



NHS National Waiting Times Board

Biodiversity Report 2018 - 2020

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Owners: National Waiting Times Centre Board
Authors: Board Sustainability Champion, Senior Estates Manager (tech. services).

1 Biodiversity and NHS National Health Board duties

1.1 The statutory framework

The Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act (2004) requires all public bodies in Scotland, including National Waiting Times Centre Board (NWTC), to further the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their responsibilities.

Also under the Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act (2011) NWTC is required to provide a public report on the actions which they have taken to meet this biodiversity duty.

1.2 Governance and management for biodiversity

A Policy on Sustainable Development for NHSScotland, CEL 2 (2012), sets out mandatory governance requirements for all NHSScotland Health Boards. NWTC board governance structure is supported by a board-level Champion for Sustainability.

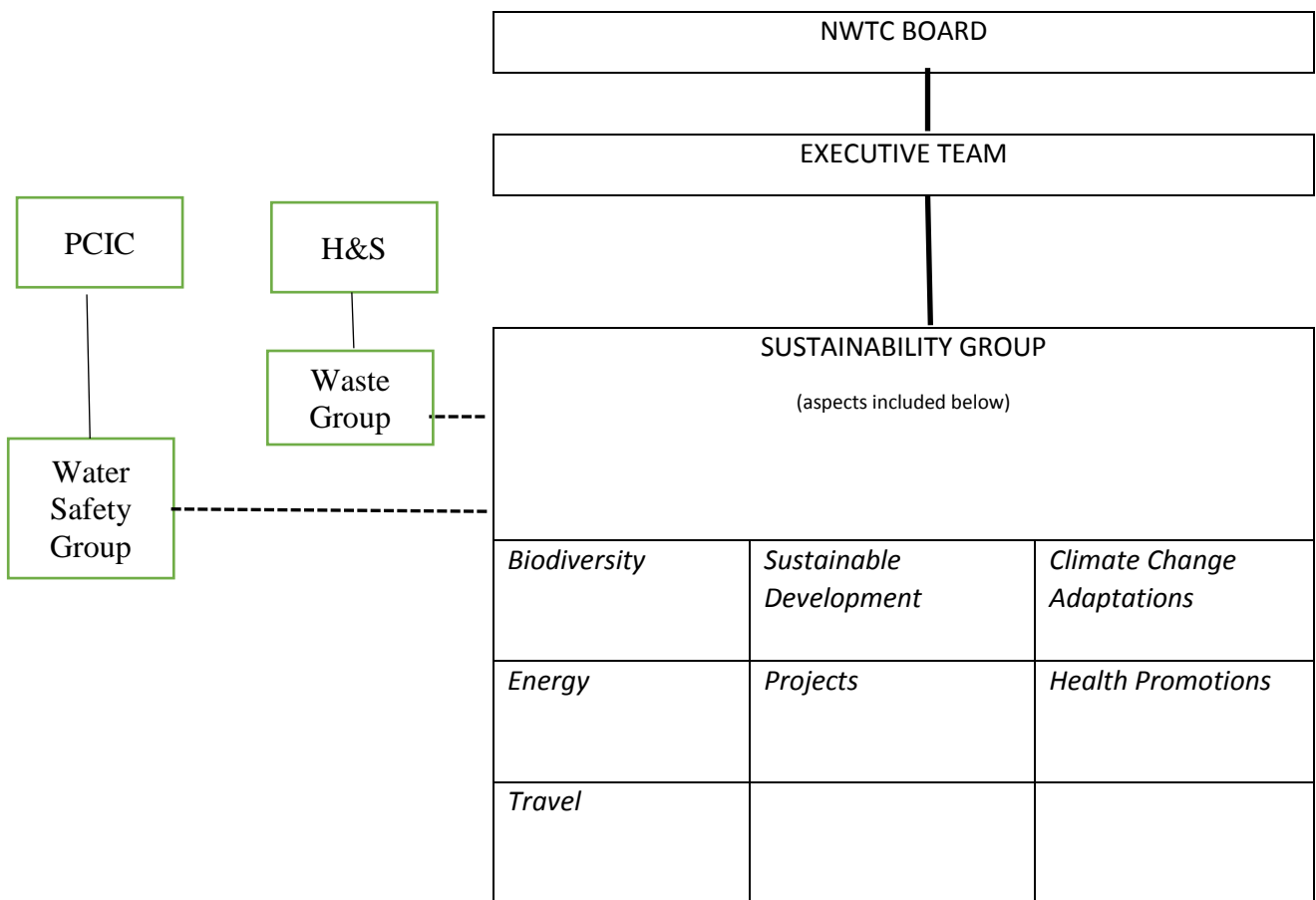
To meet their responsibilities, NWTC aligns its corporate actions with those they undertake in relation to the fulfilment of their statutory duties, including sustainable development, of which biodiversity is an aspect.

