

Case study: Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Introduction

- The following case study is based on activity carried out by Sheffield Teaching Hospitals (STH) to remove avoidable single-use plastics from its catering services in an accelerated timescale.

Baseline

- STH established baseline metrics showing it consumed approximately 887,790 pieces of avoidable single-use plastic items in 2017.

Output

- Headline: actions in 2018 have reduced plastics use between 43% and 77.5% (see Table 1).
- In the first year of the campaign, STH had:
 - Introduced a 'latte levy' and a discount for using reusable mug. This reduced use of disposable coffee cups by 66.7% in the first year.
 - Switched plastic cutlery (293,000 items p.a.) and plastic plates (102,800 items p.a.) to biodegradable alternatives
 - Ended provision of plastic straws
 - Reintroduced china coffee cups

Table 1. Single-use plastic item consumption at STH between 2017 and 2018

	Cutlery	Plates	Cups
2017	293,000	102,800	346,580
2018	66,000	58,500	115,400
% reduction	77.5	43.1	66.7

How?

- Worked with suppliers to purchase more sustainable reusables for use when purchasing to-go items
- A small range of reusable alternatives have been made available for customers to purchase
- Introduced a levy on disposable items including coffee cups, takeaway cutlery, and takeaway boxes
- Substituted plastic items with more sustainable versions, e.g. paper straws and recyclable takeaway food containers
- Reintroduced crockery for customers staying in the restaurants
- Installed recycling points in all retail areas and conducted campaigns to raise awareness to these
- Staff engagement:
 - Collaborated with the trust's waste manager and director of infection prevention
 - Built sustainability into staff training
 - Identified and trained sustainability champions from the catering department
 - Developed a set of promotional materials that are displayed in restaurants (see Annex 1)
- Communication:
 - Showcased progress on disposable usage by publishing figures on plastic item usage on NHS Sustainability Day on 21 March 2019

Next steps

- Communication:
 - Continue to increase awareness and celebrate success on NHS Sustainability Day (19 March 2020)
- Switched from single-use condiment sachets to refillable ones
- Market an increased awareness of 'bring your own'
- Look to increase the existing levy on disposables

Annex 1. STH poster on reducing plastic pollution

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals 
NHS Foundation Trust



HELP US TO SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT

by tackling plastic pollution

We need **your help**. The Catering Department aim is to **reduce** the amount of **disposable cups, cutlery and packaging** currently available to all our customers.

We are **replacing** our current packaging with a more **sustainable, environment friendly** choices such as **reusable alternatives and compostable packaging and cutlery** for take away purchases. We will also be providing **mugs to replace disposable cups** for all hot drinks .

We are also introducing a scheme where customers can **use their own crockery** when making purchases from Trust Catering Retail Outlets.



Let's help save the environment together!