

A waste strategy for Barnsley Hospital

Sourcing locally, improving sustainability and saving costs

At a glance

- Client: Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
- Type of project: Research and technical advice
- Duration: Five months
- Techniques: Site visit, legislative compliance review, desk research, cost / benefit analysis, waste strategy development

The aim of the work was to investigate the provision of an integrated waste management system at Barnsley Hospital that would divert NHS spend from national companies to local collection and recycling companies.

Investigating the issues and identifying solutions

Resource Futures undertook a series of investigative tasks to gain a better understanding of the hospital's waste management practices. This included a site review, a small-scale waste analysis and an investigation into local service providers (including services offered and associated costs). The project also considered the relevant legislation and best practice guidance for the safe and sustainable management of health care waste.

Results

The site review identified that 14 waste streams were being managed by eight contractors some of whom were not offering value for money. The waste analysis revealed that 29% of the waste was food-related, 22% plastic and 19% non-recyclable paper. Significantly, high levels (89%) of contamination (i.e. non-clinical waste) were found in the clinical waste stream. The study found 44 local companies capable of handling food waste, glass, metal paper and wood.

The project identified 15 opportunities for improving the sustainable treatment of the hospital's waste streams. Some of these resulted in cost savings, e.g. reducing the contamination of clinical waste by 30% would significantly reduce the costs of clinical waste management.



Reducing the amount of non-clinical waste, such as office paper, entering the clinical waste stream, will significantly reduce overall waste disposal costs



Resource Futures provides specialist resource management solutions to local authorities, government agencies, private sector companies and third sector organisations.

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