

Reuse Unwanted Items

Name of Trust, Project Lead and Location

Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Samantha Stanhope, King's Mill Hospital

Theme

Clinical & Non-Clinical Waste Reduction & Lower Carbon Care

Challenge

It was observed by our Waste Contracts Manager at Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust that a huge number of waste items being brought out of the hospital for disposal sometimes appeared not to be broken and were simply unopened or unwanted. Examples of which include:

- Crutches
- Desks
- Chairs
- Medical Equipment
- Beds
- Office Equipment
- PPE.

Approach

Being concerned by the amount of apparently undamaged or unopened items being sent for disposal, our Waste Contracts Manager quarantined all such items during a one month period, and presented the 'waste' before the SMT, Chief Nurse, Head of our Consumables Group and Procurement.

Following on from the meeting a value was placed on the items by working alongside the procurement team. Both financially and ethically it didn't make sense to continue with the needless disposal of items that were no longer required by specific departments within the trust, so our Waste Contracts Manager ran a campaign highlighting the issue and offering the surplus stock to other hospital departments from which the uptake was outstanding.

Solution

Identifying unnecessary waste within the trust, and taking the time to segregate this and highlight the issue to senior members of staff. Sharing knowledge of unwanted items which were available for use by other departments within the trust led to a fantastic uptake.

Who was involved?

Our Waste Contracts Manager initially raised the project, and took the lead on storing and sharing the items for re-use. She worked alongside waste colleagues to ensure any minor defects were repaired before the item was made available for re-use. Primarily information on the initiative was shared via word of mouth, with a particular focus on our helpdesk so any re-use queries were directed to the appropriate team.

Skanska Waste Contract Manager Samantha Stanhope said: *"After the Trust replaced all hand towel and toilet roll dispensers, we were left with a large number that could be reused somewhere. I thought it would be ideal to work with charities to see if they could benefit from equipment that the Trust no longer needed, so I contacted them and asked how we could work together. We now work with them to send things on a regular basis, which is brilliant. "This is*

just the start of a bigger commitment to re-using material. A lot of what comes through as waste can be reused, first and foremost within the Trust.”

Facilities Management Services Manager for the Trust, Liz Nicholas added: *“We are thrilled that others are able to benefit from the use of equipment that would have otherwise been disposed of. We are very keen to spread the message across our Trust to encourage colleagues to re-use or recycle wherever possible.”*

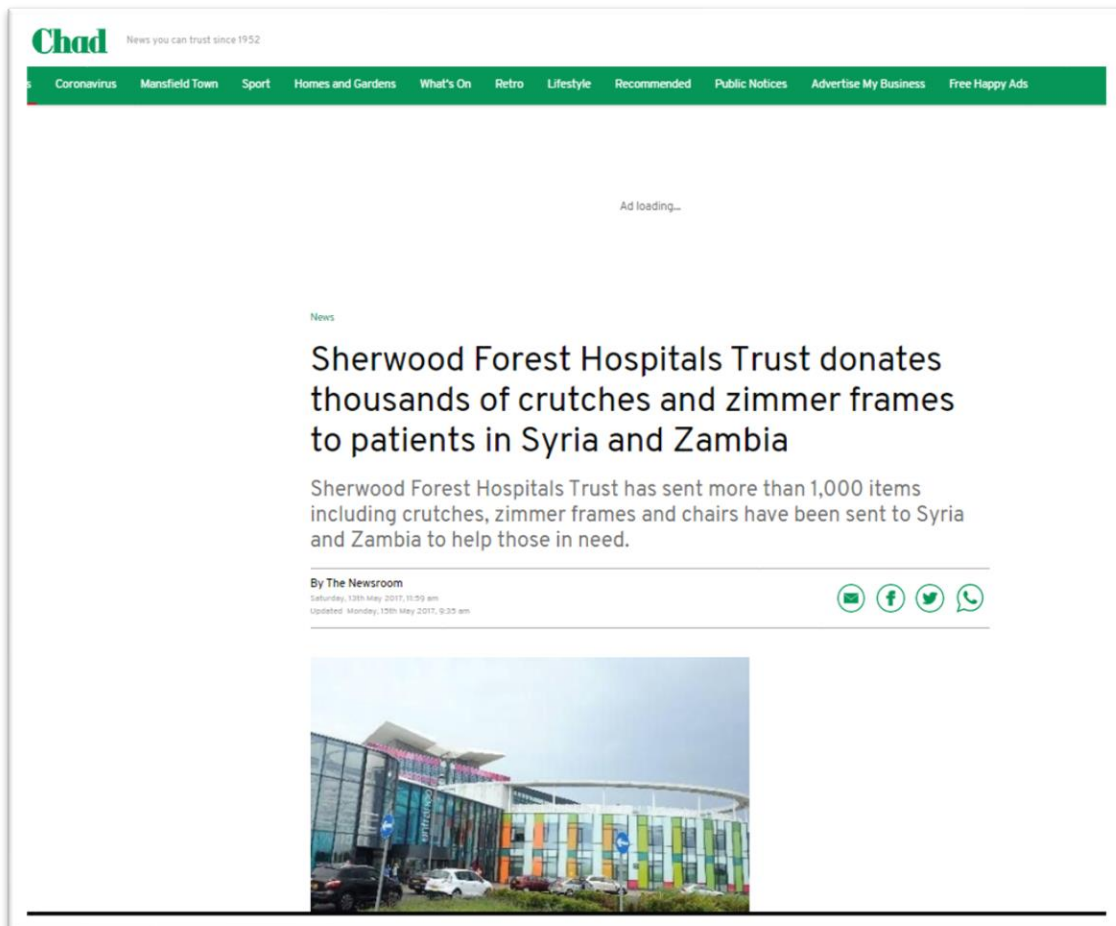
Impacts – Procurement & Associated Carbon Savings

The initiative has improved on stock rotation at ward level, and if the procurement team are approached for new equipment, they always check before ordering if any suitable stock is available for re-use within the trust, this has led to an undefined carbon saving through not purchasing new stock.

Once the above options have been exhausted, any remaining stock is sent via charities for reuse in Hospitals, Schools and Orphanages in the Middle East and Africa.

Giving the items for re-use by external charities has resulted in 176 tonnes of waste avoidance, with the associated disposal and transportation costs resulting in a saving of £27,393 to date.

Illustrative Attachments



News Article from the Local Newspaper Mansfield and Ashfield Chad

[Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust donates thousands of crutches and zimmer frames to patients in Syria and Zambia | Mansfield and Ashfield Chad](#)