

NHS Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale Clinical Commissioning Group (HMR CCG)
Chair's responses to public questions from 21 September 2018 Governing Body meeting

	Question	Response
1	<p>Question submitted in advance on behalf of Better Health 4 Middleton:</p> <p>I know this topic has been raised before. I know because I started it and followed it up.</p> <p>We are told that the services has been re-instated via Alkrington Health Centre. As an observer I have to say, this isn't convenient. People are not going to travel from one side of Middleton to the top end of Alkrington to dispose of their used needles. Hence I followed up on a lead from Clough Street / The Hive who told of the Waste Disposal Yard at Springvale. Having visited the facility myself, the answer was "Yes, we will accept sharps of individuals, but not businesses". I passed this information to the CCG at their last meeting.</p> <p>So why am I raising this again ? The answer is because the SAFE disposal of needles isn't working. Before the last meeting we heard of drug users just throwing their needles anywhere and Diabetics throwing their needles in with the regular rubbish collections.</p> <p>Add in to this the report by the Middleton Guardian, on the front page, photos and a story of needles just thrown away and left for anyone to stand on as they make their way through a Middleton park.</p>	<p>It was confirmed within the meeting that the responsibility for needle disposal sits with Rochdale Borough Council under Public Health, which the CCG confirmed verbally when the question was initially raised at Governing Body on 16 March 2018</p> <p>It is a decision of the individual GP practices as to whether they would wish to provide a needle disposal service for their patients.</p> <p>It was agreed that further clarity be sought and shared.</p> <p>Discussions have taken place between the CCG and RBC colleagues and the following update is provide:</p> <p>Needle Collection</p> <p>The CCG has liaised with Community Health Partnership to ensure the needle collection and transfer service is reinstated across the borough as detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croft Shifa (Belfield, Rochdale) • Nye Bevan House (Rochdale), • Phoenix Centre (Heywood) • Alkrington Clinic (Middleton) <p>Apart from these 4 centres GP Practices are not commissioned by the NHS to accept patients used needles. It is therefore the decision of each practice whether they accept them or not from patients if asked to do so.</p> <p>The needles would have to be encased in a secure sharps bin when taken to the practice. Patients using needles themselves for Diabetes or other health conditions can get their sharps bins on prescription from their GP or they can buy them.</p> <p>Any healthcare practitioner that uses a needle or sharps to deliver treatment in a home or community/health setting is responsible for their safe collection and transfer as part of routine health service provision.</p> <p>The Council is responsible for the disposal of clinical</p>

The point here is, we know that people are NOT disposing of needles in a safe manner. The main reason is that the collect locations are inconvenient. Middleton's needle exchange is on Lakeland Court, Langley. Again, not convenient to all, no more convenient than Alkington Health Centre. Why can't the surgeries accept needles and use the safe service to dispose of them? Far more convenient, and far safer than the system we have.

News came to our ears at Better Health 4 Middleton that the general needles disposal is controlled by Public Health. So why didn't the CCG tell us this?

Since then, Better Health 4 Middleton has had a monthly meeting where someone from Public Health attended to hear from Turning Point. However, she told us that the general disposal of needles is not the responsibility of Public Health. They deal with the Needle Exchange, but not the other needles like those from Diabetics and so, "You need to take this back to the CCG". Next the finger was pointed in the direction of the council. So, who IS responsible for the safe disposal of needles? Who can decide about using surgeries for the safe collection and disposal of used needles? Please you can tell us the answers to these questions?

waste from residential homes but does not have a home collection service for needles. If the Council do agree to collect needles/sharps they may charge residents a fee for collection.

Any individual with significant concerns about a large amount of clinical waste remaining at home would need to discuss this further with the service they can be contacted on 0300 303 8884

Spring Vale Recycling Centre

The supervisor at Springvale Recycling Centre, Middleton has confirmed that they provide a needle collection service for individuals but not organisations.

Needle Exchange

For Injecting Drug Users – the Council commission a service from Turning Point to provide clean needles, sharps bins and collection points across the Borough for injecting drug users who register with the scheme. All users are encouraged to dispose of all needles and sharps responsibly. For a short time there was an issue with low stocks in one pharmacy. Training on a new ordering system that now triggers automatic restocking has been completed and this issue has been resolved.

- Lakeland Court, Langley provide a needle exchange service for drug users

A Middleton Guardian article described drug users disposing of "gear" in a graveyard in Middleton, this included crack-pipes, tin foil and lighters.

While the CCG acknowledges this is a problem it is not the responsibility of the CCG to remove them. RBC will collect them if notified by a member of the public about discarded syringes and other drug use articles on public spaces. If the needles or other drug use equipment are on private land the council may make a small charge. The number to ring is - 0300 303 8884

<p>2 Please can you provide an update on the previous minutes in relation to the CCG and Rochdale Borough Council developing a new grant offer. Which groups will be invited to apply, will these be existing groups or can small groups also express an interest?</p>	<p>Work is ongoing to develop a new grant offer and the criteria for applications has not yet been finalised.</p> <p>The varied pots will promote wider access to funding, providing large third sector organisations, start-ups and all groups in-between the opportunity to apply.</p> <p>Further information on the new pots and the criteria will be available via the Our Rochdale website once the process has been approved, towards the end of 2018.'</p>
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