Warp It Reuse Network - Repurpose; don’t replace or waste your assets

Overview of the Project

Our mission is to provide a network where organisations keep their equipment, assets and "stuff" circulating to reduce spend, waste and supply chain environmental impacts.

In 2011 Daniel O’Connor was working as a waste manager at Newcastle University. As a result of austerity many large organisations were restructuring and shrinking in size. This resulted in large quantities of assets becoming redundant as part of building decommission.

After seeing the scale of the waste first hand Daniel set up an online reuse platform, warp-it.co.uk, which allows staff to give, receive and loan surplus assets within and between organisations. This helps to match assets with new owners before buildings close as well as facilitating trades as part of normal estate operations.

This allows Trusts to reduce their waste disposal and purchasing costs. There is no need to purchase new equipment and resources for the organisation as you can find it 2nd hand within the trust or within another trust.

The system also allows staff to find a new owner for their surplus kit in their organisation or beyond. Charities can access the system for free and claim items off corporates.

NHS Tayside and Andy Hay the procurement manager commissioned Warp It and made significant savings very quickly. This then got the attention of NHS Scotland who commissioned Warp It to deliver the service across the whole of NHS Scotland. This also got the attention of Trusts in England and a trickle of customers started to come in.

We have been on a learning journey with our customers. Prior to 2015 we would provide the software service and expect the institution to implement the service, because they understood the policies and procedures of the organisation. However, after our first few NHS organisations did not continue their subscription into the 2nd year we reviewed our procedures. We now provide customers with a full roll out and support program, providing strategy and communication templates and ongoing unlimited office time support. This has results in the retention of more customers and an increase in savings for the customer.
Not including CCGs, at present we service about 20% of the NHS across England Scotland and Wales and we retain 85% of customers into the 2nd year and 90% of customers in the 3rd year.

The Warp It vision is to be a network where buying new is the last resort and nothing is wasted. A network where reusable items are redistributed for their 2nd and 3rd useful lives. When the items fail they are diverted into repair and reintroduced later.

**Economic, Health and Carbon Impact of the project**

Impact has been at a local, regional and national level. Over 100+ partners have been able to work together, building relationships and contacts that would not naturally have occurred.

The message is still being spread locally and the third sector continues to enthusiastically take up support of the free tool.

The initiative displays the following tracked benefits for the NHS as a whole:
- Procurement & waste cost avoidance savings total: £2,595,046
- Local waste arisings diverted from landfill: 41642
- Supply chain carbon emissions avoided due to not buying new: 1,202,890 KG CO2e
- Total value of goods donated to charity from the NHS; £77,218
- Value of goods donated to other NHS and wider public sector; £39,036
- Value of goods claimed off the rest of the NHS and public sector: £69,453

The Benefits to organisations include:
- The contributor avoids waste disposal costs;
- The claimant avoids the cost of purchasing new resources;
- Administration time for purchasing / disposal reduced;
- More efficient space management as space to store materials is reduced;
- Waste is diverted from final disposal;

As new goods are not acquired:
- Carbon emissions associated with purchasing (manufacturing and transport) new goods are reduced.
- Waste in manufacturing (which can be 90-4000 times that of the final product) is avoided
- Organisations collaborate easily.
- Charities and community groups save money to focus on charitable pursuits.
Partners, supporters involved in the Project

Warp It has worked with 2gether Foundation NHS Foundation Trust, Cheshire & Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS, Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust, Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust, Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Lancashire Teaching Hospital, Leeds Teaching Hospital, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust, Liverpool Heart & Chest Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool Women’s Hospital, Manchester NHS, Norfolk Community Health and Care, North Bristol NHS Trust, North East Ambulance Service, Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust, Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS FT, Northumberland Tyne & Wear NHS Trust, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS FT, Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust, Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, Sheffield Health and Social Care NHS Foundation Trust, Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust, South Western Ambulance Service, The Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals FT, FRIMLEY HEALTH NHS FOUNDATION TRUST, West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust, 5 Boroughs Partnership NHS, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust, DORSET HEALTHCARE UNIVERSITY NHS FOUNDATION TRUST, University College Hospital NHS Trust and Sussex NHS Trust.

Future plans for the project

Not including the CCG’s we have about 20% of the NHS using the service in the UK. We plan to have 50% of the NHS by the end of April 2019. We plan to offer NHS institutions who are in special measures free access to the service with no up front costs and we only invoice when they have saved twice the investment costs.

We will produce a report into the NHS Scotland project which will be disseminated to Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and US Health Institutions. We will produce a case study for NHS Improvement into our customer performance on the system. We plan to introduce a new facility to sell assets inter agency.

Events
We will deliver 1 workshop events per year in each UK region to help organisations collaborate with each other.

Software improvements
Any further software developments would be carried out in collaboration with existing
customers to ensure we design to solve their issues. The following software developments are proposed to maximise resource value and increase circular economy practices.

Sales to 3rd parties
At present on the system, if the organisation agrees, assets can be sold to staff. This is fully traceable, legal and legitimizes asset sales to staff. Taking this one step further, we propose to build an element where the admin can decide to offer surplus assets to preferred 3rd parties in return for revenue. Sales of surplus assets to NHS bodies, public sector, private sector, and beyond will be facilitated by the system.

Inhouse and/ or repair and refurbishment
We have already seen several customers in refurbishing items. Warp It already provides a rudimentary system for collecting in repairable items. However, this is only basic and therefore is not getting significant participation. We would propose to improve this feature to increase in house and/or contractor repair and refurbishment. Staff would add items and flag the item for repair or refurbishment. This would create a new item repair status on Warp It. The in house and/or contractor repair would get a notification to repair the item.

Incorporating central stores or reuse hubs.

Many of our customers have asked if we could improve the current storage features, to enable the creation of common stores where a number of NHS Trusts have access and view the items on a virtual marketplace. This is especially prevalent with STPs.

This proposal would see a facility being developed where the system manages the flow of surplus assets into a store which is co-managed by several Trusts. This process would entail the Trust offering their assets internally first as normal. If assets are not claimed, they can be moved into storage on the estate.

In the central store any number of Trusts could see what is available and book the items for collection. In the central store or hub there would also be repair and refurbishment facility.

Any number of hubs could be set up across the UK.

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