

Partners in Sustainability: Carillion and the James Cook University Hospital

To promote NHS Sustainability Day on 28 March 2013 Carillion worked in partnership with the James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough to promote sustainability initiatives with the aim of inspiring and educating people to think and behave more sustainably in the long term.

A range of initiatives were devised around the hospital for visitors, staff and patients. This included a staff poster campaign to encourage wildlife in their gardens detailing how staff can go to the Grounds and Gardens Department on Sustainability Day and, after a small donation, come away with a renewably sourced bird box that has been made and weatherproofed by work placements from The Prince's Trust. A number of hedgehog boxes were also made available for those of our friends who don't have feathers!

Logs from tree felling were also made available from the department which were ideal for staff that used wood burning stoves at home.



One of the longer, ongoing initiatives was set up in the Laundry department. In the past the JCUH Laundry Department have disposed of linen and garments deemed as not fit for purpose. However, in 2009, the laundry began to recycle and re-use linen that would normally be thrown away.

Putting Old Linen to Good use...

- 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 children's 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 hospital sewing room is also involved in ad hoc requests from the wards. 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 woke 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.