Boards and non-executives driving sustainability in their organisations

Sustainability is working in a way today that can deliver better outcomes tomorrow for the people we serve.

For it to succeed, organisations need to recognise the beneficial links between quality, finance and workforce with place-based social development, environment and economy.

Non-executives are helping deliver this understanding and helping their organisations maximise the benefits of their social, environmental and economic activities.

Be part of a growing non-executives group aiming to create services that deliver innovation and productivity by engaging their workforce and community in robust partnerships. Wayne Farah and Professor Peter Roberts are joint member leads for this work.

To find out more, contact joan.saddler@nhsconfed.org

EMBEDDING SUSTAINABILITY IN QUALITY, FINANCE AND WORKFORCE

Quality: Including sustainability as a domain of quality in healthcare extends the responsibility of the health service to patients of the future, in addition to those of today. This is in line with existing NHS commitments.

Finance: Financial sustainability is more than just saving money. The NHS contributes to the local economy and community, ensuring its spending power is part of the health and wellbeing of the local population.

Workforce: 98 per cent of NHS staff think it is important for the health and social care system to work in a way that supports the environment – it is our duty to ensure that this is happening. Being sustainable reflects the values of NHS staff and contributes to healthy workforces.

LINKING QUALITY, WORKFORCE AND FINANCE WITH PLACE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

PLACE-BASED GOVERNANCE

GOVERNANCE must take social, environmental and economic considerations into account through the place-based narrative and deliver on quality, workforce and finance.

Quality
- Keep current and future patients at the heart of everything we do
- Use finite resources responsibly; be aware of long-term harmful impacts of treatment
- Ensure quality is an important part of commissioning and procurement frameworks

Finance
- Support the local economy through place-based procurement and employment – we know that a good economy is linked to good health
- Plan how and where money is spent in order to benefit the environment and create healthy spaces for staff and patients when developing the estate
- Ensure that spend is the best value for money financially and socially through concepts such as social value

Workforce
- Ensure staff are aware of what’s going on locally and in the workplace and how they can get involved – it’s been shown this type of involvement helps staff feel more valued
- Create the right conditions for staff to benefit from sustainability in their local place, helping them have access to good quality spaces
- The NHS employs almost 5 per cent of the UK working population. Through good employment practices and ensuring the high quality of jobs, the NHS can have a large impact on local and national economy

1. Sustainability Development Unit (2018), Staff survey: Action and attitudes to sustainability
2. Social Value Act 2012