

NECS has a clear social purpose to reduce inequalities, create jobs and generate wealth for our communities. Sustainable business is at the heart of our success to-date and our future ambitions. NECS' core values, vision and social purpose define who we are, how we behave and the commitment we have to making life-changing improvements to the communities we serve.

NECS2025, our CSR strategy, is based on the triple bottom line (3BL) model – people, planet and place. This strategy underpins the NECS Business Strategy, the NECS Estate Strategy 2018-2023 and the NHS People Plan 2020/21.



## People

We are creating opportunities for our local communities through creating jobs and investing in talent. During 2020/21 we launched our NECS100 programme for graduate trainees and apprentices. We have continued to recruit our second cohort in line with our Corporate Social Responsibility aims and in light of the economic impact of the pandemic. We will strive to ensure the appointments reflect the diversity of the communities we serve and their geographies.

**Our priorities include:**

- To invest a percentage of resource into the ICS programme of work, including an emphasis on prevention and population health.
- Increase our transformation fund that can be reinvested into patient care by £1m every year.
- Build upon the success of the NECS100 graduate management schemes, apprenticeships and internships.
- Create 200 new jobs in our target markets.
- Relaunch the volunteers programme and undertake volunteer activity to support good causes in the communities we support.
- Ensuring social value is embedded throughout our procurements.
- Assess and review our ability to engage with charity organisations.

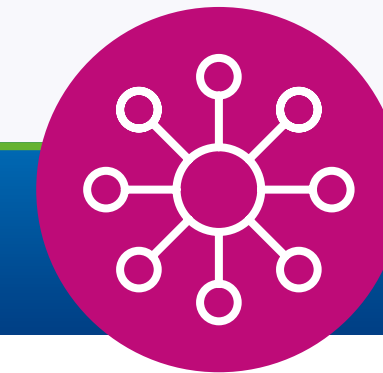


## Planet

NECS is committed to achieving 'Net Zero' for carbon emissions we can control (the NHS Carbon Footprint) by 2040 and to achieving Net Zero for carbon emissions we can influence (NET Zero Footprint Plus) by 2045.

**To support our ambitions, we will:**

- Reduce carbon from building energy and water use by increasing the use of LED lights, upgrading and improving the operation of Building Management Systems and introducing minimum performance standards and carrying out environmental impact assessments during lease events and refurbishments.
- Drive forward a circular economy by ensuring surplus office furniture is redistributed and reused or recycled.
- Work with landlords and head leaseholders to carry out an audit of waste across our portfolio and identifying hotspots where improvements are needed.
- Reduce emissions from business and commuter travel by increasing virtual meetings to reduce the need to travel, updating policies to incentivise sustainable modes of business travel and having Flexible Working policy in place to help staff choose sustainable modes of commuter travel.
- Reduce reliance on office paper through increased digitalisation, with a switch to 100 per cent recycled paper for all office-based functions, where paper is required.
- Continue our commitment to reducing single-use plastics and packaging.



## Place

NECS 2025 informs how we continue to deliver and expand our quality products and services, drive improvement and cost efficiencies, and address the challenges facing our customers and local communities. Our direct impact on supply chain is tied in with the contracts that are in place currently, and to the engagement opportunities we have with local suppliers within the communities.

**To continue attaining best value contracts, we will:**

- Review the NECS agreement with Shared Business Services (SBS) to ensure that social value considerations remain a core and guiding principle of supply chain procurement decisions.
- Assess opportunities and joint ventures for engaging and supporting small innovative organisations (particularly for opportunities under £10,000 which are not advertised on recognised frameworks).
- Assess and review our impact and influence on the wider supply chain providers and our strategic partners.
- Strive to work with partners whose cultures and values align with NECS.

