

Green Travel Plan 2021- 2025

Bradford District Care NHS Foundation Trust



Bradford District Care
NHS Foundation Trust



Green travel in BDCFT

This is our second Sustainable Travel Plan, covering the period 2021-26. The pandemic has had a profound impact on when and how we work, leading to a different focus for our sustainable travel plan.

“The Trust will need to give employees far more flexibility in their working day. The pre-Covid days of rigid working days are long gone”

BDCFT 2020 travel survey response



Aim and objectives

Our aim remains to minimise our environmental impact from travel through these objectives:

1. To provide real and affordable travel choices to staff.
2. To reduce the level of car use for commuting to and from our locations.
3. To minimise the impact we have on the local community.

Actions

- Encourage staff to amend their travel habits for **Just One Day**.
- Continue to invest in cycle infrastructure when and where appropriate.
- Continue to encourage home working where business and service needs allow.
- Educate colleagues on electric vehicle options and Trust charging facilities, taking account of electric supply capacity and demand.
- Implement the requirements of the NHS Standard Contract to:
 - Take steps to develop an expenses policy that promotes sustainable travel choices.
 - Work with our car leasing scheme to restrict the lease of high emissions vehicles whilst ensuring staff are not disadvantaged.
 - Expand the use of electric vehicles within the fleet and reduce fleet mileage.
- Assess whether all 'essential car users' need to be.
- Report business mileage to department heads for them to take responsibility for any excessive/ unnecessary mileage being incurred.
- Monitor taxi usage to reduce mileage where possible.
- Provide sustainable travel advice for service users and visitors to our sites.
- Encourage staff to adopt sustainable travel options through our communication channels.
- Work with partners to deliver on local ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.

Introduction

The Covid-19 pandemic has made us rethink how, when, and where we work. To control the virus, Government encouraged us to embrace active travel, eschew public transport or work from home. The repercussions of Covid-19 will be here for some time and we need to continue to consider how, when and where we work and what this means for sustainable travel.

Unfortunately, public transport and cycling is not a feasible /practical option for community staff who do home visits."

BDCFT 2020 travel survey response



We know we can work differently, but moving on from Covid-19, we need to reduce our reliance on cars and shift to cycling, walking and public transport to help reduce air pollution, improves physical activity and deliver carbon reductions.

NHS England require Trusts to have a Green Travel Plan which includes interventions that encourage staff and patients to reduce vehicle use. This is BDCFTs Green Travel Plan.

The 2020-21 NHS Standard Contract also has requirements which support the greening the NHS agenda. The NHS is taking sustainability seriously and aims to embed it from its core. BDCFT also aims to embed sustainability in everything we do, to play our part in reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality and enhancing staff health and wellbeing. Travel is an important part of this.

The most sustainable journey is the one you don't have to make. In our second Green Travel Plan how we plan to achieve our objectives has changed. We are taking account of new ways of working, acknowledging that, where we take a holistic view of our impact and staff have commitments outside of work, shift patterns or anxieties which make using public transport a challenge. And the geography of our district doesn't make it easy for people to get on their bikes.

We recognise there are trade-offs and whilst we may reduce or eliminate commuting and business miles, staff are generating carbon emissions by working at home. Our Green Travel Plan will feed into our wider Green Plan.

Sustainable travel in 2016-20

Mode of Travel	Baseline survey results	2020 target	2019 survey results	2020 survey results	Target achieved or missed
Car (alone)	76%	68%	83%	82%	Missed
Car (with others)	7%	12%	4%	5%	Missed
Bus	7%	9%	3%	0%	Missed
Train	5%	6%	1%	0%	Missed
Cycle	1%	3%	1%	7%	Achieved
Walk	2%	2%	4%	7%	Achieved
Motorbike/Scooter	0%	0%	0%	0%	Achieved
Taxi	2%	0%	0%	0%	Achieved

Targets

Our new target takes into account the willingness and ability of staff to consider switching from using their private cars, the accessibility of our sites and the number of staff that have to use their cars as part of their role. Rather than a fixed target for the proportion of staff using specific modes of transport, our target is simple.



