

Monday 22nd October 2007
Cornish NHS Trusts

Cornish NHS Trust working together to deliver energy saving message

The NHS Hospital Trust will be launching a 'Do it yourself' Home Energy Check on patient televisions to mark the start of Energy Saving Week and their commitment to reducing their own carbon footprint and encouraging patients and visitors to follow suit.

This is one more step in the green direction for the NHS Trusts of Cornwall which include; the NHS Hospital Trust, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust and the Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust, collectively encompassing all NHS patient care in Cornwall.

Mark Summers, Head of Environmental Services for the Cornwall NHS Trusts said, *"The NHS Trusts in Cornwall believe that there is a link between warm homes and health. We encourage staff and patients to save energy through insulation and will continue to raise awareness of government grants for adequate heating systems and insulation schemes. We hope that it will increase the number adequately warm homes and reduce the number people who may be vulnerable to damp and cold housing conditions. It is a bonus that we are also reducing overall carbon emissions."*

The NHS Trusts of Cornwall are taking part in many energy saving initiatives:

- Jointly signing up to the Carbon Trust's Carbon Club, which focuses on the carbon efficiency of energy, waste, transport, and procurement.
- Jointly commissioning 'Make a World of Difference', an environmental awareness campaign aimed at staff to save 20% of their energy usage.
- Working with Community Energy Plus to host 'Energy Saving Road Shows' at sites across Cornwall.
- Installing 2 solar systems on Cornwall Partnership Trust properties and The Cornwall and IOS Primary Care Trust have an on-going insulation upgrade scheme.
- The Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust is working on developing a wood heating initiative to displace fossil fuelled gas boilers, with carbon neutral biomass on the Treliske Hospital site.
- The Cornwall Food Programme ensures that ingredients for patients' meals are sourced locally, which has reduced food miles by approximately 100,000 per year, a figure which is increasing as the project develops
- Considering large scale projects including further biomass and wind power schemes.

Energy Efficiency Advisors will be in the main foyer in the Trelawny building of Treliske hospital from 10:30 am on Monday 22nd October to give free impartial advice on energy efficiency, home insulation and heating grants, and renewable energy technologies.

John Watkinson, Chief Executive, Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust said, *“This is a very worthwhile initiative and if people heed the call to keep their homes warm in an efficient way, that will benefit both health and the environment. Cornwall's NHS organisations themselves are increasingly focusing on how to save energy not only because it is good for the environment but also because it will save money that can then be put in to patient care.”*

-ENDS

Notes to editors:

- **Photo opportunities:** from 9:00am at New County Hall, Truro and from 10:00 to 10:15 outside the Knowledge Spa
- **Interviews** will be available from 10:30 am in the entrance of the Knowledge Spa. Interviewees available are:
 1. The NHS Trusts environmental champion and nurse will be available for interviews.
 2. Mark Summers, Head of Environmental Services
 3. John Watkinson, CEO of Treliske Hospital
 4. Energy advisors
- **Picture:** Advice Team photo with Mark Summers - Centre (Head of Environmental services at Cornwall NHS Partnership Trust) at Treliske Hospital at a previous road-show
- The Trusts are the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust, Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust.