
Corporate social responsibility



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We strive to be a socially responsible organisation. We want to embed sustainability, social impact, and ethics into everything we do. From standalone initiatives to everyday activities, we try to carry out our work in a way that benefits the environment and society.

In 2022, we made progress with our corporate social responsibility (CSR) agenda in several ways.

Protecting the environment

- Given our purpose is to protect the public, it's key that we play our part also in tackling climate change.

In 2022, we announced our ambition to become a net zero organisation by 2040. During the year we took a number of steps on this journey, including launching a programme of staff engagement, and working to calculate our carbon footprint.

Importantly, calculating our footprint has allowed us to develop a net zero plan for the organisation. The plan sets out what we will be doing in the coming years to reach net zero emissions and tackle climate change. It specifies targets to reduce our carbon footprint, eliminating scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2030, and scope 3 emissions by 2040.

Everyone in the organization will have a part to play in helping us achieve net zero, and we look forward to working with colleagues and others to help us reach this important goal.

Supporting the community

- We partnered with the Royal Voluntary Service's Befriending Scheme. Volunteer befrienders give weekly companionship phone calls to people at risk of being lonely or isolated. The scheme provides invaluable support to elderly people, and many of our volunteers have formed lasting connections. As the programme has been such a success, we plan to extend it and to expand our volunteer base in the coming year.

“A simple call can make such a difference to a person's day. I love the fact that I can put a smile on someone's face.”

Salma, Trainee Solicitor and volunteer befriender

- A number of our colleagues have continued to take part in our volunteer reading scheme. The volunteers spend time twice a week reading with secondary school students who need additional support with literacy. We have seen impressive results from programme participants, with some students showing reading age improvements of up to seven years.
- We also partnered with the National Literacy Trust, which organised and coordinated three book reading events at primary schools in deprived areas in Greater Manchester. These were equally well received and some GMC volunteers from these events have continued their volunteer role in their own time.

Promoting social mobility

- As part of our commitment to CSR and to equality, diversity, and inclusion, we expanded our existing apprenticeships offer. Apprenticeships provide exciting and varied career opportunities to those who may not have access to further education or who particularly benefit from on-the-job training. From 2023, we will be recruiting 20 or more new apprentices every year across multiple departments, with at least 50% from ethnic minority groups.

“I can’t put into words just how much the GMC programme has helped me. The support I’ve been given every step of the way has set me up for life.”

Oliver, Automation and Delivery Support Engineer

- Widening participation in medical education continues to be a priority for us. We want young people to have a fair and equal chance of becoming our doctors of the future. So, we work with organisations who support young people from less advantaged backgrounds. During the summer, we worked with our partners at the Social Mobility Foundation to hold events aimed at potential future doctors. The programme received positive feedback from our attendees.

“I was able to see what I could potentially become in the future and get a clearer idea of why so many people are a part of the medical field. I also enjoyed the

clinical fellow who spoke of her experience as an anaesthetist, as I just felt like she was exactly what I wanted to be.”

Participant at Social Mobility Foundation event

Benchmarking and working with partners to promote CSR

- We continue to work with Business in the Community, using their Business Tracker to benchmark our CSR work. The tracker allows us to measure our progress compared to other organisations.
- We also established a cross-regulator CSR group, which includes the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Dental Council, the General Pharmaceutical Council, the Health and Care Professionals Council, and Social Work England. The group met twice during the year, discussing environmental matters and the development of policies to reach net zero targets.

