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Request for Information Reference: 03.21.41

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Email only

11 May 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Request for Information

Thank you for submitting a request for information which we received on 22 March 2021 in relation to County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust (the Trust). Your request has been processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and I am now able to provide you with a response.

Firstly please accept my apologies for the time taken to respond. Your request was in relation to Social value strategy and I am providing the following information in response to your specific questions:

- 1. More hospitals and organisations are now focusing on delivering social value in their day to day. What is your position on this and how important is social value to your hospital?**
- 2. Do you have a Social Value strategy, and if so, could you please share a copy of this?**

The Trust addresses Social Value through a number of Strategies, Policies and Initiatives:

- Sustainable Procurement Policy – please see Attachment 1: Commitment to procuring in an economically, environmentally and socially responsible way.
- Green Plan: During 2020/21 CDDFT Group developed a Green Plan – please see Attachment 3. The Green Plan sets out the CDDFT commitment to providing the safest, most compassionate and joined up healthcare whilst taking all reasonable steps to minimise its adverse impact on the environment, society and the planet; thereby not compromising the health and wellbeing of future generations. The Green Plan launched on 19 April 2021.

The Trust also has the Trust Charity; County Durham & Darlington Foundation Trust Charity, their objectives are 'to enhance the health and wellbeing of patients and staff through the provision of medical equipment, products, services and education that would not be available to the NHS other than through Charitable Funding'.

The charity works across the Trusts' eight hospitals and by supporting the community teams in 150 locations in County Durham & Darlington. Their work is extremely diverse from supporting small projects such as therapeutic art sets for patients

through to larger needs such as the MRI Scanner replacements or the drive to improve cancer services in County Durham & Darlington. The charity has recently installed recycling bins in Darlington Memorial, University Hospital of North Durham and into Bishop Auckland Hospitals, no data is currently available regarding outcomes but hope to have these available by the end of June 2021.

**3. What are the top social value priorities for each area of your hospital?
Please rank the below in order of importance and add any other which are important to you:**

Please note that each of these factors are taken into consideration on a case by case basis and no one aspect is prioritised by the Trust above others, but different approaches are in practice.

- **Waste reduction**

The Trust is committed to the waste hierarchy, where waste prevention and re-use is put above other forms of disposal. The Trust seeks to use local waste contractors where possible to reduce carbon emissions and support local employment.

- **Carbon footprint reduction**

The Trust successfully met the Carbon reduction targets in 2019, exceeding the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) recommended reduction target of 34% by 2020.

All Capital projects on our sites explore the latest technologies at design stage to ensure maximum efficiency and carbon impact on project completion.

The CDDFT Green Plan includes a Key Area of Focus for Estates and Facilities which incorporates our plans in relation to reducing our carbon footprint and reducing waste. In October 2020, the Trust set itself the long term objective of achieving net zero carbon emissions (for emissions we directly control) by 2040 and net zero carbon (for emissions we can influence) by 2045.

The Trust Charity has supported new ways of working via the provision of conferencing facilities to the Trust which has dramatically reduced the need to 'commute' to meetings, helping impact on the carbon footprint of the Trust.

- **Local sourcing**

The Green Plan includes a Key Area of Focus for the Supply Chain. Within this Key Area we have included an objective to increase the number of local suppliers.

- **Employee**

There is a 3 year Health & Wellbeing Strategy & Action Plan in place, which is monitored regularly by the Health & Wellbeing Working Group – Please see Attachment 2. This group is chaired by the Head of Occupational Health and has representatives from Care Groups, Corporate Departments, Communications, Occupational Health & Occupational Health Psychology, Payroll, Workforce

Experience, HR, Wellbeing for Life, Charity Team, Workforce Compliance, Health & Safety, Union/Staff Side.

CDDFT have been part of the regional Better Health at Work Awards and have been at the 'Maintaining Excellence' Standard for approximately 8 years. This includes organising at least 5 health campaigns annually (although there are usually more than 5); the campaigns include information and guidance on: healthy lifestyle, obesity, alcohol awareness, stress & mental health, exercise/ physical activity, stop smoking, musculoskeletal and much more.

The Trust also has an Employee Assistance Programme which is available to all staff via initial assessment via a Freephone number, 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. This is an independent, free and confidential advice service which includes debt/ financial management, Legal and Tax advice, Family & Everyday matters Advice Emotional Support and a counselling service providing free counselling sessions both via telephone and face to face.

Access to a comprehensive range of support/ help sheets via an online platform – please see Attachment 2.

Plans are currently in place for an annual calendar of events, which will link to National Campaigns these will be available and advertised to all staff which will include:

- Physical Activity Challenges
- Equality & Diversity
- Mental Health Awareness
- Information re Health Initiatives – e.g. organ donation, hard of hearing, health checks, diabetes, Anti-bullying
- Men's and Women's Health Days

- **Healthy lifestyle**

The Green Plan includes Key Areas of Focus for Travel and Transport and Food, Catering and Nutrition. Both of these key plans encourage a healthy lifestyle for our patients, staff and communities by promoting active travel and healthy food.

