

NHS Board Meeting
31 March 2021

Lanarkshire NHS Board
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SUBJECT: NHS LANARKSHIRE BIODIVERSITY DUTIES REPORT 2018-2021

1. PURPOSE

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, states that all public bodies are required to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities. Following an amendment in the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011 public bodies are required to publish and make publically available every three years a report on actions they have taken to meet their biodiversity duty. NHS Lanarkshire's previous report was published in January 2018 following approval by the Board.

This report highlights progress made in the period since and seeks approval from the Board for submission of the 2018-2020 report to Scottish Government Biodiversity Team.

2. ROUTE TO THE BOARD

This paper has been prepared by the Head of Sustainability & Environment Manager with support from Vicki Trim, Senior Health Improvement Manager. It was reviewed by the Corporate Management Team on 15 March 2021.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

For the last 5 years NHS Lanarkshire has run a social prescribing programme 'Gardening for Health' (GFH) which is part of the NHS Well Connected programme and is based in Lanark. This has expanded and is now being provided in 5 community hospital sites as well as current developments with University Hospital Hairmyres and older adults mental health wards. The GFH programme provides patients with a range of therapeutic horticulture and green activities, which can contribute to their recovery programme and improve self-management of long-term conditions.

NHS Lanarkshire have also been working with Scottish Forestry and Green Exercise Partnership on an NHS Greenspace project to maximise the use of green space for the benefit of staff, patients, carers and visitors and to promote green exercise on these sites.

Lanarkshire Green Health Partnership (LGHP) was established in March 2018 and is a cross sectoral collaboration working together to connect people with nature and maximise the use of health inducing green assets. Our Natural Health Service provides benefits to physical, mental and social health and can help to reduce inequalities in health through access to quality greenspace. The social impact of quality greenspace is particularly relevant to older adults where there is some evidence that people in areas with less greenspace report more loneliness and less social contact.

The LGHP is raising awareness and confidence of the health and social care sector workforce and the public to connect with nature. This is being achieved by offering holistic care for prevention, treatment and mitigation of ill health by:

- Ensuring outdoor activities are promoted, valued and integrated into how we provide health and care services.
- Calling for action from many organisations.
- Shaping work around local health priorities.
- Integration of green health activities to existing referral pathways such as Physical Activity Prescription, Active Health, Well Connected and Weigh to Go.
- Raising awareness of the benefits of nature with over 600 health & social care professionals.
- Identification of over 150 green health activities across both Health & Social Care Partnerships.
- Development of a green health directory for staff and the public to find out what is available: www.bit.do/lan-greenspace.
- Infrastructure changes and resources developed to improve active travel.
- Recruitment of a Health Improvement Senior post for Active Travel and in partnership with Sustrans, a Workplace Engagement Officer for Active Travel for the NHSL workforce.

4. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

NHS Lanarkshire has a long running Sustainability & Environment Group, chaired by the Board’s Director of Planning, Property & Performance and who is also the Board’s Sustainability Champion. The Group is responsible for delivery of the various Chief Executive Letters (CEL) and acts as a reference group for other relevant national mandatory and statutory legislation, such as CEL 2 (2012) “A Policy on Sustainable Development for NHSScotland 2012”.

The Group is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating risk management for strategic sustainability planning, climate change adaptation, biodiversity and service improvement across all NHS Lanarkshire Services, and produces reports on the Board’s energy performance and carbon emissions to meet Scottish Government requirements around annual climate change and sustainability reporting.

The Lanarkshire Greenspace Health and Wellbeing Partnership was the first of its kind nationally and was established in 2013. The programme recognised the benefits of greater coordination between health and environment sectors to achieve health benefits from green space and included members from the statutory and voluntary sectors locally, as well as national partners such as Scottish Natural Heritage and Paths for All.

This paper links to the following:

Corporate objectives	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AOP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government policy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Government directive	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory requirement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	AHF/local policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Urgent operational issue	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	<input type="checkbox"/>		

5. CONTRIBUTION TO QUALITY

In 2017, an opportunity arose for NHS Lanarkshire to connect with the national “Our Natural Health Service Action Programme” and become one of four Local Green Health Partnerships across Scotland which co-ordinate cross-sectoral action between the health, social care and the environmental sectors. Both North & South Lanarkshire has urban and rural geographies and partners capitalise on environmental assets locally for the improvement of health and well-being.

This paper aligns to the following elements of safety and quality improvement:

Three Quality Ambitions:

Safe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Person Centred	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Six Quality Outcomes:

Everyone has the best start in life and is able to live longer healthier lives; (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
People are able to live well at home or in the community; (Person Centred)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Everyone has a positive experience of healthcare; (Person Centred)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Staff feel supported and engaged; (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Healthcare is safe for every person, every time; (Safe)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Best use is made of available resources. (Effective)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

6. MEASURES FOR IMPROVEMENT

The immediate challenges for NHS Lanarkshire are to identify and prioritise climate change impacts posing greatest threat to the organisation. This is part of the Workplan for 2021-22 and will be carried out using the newly developed NHS Scotland Climate Change Risk Assessment Toolkit.

It is also a priority for the organisation to develop an NHS Lanarkshire Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and where practical local BAPs.

The Lanarkshire Green Health partnership has made huge progress with partners offering green health opportunities such as walking, cycling, gardening and volunteering as well as enjoying being out in greenspace. Actions have involved:

Development of gardening sessions at community hospitals for inpatients and outpatients.



Quality improvement priorities have been identified through GIS mapping of SIMD 1 & 2 areas and quality of greenspace surrounding these communities.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

NHS Lanarkshire have confirmed site selection for the new University Hospital Monklands and it will be an important part of the design process to build in biodiversity and biophilic design which is known to improve cognitive function, physical health and psychological well-being.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT/MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

For the next three year reporting period, it is proposed to increase the Biodiversity Duty actions within the NHS Lanarkshire Climate Change Duties report that is published annually and reported to Health Facilities Scotland and Scottish Government Health & Social Care Department. NHS Lanarkshire will also have completed an assessment of the quality of Greenspace in the NHS Lanarkshire estate. There is also an action for NHS Lanarkshire to monitor performance on Biodiversity & Nature section in the Sustainability Assessment Toolkit and increase the score from a baseline of 30% to 45%.

9. FIT WITH BEST VALUE CRITERIA

NHS Lanarkshire is committed to Monitoring outcomes of specific activities using biodiversity indicators that will be developed in the next reporting phase.

As the nature of biodiversity is variable over time and seasons, and wildlife and animals are not a permanent feature then the new indicators proposed will be designed to monitor biodiversity directly and show actual impacts of actions and activities rather than just measurements of the process. This paper aligns to the following best value criteria:

Vision and leadership	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effective partnerships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Governance and accountability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Use of resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Performance Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Equality	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

10. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT / FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

Not Applicable.

11. CONSULTATION AND ENGAGEMENT

The report was issued for comment to the Sustainability & Environment Group.

12. ACTIONS FOR THE BOARD

The Board is asked to approve the content of the report which will be sent to Scottish Government Biodiversity Team.

13. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about any aspect of this paper, please contact:

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