Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

# Digitalisation in Barnsley Therapies

[Image – optional]

## Topic Area

## Please identify (more than one option may be selected)

| Adaptation | ☒ | Communications and engagement  | ☐ | Estates and facilities (energy, waste, water) | ☒ | Food, catering and nutrition  | ☐ |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Funding and financial mechanisms  | ☐ | Medicines | ☐ | Research, innovation and offsetting | ☐ | Strategic ambition  | ☐ |
| Supply chain and procurement | ☐ | Sustainable models of care | ☐ | Travel and transport | ☐ | Workforce, networks and system leadership | ☐ |
| Green/blue space and biodiversity | ☐ | Digital transformation | ☒ | Sustainability education | ☐ |  |  |
| Other (please specify):  |

*\*Topics aligned with the 12 Greener NHS workstreams (NHS England) are shaded.*

##

## Key message / aim – The main aim was to reduce carbon emissions throughout the whole of the trust. The Therapies Department decided to go first in order to receive the technology and funding required, as funding was given to encourage departments to go first. To go fully paper free, working together as a therapies unit and move towards digitalisation in line with NHS Net Zero.

## What was the problem? – Prior to the change the department used a vast amount of unnecessary paper and documentation which has a negative impact on the environment even when recycled correctly.

## What was the solution? – The Therapies Department went digital and the hospital provided laptops to improve their technology and encourage the paper free environment, receiving a laptop for every member of staff in the department.

## What were the challenges?- It was time consuming to get everyone on board and set up and train people on the paperless systems. Wards are still using paper for medical notes which raises the challenge for interprofessional collaboration as they are not using the same system. Therapies could be easily overlooked so they would make a note in the paper medical notes from the wards where to find the digital notes. Staff was nervous that things would get missed, which has not happened.

## What were the results/Impact? Staff are more flexible in where they can do their work and write up patient notes. Going digital in the therapies department has saved a lot of time in the aspect that multiple people can access the notes at the same time meaning that they don't have to wait to take turns.

Patient outcomes: Improves patient care as all the notes are in one place and less easy to lose, however it doesn’t affect patients in any other way, the patients do not notice the change which can be seen as a positive for the smooth transition.

Population outcomes: Improved patient care leads to better health outcomes, making every contact count.

Environmental impact: Saved 5 X giraffes worth of paper so far as of 2023.

Social impact: Communication between therapies have been improved. Therapists can manage their own time/workload better.

Financial impacts: Potential monetary costs with providing updated technology.

## What were the learning points? Even if you don’t believe the department can go paper free, the benefits are worth taking the risk. Other departments did something called a “paper picnic” which is something the Therapies department at Barnsley feel they could have benefitted from.

## Next steps- Promote interprofessional working to boost confidence in making positive changes. Encourage the wards to take the same route.

## What the team and/or patients and carers had to say - The team are happy with the transition and would definitely recommend it to other departments in the trust.

## Resources and references

## Want to know more?

Contact 1:

* Name: **Kathryn Holloway**
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* Location & NHS Region if within the UK:Barnsley NHS foundation trust
* Partner organisations involved: [*Name of partner organisation(s); links to relevant info/resources]*
* Has this project or story been made public in any form before?Yes/ No [*If yes, please direct to the place where it is published*]

If available, please provide details of an additional contact to best enable others interested in your project to reach you in future.

Contact 2:

* Name:
* Role:
* Email:
* Location & NHS Region if within the UK:[*if different from Contact 1*]