

Press Release

19 November 2014

Trust saves nearly £1million by reducing estate costs

The Trust which runs community nursing and mental health services in Worcestershire has saved nearly £1million by reducing the cost of running and maintaining its estate.

The NHS this week published data which outlines how much Trusts spend on buildings, including energy and water consumption as well as on-going maintenance. It is part of a national initiative to increase transparency and encourage further efficiency savings.

Last year Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust launched its SMARTER programme which aims to support the organisation in identifying money saving schemes. Earlier this year the Trust's in-house Procurement Team announced that over £250k had already been saved following the introduction of a new approach for ordering goods and services such as stationery, medical gloves and paper.

Now the Trust's Facilities and Estates team has revealed savings of £930k by implementing a range of initiatives. This includes saving over £40k by replacing boilers, and improved insulation and lighting systems, £244k on the introduction of better recycling and cleaning methods which don't adversely impact on patient care, and £15k by reducing the cost of disposing of clinical and domestic waste.

Also, The Trust has an on-going Estate Rationalisation programme which has seen staff co-locate in some of its larger buildings allowing it to reduce the overall number of sites it owns or rents. This has so far generated over £570k worth of savings.

Mark Fenton, Worcestershire Health and Care NHS Trust's Head of Estates & Facilities Management, said: "The Trust has a largely ageing estate which therefore generates higher than average maintenance and running costs. Nevertheless, the Trust allocates substantial funding each year to help maintain high quality environments for patients. We are committed to looking for ways to further reduce our estate related costs in ways which do not have a negative impact on patient care and on building on the savings identified and delivered so far."

Over the last 3 years, the Trust has reduced its CO2 emissions by 842 tonnes. This is attributed to the roll out of energy saving projects, maintenance upgrades, estate rationalisation and supply of green electricity to its small sites. The Trust has a Carbon Management Plan with the aim of developing new projects to further reduce its carbon footprint.