

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

Name of Working Group	Bracknell Forest Climate and Health Working Group
Purpose of Group	To oversee and co-ordinate climate change activities in the health and social care sectors
Authority:	Self-organising, with oversight from the Joint Climate Action Board (JCAB)
Commencement of group	19.10.23
Venue, frequency and format of meetings	Meetings to be held bi-monthly (every other month), to be increased in frequency if required and agreed by the Group. Meetings to be held online. The group may choose to meet face-to-face on occasion, at a mutually convenient location.
Termination of Group	Ongoing
Membership	Self-nominated representatives of relevant organisations, and other interested parties
Chair/Lead(s) and roles	Justine Alford, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, and Sarah Taylor, Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust Co-chairs
General objectives of Group	<p>The overarching aim of the group is to consolidate the health and social care sectors' climate change activities and contribute to borough-wide collaboration through the JCAB. Objectives in support of this will include the following:</p> <p>Group organization and collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To agree group membership; meeting frequency/locations; chairs/leads and representatives to the JCAB; and overall administrative responsibilities. • To collaborate with other working groups through the JCAB, providing updates and contributing to the Community Climate Emergency Strategy and Joint Action Plan. <p>Action planning and implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To collate updates on the climate actions of the Group and sector and use this to identify shared opportunities and gaps. • To identify and promote opportunities for climate action to organisations in the sector. • To run programmes and projects, where appropriate. • To identify priority areas of action and additional/emerging areas that may arise throughout the duration of this Group's work. <p>Stakeholder communication and collaboration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for effective policies and initiatives at local, national, and international levels to address climate change in the Health and Social Care setting. • Foster collaboration and partnerships with other organizations, governments, businesses, and stakeholders to enhance collective efforts in addressing climate change in Health and Social Care. <p>Mitigation and adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions (mitigation) and developing strategies to adapt to the existing and anticipated impacts of climate change in the Health and Social Care setting.

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and promote sustainable practices in areas such as energy, transportation, waste management in Health and Social care. • Advocate for the development and adoption of technologies that contribute to a low-carbon and climate-resilient future in Health and Social care. <p>Research and data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct or support research on climate change impacts, solutions, and innovative technologies, and contribute to data collection efforts in Health and Social care, where GDPR allows. • Monitor and assess progress in the Healthcare and Social care on climate-related goals and report findings to stakeholders, policymakers, and the public. <p>Community engagement and resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase public awareness and understanding of climate change, its causes, and potential consequences in the Health and Social Care setting. • Use behavioural insights to identify interventions to engage with communities to promote sustainable practices, resilience, and local initiatives that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation in connection with healthcare and social care. • Look at opportunities to provide education and training programs to empower individuals, organizations, and communities to take meaningful action in response to climate change within the borough on Health and Social Care remit. • • Build community resilience to climate-related hazards and disruptions through preparedness, planning, and resource allocation in the Health and Social Care setting. • Engage with youth, minorities, and those which suffer from health inequalities and the wider public to inspire and mobilise action on climate change, recognising the importance of intergenerational equity in the Health and Social care setting whilst abiding with English Law.
<p>Objectives for group area of focus:</p>	<p>The Group's primary focus areas are:</p> <p>Water: Water plays a crucial role in the context of climate change, and many climate change groups include water-related objectives in their mission to address the various impacts on water resources. The objectives below relate to Health and Social care.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Advocate for and promote water conservation practices to ensure sustainable use of water resources in the face of changing climate conditions. 2) Support and implement watershed management strategies to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of water available in Health and Social Care. 3) Promote the implementation of climate-resilient water infrastructure to withstand extreme weather events, such as floods or droughts within Health and Social Care settings.

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

- 4) Ensure and review strategies for drought and flood preparedness, including early warning systems and emergency response plans in Health and Social Care.
- 5) Explore the interconnections between water and energy, considering the impact of climate change on both resources and promoting sustainable solutions in Health and Social care estates.
- 6) Advocate for and support the adoption of water-efficient technologies and practices in Health and Social Care settings including that of our patients.
- 7) Provide education and awareness programs on the relationship between water and climate change, empowering communities especially those suffering from health inequalities to make informed decisions.