This level of reduction will enable us to show environmental benefit, whilst enabling staff to carry out their work in the most efficient and effective way. This target will set us on the path to Net Zero as required by NHS England. We will be able to capture the benefit from staff changing their habits for just one day rather than expecting them to abandon their car all week.

As local authority and national changes to electric vehicle charging, public transport and cycling infrastructure are improved, and our habits change, this will be reflected in the ease with which we can change behaviour and reduce our environmental impact.

15 per cent year on year carbon reduction from fleet and business miles
10 per cent year on year carbon reduction from commuting miles

Staff

For staff who need to commute some or all of the time, we are launching a **‘Just One More’** campaign.



Cycling, walking or even using public transport every day for work, can be difficult. Therefore, we are encouraging staff to amend their habits for *just one day, or just one more day.*

This will be easier to maintain and commit to whilst delivering environmental benefit. For those who don't feel willing and able to change their full commute, we will encourage them to consider blending transport modes, e.g. cycle to/ from a train station.

“(I) prefer home working, it works for me.”

*BDCFT 2020
travel survey
response*



Cycling

Cycling levels are relatively low amongst staff (and visitors), however to encourage change we have invested in external storage facilities and showers and received funding for two e-bikes available for use at New Mill.

We will continue to invest in cycling infrastructure when and where appropriate and work with CityConnect and their Bike Friendly Business scheme. Staff can access a Cycle to Work salary sacrifice scheme, details can be found [here](#).



Public transport

Our website currently has minimal public transport information, therefore we intend to update the website with sustainable travel options, for example links to the [West Yorkshire Metro](#) travel planner which can identify how to get to our sites by public transport.

Providers, including Arriva, First, Transdev and Yorkshire Tiger and the M-card offer discounts and incentives. We will provide this information to staff via the Sustainability Connect page.

Electric vehicles

The Trust has electric vehicle charge points at Lynfield Mount Hospital, Airedale Centre for Mental Health and New Mill, and will continue to expand the number of charge points taking account of electrical supply capacity, demand and car parking requirements. Advice and etiquette on use of our charge points is provided on the Sustainability Connect page.

Currently BDCFT charge points are free to use but we recognise this is not an equitable benefit for all staff. We will consider charging options and we will work with our local authorities, West Yorkshire Combined Authority, and property landlords to consider installation of charge points at a wider number of locations.

Car sharing

For staff working the same shift or regular office hours, car sharing is a viable option. While not advisable during the coronavirus pandemic, over the lifetime of this plan, it is a valid option.

As a member of the West Yorkshire Travel Plan Network (TPN) BDCFT staff can access the local [Liftshare](#) Network. Currently we do not have a dedicated Liftshare group, but we will discuss with neighbouring Trusts and other TPN members whether to set up an NHS or shared group.



Flexible working

Staff may need flexible working to be able to make best use of sustainable travel options. We need to acknowledge our staff working patterns may need improved flexibility to help them to choose sustainable methods of transport for their commute. This is in line with the NHS People Plan. We will consider what flexibility is needed and can be accommodated whilst taking account of business and service needs.

Add more EV charging points at health centres across the city. Unfortunately, public transport and cycling is not a feasible /practical option for community staff who do home visits. Persuading the Council to install rapid chargers in some NHS locations, especially into Craven, would be fantastic.

BDCFT 2020 survey response

Business travel

We provide community healthcare across a large area and travel many miles to deliver our services. However, the pandemic changed this: during April to September 2020, BDCFT staff travelled 470,000 fewer miles than the same six months of 2019. This saved around 136 tonnes of carbon and resulted in significant financial savings for the Trust. We still travelled more than 551,000 miles as staff continued their essential work.



The exceptional work of our IT department to facilitate connectivity and new digital ways of working has enabled this shift in service delivery. Appropriate use of our Estate will also help. Where face-to-face is not essential, we will continue to promote the use of digital working, e.g. Microsoft Teams.

Sometimes there is no substitute for face-to-face interaction with patients and colleagues. When it is necessary, and for staff that work in our inpatient sites, we encourage use of the '**Just One More**' concept and for all other journeys, use of low and ultra-low emission vehicles.

