

July 2020

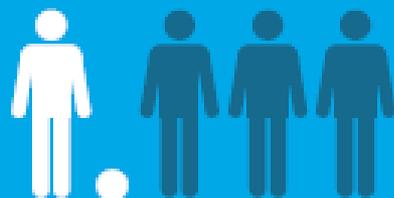
# Sussex Community Trust: Action on plastics

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Oliver Slaughter  
Sustainability & Environment Manager



# Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust



We cover a population of

**1.3m** illion

We provide care to over

**9,000**

people per day



We employ almost

**5,000**

people

Our annual turnover is

**£230**

million



This includes

**12**

in-patient facilities,  
health centres  
& office spaces

We use **113** buildings

## Leadership

Leading the way for sustainable healthcare policy and practice.



## Buildings

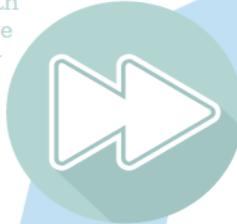
Providing the workspace for low carbon care delivery with wellbeing in mind.



# CARE WITHOUT CARBON

## Future

Supporting a strong local health economy to serve our community now and in the future.



## Journeys

Maximising the health benefits of our travel while minimising the environmental impacts.



## Wellbeing

Creating a better working life for our people.



## Culture

Informing, empowering and motivating people to achieve sustainable healthcare.