Energy:

Energy is a key component when addressing climate change, as the production and consumption of energy are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Climate change groups often include energy-related objectives in their mission to promote sustainability and reduce environmental impact. Here are some objectives related to energy within the Health and Social care setting climate change group.

- 1) Advocate for and promote the adoption of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal to reduce dependence on fossil fuels.
- 2) Inform and support energy efficiency programs in Health and Social care and patients' homes, to reduce energy consumption and lower emissions.
- 3) Work towards a transition from high-emission energy sources to cleaner alternatives, supporting policies and initiatives that encourage this shift. Including renewable energy, EV, Solar and water.
- 4) Support and facilitate community-based and Health and Social care settings on renewable energy projects, empowering local communities to generate their own clean energy.
- 5) Promote green building practices and standards to increase energy efficiency and reduce the environmental impact of construction and operation in Health and Social Care and those being built for our patients.
- 6) Work towards ensuring universal access to clean and sustainable energy, addressing energy poverty, health inequalities and improving livelihoods.
- 7) Encourage businesses, organizations, and communities to set and achieve carbon neutrality targets through energy-efficient practices and the use of renewable energy.
- 8) Conduct awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform the public about the environmental impact of energy choices and the benefits of clean energy alternatives.

Biodiversity:

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

Biodiversity is a critical component of ecosystems, and its preservation is closely linked to climate change. Climate change can impact biodiversity through changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and extreme weather events. Climate change can include biodiversity-related objectives to address the interconnected challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss. These related to biodiversity within the scope of a climate change group:

Wellbeing/green space provision, nature; Concentrating on the preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, recognizing their role in climate regulation and resilience.

- 1) Advocate for the conservation of diverse ecosystems, recognising their role in climate regulation, carbon sequestration, and overall resilience.
- 2) Support and engage in habitat restoration projects to revitalize areas affected by climate change and human activities, fostering biodiversity recovery.
- 3) Promote land use planning that considers climate impacts and encourages practices that protect and enhance biodiversity.
- 4) Advocate for the creation and maintenance of protected areas and wildlife corridors to facilitate the movement of species in response to climate change.
- 5) Conduct educational programs to raise public awareness about the importance of biodiversity, its connection to climate change, and the role individuals can play in conservation. Including how this integrates with Health and Social care and health inequalities.
- 6) Collaborate with conservation organizations to leverage expertise, resources, and collective efforts in preserving biodiversity in the face of climate change.
- 7) Support research to better understand the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and develop effective conservation strategies for the improvement on population health.
- 8) Engage local communities in biodiversity conservation efforts, recognizing the importance of community participation and traditional ecological knowledge. This can be social green prescribing etc
- 9) Advocate for policies that address the preservation of biodiversity and integrate biodiversity considerations into broader climate change and sustainability initiatives in Health and Social care.

Pollution:

Addressing pollution is a crucial aspect of climate change mitigation and environmental sustainability within Health and Social Care. As a group we need to omit and reduce the release of pollutants that contribute to climate change and harm ecosystems. These can include aesthetic agents as well as medical gases, and domestic pollutants.

Air pollution, medicines pollution, plastic pollution, water

- 1) Advocate for policies and initiatives aimed at improving air quality by reducing emissions of pollutants, including

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

greenhouse gases, particulate matter, and other air pollutants.

- 2) Promote the adoption of clean and renewable energy sources to reduce air pollution associated with the burning of fossil fuels. Internally and externally in Health and Social care setting. This would include patients' homes.
- 3) Advocate for waste reduction, recycling programs, and the responsible disposal of waste to minimize pollution of land and water resources.
- 4) Support efforts to reduce plastic pollution through awareness campaigns, policy advocacy, and community initiatives to reduce single-use plastics. Also to look at the global Health and Social care use of plastics and how a cross working group could look to reduce these.
- 5) Advocate for policies and practices that protect water quality, reduce water pollution, and ensure the sustainable use of water resources.
- 6) Work towards the reduction and elimination of the use of toxic substances in various industries, including Health and social Care and products to prevent environmental pollution.
- 7) Promote sustainable and low-emission transportation modes to reduce pollution from vehicles and contribute to improved air quality. With the integration of the T7T directive from the NHSE issued 30th October 2023.
- 8) Conduct educational programs to raise awareness about the sources and impacts of pollution and promote individual and community actions for pollution prevention.
- 9) Collaborate with industries and Health and Social care to encourage the adoption of environmentally friendly practices and technologies that reduce pollution.

