

CASE STUDY

Net Zero Primary Care Lead

What was the problem?

This project was introduced to provide a link for primary care so that there could be one co-ordinated approach to align with the Trust and wider ICS work on the Greener NHS Programme.

NHS Cheshire & Merseyside recognised that the links between primary care colleagues could be stronger from a sustainability perspective. NHS Cheshire & Merseyside wanted to breach the current gap by having a specific primary care net zero lead who could bring other primary care colleagues into the discussion, bring them on the journey and create a network of like-minded people. This network would grow and develop so sustainability ideas and initiatives would become more embedded throughout primary care.

What was the solution?

It was identified that a specific primary care lead on net zero would provide a focal point for this work. A Net Zero Primary Care Lead was then appointed. The initial stages of this project were fact finding and baselining of the current position of primary care across the Cheshire & Merseyside region. The later stages have focused on identifying a support structure and developing a primary care event which took place in September 2022 to provide clear guidance for primary care colleagues to follow and introduce initiatives for them to adopt. This is the start of a long term piece of work but the ground work is well and truly underway and primary care has a specific chapter within the [ICS Green Plan](#).

What were the challenges?

Working over such a big geographical footprint, with such a multitude of different, competing issues, meant it was difficult to quickly establish a clear governance process. This is still a work in progress but inroads have been made, with the event held in September 2022 to provide options and opportunities for primary care colleagues to become aligned with the wider sustainability agenda.

What were the results/Impact?

A network of primary care colleagues is starting to be built up, providing opportunities to share ideas and to innovate. Through these discussions, ideas have been generated, with one of these being to hold a specific primary care event which happened in September 2022 to provide information, networking opportunities and initiatives to adopt to be more sustainable. From this it is hoped there will be a series of similar events designed to engage primary care colleagues, as well as share knowledge and best practices that can accelerate primary care sustainability networks.

What were the learning points?

Having just one lead, over such a wide geographical area, limits progress. Should money and capacity allow, it would be good to have a network of net zero leads to ensure a point of contact and a joined up approach. This increased network of net zero leads would create more support to enable primary care colleagues to fully engage in this work and a firmer structure for primary care colleagues to understand their role in this work as well as deliver on their required elements.

Next steps

Following the Primary Care event on September 29th 2022, this will hopefully lead to a series of similar events to support primary care colleagues.

Want to know more?

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