

Sustainability at Barts Health

Overview of key projects at Barts Health

Reducing Fuel Poverty – a partnership programme between Barts Health NHS Trust, British Gas and Global Action Plan designed to actively reduce fuel poverty in our communities through referrals for domestic efficiency improvements, reducing excess winter deaths and improving health outcomes

Food and nutrition Education – an integrated partnership programme between Barts Health NHS Trust, Carillion, G4S, Café Spice and Chefs Adopt a School delivering food and nutrition education to primary school children across our boroughs, tackling future obesity rates and malnutrition through prevention whilst promoting local, sustainable, nutritious food production.

Operation TLC – a collaborative behavioural change programme between Barts Health NHS Trust, GE, Skanska and behavioural change charity Global Action Plan, which empowered individuals to take action to reduce energy and carbon, accurately measuring and recording changes and positively impacting patient experience whilst identifying potential savings of £35m across the NHS

NHS Sustainability Day – a national and international collaborative day of action on climate change aimed at engagement, knowledge sharing and recognition and reward across the NHS and healthcare sector. The online platform and knowledge sharing hubs offered inspiration to trusts whilst private sector partners pledged support to organisations in tackling specific issues. The awards showcased best practice across nine categories of excellence

Projects in detail

Reducing Fuel Poverty

A partnership programme between Barts Health NHS Trust, British Gas and Global Action Plan has been established to deliver a programme to actively address and reduce fuel poverty within our communities by identifying local people who are living in fuel poverty through the clinical assessment process and referring them into the scheme to receive domestic energy and heating efficiency improvements. Through the delivery of these interventions the programme aims to reducing some excess winter deaths, starting with the 330 cold home related deaths which occur each year in one of our poorest boroughs - Tower Hamlets. It is hoped that through the interventions we will also improve the health outcomes of those suffering from associated diseases, such as respiratory issues and support some of the most vulnerable adults in our care catchment. This winter (2012/13) we aim to help over 250 people out of fuel poverty. Further information attached.

Food nutrition/education programme

The Food and nutrition Education programme, an integrated partnership programme between Barts Health, Carillion, G4S, Café Spice and Chefs Adopt a School, is aimed at prevention. By delivering food and nutrition education to 300 primary school children across our boroughs over the next 2 years we hope to start to tackle future obesity rates and malnutrition across our health catchment, improving knowledge and skills to support a healthy, sustainable lifestyle. As well as exploring tasting of new foods, the basis of a balanced diet, the effects of fats, sugars and salts on our bodies, the programme will also teach the children how to grow their own fruit, vegetables and herbs in a custom build food garden designed by a local gardening charity.

Operation TLC

Operation TLC is an innovative, outcome-focused behaviour change campaign employing leading environmental engagement thinking. By linking energy saving actions to patient safety, comfort and dignity, Operation TLC has won support from senior management to frontline staff, and encouraged them to take action.

The programme had four aims:

- Achieve financial and carbon savings
- Demonstrate whether energy efficient behaviours improve patient experience
- Create a replicable model other NHS Trusts can follow
- Prove cross-sector collaboration is effective at tackling tough challenges

The message is simple: provide the best environment for patients with three actions that everyone from domestics to consultants can do - Turn off, Lights out and Close Doors.

Actions were linked to the Barts Health values, legitimising the campaign. Multiple methods were employed to engage and empower staff:

- Trusted on-the-ground influencers became Operation TLC advocates, inspiring action in their own teams. They also identified one-off changes to their areas that delivered high energy savings
- The Sustainability Team undertook ward rounds to share success stories, troubleshoot problems and reward those taking action to prompt social norming

- Senior staff and prominent advocates reinforced the message featuring on screensavers and a short TLC film. This gave staff the permission needed to take action
- Support services were reached through 15 minute workshops and posters
- Most audaciously (and it really worked!) on NHS Sustainability Day we hi-fived near 1,000 staff on their way into work to celebrate everyone's help in making Operation TLC a success

The programme reached 15,000 Barts Health staff and their partner contractors through site wide communications; 2,500 staff were reached through face-to-face interaction, 140 TLC advocates received UN certificates and 35 teams across two hospitals undertook at least 3 of the 9 TLC challenges.

Focusing the programme on improving patient experience meant we attracted the support of the Medical Director clinical teams and support services. Patient experience surveys revealed improved sleep and privacy for patients, whilst staff reported improved mindfulness and calmer working environments.

The programme achieved £100K in financial savings with the potential to save £35m across the NHS.

NHS Sustainability Day

NHS Sustainability day has reached out to the NHS and engaged trusts and healthcare organisations across the world to take action on climate change. The day aims to make links and break down barriers across professions, organisations and countries in order to support active change to happen across the whole healthcare landscape. Supported by the Prime Minister over 100 NHS trusts participated in the day in 2013, sharing knowledge and inspiring others with their actions through the online portal.

Eight organisations were selected to receive awards for outstanding actions across nine categories; Clinical Engagement, Biodiversity, Sustainable Food, Carbon reduction, energy reduction, Sustainable Travel, Waste and recycling, Community Engagement and Best Overall Project, their case studies are available to inspire others next year. We will continue to build on the success of the day next year. Partnering with social enterprise 4alofus we will actively engage across five core UK regions, improve the knowledge sharing platform, increase participation and put money back into community projects which can be checked over the following 12 months.

Barts Health have established two innovative partnerships projects in order to reach out and support our communities to reduce health inequalities and improve health outcomes, both now and in the future.