

Core brief

**Message from Jane Grant, Chief Executive
(2 November 2021, 11.45am)**

As world leaders and delegates begin to arrive in Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference, we will all be concerned about the climate emergency and the significant threat to public health it poses. Global temperatures have already increased by 1.1°C from pre-industrial levels and are projected to continue beyond the 1.5°C tipping point for irreversible climate change. Without action, climate change will define the health profile of current and future generations and will challenge the very fabric of our NHS.

As such, our Board is committed to minimising the environmental impact of our operations through the adoption of sustainable practices and continual improvement and development in our environmental, social and economic performance and I want to encourage and support each and every member of staff to play your part.

Anyone can make a difference, no matter how big or small to ensure we are resilient and fit for the future. This is why we will work to make our buildings and services more efficient and sustainable. They will be welcoming places, pillars of our communities, with safe active travel routes utilised throughout. Our estates will provide safe, attractive, green spaces for relaxation, exercise and positive wellbeing. We will move to having a fully sustainable transport fleet and are working towards becoming net zero.

We will help our people and communities to lead healthy, active lives, with access to the tools and resources they need to continue to provide and access high-quality care and we will work with regional stakeholders and the communities we serve to see them free from pollution and negative environmental impacts.

Our vision is for an equal, prosperous and healthy environment serving our patients with a resilient and net zero health service which works for our people, our planet and our NHS. It's a huge challenge, but one we all have a massive stake in for the future of the planet and generations to come.

We are already starting to make some progress and I wanted to share with you some positive news from our Greenspace and Biodiversity Working Group, which includes a range of NHSGGC professionals working with NatureScot and The Conservation Volunteers. The group, which is responsible for implementing many green space projects, has amassed almost £1 million of funding to support the cause. This is a significant achievement and something which we hope to build upon in the future.

As part of our support for COP26, I would like to draw your attention to the pollution pods project by artist Michael Pinsky, which have been installed at our Gartnavel campus. The pods safely mimic air quality, temperature and smell of London, Beijing, São Paulo, New Delhi and Tautra, a remote peninsula in Norway. The pods will remain on site during COP26 and will open to the public from Tuesday 2 November until Friday 12 November. It is an amazing installation and I would like to encourage staff to drop-in and take a look.

I would also like to thank staff who have been involved in our own preparations, particularly at our sites in the city – and thanks to all of our staff who have been impacted by the disruption. I know it's not been easy with regard to travel and transport, so thank you for planning ahead. Please remember that

[information is available](#) to help you plan while COP26 takes place, should you need to travel to and from Glasgow City.

**It is important to share Core Brief with colleagues who do not have access to a computer.
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