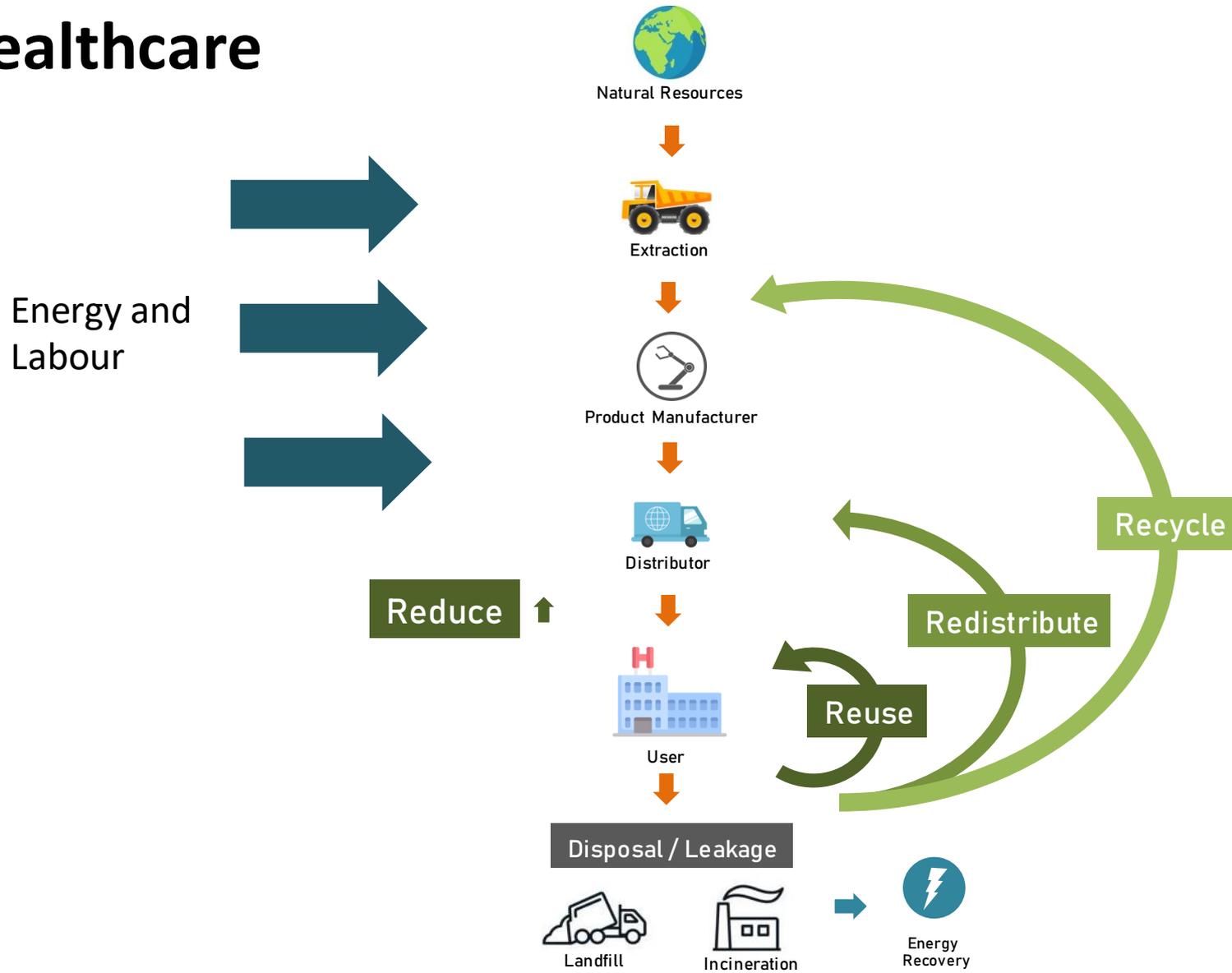


## Circular Economy

Creating and supporting an ethical and resource efficient supply chain.



# Circular Economy in Healthcare



# Inspiration - New Plastics Economy

## THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY VISION



**ELIMINATE**  
the plastics we  
don't need.



**INNOVATE**  
to ensure that the  
plastics we do need are  
reusable, recyclable,  
or compostable.



**CIRCULATE**  
all the plastic items  
we use to keep them  
in the economy and out  
of the environment.



ELLEN  
MACARTHUR  
FOUNDATION

**THE NEW PLASTICS ECONOMY**  
RETHINKING THE FUTURE OF PLASTICS

# Dressing packs – In the beginning

Community healthcare to patients just left hospital

Contacted me regarding mountains of waste

Discussed use of dressing packs

Using over 30 per day



# Dressing packs – The issue

## Latex free pack sterile woundcare

### Peal pack

5 x cotton non-woven swabs

1 x water repellent sterile sheet

1 x white waste disposal polythene bag (42x29cm)

1 x pair examination gloves cuffed

1 x paper ruler

1 x propylene tray (12cmx10cmx2.5cm)

1 x paper (hand) dressing towel

1 x PE Apron

1 x water repellent sterile sheet

## Key concerns:

- Packaging
- Unused items
- Unnecessary items



# Dressing packs – Going single

- Gloves were not required for drawing up IV
- Not all cotton swabs were required – just for comfort
- Lightweight and large volume
- Not correct waste bag
- Team had already innovated by using reusable wipe able containers and trays
- Had to rewrite ANTT policy with Infection control team
- IV team took interest and estimated cost savings by **switching to individual items**. Packs are around 40p each + waste costs.



# Dressing packs - Lessons

## Lessons

- Realised recently that the problem is wider within the trust –

**132,000!**

Dressing packs bought in 2019-20

- Need to work with other teams and scale up
- More work needed to calculate economical and environmental savings



# Plastic Free July

## TOOLKIT

Care without carbon Envoys to deliver toolkit to teams

- Facts about plastic pollution
- At work – top 10 used plastic items – helpful questions
- At home – Items around the home and plastic alternatives
- Case Study

## Let's talk about plastic...

Plastic is an extremely useful material that can play a positive role in our lives.

BUT its strength and durability means it can be very difficult to dispose of.

### Did you know ?



Between 2013-2018 NHS England used **609 million** plastic cups



**79%** of plastic made since 1950 is still in the environment as landfill or litter.



Single use packaging makes up **40%** of all plastic produced



Over **1 million** seabirds are killed each year by pollution



**3.5 billion** people rely on the oceans for food and nutrition. plastic pollution can threaten this.

# Plastic Free July

## PLEDGE

125 members of staff made the pledge to use **#onelesspiece** of single use plastic.

More staff doing it but difficult to measure.



**CARE WITHOUT CARBON**

**I DARE TO**  
**USE #ONELESS PIECE OF PLASTIC**

We continue to consume single use plastic items that immediately end up in landfill.

Commit to using just #oneless plastic item and enjoy a cleaner, greener workplace.

Dr V Patil  
Acting Deputy Medical Director

## Other work

- Reusable PPE
- HCWH Plastics Project
- NHS Plastics pledge – Regional
- Dare to Care – One less piece of plastic
- GOSH gloves Project
- Waste training
- Cups removal
- Laundry??

**Thank you!**