

A classic example of a Spend to Save scheme has enabled staff at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust to embrace the Green Agenda and for the trust to reap impressive rewards - and it was all made possible by the humble waste bin.

After a successful waste segregation pilot across 12 wards provided the ammunition for a business case, over 5,000 colour coded bins from Environmental Hygiene Products are now installed across all wards and departments at the city's Hull Royal Infirmary and Castle Hill Hospital.

"Improvements in quality always reduce costs," Pauline Lewin, the trust's director of estates and facilities, told *Hospital Bulletin*. "We've saved £92,000 in clinical waste in

the first year. The business case had a two-year payback and we're on course to achieve that in 18 months.

"We report monthly to the board through the performance accountability agenda and the KPIs related to waste management clearly demonstrate that we're reducing the amount of expensive to dispose of clinical waste through better segregation, while the amount of domestic waste and recycling increases."

Already working on a Green strategy for the trust, Pauline was at Health Facilities Scotland, co-presenting a paper, and saw Environmental Hygiene Products' (EHP) bins on display. The off-the-wall design that prevents surface damage, easy cleaning facility, silent closing lid, hands-free operation and easy manoeuvrability were confirmed by a colleague who had just completed a region-wide roll-out of the bins across NHS Lothian and gave a glowing endorsement of EHP's



Off-the-wall design prevents surface damage

HULL SPENDS TO SAVE

A culture change at Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust has seen staff embrace waste segregation and recycling - putting the trust on line for a rapid payback



customer service credentials.

Pauline arranged for EHP to present the bins to a multi-disciplinary team - nursing, infection prevention and control, health and safety, estates and facilities. Each quickly saw how different attributes of the bins met their own criteria.

"After that I realised we needed a dedicated person to move the agenda forward," said Pauline. "Steve Roberts was appointed environmental manager and his position has been self-funded. He reports to Marc Beaumont, head of sustainability, also funded on Spend to Save."

"We needed an evidence base in order to provide the information to support the business case, and arranged a two-month pilot study with EHP's colour coded bins at 12 wards, six per hospital. It enabled us to do a qualification of potential savings."

Outlining the programme, John Earle, head of estates operations, said: "We wanted the new bins to project a good corporate image to show we were serious about waste recycling. If we wanted staff to sign-up to that we needed a

good quality bin as our lead on it.

"The bins we had were really a hotchpotch from a number of suppliers that had built up over the years - a mixture of good,



John Earle

Steve Roberts

indifferent and downright bad. Some were rusty, damaged the walls and were difficult to clean.

"We did an exercise to understand now many of the bins we needed across the organisation, all correctly colour coded to meet the new HTM and priced accordingly. EHP's bins are on the NHS Supply Chain so we were able to check the price competitiveness with other suppliers."

Environmental manager Steve Roberts explained: "EHP's presentation highlighted everyone's considerations. I realised the criteria we were

looking for and compared EHP with other manufacturers - seeing reps, looking at products and catalogues - and EHP came out by far the best."

Steve compiled a 'bin plan' that detailed the exact location and size for every bin in each ward and department. He explained: "We had to develop a training programme because the ward managers decide what bins they have, but they can't make that decision until they know what waste goes in what bin. Then it was a walk around every ward or department to identify the type of waste produced in that area. We had to ensure that we furnished the department with not only the correct colour coded bins but the correct size as well."

Working closely with EHP, the trust arranged a phased delivery programme with the bins arriving palletised and labelled so that the porters knew exactly where the bins were destined for.

"I spent a couple of days before each delivery training all the staff in the ward or department about the different waste streams and colour codes, so it was fresh in their minds when the bins arrived," explained Steve. "We also produced a wallchart to go above each bin to explain what waste the bin could and could not accommodate."

Once the bins started to arrive wards were keen to know when they'd be receiving their delivery and wanting to become involved in the programme.

"There's been a definite culture change," said Steve. "Workplace culture is different from domestic culture. You might segregate and recycle at home but at work it's a completely different matter."

"The staff had to buy-into it to put the right waste into the right bin. The training programme was developed to explain to people why we were doing this and how we were going to do things and to introduce a different thought process on dealing with waste."

"We've looked at waste policy and procedures, developed an e-learning package, wallcharts and an induction programme."

Steve's colleague, waste management co-ordinator, Terry Wilson, is responsible for the majority of the monitoring, ensuring staff are putting the right waste in the right place. Ward housekeepers complete a monthly ten-minute 'tick sheet' audit - any recurring issues that the housekeepers are unable to

handle are addressed.

"We also do a second audit in which we go into it in depth," added Steve "This checks we've the correct labelling and packaging and the correct waste in the correct bins for consignment, to ensure we can use the appropriate European Waste Audit Code with a degree of confidence."

Describing the facilities perspective, Ann Mason, head of hotel services, said: "When



the domestic assistants empty the bins, they wipe them over with a microfibre cloth - using disposable as appropriate. The bins are lightweight and easy to manoeuvre and the domestics turn them over to clean them too. The bungee that holds the bag in place is Nomex and can be easily cleaned. The bins are deep cleaned once a year or when required if there's an



outbreak."

In ward 16 at Castle Hill Hospital, staff nurse Pamela Robson explained: "We had a big problem with wall damage with the old bins, some of them were rusty and marked the floors and the lids used to bang down.

"The new ones are quiet - just what you need when you're looking after patients during the night. With the hands-free, foot pedal operated lid it's easier to dispose of waste. And they're easier to clean from an infection control point of view.

"I'm big on recycling at home and now we can segregate everything here too. Everyone's on the ward's involved and

they're all happy to do it."

Pauline Lewin concluded: "We were pushing an open door as far as the staff were concerned with the sustainability agenda. There's no doubt that Environmental Hygiene Products' bins have contributed greatly to this. They've been really helpful and made it very manageable for us.

"Steve's comprehensive training programme has been adopted by some other trusts. In fact we've had quite a few visits from others wanting to look at waste segregation and the wider sustainability issue.

"For me it's all been about reducing cost, reducing risk, improving quality and improving the environment, and the staff have embraced the changes."

For further information, call Environmental Hygiene Products on 01862 893978, e-mail info@ehpl.net or visit www.ehplgroup.com



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