

Progress in Practice

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust

As one of the first Foundation Trusts in the country, the principles of Good Corporate Citizenship were adopted early on, and a Board sub-committee established to drive change and ensure that the Trust acts as 'more than a hospital'

Summary

Stockport NHS Foundation Trust completed the NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model and used the results as a baseline to build an embedded action plan bringing together a wide range of initiatives including local procurement, health education, a volunteer learning scheme, carbon reduction and waste management. Good Corporate Citizenship has Executive, Non-Executive Director and Governor support. The Trust were 'highly commended' in the HSJ Award for Good Corporate Citizenship 2007.



"We felt this project allowed pupils to develop a better understanding of the hospital and its role within the community." (see box opposite)

Stephen Youd-Thomas, Corporate Citizenship Advisor

New unit brings broad benefits

When planning the investment of over £25 million in a new Cardiology and Surgical Unit (CSU) at Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport NHS Foundation Trust decided to ensure that the benefits were as far reaching as possible.

- 63% of the £16.22 million building budget was spent within the North West economy, £124K of this was spent in the immediate SK postcode area.
- As a health care provider with a strict no smoking policy, the Trust offered all contractors working on the project smoking cessation information and support. This resulted in several individuals ceasing smoking.
- During construction the site and equipment were made available to the local fire service as part of its crisis training and rescue exercises, enabling it to improve its skills and experience in emergency rescue situations.
- The Trust worked with nine local schools and a professional artist to create a public art installation within the unit. Over 100 young people were involved, creating art work with a health promotion/prevention theme, giving them the opportunity to engage with health related matters in a fun and interesting way and also encouraging them to interpret those issues in such a way as to make them accessible to the general public (see picture).

Links and organisations involved: NHS Good Corporate Citizenship Assessment Model (www.corporatecitizen.nhs.uk); Stockport NHS Foundation Trust (www.stockporthealth.nwest.nhs.uk); The Carbon Trust (www.carbontrust.co.uk); Emmaus (www.emmaus.org.uk); Regional Development Agency (www.englandsrds.com); The Co-operative Group (www.co-operative.co.uk)

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The whole trust approach

In order to ensure that the principles of Good Corporate Citizenship are delivered consistently throughout the organisation, a robust governance model has been established with a Board sub-committee entitled "More Than a Hospital." This body, made up of elected public governors, a staff governor and appointed governors, is assisted by the Project Sponsor and Project Manager.

Successful local partnerships have been key to the Trust's achievements. A strategic partnership has been formed with the Regional Development Agency, whereby additional funding has been secured to develop initiatives.

A successful Volunteer Learning Scheme has been established providing volunteering opportunities to individuals, including those with physical and learning difficulties who previously may have found it difficult to enter, or return, to work. Other groups are being targeted in line with the North West's Regional Development Agency's Regional Economic Strategy, including offenders at Syal Women's Prison. The scheme has so far helped over 20 people and has led to 10 securing permanent positions within the Trust and 5 being employed elsewhere.

A partnership between the Trust and the Co-operative Group was launched in January 2007. Initiatives include working with the Group and local rugby team Sale Sharks to set-up a health awareness day for 24 schools and working to deliver healthy eating initiatives to members of the public including how to prepare healthy, affordable meals.

Minimising energy consumption & waste

Participating in the second round of the Carbon Trust's NHS Carbon Management Programme, the Trust are making a strategic commitment to reduce energy related carbon emissions by 26% over the next five years. Savings are anticipated to be £500,000 per annum on their energy bill, and a reduction of 3372 tonnes of CO₂ per annum.

Stockport Foundation Trust's recycling programme not only cuts down on waste and saves money but also boosts the local economy. The scheme has already enabled the trust to pass on 33 of its old domestic fridges, some of which have been sold to people on low incomes, and has so far saved the Trust in excess of £500 in waste disposal. Even better, it is providing employment to the formerly homeless who are employed and housed by local charity Emmaus to test and refurbish the machines to make them reusable. Emmaus are now looking at other waste streams generated by the Trust including office furniture.

The drive behind the recycling programme has also led to annual improvements to the recycling of paper from 0.25 to 1 tonne per week and cardboard from 1 to 2 tonnes per week. The Trust has piloted the recycling of plastic bottles and arrangements are being made with the local authority for glass recycling.

The importance of communication to staff has been recognised, and the existing communications strategy is being built upon to ensure continuing support and input from staff. Presentations on the benefits of energy conservation have been given at an Improving Working Lives day, and information on a broad range of the Trust's initiatives has been published in the free local Community News.

Strategic Learning Points:

- Establishing local partnerships is a key mechanism which helps to make a positive contribution to the community whilst also raising the profile of the Trust.
- Forming a dedicated committee for Good Corporate Citizenship can help co-ordinate and drive change.

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