



Public Health  
England

Protecting and improving the nation's health

# **Sustainable Development Management Plan implementation note**

December 2014

## Background

The Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) provides a clear roadmap for our members of staff to follow, identifying the approach the organisation will take to improve its social, environmental and financial performance. The SDMP also aligns with the National Cross System Sustainable Development Strategy for the NHS, Public Health and Social Care System, which is available at [www.sduhealth.org.uk/sds](http://www.sduhealth.org.uk/sds).

Having a 'Board', or equivalent, approved SDMP gives assurance that PHE, are fulfilling their obligations under the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) metric indicator for sustainability.

## Drivers for change

The Sustainable Development Unit (SDU) has written a comprehensive document which outlines all the anticipated drivers for change and can be found by clicking: [Statutory and policy drivers for change - Oct 2014 update](#)

PHE's main policy drivers along with those appropriate to PHE's work, highlighted in the document above, should be used when implementing the various aspects associated with the SDMP. Though it should be noted that when working with our external stakeholders, that they may have slightly different drivers to ourselves.

## Metric Indicators and reporting

There are a number of metrics that PHE uses to measure and monitor our sustainability performance. The organisation has to report on its carbon data to the Department of Health, under the Greening Government Commitment (GGC) initiative, on a quarterly basis, with additional reporting being part of the Annual report and Accounts.

Two members of the PHE Sustainability Programme Board sit on the (cross system) Metrics Steering Group for health and care system in order to ensure nationally developing and required measures (such as the Public Health Outcomes Framework) can be embedded in the SDMP for PHE.

From April 2015 the organisation will also have to report on its adaptation plans, to meet the challenges of climate change; this is part of the reporting challenge under the National Adaptation Programme.

The sustainability related data, that is currently collected, analysed and reported will not change, in fact it is anticipated that there will be additional reporting as the indicator set is developed and improved.

Benchmarking and identifying synergies across similar types of organisation is important for comparing progress with regards to national objectives and targets. It also is an opportunity to identify hotspots and good practice.

## **Communications**

Staff engagement is the key to the success of implementing the SDMP, across the organisation. Sustainability leads/co-ordinators at our various sites/centres should actively engage with their colleagues, where possible, so that they become aware of what goals the organisation is driving towards with regards the sustainability agenda.

Being able to identify the health co-benefits associated with the sustainability agenda eg. cycling and walking, where possible, instead of driving, will a valuable way of bringing those members of staff onboard who had not made the connection in the past and where they possibly thought sustainability was all about reducing our carbon footprint.

## **Relationships**

The building of relationships and the creation of working groups or specific task groups, be that internal to PHE or with our external colleagues in other organisations, is paramount to ensuring that not only PHE's objectives are met but the objectives of the health sector in particular are met with regards to the Sustainable Development Strategy.

Meeting with external stakeholders, who have the same agenda, is also a prime opportunity to share best practice and build networks so that likeminded people can move the agenda forward to meet the same aims.

## **Tools**

There are a number of tools that have been developed to help strengthen the reporting on sustainability, embed sustainability into and across the organisation and demonstrate compliance and commitment to the science, the law and its duties.

Copies of these tools and the SDMP can be found at:

<http://phenet.phegov.uk/Services/sustainability/Pages/Sustainability.aspx>

or email [Steve.Owens@phegov.uk](mailto:Steve.Owens@phegov.uk) for further details.

## Case Studies

### Case study – Reporting and communicating Sustainable Development at Public Health England

Public Health England (PHE) already has a rapidly developing robust compliance and reporting structure on sustainable development. On a quarterly basis PHE reports to the Department of Health on its Greening Government Commitment objectives and targets. PHE also has an internal quarterly compliance scorecard with specific reporting on our sustainability targets.

PHE communicates annually about progress on sustainable development in an Annual Report to Directors. This is available to all staff and the public via the website. We have had very positive feedback from across the organisation and from other public bodies especially about the reports content. This includes reports from the various PHE directorates detailing what they have been doing in the past year to implement our sustainability agenda.

PHE also has also developed a sustainability e-learning module which is mandatory for all staff. This increases awareness of what is expected through the three pillars of sustainability, including and beyond carbon reduction o. We have also have a Sustainable Development Management Plan (SDMP) that provides a clear set of actions for all members of staff to follow, identifying the approach we will take to improve the organisation’s social, environmental and financial performance. The SDMP also aligns with the National Cross System Sustainable Development Strategy for the NHS, Public Health and Social Care System.

### Case study – Sustainability in Yorkshire & Humber PHEC

The Yorkshire & Humber PHEC covers a large geographic area with members of staff located in several buildings across the Yorkshire & Humber region. As a result, a considerable amount of time and expense was being spent travelling to and from meetings.

In order to meet our commitments to reduce expenditure, cut down on travelling time and contribute to the sustainability agenda, the PHEC management knew it needed to make changes and a review was undertaken to understand how we could improve the way we do business, reduce our travel, and be more efficient with our time.

The review indicated that changes could be made but that training was needed in the following areas:

- All staff need to be able to use Lync video system;
- All staff should be able to utilise the teleconference and video conference equipment.

After resolving the training issues, the decision was made to undertake as many meetings as possible remotely. Whilst some members of staff were initially reluctant to embrace the change, from face to face meetings, there has been very little negative feedback with the number of meetings and training sessions that utilise Lync and video conferencing increasing so that on average one in every three meetings are conducted in this format. It is hoped that over a period of time this change will be reflected in our expenditure and productivity.