Encouraging sustainable travel through expenses

We will work together to plan how we achieve the requirements of the NHS Standard Contract 2020-21 regarding the development and operation of expenses policies for staff which promote sustainable travel choices.

NHS Fleet Solutions

Car leasing is via NHS Fleet Solutions, where we have a cap on CO2 emissions of 200 g/km CO2, but this can be changed at any time. We will consider lowering this cap whilst ensuring staff are not disadvantaged.

Reduction in mileage

We will assess whether all 'essential car users' need to be so, and we will report business mileage to department heads for them to take responsibility for any excessive/ unnecessary mileage being incurred. This will not be 'one size fits all' because some teams will need to travel more to provide services in the community.



Enterprise Car Club

Enterprise Car Club enables individuals or businesses to rent vehicles per hour rather than per day. As BDCFT is a member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority Travel Plan Network, vehicles can be used by anyone, once registered for just £1, as alternative to vehicle ownership. Corporate membership is also available, and will be investigated, as dedicated vehicles could be an alternative to pool cars and we could access a virtual fleet.

Estates and Facilities

Another requirement of the NHS Standard Contract in 2020-21, is for Trusts to 'take action to reduce air pollution from fleet vehicles, transitioning as quickly as reasonably practicable to the exclusive use of low and ultra-low emission vehicles'. We already have electric vehicles in our fleet and will look to expand this when feasible.

However, we also need to ensure we use our fleet effectively. We will work with colleagues to minimise unnecessary journeys by reviewing when and where planned jobs are raised, and which staff can complete the task.

We will action the outcomes of a 2020 fleet review by the Energy Savings Trust.



Taxis

We undertake more than 7,000 taxi journeys each year covering around 6,000 miles, which includes journeys as short as 1 mile up to 60+. We want staff to be able to continue to take patients and service users on trips and to appointments as necessary, however, this volume of journeys is neither environmentally or financially sustainable at a cost of £96,942.

We will develop a working group with regular taxi users to identify their needs and how best to support them whilst furthering our aims to reduce our environmental impact from travel.



Visitors and patients

It's not just our staff we should travel sustainably; we want to promote sustainable travel options to our service users and visitors.

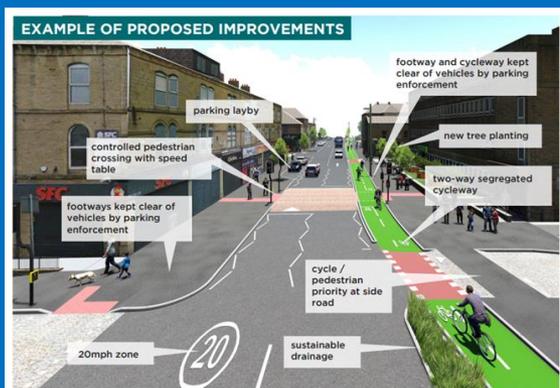
We will work with clinical teams to ensure that service users and visitors are provided with advice on how to access our services with minimal environmental impact.

This may involve use of the telemedicine, the Attend Anywhere NHS Video Consultation service, or where face-to-face appointments are required, advice on using online tools such as the [West Yorkshire Metro journey planner](#) and information in appointment letters to encourage travel by alternative means.

Partnership working

Our plans take account of the wider ambitions of our local authorities and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Significant roadworks have taken place in Keighley to help reduce congestion and improve air quality and are planned in Bradford.

We will also engage with our public transport users to raise any of their concerns with our local transport providers. This could involve lobbying for improvements and ticket initiatives to encourage NHS staff to use the services.



Communications

Supporting staff, service users and visitors to change travel habits will require us to provide travel advice and journey planning links via our communications channels.

The Sustainability Connect page will be updated with relevant local cycling and travel news, and briefings for staff such as where and how to charge an electric vehicle at work.

We are aware that many people will use search engines, online tools and maps to identify where our sites are and how to get there. However, we will ensure the BDCFT website is a source of information, promoting sustainable travel options too.