

Case Study

Transport

North Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals Foundation Trust

Northern Lincolnshire & Goole Hospitals Foundation Trust is spread across three sites, which generates a great deal of traffic in the local community and between its sites.

The increasing demand on parking and large amounts of time lost through site to site journeys, has led the Head of Transport to implement a comprehensive travel plan. In 2007 an audit was conducted to identify how staff, patients and visitors travel to the three main hospital sites and what, if any, issues they had in doing so. The information collected was then used to formulate a travel plan. This plan is now an evolving document that continues to adapt and respond to change.

The Trust worked with the Energy Saving Trust (EST), who carried out a survey on how green the Foundation Trusts fleet vehicles were. The EST offer a free consultancy service funded by the Department for Transport, which covers all vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes and gives clear and auditable metrics. The output of the service is a snapshot of where a trust is and where it needs to be and will result in reduced operating costs and a lower environmental impact.

The major benefits of a travel plan that looks at improving the sustainability of business, staff commute and patient travel, are that it saves money, both through reducing car park management costs, and unnecessary business travel.



In 2005/ 2006 staff mileage was around 1.5 million miles; a third of this travel was between trust sites. In September 2007 the hospital shuttle was set up to cater for this travel taking 13,283 staff bookings, in the first year, saving the trust a total of £93,722.

“The Trust’ Travel Plan is a tailor-made, site specific, travel strategy has a goal to promote sustainable transport by increasing travel choice and reducing the need to travel. It is a continuous, dynamic process for achieving travel behaviour change and promoting good employment practice – it is not a one-off event.”

Jug Johal, Head of Transport, Car Parking & Security

The Trust will also reduce the number of working hours lost through travel and improve overall access for patients, staff and suppliers. It will reduce the amount of 'did not attends', with the combined benefit of patients being offered greater choice about how they access the service. Encouraging staff to take part in active forms of travel will also benefit the overall health of the workforce, reducing stress for example. A travel plan will also reduce the need for single occupancy car journeys and mileage in total, thus having a positive effect in reducing carbon emissions.

The Trust has had good success with the promotion of cycling to work. This has meant looking at providing sufficient lighting to internal cycle routes, lockable bike storage areas, changing and shower facilities for staff, as well as areas to hang and dry clothes on wet days. The staff intranet site has also been useful in identifying why the uptake of the car sharing scheme had not been as successful as hoped, as well as being a resource for staff planning journeys. Another successful aspect of the plan has been to get staff thinking; do I need to make this journey, could this be done over the phone or by video conference? Thinking in this way will reduce overall journeys, which is key to driving down carbon emissions.

This case study shows a holistic approach to managing transport in a Trust; through viewing it as an overall access issue which impacts on the site and local community. There are many added benefits to this approach for staff, patients, visitors and suppliers.



If you would like any more information see www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/fleet

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The NHS Sustainable Development Unit develops organisations, people, tools, policy, and research to help the NHS in England fulfil its potential as a leading sustainable and low carbon organisation.