
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 2021, we made progress with this agenda in several ways.

Supporting social mobility and widening participation in medical education

- We designed and implemented a legal apprenticeship scheme with support from the Social Mobility Foundation. We launched the scheme in August 2021, receiving a positive response. The scheme allowed us to recruit four talented law students from the Greater Manchester area who will study towards their degree while they work in our legal team.
- We also took part in a number of events organised by the Social Mobility Foundation. The events were aimed at young people who want to go to medical school. Three of our clinical fellows presented at summer school events for these students, sharing their experiences of applying for medical school and their experiences of training.
- We joined the National Medical Schools Widening Participation Forum and worked with the Medical Schools Council on plans to develop resources to help widen participation in medical education.

Protecting the environment

- We launched the GMC's net zero carbon project. The project is designed to enable us to measure our environmental impact and develop options to become a net-zero-carbon organisation.
- We grew our internal network of GMC environment champions.
- We attended the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities conference. As part of this, we gave a joint presentation with Greener NHS.
- We published a blog in support of COP26.

Benchmarking and working with partners to promote CSR

- We strengthened our relationship with Business in the Community (BITC). As part of this, we started using their Responsible Business Tracker to benchmark our CSR work. The tracker allows us to measure our progress compared to other organisations.
- We represented the GMC on the BITC North West Leadership Board. The Board provides guidance and support for responsible business work across the region.

Creating opportunities and developing our CSR programme further

- We began a pilot programme of internships focusing specifically on CSR. Our first CSR intern joined us in May 2021 for 12 weeks. The intern helped us with research into widening participation schemes at UK medical schools.
- We launched our first corporate volunteering pilots. As part of this, some of our staff took part in a virtual reading scheme with a north London academy. They have been reading with Year 9 and 10 pupils from the academy with English as a second or third language for 30 minutes twice a week. We also worked with an academy trust in Manchester on their plans for Special Educational Needs schools in the area.

“The reading scheme will provide huge benefits, as literacy is so important. For me, being able to contribute to it will be a positive highlight of my work at the GMC. It also reflects well on the organisation, showing it wants to contribute to local communities and society in this way.”

- GMC colleague taking part in our corporate volunteering scheme

The steps we have taken so far in relation to our CSR agenda will help us identify where we can do even more in future.

