



Declaration on improving sustainability  
within the NHS and Healthcare



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The importance of Sustainable Development within the NHS efficiency challenge cannot be overstated. While progress has been made to communicate greater awareness on the importance of sustainability through such bodies as the Sustainable Development Unit, NHS Improvement and the Lord Carter Report, we feel there is still much more that should be done.

Urgent action is required to improve efficiency within the NHS and we strongly urge the government in the UK to accelerate their commitment to embed sustainability in the NHS. Until sustainability is more widely adopted, this campaign feels the NHS will not be able to combat in-efficiency effectively

Much of the focus of sustainability has been on the development of behavioural change communications amongst health professionals. While we feel this is important, it must be remembered that this is only one, temporary solution. Unless we change our approach to how the NHS views sustainable development from the top down we will face a future of repeated in-efficiency which will ultimately lead to financial loss.

Industry is committed to playing its part in supporting sustainability within the NHS, but we understand that it is a national problem requiring national collaboration. The recent Further five-year forward view and Lord Carter Report were great opportunities to put sustainability at the front of the health agenda and built on the progress of the Sustainable Development Unit. With attention on efficiency and the need to improve finances within the NHS now at its highest, it vital that we continue to build on this momentum. We must lead the way on demonstrating the value of sustainability for the future of the NHS.

### Collaborative Action

While the value of sustainability is often recognised by policymakers, industry and estates professionals, the variable adoption and implementation of sustainable development management plans across the NHS makes it difficult for sustainability to be widely adapted. Therefore, we call on the Government to support the improvement of sustainability by:

#### Identifying and showcasing best practice on sustainability in the NHS and replicating it across the system

- There are many examples of best practice across the NHS through our campaign
- The Campaign should be tasked by government with spreading this best practice throughout the healthcare system as it has done so for seven years. Therefore, we call for the Campaign to be backed and supported by government as an established vehicle to communicate sustainable development across the NHS

#### Developing national leadership and framework on how sustainability methods can be more widely adopted across NHS England

- Sustainable development struggles to be adopted due to a lack of guidance from central government and template for how it should be managed within a trust.
- The Campaign would welcome the opportunity to work with central government on establishing clear and concise guidance for the NHS on how to implement sustainable development management plans effectively
- The Campaign feels strongly that current methods and bodies commissioned to accelerate sustainability in the NHS are not fit for purpose
- Industry is also happy to work with the Government to make best use of the evidence that is already available. There is a wealth of existing data available, which supports how sustainable development has improved financial efficiency in the NHS.

## Educating the public about the role of sustainable development in the NHS

The Campaign feels strongly that in order to help diminish public pressure on hospitals and trusts as sometimes created via information disseminated in the media, it is vital that the public are educated about the vital role of sustainability is playing within the NHS:

- The Government has run many effective health campaigns in the past; for example, the Change for Life and Keep Antibiotics Working Campaigns that are well known among the public.
- We urge the Government to look at the success of these health campaigns and work with NHS England to devise a strategy that looks to educate all age groups about the relationship between sustainability and finance.
- We want to empower the public so that they feel knowledgeable enough to understand why sustainable development is a priority for the NHS and not seen as unnecessary.

## Focusing on delivering the outcomes of the Lord Carter Report and providing clarity on who is responsible for sustainable procurement within the NHS

- The Campaign has actively promoted the recommendations of the Carter Report
- We strongly support the report
- We seek confirmation from the Government on who has ownership for implementing and delivering Lord Carter's recommendations on behalf of Procurement within the NHS
- We strongly request Procurement Professionals working within the NHS be educated on the benefits sustainable practices can have on short and long-term efficiency
- We urge the government to support our national procurement campaign for the NHS

## Designating funding for the implementation of sustainable development

- The Campaign and its members note the Government supported sustainable development through the announcement of national funding opportunities
- While this commitment is welcome, the progress of trusts and hospitals to increase sustainability in their organisation will be undermined unless significant funding is put in place
- The Campaign and its members call on the Government to designate funding for the adoption and implementation of sustainable technology and practices

## Commitments by Signatory Companies

Campaign members take their commitment to sustainable development seriously. This Campaign brings industry together to drive forward collaborative action and support the NHS. The Campaign and its members, the undersigned companies, are keen to demonstrate their dedication and have committed to:

## Promoting the benefits of sustainable development

- The Campaign and its members always seek to promote the role of sustainability in the NHS. However, we will only encourage the use of technologies and services provided by members in situations where it is appropriate to do so.
- We support continued education for health professionals, clinicians and the wider public on the benefits of sustainable development from the SDU and other policy bodies.

## Investing in innovative new technology

- There are a number of quick, accurate and effective innovations and technologies already available to and used in the NHS that have not yet been adopted widely across the NHS.
- Therefore, industry will continue to invest in the research and development of new technologies to assist the acceleration of sustainable development

## Making better use of the tools already available to us to accelerate sustainability

- We and our members appreciate that a number of initiatives have been established to drive sustainable development outside of the Campaign.
- While the Campaign and its members already work and support a number of these organisations, we will look at how we can engage more effectively with them and make better use of their services to further the adoption of sustainable development
- The Campaign and its members will continually look to enhance current tried and tested methods in which have demonstrated success at accelerating sustainability



## Declaration Signatures



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