**Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust – Social Impact Charter**

*EPUT can and should “go further” than providing safe, high quality physical and mental healthcare by adopting principles of equity and ambitiously pursuing its objective to help our communities thrive. As the only statutory organisation operating across Greater Essex (and beyond), EPUT is ideally positioned to convene partners and co-ordinate social impactful activity.*

***EPUT Social Impact Strategy, September 2023***

EPUT is embracing its role in positively impacting the wider determinants of health. Our Social Impact Charter sets out the ways in which all parts of our organisation aim to have a positive impact on our local communities, leveraging EPUT’s role as a local employer, purchaser, land and asset owner, partner to the Voluntary and Community Sector and in the way that we affect our local communities and the environment in which they live. EPUT’s Social Impact programme is designed to build on and around the successes already delivered or planned by the networks across the Integrated Care Systems in which EPUT provides services. EPUT aspires to make its social impact interventions sustainably funded over time.

**As an employer, EPUT will aim to:**

* Be a key driver of strategic efforts in Essex to reduce health inequalities and improve wellbeing by helping individuals who experience barriers to work, including those coping with mental and physical illness to achieve good quality, sustainable employment
* Contribute to the continued raising of awareness and good practice within local employers with regards to the employment of people with mental health conditions, working with partners across Essex and the wider region
* Continue adapting its business processes to promote fair and inclusive employment at scale. This will contribute to individuals in our local communities having the best possible opportunity to successfully gain employment and access to high quality, fairly paid work.

**As purchasers, EPUT will aim to:**

* Think globally but act locally where possible
* Always consider how what we buy generates positive secondary societal impacts e.g. through utilising local supply chains, supporting local employment opportunities and driving innovation and value for money, reducing travel time and carbon footprint for goods and suppliers
* Consider social and environmental factors during procurement processes, building social and environmental requirements into contracts wherever possible
* Agree social value requirements internally as relevant to each contract e.g. tackling economic inequality, climate change, equal opportunity and wellbeing
* Monitor the benefits realised from contractual requirements by suppliers, where capacity allows.

**As a landowner, EPUT will aim to:**

* Use its estate for the maximum benefit of the populations
* Put infrastructure in place to enable greener travel solutions for staff and those that visit our sites
* Reduce the impact of its operations on the environment and the communities it serves by:
  + For emissions the Trust control directly we will aim for a 80% reduction between 2028 and 2032 and net zero by 2040
  + For emissions the Trust influences we will aim for an 80% reduction between 2036 and 2039, with net zero being achieved by 2045
  + Decarbonise its portfolio of properties on or before 2045.

**As a good civic partner, EPUT will aim to:**

* Meet voluntary and community sector (VCSE) partners and communities where they are and partner with them to build resilience and learn from local experts
* Learn from strategic partnerships with VCSEs operating in areas aligned to EPUT’s Social Impact priorities
* Recognise and address barriers to VCSE equal partnership and sustainability through shared and defined outcomes, co-operative solutions and advocacy
* Support the development of VCSE organisations locally to deliver what our communities need through an exchange of expert knowledge and technical skill
* Promote meaningful co-production and listen to lived experience in equal partnership
* Deepen and broaden its relationships with academic partners with a view to delivering joint research and innovation that bring investment into the local area and our communities.

Organisations that deliver positive and sustained social impact do this with intentionality. To be successful, EPUT therefore commits to adopting the key features of success:

* Public board acknowledgment
* Commitment to action
* Make explicit link between social determinants of health and core operational functions
* Being explicit about benefits and outcomes
* Public advocacy through ongoing, visible leadership
* Giving agency to staff to innovate.