

#### **Press Release**

#### 26 September 2022

## For Immediate Release

# **Cygnet Health Care Heading for a Greener Future**

A leading healthcare company has launched its sustainability strategy and is making significant headway in its green developments.

Cygnet Health Care, an independent provider of services for individuals with mental health needs, learning disabilities and autism, has procured 100% renewable energy across all its services since 2021 and has now set out its ambitions to achieve net zero carbon for direct and indirect emissions by 2035 and net zero carbon emissions in its supply chain by 2045.

Gordon Bailey, Procurement Director at Cygnet Health Care, explained: "All of Cygnet Health Care is committed to having a positive impact on the environment and we take our responsibility to contribute to a greener society very seriously. We are proud of the role we play in our communities and we are committed to having a positive impact on the environment.

"But taking care of the environment isn't just about a strategy. Everyone at Cygnet has a responsibility and the power to make small changes and contribute to a greener planet for all."

A number of measures have been taken to demonstrate Cygnet's green credentials. It has removed black plastic from its food supplies and used cooking oil is recycled. In addition, all new builds or fit-outs are completed to high environmental standards with sustainability at the top of the property team's agenda including solar energy generation, LED lighting, high-efficiency boilers, full insulation and double glazing. All light fittings in existing sites are replaced with suitable LED units when they reach end of life and high efficiency condensing boilers are installed when heating boilers need to be replaced.

"The team recently carried out substantial earthworks at Sherwood Hospital, our new service in Mansfield, with over 2,000 lorry loads of earth removed off site, 100% of which was recycled for reuse," Gordon added. "They used intelligent digging, allowing us to increase productivity and efficiency, and reduce waste, helping lower our carbon footprint compared with other traditional methods."

In further evidence of its green ambitions, Cygnet will be installing solar panels across its portfolio with the top 20 electricity using sites installed over the next 12 months at a cost of £1.7m. The aim is for return on investment within 5 years and that the panels will supply 13% of the organisation's electricity and 25% of each respective site's electricity.

When it needs to change or upgrade any of vehicles, they will be replaced with electric vehicles where possible, to ensure its large fleet is increasingly environmentally friendly. It is hoped that 100% of the vehicle fleet will be electric by 2032.

This year, Cygnet also launched its' co-sustain initiative to empower service users and staff to take sustainability into their own hands. Led by the Procurement and Experts by Experience teams, co-sustain uses the principles of coproduction to raise awareness and educate individuals on meaningful changes they can make to have a positive impact on the environment. One of the first projects it launched is a new bin signage pilot across six services. The pilot will educate people on the different types of waste streams and how to dispose of materials correctly.

Gordon explained: "Cygnet will be working closely with service users, residents and staff to raise awareness of environmental issues, take action and explore creative ways of reducing our carbon footprint across our services.

"Sustainability is an extremely important topic and coproduction is the perfect match when considering partnership working to get that buy-in across the board. Our Procurement team have been working tirelessly in the background to ensure we are doing everything we can to support this important agenda.

"During the pilot, we saw a positive change with recycling rates going up and general waste rates going down.

"This is a truly exciting time at Cygnet, as we begin our journey toward a sustainable future. Sustainability isn't just a hot topic, it's a way for us to work together with our service users and colleagues, to ensure we give future generations a happy, healthy and greener future."

Cygnet Health Care's five-year Strategic Plan can be accessed here.

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

For more information, please contact Gemma Attew, External Communications Manager, on <a href="mailto:gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk">gemmaattew@cygnethealth.co.uk</a> or 07718 244811.

# **About Cygnet Health Care**

Cygnet Health Care has been providing a national network of high-quality, specialised mental health services for the NHS and local authorities for the past 30 years.

Cygnet Health Care's pioneering services support people with complex and acute mental health needs across the UK.

As one of the best quality providers in mental health services in the country, Cygnet Health Care's focus is always on the best outcomes for those who use or commission its services. 85% of Cygnet's facilities are rated as good or outstanding, which is above the national average.

www.cygnethealth.co.uk