Transport

Addressing travel and transport is a significant aspect of climate change mitigation, as these sectors contribute to a substantial portion of greenhouse gas emissions.

- 1) Advocate for the electrification of transportation systems to reduce reliance on fossil fuels in the automotive and public transportation sectors.
- 2) Implement the Travel and Transport Directive from NHSE date 30th October 2023
- 3) Advocate for and encourage the use of sustainable transportation modes such as walking, cycling, electric vehicles, and public transit to reduce emissions.
- 4) Advocate for increased investment in public transit infrastructure to make it more accessible, efficient, and appealing to the public.
- 5) Encourage the adoption of electric vehicles and advocate for the development of EV charging infrastructure. Look to the adoption of the one South East Health and Social care initiative.
- 6) Promote and support carpooling and ride-sharing programs to reduce the number of individual vehicle trips and decrease emissions.

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

- 7) Work towards the implementation of policies that incentivize the adoption of green transportation practices and technologies.
- 8) Support initiatives that manage transportation demand through strategies such as telecommuting, flexible work hours, and congestion pricing
- 9) Advocate for the development of infrastructure that supports active transportation, such as bike lanes and pedestrian-friendly pathways.
- 10) Promote sustainable practices in logistics and freight transport, including the use of cleaner technologies and efficient supply chain management.
- 11) Conduct public awareness campaigns and educational programs to inform individuals about the environmental impact of travel choices and promote sustainable alternatives.
- 12) Collaborate with businesses including Health and Social Care to develop and implement workplace travel policies that encourage sustainable commuting options.
- 13) Collaborate with the transportation industry to encourage the development and adoption of eco-friendly technologies and practices.
- 14) To work with the Bracknell Transport Group (Sarah Taylor also sits in this group and will report back to the Health Group to see what we are working collectively)

Digital technology

Digital technology plays a crucial role in both contributing to climate change and offering solutions for mitigation and adaptation efforts.

- 1) Utilise digital technology for real-time data monitoring and analysis of climate-related parameters, helping to enhance understanding and prediction of climate change impacts.
- 2) Support the development and use of advanced climate models and simulations, enabling better understanding of future climate scenarios and potential impacts.
- 3) Explore those who are using off setting as a method to tackle climate change as this is not a justifiable mechanism. Include for tracing using technology to enhance transparency, traceability, and accountability in carbon offset projects.
- 4) (AI) to analyze large datasets, identify patterns, and generate insights that contribute to climate research and decision-making using sources like connected care, EPIC and Emmis (healthcare platforms) within GDPR.
- 5) Educate and implement smart grid technologies and digital energy management systems to optimise energy distribution, reduce waste, and improve the efficiency of energy use.
- 6) Obtain funding to deploy IoT devices for environmental monitoring, enabling real-time data collection on air and water quality, biodiversity, and other crucial indicators across our health and social care estate.

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

- 7) Utilise digital platforms and social media to disseminate information, raise awareness, and engage the public in climate change issues.
- 8) Advocate for and support the implementation of e-government initiatives to streamline and improve the efficiency of climate-related policies and regulations.
- 9) Foster innovation in climate technology by supporting startups and research projects that develop digital solutions for climate change mitigation and adaptation. We would need to work with the business group within Bracknell Forrest Climate Change group.
- 10) Develop and implement e-learning programs that provide accessible and comprehensive education on climate change, sustainability, and environmental conservation for staff, the public and stakeholders in Health and Social care matters.
- 11) Promote working from home methodology.

Food

Climate change has significant and wide-ranging impacts on the global food system. These impacts affect food production, availability, and quality, with consequences for food security, nutrition, and livelihoods. How do we address the below, in Health and Social care and to protect our patients and staff from food inequalities.

