from the bereavement suite are recycled and sent to wards with homeless or deprived patients
- Modifications are now made to old curtains that so that they can be interchangeable for different ward uses.

There is no direct funding from the contract to purchase fabric for making bespoke garments, therefore the laundry arrange raffles to raise money for the purchase of fabric to make garments for bariatric patients.

The end product. Just one of the many gowns bespoke to the breast screening unit - modified from standard theatre wear, these were re-used from gowns damaged on the wards.

We totally re-designed to add Velcro to both sides from a modesty and dignity perspective. The Trust loved our new ‘creations’ for which we received a Values Award.

Carillion also re-use bed sheets that are damaged and re-use the serviceable parts to create baby linen such as baby sheets and small gowns.
Trust ‘thank you’ for fundraising to drive our new Linen ‘creations’.

Carillion is a leader in sustainable practice within our sector.

The examples above demonstrate our commitment to sustainable service delivery and to a true collaborative partnering approach with our Trust team colleagues.

Carillion Sewing Room – The James Cook

The Carillion sewing room at the James Cook hospital receives many ad hoc requests from the Wards. We like to be able to respond to these exceptional requests!

For example, a young patient was admitted to Ward 22 after an abscess in his throat infected his spine. During his stay the four year old patient befriended a doll on the ward and expressed clear concerns about the doll only having four fingers.

The child gave the doll a name band, taped a straw to his arm as a cannula and asked the consultant to take a look at it. The next day when the child went for his own procedure, the ward arranged for the doll to have “his” operation at the same time! They rushed the doll to the sewing room in Laundry where seamstresses, Jo Robinson and Carol Margery worked their magic and made two thumbs from an old blanket.

When the child awoke from his operation, the doll was lying next to him with a bandage on each hand; when the child removed the bandages he couldn’t believe his eyes - to his delight the doll’s surgery was a complete success!