

**NHS 24  
20 JUNE 2024  
BOARD MEETING  
ITEM NO 9.2  
FOR ASSURANCE**

**CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAMME UPDATE**

**Executive Sponsor:** Dr Ron Cook, Medical Director

**Lead Officer/Authors:** Caroline Shanley, Programme Manager

**Action Required:** The Board is asked to review for assurance the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme (CESP) update.

**Key Points for the Board to consider**

- Responding to the climate emergency is one of the Scottish Government's highest priorities.
- CESP activities are part of the annual review for all health boards.

**Governance process**

- The NHS 24 governance reflects that defined by the Scottish Government National Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme.

**Strategic alignment and link to overarching NHS Scotland priorities and strategies**

- NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy: 2022-2026.
- The Scottish Government (SG) Care and Wellbeing Portfolio and Public health priorities for Scotland are overall strategic reform policies and delivery framework within Health and Social Care.
- Chief Medical Officer – Realistic medicine annual report: 2022
- Realistic Medicine Action Plans
- NHS 24 Workforce Strategy
- NHS 24 Corporate Strategy
- NHS 24 CESP Strategy and Action Plan
- NHS 24 Finance Strategy

**Key Risks**

Risk management is aligned with the standing corporate governance process.

**Financial Implications**

A key deliverable of the CESP programmed is to identify any potential financial efficiency.

### **Equality and Diversity**

NHS 24 takes account of requirements in relation to equality and diversity in relation to Sustainability Development and environmental matters.

## **1. RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 The Board is asked to review for assurance the CESP update at its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## **2. TIMING**

- 2.1 The NHS 24 Climate Emergency and Sustainability Programme update is reported to the Board quarterly, as per the national governance agreement.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Climate change presents a serious risk to the health of people around the world and has been described by the Lancet Commission on Managing the Health Effects of Climate Change as “the biggest global health threat of the 21st century”.
- 3.2 NHS 24 has defined deliverables and targets align to the [NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022-2026](#). The Scottish Government corporate governance structures for Health Boards are in place at NHS 24, and the Climate Emergency and Sustainable programme is a key internal pillar of [Our Corporate Strategy 2023 | NHS 24](#).
- 3.3 Appropriate action to reduce carbon emissions, will reduce the impact on population health. This aligns to Scottish Governments [Care and Wellbeing Portfolio Board](#) priorities. Net zero targets are a key pillar of the Value Based Health & Care action plan aligned to Realistic Medicine. As we remobilise and reform services, we must build towards a more sustainable healthcare system that delivers better value care to the public.
- 3.4 Health care emissions contribute to the climate crisis. The CESP strategy and operational structures in NHS 24 will deliver more environmentally sustainable services, while also improving population health both now and in the future.
- 3.5 NHS 24 also has a key role to play in supporting its workforce to consider wider environmentally sustainable behaviours. This includes promotion of sustainable travel methods, procurement and a digital first approach for communication.
- 3.6 In May 2023 the NHS 24 Board approved the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy and action plan. There are five main areas aligned with

associated delivery actions and targets to achieve our overall net-zero ambitions.

- Buildings and Land
- Travel
- Goods and Services
- Care and Realistic Medicine
- Communities



- 3.7 NHS 24 committed to establishing an organisational CESP Programme. There are five key priority areas for delivery, these have associated short, medium- and long-term actions from each of the five themes. Individual aligned projects have been established and future projects will be put in place where there are updated Scottish Government CESP priorities, and where new opportunities emerge. Operational leads from each Directorate contribute to the delivery of the actions to deliver CESP targets.
- 3.8 Robust project governance is in place, providing assurance to the NHS 24 Board, that sustainability and value are key considerations for design, delivery and evaluation of current and future programmes and projects.
- 3.9 A bespoke Board workshop was delivered to increase awareness and knowledge of the CESP national programme. This workshop was delivered by the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA). IEMA offered this training to all Boards nationally coordinated by NHS Assure.
- 3.10 The processes for data collection are evolving, and as a result, NHS 24 now has improved capability for data collection, including access to near 'real time' data for some sites through collaboration with landlords, energy and waste suppliers.

## **4. ENGAGEMENT**

### **4.1 Internal**

A significant focus has been on staff engagement across directorates. To maximise accessibility and ease of communication, various forms of communication methods have been introduced e.g., a specific internal CESP microsite. Specific meetings on better waste and energy management are now in place and include staff across our services.

### **4.2 External**

The Programme Manager for the NHS 24 CESP programme, is a member of several national CESP groups. These groups include membership from health boards, Scottish Government, NHS Assure and subject matter experts.

## **5 NSAT**

### **5.1 RELAXATION OF REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH 64 of DL (2021) 38 – NATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL**

Paragraph 64 of DL (2021) 38, issued on 10 November 2021, requires that each NHS Scotland body must assess its contribution to the achievement of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals on an annual basis using the National Sustainability Assessment Tool (NSAT) provided by NHS National Services Scotland.

At a meeting of the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Board on 19 March, it was unanimously agreed to discontinue this mandatory requirement. There is therefore no longer any mandatory requirement on Health Boards to report under NSAT. Boards are of course free to use NSAT for their own purposes, should they wish.

There are other mandatory reporting requirements for assessing progress against sustainability and climate change goals for NHS Scotland Boards; mainly the Public Bodies' Climate Change Duties Reports and the NHS Annual Climate Change and Sustainability Reports. In addition, Delivery Plans, which are also mandatory, require Boards among other things to outline their plans on sustainability and climate change mitigation and adaptation. Given the range of reporting and planning requirements now in existence, it was felt that retaining the mandatory status of NSAT added little on a national basis, however NHS 24 will continue to use the tool to baseline and chart our own progress as there is currently no other similar tool available.

## **5. NATIONAL E-LEARNING MODULES**

### **5.1 Four videos have been built and the total viewing time for all 4 videos is 26 minutes and 38 seconds.**

The text for the training course, as well as test questions and responses for the end of each section have been drafted and passed on to PHS L&D colleagues

to develop the module in the format that NES requires. It is anticipated that the course will be ready to go to NES by early May. The full course should take no longer than 35 minutes to complete (including reading of text and tests at the end of each section).

The training course will likely be given its own landing page on TURAS and it's still to be agreed nationally if the modules will be mandatory.

NHS NSS Marketing and Communication Team will be leading on planning the launch of the module and will engage with communications teams from each board, the launch is anticipated to be in June 2024.

## **6. MAPPING OF NHS SCOTLAND ESTATE**

- 6.1 PHS have completed an initial mapping of the boundaries of the NHS Scotland Estate. The mapping exercise is high level and defines land-use by broad categories. A high-level report summary will be completed by PHS and shared in due course. The output of the mapping exercise will enable NHS 24 to work closely with other health board who may have excess land, to embark on joint biodiversity projects.

## **7. ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

- 7.1 There has been a key focus on energy management to reduce consumption and improve performance through an array of key activity, detailed information, and metrics for this are reported in section 7.2 to 7.4 of the Estates paper that was submitted to the Planning and Performance Committee by the Estates team on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

## **8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 It is worth noting that the shred it confidential waste collections have recently been reduced from fortnightly to monthly across all sites and this will see a financial reduction of up to 50%. There are no other financial implications to note.