

# Sustainability and Resilience Action Plan

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## Lead Organisation:

Sustainability West Midlands  
Project Manager: Anna Bright (Chief Executive)

## Customer:



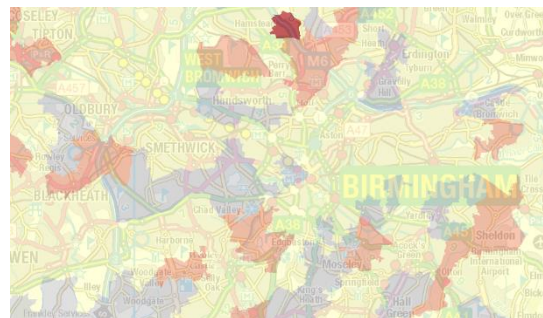
## Project Duration:

2016-17

## The Project

Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (BSMHFT), led by their Sustainability and Estates Team, has already demonstrated excellent practice on sustainability, especially through their commitments in energy and waste reduction. This is reflected in the Health Service Journal Award won by the Trust for good corporate citizenship for its innovative approach to saving energy and money.

However, there was a recognition that some momentum had been lost. It was apparent that many of their existing strategies were close to being out of date and actions were scattered across several different strategies. BSMHFT wanted to refresh their existing strategies and produce one overarching Action Plan that brought all of the actions up to date and together into one document.



Other objectives were to ensure all actions identified were achievable and realistic; that they were spread across the whole Trust with accountability not solely held by the Estates Team; and that the actions identified benefited the core healthcare objectives of the Trust. SWM's role was to provide an independent perspective and develop an Action Plan to address these aspects by identifying omissions in existing plans and policies and develop a new catch-all Action Plan that prioritised actions identified. We also provided a more detailed assessment on resilience to extreme weather associated with climate change.

## Aims

- Engage core BSMHFT staff with the sustainability agenda via a workshop.
- Gain evidence from staff on the work they have done to date via a series of interviews.

- Develop an Action Plan setting out clear, realistic and deliverable actions to take forward related to sustainability and climate resilience.

## Challenges

We understand that the NHS is under increasing pressure, so one of the biggest challenges to both the Trust and SWM was to ensure that the actions defined were deliverable, and contributed to the Trust's health and financial priorities. This is difficult to get right, but if achieved could significantly contribute to the Trust's main aims and objectives. For example, adapting to extreme weather can minimise the stress on patients, in turn reducing pressure on the Trust.



The other challenge was obtaining a clear commitment from other members of staff who had not been involved in work around sustainability for quite some time. Attendance and interaction during the workshop with staff members was good, but the challenge will be to ensure that all key members of staff and their teams across the Trust continue to engage and take on the actions assigned to them in the Action Plan.

## The Outcome

### Results

Key achievements included:

- Engagement and participation from key members of staff from across the Trust.
- Appraisal and critique of existing strategies for consideration.
- Independent set of recommendations and proposed activity provided by SWM.
- Development and ratification of a new realistic Action Plan.

## In the Future

The success of the Action Plan will only be realised when the identified actions have been addressed. It is important that the Trust continues to engage with key members of staff now that they have been bought up to date with the Trust's achievements and way forward around this agenda; the re-establishment of the sustainability working group may be one way to maintain this engagement. The Trust will also need to continue reviewing the Action Plan to determine what activity has taken place and what more needs to be done.

## Contact Details

For further information on the project or to work with us in one of a variety of ways, please contact the SWM team on 0121 237 5890 or [enquiries@swm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swm.org.uk).