The NWTC structure aims to provide robust governance based on all operational and strategic responsibilities.

The Director of Finance is the Executive lead for sustainability for NWTC and also the Board Sustainability champion. A Sustainability Group is being established to oversee and coordinate the implications and outworking of all aspects of sustainability for/in NWTC. Historically there were separate energy, waste, utility and environmental groups but this is now being refashioned into a sustainability group, with exact membership of the group being developed. For governance this group is accountable to the Executive Team and the Chief Executive (see Fig.1).

NWTC is committed to ensuring that it considers sustainable development in its actions and decisions.

Figure 1: Sustainability governance and management structure



Dec2020

2 Corporate Context/Action

NWTC is one of the 22 Health Boards that form the NHS in Scotland. The Board comprises the Golden Jubilee National Hospital (GJNH), the Golden Jubilee Conference Hotel (GJCH), the Golden Jubilee Innovation Centre (GJIC) and the Golden Jubilee Research Institute (GJRI). The Board is a single site located in Clydebank, West Dunbartonshire, approximately 8 miles west of Glasgow City Centre.

The Board's primary functions are to provide a range of specialist clinical services to patients' groups from across Scotland, to promote clinical research and innovation, and to provide high quality training and conference facilities within the Conference Hotel.

NWTC site occupies an area of approximately sixteen hectares. The site includes soft landscaped areas, but is predominantly buildings, hard landscaping of tar macadam and block paving (includes 1000 car parking spaces, roadways, footpaths, courtyards) and concrete service yards.

The soft landscaped area of the site (approx.40%) has limited options due to its piecemeal nature, ground conditions and requirements for appearance.

By definition of its function and services to the whole of Scotland, it is limited in its engagement on a local basis compared to territorial boards.

As part of our ongoing commitment to sustainability, NWTC completed a Good Corporate Citizenship (GCC) self-assessment.

NHS Scotland has developed new tools for annual Environmental Management Auditing and for Climate Change Risk assessment.

Through Annual application of these, combined with the resulting development of a Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP), this will help shape strategic and operational objectives across the organisations that have a direct bearing on reducing our impact, protecting the environment and promoting biodiversity.

The SDAP include aspects such as:

- Facilities Management & Buildings
- Workforce
- Transport & Travel
- Procurement
- Community Engagement
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Models of Care

NWTC is also required to submit annual climate change reports as part of the Public Bodies Duties of the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. The reports are the primary source of climate change reporting for all major public bodies and include information aligned with the following sections.

1. Governance, management and strategy
2. Carbon emissions, targets and projects
3. Climate change adaptation
4. Procurement
5. Other notable activities, e.g. biodiversity, resource use, etc.

3 Actions related to Biodiversity, ecosystem services and health improvement

The piecemeal approach through varied groups within NWTC has resulted in actions that vary in effectiveness across time to address Sustainability and Biodiversity. As a clear indication of the commitment from NWTC to meet the public bodies duties' the formation of the Sustainability Group is intended to improve/reduce the NWTC environmental impact and positively influence biodiversity

Two sections (approx..1 acre) of the site area are left uncut to facilitate biodiverse natural growth/activity.

