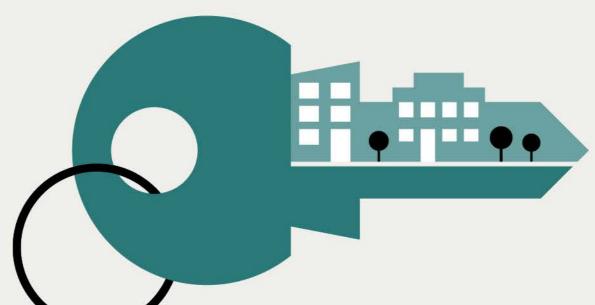# What makes the NHS an anchor institution?

NHS organisations are rooted in their communities. Through its size and scale, the NHS can positively contribute to local areas in many ways beyond providing health care. The NHS can make a difference to local people by:

Working more closely with local partners
The NHS can learn from others, spread good ideas and model civic responsibility.

Using buildings and spaces to support communities
The NHS occupies 8,253 sites across England on 6,500 hectares of land.

Purchasing more locally and for social benefit
In England alone, the NHS spends £27bn every year on goods and services.

Reducing its environmental impact
The NHS is responsible for 40% of the public sector's carbon footprint.

Widening access to quality work
The NHS is the UK's biggest employer, with 1.6 million staff.

As an anchor institution, the NHS influences the health and wellbeing of communities simply by being there. But by choosing to invest in and work with others locally and responsibly, the NHS can have an even greater impact on the wider factors that make us healthy.

The Health Foundation