

HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE SCRUTINY PANEL	AGENDA ITEM No. 9
25 NOVEMBER 2008	PUBLIC REPORT

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FEEDBACK AND UPDATE REPORT

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This is a regular report to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Panel and forms part of the Panel's 2008/09 work programme.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The report provides feedback on items considered or questions asked at previous meetings of the Panel. It also provides an update on matters which are of interest to the Panel or where members have asked to be kept informed of progress.

3. SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL PILOT PROJECT

- 3.1 At its meeting on 22 July 2008 member were advised that It had come to the attention of the Chairman of this Panel that the recommendations of the joint working party comprising members from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the Environment Policy Overview Committee and the Community Wellbeing Policy Overview Committee which undertook a review of the safe disposal of sharps working group and the decision of the Cabinet member had not been implemented.
- 3.2 This was subsequently brought to the attention of Karen Kibblewhite, Community Safety and Substance Misuse Manager in October. The current position of the project has now been established and the work undertaken so far reviewed.
- 3.3 Up-to-date data has been collated to inform potential sites for the bins and ascertain whether the original proposed sites would still be the most effective. The top ten sites where drug-related litter has been reported have been identified and currently consultation is underway with stakeholders to identify which of these would be appropriate for the pilot and whether there are any additional sites which would benefit.
- 3.4 Since the inception of the project, the design of sharps bins has improved and discussions with manufacturers and with other areas who use public sites for sharps bins are underway, in order to ensure that the most effective bins are used, and also to investigate the possibility of using transferable bins. Funding has been identified for the bins.
- 3.5 Once sites have been agreed, and subject to sharps bins being delivered, the bins will be installed as soon as possible; a timescale of 3 months to complete the installation of bins is proposed.

In addition to the pilot project, three pieces of supporting work are currently taking place:

- Peterborough Drugs Service are undertaking proactive work with needle exchanges to encourage drug users to dispose of their needles and other injecting paraphernalia safely;

- The Safer Peterborough Partnership Team are developing processes to ensure that all drug-related litter reports from the public and internally from partners are collated in a single place to enable a clear picture of hotspot areas;
- Drug workers from both Peterborough Drugs Service and from Peterborough DIP have visited sites where drug-related litter has been reported in order to attempt to engage with drug users and divert them into treatment.

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985