



## **Pharmacy Syringe Exchange scheme's**

Pharmacy Syringe Exchange Schemes (PSE's) are an integral part of facilitating harm reduction intervention's across North Yorkshire. They allow provision of Needle Exchange in remote and populated areas of the County whilst remaining flexible in terms of opening times and options available to service users requiring sterile injecting paraphernalia.

The PSE's are managed by The Early Interventions and Prevention Team who contact them on a weekly basis (Monday mornings) to establish any stock requirements, any stock required is then ordered from suppliers electronically and sent direct to the PSE.

As with any Needle Exchange Scheme great emphasis is put not only on distribution of injecting equipment but on its return for safe disposal. As a commissioned service PSE will be monitored and measured by its return rate and could potentially be at threat if this return rate is consistently below the agreed target.

Clinical waste collection is also managed by The Early Interventions and Prevention Team through the waste management company SRCL. There are established times and days for collection of waste dependent on how busy a PSE may be. This is also monitored on a weekly basis to avoid a 'nil pick up' scenario which would see the service charged for a visit by SRCL but where no waste was collected.

PSE is now a 'pick and mix' arrangement where a service user will hand an illustrated shopping list to PSE staff identifying what paraphernalia is required, allowing the staff to make a bespoke intervention to meet precisely the service users' needs. 'Pick and Mix' reduces the need to pre-pack stock and so reduces waste, drug related litter and is an effective engagement tool to stimulate discussion on injecting practice.

There is a rolling programme of training available for PSE staff that includes safer injecting, Image and Performance Enhancing Drug use and general harm reduction techniques. Workers from The Early Interventions and Prevention Team are in constant contact with PSE's either face to face for ongoing supervision or on a weekly basis through phone contact.



NORTH YORKSHIRE HORIZONS

Continued....



Company is a registered charity in the UK. The Cambridge Centre for Learning and Innovation is a registered charity in the UK. The Cambridge Centre for Learning and Innovation is a registered charity in the UK. The Cambridge Centre for Learning and Innovation is a registered charity in the UK.