

Case study

Great Ormond Street Hospital: Clean Air Hospital Framework

Aim

Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), one of the world's leading children's hospitals, wanted to improve air quality in and around their central London site. In 2018 they approached environmental charity Global Action Plan (GAP) to ask the question "What would a Clean Air Hospital look like, and how would it operate?" They discovered that there was no single, comprehensive guide for creating healthier environments in and around hospitals.

Delivery

GOSH and GAP together created the Clean Air Hospital Framework. A free, comprehensive guidebook of 215 possible steps – established with extensive staff input, and expert academic review – that hospitals around the country can use to improve air quality and create healthier environments.



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Measures proposed in the framework include providing advice for patients and their families to help them protect their health and working in partnership with organisations at a local and national level to improve the environment.

The framework shows how clean air hospitals can improve air quality by acting as a:

- Role model: showing leadership by minimising air pollution from activities within the health sector's control
- Educator: informing patients and the public about how to protect their health
- Champion: supporting national initiatives and working with others to improve air quality.

A Clean Air Hospital:

- Improves air quality outside and inside the hospital by minimising sources of air pollution under its control
- Provides advice to help protect staff, patient and public health from air pollution, and
- Champions the case for clean air locally and nationally.

At GOSH, action has been undertaken to:

- Prevent idling outside the hospital, with signs designed by children
- Engage with local businesses to support Clean Air Day
- Encourage staff, patients and visitors to walk and cycle to the hospital, with maps of the surrounding area designed with art by patients

- Pilot indoor air quality sensors and purifiers on the hospital site
- Develop educational tools to help staff discuss air quality with children and parents.

GOSH has also run two successful Play Streets – closing the road outside the hospital to traffic for the afternoon to improve air quality and inviting patients and children from the local area to join in fun activities.



Monitoring and Impact

The Clean Air Hospital Framework is based on a points system in seven key areas: travel; procurement and supply chain; construction; energy; local air quality; communication and training; and hospital outreach. The percentage of achieved points available on each area rates a hospital's achievement from 'Basic' and 'Starting out' to 'Getting there', 'Good' and 'Excellent', helping hospitals identify where they've reached on the journey to clean air, with an aspirational 1079 points available.

Hospitals across the country can monitor their own progress towards becoming a Clean Air Hospital by scoring themselves against the criteria according to the actions they are taking.

Further case studies can be found here:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/corporate/about-tfl/corporate-and-social-responsibility/transport-and-health>

GOSH has taken the lead, achieving over 150 points within the framework and working towards a further 200 points in the short to medium-term.

The Future

Since the framework was launched in March 2019, it has been downloaded almost 500 times. At least six other hospitals are known to be using the framework, which is one way NHS trusts can contribute to meeting their Long Term Plan sustainability commitments. Hospitals can download the framework for free at: www.globalactionplan.org.uk/clean-air/clean-air-hospital-framework