3.1 Points of note;

- Carbon Footprint – Previously Carbon Management Plans were produced to focus attention on CO₂e and identify areas for attention. As a result of implemented projects (and the decarbonising of the grid) NWTC has reduced its CO₂e by 1% in 2019 (overall reduction of 40% c.f. 2015).
- Waste – new general waste management contract and clinical waste management contract for NHS Scotland contractual arrangements will provide the information required to allow for more proactive waste management.
- Procurement – applying the NWTC Procurement Strategy duty requires staff to consider relevant social, environmental and economic wellbeing/impacts.
- Transport – the Board has relatively few vehicles (4 patient transport vehicles and several lease cars). These are currently Euro 6 compliant and some will become electric on replacement (where operational range/limitations permit).
- Active travel and health promotion – New cycle racks have been installed and NWTC offers the Cycle to Work scheme for staff.
- There are walking routes marked around/on the site grounds for staff and visitors to encourage exercise.
- The Conference Hotel has maintained its Green Tourism award at 'Gold' level and its International Association of Conference Centres Green Star award at 'Silver' level – both of these significantly emphasise the environmental practices as much as customer care.
- The staff have a Bicycle User Group and also access to Hotel health club membership.
- Occupational Health department retains the Healthy Working Lives Gold award for maintaining workplace mental and physical health, which includes promoting exercise/activities around the site.
- Corporate Responsibility Statement of Intent – A draft statement exists re a public commitment for the NWTC website covering sustainability, workforce, community engagement, customers and suppliers.
- Through the current building/construction works, discussions and assessment with Scottish Natural Heritage (through West Dunbartonshire Council) resulted in screening being erected to avoid disturbance to Clyde nesting birds.
- Covid 19 impact throughout 2020 has absorbed much of the organizations time and effort, but potentially impacting sustainability positively as more staff adopt hybrid/agile working.

3.2 Partnership working and biodiversity

- NWTC is an active member of NHS Scotland and works with other Boards where national benefits can be achieved – in this case developing national tools for managing/reducing the environmental impact e.g. sustainability, energy, waste, climate change,...
- Supported HFS in ensuring the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and health co-benefits are more formally included in the frameworks and tools for Scotland
- NWTC is in discussion regarding options for low carbon heat - possibly from Queens Quay district heating scheme, or an in-house development.

4 Biodiversity highlights and challenges

As a public sector body, NWTC takes seriously its role in promoting biodiversity, which fits with the approach to sustainable development. From 2020 onwards NWTC is committed to taking further action to build on the work already undertaken and ensure not only that we are Good Corporate Citizens, but are advocates for sustainability through:

- Care pathways are continually monitored and improved with the aim of reducing hospital attendance, thus offsetting the increase in patient demand.
- Exploring opportunities to reduce the business miles travelled by the grey fleet, revise lease car schemes and emphasise the importance of avoiding unnecessary travel (while seeking an appropriate solution where there are no alternatives to car travel). The explore schemes for alternative fuel vehicles..
- NWTC Procurement will continue to integrate with external suppliers to assess and identify areas of improvement with all aspects of environmental and sustainable development.
- Waste Management. - Targets can now be explored for 2021 onward, to allow NWTC to benchmark against waste recycling data. The overall objective is to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill, and increase recycling.
- NWTC will continue to monitor its services, how it functions, and how it can improve its environmental impact. NWTC will aim to utilise tools such as the soon to be operational NHS defined Environmental Management System.
- The Scottish Government target for being Carbon neutral by 2035 will be difficult to achieve.

5 Conclusion

NWTC, within its limits, will continue to play its part in pursuance of good sustainability (including protecting Biodiversity) and health.