

Clinical Waste Collection Briefing Report – January 2020

1. Purpose

To update councillors on the progress of the implementation, costs, risks and impact of the clinical waste service provision. This service finally went live in October, following delays and lack of clarity from NHS England.

A full update following 6 months operation was requested, this is an initial interim update. A further update is proposed in April 2020.

2. Background

In April 2016 NHS England launched a new national framework agreement for the collection and disposal of clinical waste. The framework was phased in which meant that from 1 April 2019, Huntingdonshire District Council would become responsible for the collection of sharps from home patients that would have ordinarily returned their sharps boxes to the local pharmacy network.

On 21/03/2019 Cabinet approved provisions for the collection and disposal of sharps clinical waste from home treating patients in Huntingdonshire:

- That Cabinet endorsed the Pharmacy Model (free to patient) with Charged Household Collections as the option to provide a sharps clinical waste and disposal service in the District.

3. Current situation

a) Pharmacies Model (free to patients)

We have signed up and are working in partnership with 18 of the 31 pharmacies in Huntingdonshire. (appendix 1) to deliver the free to patient service for the disposal of their sharps clinical waste.

This service went live on 2 October 2019 and to date only 7 collections have been requested by pharmacies from our contractor Novus Environmental. We delayed implementation as long as possible to take advantage of the lack of clarity from NHS England on the deadline of transferring ownership of the service delivery as this offered best value for the Council.

We delivered to each pharmacy, and to our contractor a yellow 75 litre wheeled bin (appendix 2) which they exchange when a collection is made. This bin size offers best value for the Council as there is a £6.10 charge per collection irrespective of the number of 75 litre bins whereas, larger bins are charged at £20 per bin, this also takes advantage of our current contract agreement with Novus Environment.

b) Charged Household Collections

To date we have had no requests for the chargeable service, but we do have 11 customers receiving a household collection free of charge, this has been assessed

due to the nature of their health conditions and the waste types being produced, usually waste from dialysis.

4. Costs, Risks and Impact

a) Costs

Annual cost of running the service at current demand levels is approx. £15K which has been possible through continued drives on efficiency within the current waste and recycling service budgets.

b) Risks

There has been uncertainty around the volumes of requests for the service mainly due to NHS England holding no historical data, however, uptake continues to be low, not just in Huntingdonshire, but across the whole of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Waste Partnership (RECAP).

We currently have very limited data to indicate whether this will continue in the coming months, and there remains a risk that volumes could increase, impacting the collection cost of the service.

c) Impact

To date, we have not received any report from either the pharmacies, residents, contractor, or operational staff that the new collection and disposal model for sharps home treating patients has had any impact, be it positive or negative.

5. Conclusion

The changes to the service have been implemented as agreed with minimal disruption to the service delivery. Current demand for the service is low, and as more data becomes available, we will be in a better position to understand volumes and trends across the District. Costs are being controlled within the waste and recycling service with no current requirement for additional funding as yet, but this will be monitored closely as the service continues. There is a reasonably good distribution of pharmacies throughout the district, making accessing the service relatively easy and to date we have not received any reports of residents not being able to access the service. Partnership working with the pharmacies has been very positive and moving forward we will be exploring further opportunities of joint working.

6. Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of Pharmacies signed up

Appendix 2 – 75 litre wheeled bin used for collections

Contact:

Andy Rogan, Recycling and Waste Operations Manager

andrew.rogan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Ext 8082

Appendix 1

Brampton Chemist	97b High Street		Brampton
Fenstanton Pharmacy	27/27b/27d High Street		Fenstanton
Halls, The Chemist	39a North Street		Stilton
J G Clifford Dispensing Chemist	2 & 2A The Causeway		Godmanchester
J W Anderson Dispensing Chemist	Galen House	83 High Street	Somersham
Little Paxton Pharmacy	7 Parkway		Little Paxton
Rowlands Pharmacy	The Health Centre	Lansdowne Road	Yaxley
The Old Swan Pharmacy	29 High Street		Kimbolton
Wards of Warboys	1 Ramsey Road		Warboys
Boots UK Limited	5-6 Sheep Market		St. Ives
Boots UK Limited	42 High Street		Huntingdon
Boots UK Limited	33 High Street		St. Neots
Lloyds Pharmacy	72a Ermine Street		Huntingdon
Lloyds Pharmacy	20 Great Whyte		Ramsey
Lloyds Pharmacy	5 The Pavement	Market Hill	St Ives
Loves Farm Pharmacy	5	Kester Way	St Neots
Alconbury Pharmacy	1 Bell Lane		Alconbury
Acorn Pharmacy	The Oak Tree Centre	1 Oak Drive	Huntingdon

Appendix 2



OK