

Childsmile Sustainability Action Plan 2024-26

This 2024-26 action plan builds on activities and developments undertaken in the 2022-24 action plan and is based on the principles of the Childsmile Sustainability Strategy.

Key theme	Action	Description	Measurement	Comments	Progress (R/A/G)
Travel	1A	Continue to use MSTeams as the default approach to all national and regional meetings and networks	% of national meetings/sub groups on MSTeams		
Equipment and supplies	2A	Seek agreement across all health boards to reduce the use of single use mirrors in fluoride varnish application, where applicable. This will require wider PDS support. In 2024, 50% of health boards still using mirrors used plastic mirrors. 71,000 fewer mirrors were used in 2023-24.	Number of applications not involving a single use mirror as % of total. Change in board level use %.		
	2B	Work with NHS NSS and AMS on new contract to: Consider implementation of a locally sourced free flow cup which would reduce carbon and financial cost of shipping 59000 cups from China every year. Explore option to request toothpaste tubes should be made from high grade plastics to support recycling efforts.	Change in kgCO2e shipping cost of cups.		

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		Explore additional cost of compostable wrapping for packs and brushes, and/or reduction in packaging overall.			
	2C	All toothbrushes in the Baby Box are wrapped in compostable wrapping.	100%		
Energy	3A	Move towards 100% of Childsmile fleet vehicles being electric by 31 st March 2025. In 2023/24, 41 out of 82 vehicles used for Childsmile were electric vehicles (50%). 10/14 health boards operate at least one electric vehicle.	% vehicles now e-vehicles. % boards operating e-vehicles.		
Waste	4A	Work with colleagues in PHS to keep under review current printed resources. Agree actions to reduce printed stock where possible (e.g. FTHT) and investigate other opportunities such as digital or web based solutions.	Annual reduction in print volumes as kgCO2e. New developments and associated kgCO2e change.		
	4B	Explore with NHS NSS the opportunity to develop a separate high grade plastics recycling service for toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes. This will pilot in NHS GGC in 2025. Current orange waste process will continue until	Participating nurseries and schools as per HIC system field (count and %).		

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		further notice.			
Biodiversity and green space					
Measuring embedding	5A	Measurement – develop an annual monitoring framework to gather progress against in year actions. The monitoring framework will gather information on the outcomes of the action plan contents.	Annual monitoring framework covering all measurement requirements. Publication of yearly report and infographic.		
	5B	Embedding – develop an annual information resource for teams (e.g. infographic) which describes actions, progress and ambitions in the context of a wider sustainability approach. Purpose to inform and support discussions and actions locally.	Core/sustainability group action.		
	5C	Embedding – Local team challenge. Each health board team identifies a measure it will try to improve their own target which they will describe and measure progress against.	Challenge taken on and recorded for follow up and sharing outcomes		
	5D	Create a 'how to' guide and resources to support local Childsmile teams calculate any	Creation and sharing of resources.		

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		health board level paper use changes introduced.			
	5E	Create a 'how to' guide and resources to support local Childsmile teams calculate any health board level travel changes introduced.	Creation and sharing of resources.		

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