

Trainee Sustainability Lead (TSL)

Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust

Background

Environmental sustainability is achieving increasing prominence within the NHS. The recently released NHS long term plan now makes significant reference to sustainability and specifically mentions the impact of anaesthetic practices. It restates the NHS's commitment to the carbon targets in the UK government Climate Change Act 2008, reducing the carbon footprint of the NHS by 34% by 2020. Despite a 19% reduction from 2009 levels, achieving these targets remains a significant challenge.

Role

This role has been developed to raise the profile of environmental sustainability within the anaesthetic department, to highlight the environmental impact of anaesthetic practices and ultimately help improve anaesthetic and theatre sustainability.

Person Specification

- ST1-7, in the department for a minimum of 6 months (preferably 12)
- Good organisational, communication and leadership skills. Enthusiasm, with an interest in environmental and sustainability issues.

Responsibilities

1. Theatre Sustainability Group Lead

Recently formed and trainee led, the Theatre Sustainability Group meets on a regular basis to discuss a number of projects that aim to reduce the environmental impact of the anaesthetic department and theatres as a whole. This is a truly multidisciplinary team of anaesthetic consultants, anaesthetic and recovery leads, waste management, pharmacy and trust sustainability leads. Current projects include:

- Reducing volatile use, specifically desflurane
- Improving theatre recycling
- PVC recycling
- Improving energy efficiency by reducing lights left on out of hours

2. Department Environmental Updates

Coordinating and presenting at department clinical governance days

3. The TSL will be involved in updating the TSL job description as appropriate, advertising the position and ensuring successful handover. The TSL can be developed according to individual interest. Innovation and ideas to tackle existing problems are very much encouraged.

You will be entitled to use study leave to attend theatre sustainability meetings (usual meeting frequency is once every three to four months). This will be taken from your existing study leave allowance. Communication with rota coordinators is essential to ensure approval of study leave.

This is the first such role within the Bristol School of Anaesthesia and is an exciting opportunity to lead and develop sustainability projects that are beneficial to the environment, patients and trust.