- 1) Warmer temperatures and changing climate conditions may create more favorable environments for the proliferation of pests and diseases.
- 2) More frequent and intense extreme weather events, such as hurricanes, cyclones, and storms, can damage crops, disrupt supply chains, and negatively impact food production.
- 3) Changes in temperature and water availability can affect the health and productivity of livestock, leading to challenges in livestock farming.
- 4) Climate-related disruptions can affect the entire food supply chain, including transportation, storage, and distribution, leading to food shortages and price volatility. How do we protect our patients, staff and those in Health and Social care to ensure we keep those safe and fed?
- 5) Changes in climate conditions can impact the quality and safety of food, affecting nutritional content and posing challenges for food safety standards.
- 6) Changes in sea temperatures, ocean acidification, and habitat loss can affect marine ecosystems, impacting fisheries and aquaculture, which are crucial sources of protein for many communities.
- 7) How do we tackle food waste and waste from coffee machines
- 8) How do we promote self-growing communities to address climate change's impact on global food sources.

Medicines

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

Climate change can have indirect impacts on the availability and accessibility of medicines, particularly through its influence on ecosystems, extreme weather events, and health systems. How do we minimise the number of medications we use using alternative methodology. What preventative measures can we use to ensure we provide proactive Health and Social Care. Medication optimization involves ensuring that individuals receive the most effective and appropriate medications for their health conditions while minimizing potential risks and unnecessary costs. While the direct relationship between medication optimization and climate change may not be immediately apparent, there are several indirect connections and considerations

- 1) Climate change can alter the habitats and growing conditions of medicinal plants. Changes in temperature, precipitation patterns, and the frequency of extreme events can affect the availability and quality of these plants, potentially impacting traditional medicine practices.
- 2) Climate change contributes to biodiversity loss, affecting the diversity of plant and animal species. Many medicines are derived from biodiversity, and the loss of species may reduce the availability of certain natural compounds used in pharmaceuticals.
- 3) Climate change can strain health systems through increased demand for healthcare services related to climate-related health issues (e.g., heat-related illnesses, vector-borne diseases). Such strain may affect the ability of health systems to provide essential medicines.
- 4) Some medications are sensitive to temperature variations. Rising temperatures, especially in regions with inadequate storage infrastructure, can compromise the efficacy of certain medicines.
- 5) Climate change is associated with changes in air quality, including increased levels of air pollutants. This can lead to a higher incidence of respiratory diseases, potentially increasing the demand for respiratory medications.
- 6) Climate change can disrupt global supply chains, affecting the production and distribution of pharmaceuticals. Medication optimization strategies may include considerations for ensuring a resilient and reliable supply chain that can withstand climate-related disruptions.
- 7) Health systems need to adapt to the changing patterns of diseases influenced by climate change. Medication optimization can play a role in developing adaptive strategies to address the evolving health needs of populations affected by climate-related events.
- 8) Climate change can contribute to increased stress and mental health challenges. Medication optimization in the context of mental health may involve addressing the psychological impacts of climate change and ensuring appropriate access to mental health medications.
- 9) Climate change can exacerbate the prevalence and severity of certain chronic conditions. Medication optimization strategies may involve building resilience in populations with chronic diseases by ensuring consistent

**Bracknell Forest Joint Climate Action Board
Health Working Group DRAFT Terms of Reference**

	<p>access to medications and proactive and not reactive management.</p> <p>10) Medication optimization may include efforts to promote sustainable practices in healthcare, reducing the environmental impact of pharmaceutical production, waste generation, and resource consumption, thus contributing to broader climate change mitigation efforts.</p> <p>11) Medication optimization can be part of broader population health management strategies that consider the health impacts of climate change. This may include preventive measures, health education, and early intervention to reduce the burden of climate-related health conditions.</p> <p>12) Climate-related emergencies, such as extreme weather events, can disrupt healthcare services. Medication optimization involves planning for emergencies, ensuring the availability of essential medications during crises, and facilitating effective response and recovery.</p> <p>[Insert based on group discussions; these should be linked to the Community Climate Emergency Strategy where appropriate]</p>
Objectives for group membership	<p>Ensure broad representation from relevant sectors/groups, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Physical and mental health - Social care - Business - Voluntary/Third sector - Underrepresented and community groups - Patients <p>Share best practice. Collect updates on climate actions. Participate in joint climate action projects.</p>
Dependent groups and/or meetings	Joint Climate Action Board
Administrative Arrangements	Run by independent sector leads selected by each group, with support from the Joint Climate Action Board and/or Bracknell Forest Council officers where appropriate

Note: The separate document “Developing the CCES and your work plan” contains useful prompts for initial discussions which may help you complete your Terms of Reference.