CDDFT Charity has recently helped fund a two year initiative to help build mental health wellbeing and resilience within the Trust, particularly post Covid-19. It has also provided new physiotherapy equipment to cope with the increased obesity needs, helping to encourage patients and staff into healthier lifestyles.

For staff the Trust also actively promotes the cycle to work scheme to improve fitness and reduce our carbon footprint.

The Trust has a Wellbeing team who offer free health lifestyle advice and support to staff and patients once they have completed their medical care. The Wellbeing teams provide training and advice and free online resources to help staff stay/ become healthy happy and resilient.

The Wellbeing team are looking to support staff to set up more running/ walking, cycling and eat wise groups to address healthy lifestyles in peer groups. The wellbeing services train mental health first aiders on all areas of the Trust. The Trust's Wellbeing team promote the significant benefits of using the outdoors for mental and physical wellbeing.

The Trust's Smoke Free NHS pledge supports staff to improve their staff to reduce or stop smoking which also supports clean air around our hospital sites in particular.

- **Social mobility**

The Trust actively supports career progression programmes, with free training and programmes such as our comprehensive apprenticeship programme.

The Trust provides a number of salary sacrifice schemes and savings plans to support staff to purchase equipment or gifts in an affordable manner

- **Skills development**

CDDFT Charity has helped to fund skills development in the Trust bringing innovation into County Durham & Darlington, this even includes the use of AI technology to help communicate with special educational needs patients.

The Trust has a structured leadership development framework that is reviewed annually which maps out learning and development via banding and role to support a quality appraisal discussion.

- **Charity support and fundraising**

Covid-19 has meant a lot of the traditional routes to fundraising have been impacted, however there has been a rise in members of the public taking on physically challenging activities from cycling to walking or running and fundraising via platforms like 'Justgiving'.

The Charity is currently working with external advisors to improve its online presence and its ability to fundraising electronically. The Charity complies with Charities Commission regulations on ethical fundraising.

4. What are the key commitments for your hospital over the coming year?

As explained above, the CDDFT Group has launched its Green Plan this month. In addition please see the information in question 3.

5. What are your social value priorities with regards to your staff (health and wellbeing, obesity, social mobility, equality and diversity etc.)? What actions are you planning to take to support the delivery of these priorities?

Please see the information in question 3.

6. What are your social value priorities with regards to the environment (waste, reduction in carbon footprint, sustainability, reduction in SUP etc.)? What actions are you planning to take to support the delivery of these priorities?

During 2019/20 the Trust established a Sustainability Development Group (SDG) comprised of experts and professionals from across CDDFT to bring together ambitions for sustainability. During autumn 2020 staff worked together to develop the CDDFT Green Plan. The Green Plan sets out our vision for sustainability and the road map to achieving the Trust's ambitions:

The Trust's vision is to ensure that CDDFT provides the safest, most compassionate and joined up healthcare whilst taking all reasonable steps to minimise its adverse impact on the environment, society and the planet; thereby not compromising the health and wellbeing of future generations.

We have identified eight Key Areas of focus for our Green Plan:

- Estates and Facilities
- Travel and Transport
- Supply Chain
- Food, Catering and Nutrition
- Medicines and Clinical Care
- Sustainable Models of Care
- Workforce, networks and System Leadership
- Adaptation

Within each of these areas we have created a Key Plan which sets out (i) What we want to achieve by 2024; (ii) How we will achieve it; and (iii) How we will measure it. The implementation of these plans will drive the delivery of our vision. The Green Plan is being launched on 19 April 2021.

7. What are your social value priorities with regards to the care of your patients?

The Trust has interpreted this question as referring to the Patient Strategy: 'Our patients matter'. The strategy and information about it can be found via the following link:

<https://www.cddft.nhs.uk/about-the-trust/teamcddft-strategy-our-patients-matter.aspx>

If this was not what you were referring to in your question, please do get in touch and we will do our utmost to respond appropriately.

In line with the Information Commissioner's directive on the disclosure of information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 your request will form part of our disclosure log on the Trust's website. However please be assured that we anonymise all responses prior to adding them to the disclosure log.

I hope that this response has provided you with the information you had requested. If you have any queries or wish to discuss the information supplied, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or in writing. If however, you are dissatisfied with the way in which your request has been handled and would like an internal review, you will need to contact me in writing at the above address or via cdda-tr.cddftfoi@nhs.

If you remain dissatisfied with our response following an internal review you have the right to appeal to The Information Commissioner at Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. More information is available on their website; www.ico.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Joanna Tyrrell
Freedom of Information Officer