

<b>SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR HEALTH ISSUES</b>	<b>Agenda Item No. 8</b>
<b>8 November 2010</b>	<b>Public Report</b>

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## **SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL PILOT PROJECT**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report updates the Scrutiny Commission on the Safe Sharps Disposal Pilot.

### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Commission are asked to accept the update and make any recommendations as to how the use of the bins could be improved.

### **3. LINKS TO CORPORATE PLAN, SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY AND LOCAL AREA AGREEMENT**

- 3.1 The Sustainable Community Strategy and the Local Area Agreement aim to deliver a bigger and better Peterborough, through improving the quality of life for all. Drug-related litter and the unsafe disposal of sharp implements impacts on the safety of our communities through the increased risk of injury and transmission of blood borne viruses, and therefore by addressing it we contribute directly to the outcome of 'Making Peterborough Safer'.

### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 The Safe Sharps Disposal Pilot placed special bins for injecting equipment and other sharp implements in public places to reduce the risk of injury and potential transmission of blood borne viruses to members of the public.
- 4.2 At its meeting in November 2009, the Scrutiny Commission were advised that a project implementation plan had been drawn up for the installation of the bins. Bins were installed in 7 locations around the city between January and March 2010.

### **5. KEY ISSUES**

- 5.1 The bin locations have been promoted via the service specific and pharmacy needle exchanges in the city to all drug users, and have been clearly labelled with the needle exchange logo so that those who use injecting equipment are aware of what they are.
- 5.2 Since all the bins were installed at the end of March 2010, 53 needles and 3 used sharps bins (portable needle bins which hold up to 10 needles) have been collected from the bins, along with some general litter. In addition, the incidents of reported discarded needles and drug-related litter around the city have dropped slightly from 170 to 122. However the use of the bins has not been as high as was hoped.
- 5.3 One of the bins has had to be removed due to it being wrongly sited on private land. Work is now underway to identify an appropriate site for this to be moved to.
- 5.4 The low use of the bins may be due to a number of factors, including:
- hotspots having moved;

- greater numbers of needles being returned to needle exchanges and an increase in the portable sharps bins given out;
- fear of using the bins;

or a combination of all three.

5.5 Officers are currently undertaking work to identify how the bins could be better promoted.

## **6. IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The implications of the pilot project are city-wide.

## **7. CONSULTATION**

7.1 Extensive consultation took place to develop and agree the Adult Drug Treatment Plan, in which the project is described.

7.2 Initial consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken at the project's inception. Further consultation with stakeholders in respect of the specific bin locations was undertaken by the relevant Neighbourhood Manager.

7.3 Consultation has continued with the needle exchanges to promote use of the bins and with the City Services team responsible for clearing discarded injecting equipment concerning the locations of the bins.

## **8. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

8.1 Members are asked to note the progress of the project so far and to make recommendations as to how uptake of the bins could be improved.

## **9. NEXT STEPS**

9.1 Further work will be undertaken through the local drug service user group (SUGA) to try to establish why the bins are being under-utilised.

9.2 Data indicating drug-related litter and discarded injecting equipment will continue to be monitored to establish whether the bins need to be moved.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

10.1 None.