

Climate Impact Principles

Sheffield City Council is committed to acting on climate change and our ambition is to be a Net Zero city by 2030. The Council's One Year Plan 2021-2022 sets priorities around climate change, economy, and development. The draft 10 Point Plan for climate action sets the 10 key commitments for action for the short term, outlining the context for our climate action over the next few years.

Sheffield Adult Social Care Workforce Development Plan runs parallel to the Council's climate commitments and provides a clear opportunity to influence our climate ambitions on a broader scale. The plan is a system wide vision for workforce in adult social care, thus providing a chance to influence the city beyond the Council through partnerships and commissioning, alongside direct guidance with people who use social care services.

The Social Care Institute of Excellence highlights that 'the health implications of climate change are already in evidence and impact more greatly on vulnerable groups.' As highlighted in our strategy:

- Sheffield can expect to see an increase in the population aged over 65
- We expect more people will be living with disabilities in the working age population
- Health inequalities are significant and have been exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic
- There are approximately 15000 adult social care roles in Sheffield – a significant proportion of the working population
- Approximately 10% of our population are carers, many of whom have been caring more due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Climate change threatens the health and wellbeing of people in our city and particularly people who use adult social care services. The Social Care Institute of Excellence outlines a series of negative impacts of climate change:

- 'an increase in heat-related deaths – predicted to reach 20,000 a year in the UK by 2050 due to more frequent and severe heat waves
- increased cases of skin cancer and cataracts
- injuries and infectious diseases as a result of increased flooding – a Foresight report predicted that by 2080 over three million people in the UK could be at risk from flooding
- anxiety and depression linked to physical and economic insecurity – flooding increases the risk of depression fourfold
- respiratory disease, insect-borne disease, and food poisoning are also expected to increase.'

Climate action in adult social care

In line with the plans commitments to reduce inequality and improve outcomes for the adult social care workforce in Sheffield, we must recognise and act on the impact our adult social care system has on our climate. We aim to do more to identify these impacts, measure, monitor and reduce where possible, incorporating the use of tools such as the Climate Impact Assessment tool in future decision making on projects that will flow from the strategy.

Actions that we take to tackle climate change in adult social care ultimately will work alongside our aims outlined in the plan focused on improving outcomes for our workforce. We have outlined several areas below that indicate what we intend to explore in tackling the adult social care impact on Sheffield's climate ambitions:

- The workforce development plan requires partnership with organisations across the city in order to be successful – we'll build on this to work with partners on projects to tackle our net zero ambitions
- Where building, refurbishment or infrastructure projects are needed, we will follow principles of sustainable design and construction aiming to minimise environmental impacts and maximise the future sustainable use of any building
- We will think creatively about how we can incorporate demand reduction, decarbonisation of vehicles and active travel into the provision of services
- We will encourage access to green spaces for our workforce, including more active travel, improving health benefits, such as reduced cardiovascular disease, depression, diabetes and dementia
- We will influence the conversation on climate change action, thinking about how our daily interactions can increase positive climate action in the city, for example through supporting people to think about household energy efficiency, which could also improve health, through improved indoor temperatures and air quality, alongside addressing fuel poverty
- Wherever possible, we will aim to minimise our use of materials and resources and the production of waste, searching for new technologies and products that may assist with this
- Ensure that those most at risk from the impacts of climate change are supported to increase their resilience.