

North Bristol NHS Trust Biodiversity Management Plan



The 2019 (first) edition of the Biodiversity Management Plan sets out the Trust’s ambitions for the management and enhancement of our green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. It highlights the critical part that biodiversity (the variety and variability of plant and animal life on earth) has to play and provides examples from a wealth of evidence of how access to the natural environment is essential for our health and wellbeing.

The Plan sets out the work that has been completed to date to actively encourage wildlife and the creation of new habitats (natural environment in which a species lives) and to adapt our sites ready for a changing climate. This ranges from the construction of insect hotels and bird boxes through to tree planting, wild flower meadow sowing, use of pollen-rich and native species and the creation of new waterbodies (blue spaces.) These have not been accidental

but part of the Trust’s efforts to ensure that development across our sites is sustainable – delivering not just financially but whilst simultaneously protecting the environment and providing a resource for the local community and beyond.

Where our own expertise is lacking we have sought the advice of others. Ecological surveys have been undertaken to identify the species and habitats present on our sites and from these recommendations have been drawn and included in the Plan’s action plan. One key finding from the most recent survey indicated that the Southmead site “exhibits an excellent invertebrate community for an inner-city location,” a true attestation to the success of our sensitive management of these 20 acres of green spaces.

The Trust has not stopped at simply managing its green spaces but has also sought to raise awareness amongst staff, patients and visitors of the benefits of using and protecting the natural environment. Engagement activities have included wildflower seed giveaways, fruit-pressing, the installation of an interpretation panel, wildlife walks and the fabrication of therapeutic lavender bags that include site-grown lavender. Plans for the future include the creation of a staff and patient allotment and the installation of outdoor gym equipment.



The Biodiversity Management Plan pulls together the evidence of NBT good management practices, innovative approaches and engagement into a format that can be both internally and externally examined, replicated and celebrated. The proposed activity within the action plan will enable us to continue on the successful journey towards integrating the use of outdoor spaces into both our healthcare services and as part of preventing ill health. Progress against the action plan will be monitored by the Trust’s Sustainable Development Steering Group.