July 2020

Sussex Community Trust: Action on plastics

Oliver Slaughter
Sustainability & Environment Manager
Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust

We cover a population of 1.3 million

We provide care to over 9,000 people per day

We employ almost 5,000 people

Our annual turnover is £230 million

We use 113 buildings

This includes 12 in-patient facilities, health centres & office spaces
Leadership
Leading the way for sustainable healthcare policy and practice.

Future
Supporting a strong local health economy to serve our community now and in the future.

Buildings
Providing the workspace for low carbon care delivery with wellbeing in mind.

Wellbeing
Creating a better working life for our people.

Journeys
Maximising the health benefits of our travel while minimising the environmental impacts.

Culture
Informing, empowering and motivating people to achieve sustainable healthcare.

Circular Economy
Creating and supporting an ethical and resource efficient supply chain.
Circular Economy in Healthcare

- Natural Resources
  - Extraction
    - Product Manufacturer
      - Distributor
        - User
          - Disposal / Leakage
            - Landfill
            - Incineration
              - Energy Recovery

- Energy and Labour
- Reduce
- Redistribute
- Reuse
- Recycle
Inspiration - New Plastics Economy

THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY VISION

ELIMINATE
the plastics we don't need.

INNOVATE
to ensure that the plastics we do need are reusable, recyclable, or compostable.

CIRCULATE
all the plastic items we use to keep them in the economy and out of the environment.

THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY
RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS
Dressing packs – In the beginning

Community healthcare to patients just left hospital

Contacted me regarding mountains of waste

Discussed use of dressing packs

Using over 30 per day
Dressing packs – The issue

Latex free pack sterile woundcare
Peel pack
5 x cotton non-woven swabs
1 x water repellent sterile sheet
1 x white waste disposal polythene bag (42x29cm)
1 x pair examination gloves cuffed
1 x paper ruler
1 x propylene tray (12cmx10cmx2.5cm)
1 x paper (hand) dressing towel
1 x PE Apron
1 x water repellent sterile sheet

Key concerns:
• Packaging
• Unused items
• Unnecessary items
Dressing packs – Going single

• Gloves were not required for drawing up IV

• Not all cotton swabs were required – just for comfort

• Lightweight and large volume

• Not correct waste bag

• Team had already innovated by using reusable wipe able containers and trays

• Had to rewrite ANTT policy with Infection control team

• IV team took interest and estimated cost savings by **switching to individual items**. Packs are around 40p each + waste costs.
Lessons

- Realised recently that the problem is wider within the trust –

132,000!

Dressing packs bought in 2019-20

- Need to work with other teams and scale up

- More work needed to calculate economical and environmental savings
Plastic Free July

TOOLKIT
Care without carbon Envoys to deliver toolkit to teams

• Facts about plastic pollution
• At work – top 10 used plastic items – helpful questions
• At home – Items around the home and plastic alternatives
• Case Study

Let’s talk about plastic...

Plastic is an extremely useful material that can play a positive role in our lives. BUT its strength and durability means it can be very difficult to dispose of.

Did you know?

- Between 2013-2018 NHS England used **609 million** plastic cups
- **79%** of plastic made since 1950 is still in the environment as landfill or litter.
- Single use packaging makes up **40%** of all plastic produced
- **Over 1 million** seabirds are killed each year by pollution
- **3.5 billion** people rely on the oceans for food and nutrition. Plastic pollution can threaten this.
Plastic Free July

PLEDGE

125 members of staff made the pledge to use #onelesspiece of single use plastic.

More staff doing it but difficult to measure.
Other work

- Reusable PPE
- HCWH Plastics Project
- NHS Plastics pledge – Regional
- Dare to Care – One less piece of plastic
- GOSH gloves Project
- Waste training
- Cups removal
- Laundry??
Thank you!