Service Name	**Community Pharmacy Needle & Syringe Programme (NSP)**
Council Lead	**Vicky Fenwick, Public Health Programme Manager**
Service Provider Lead	

1. Population Needs

1.1 National context and evidence base

Injecting drug users can be at risk of bacterial and viral infections. The provision of NSPs is supported by NICE (2014) as being a cost-effective means to reduce the incidence of blood borne viruses (BBVs) and the associated burden on the health economy. Public Health England recommend that NSPs, including those provided in the community pharmacy setting, should be included in the wider drug & alcohol service provision and associated partnerships.

1.2 Local context

The NSP supports the work of the West Sussex Drug and Alcohol Action Team with the aim to reduce drug-related deaths, including sudden-onset deaths and those due to BBVs, and reduce the prevalence of drug use. West Sussex is a large geographical area and the provision of NSPs in community pharmacy is particularly well-suited to meet the needs of this population.

The on-line 'coverage calculator' indicates that, based on 2012 data, we have 125% coverage rate, meaning:

- There is a new syringe available for 1 out of every 0.80 injections;
- Injectors have, on average, 0.41 syringes per day; and
- The average syringe is used 1 time.

See
http://www.harmreductionworks.org.uk/5_web/coverage_calculator/index.php

Whilst the calculation suggests good coverage, some comments on the use of statistics should be noted: 1) the number of people who inject drugs in West Sussex is provided by University of Glasgow (2008), the assessment of which is unclear; 2) the number of syringes distributed, although reasonably accurate, does not take into account the amount of equipment that is unused.

Accurate recording of numbers attending the NSP and equipment distributed will contribute to better coverage evaluation.

2. Scope

2.1 Aim of the Service
To reduce the transmission of blood-borne viruses and other infections associated with injecting drug use.

2.2 Objectives of the Service
2.2.1 To make sterile injecting equipment freely and easily available to injecting drug users.

2.2.2 To encourage and facilitate the safe disposal of used equipment.

2.2.3 To provide a friendly and non-judgmental, discrete Service.

2.2.4 To offer advice and information, and sign-post as appropriate.

2.3 Service description
2.3.1 Provision of the Service will be dependent on local need and in discussion between WSCC and the Service Provider.

2.3.2 The Service will only be provided in WSCC accredited community pharmacies in West Sussex. Any member of staff can be accredited. Where possible all Locum Pharmacists employed by the Service Provider should be made aware of the Service.

2.3.3 The Service should be Service User-friendly, non-judgmental, discreet and confidential.

2.3.4The Service Provider will provide of a range of sterile injecting equipment in self-contained pre-prepared packs, depending on demand by Service Users. Order packs from the Council. The full range of packs is as follows:

- One-hit kits (3 x 1mls)
- 1ml small pack (10 x 1mls)
- 1ml large pack (30 x 1mls)
- 2ml pack (20 x 2mls)
- 5ml pack (15 x 5mls)
- 10ml pack (13 x 10mls)
- 2ml steroid pack (20 x 2mls)
- 5ml steroid pack (20 x 5mls)
- Foil pack (20 x sheets)

There are no restrictions on the number of packs that can be distributed.

2.3.5 The Service includes the provision of safe disposal of NSP waste only.

2.3.6 The use of publicity material and harm reduction literature will be used in consultation with WSCC.

2.4 Pathway/referral route

A (national) NSP logo is provided as part of the Service, available from WSCC. The sticker should be prominently displayed in the Service Provider window. Members of the public can self-refer directly to the Service Provider. No form of identification is required. Attention must be given to the confidential nature of the Service.

2.5 Population covered / inclusion criteria

2.5.1 The Service is provided to all injecting drug users regardless of substance, including image & performance enhancing drug users (IPEDs).

2.5.2 NSP is available to all age groups, including under-16s, in accordance with NICE Guidance (2014). The provision of the Service must be with due regard for Service User capacity and professional duty of care.

2.5.3 There is no contraindication with opiate substitution treatment (OST) or other clinical condition.

2.6 Exclusion criteria

2.6.1 Where an under-19 Service User presents without capacity to consent, the Responsible Pharmacist should encourage the Service User to contact their carer and/or the Young People's Substance Misuse Team. Over-19s without capacity should be encouraged to contact their carer or appropriate professional support.

2.6.2 If the provision of the Service is refused, an Incident Form must be completed (appendix A). Being in receipt of OST, or any other medical intervention, does not constitute exclusion criteria.

2.7 Interdependencies with other Services

2.7.1 There is no requirement to inform any other agency of a Service User's request for the Service. On occasion and after careful assessment it may be appropriate to liaise with another professional, eg prescriber, social care team. In these instances it is best practice to do so with the Service User's consent although this may not always be possible.

2.7.2 The NSP is also provided in specialist drug & alcohol agencies commissioned by the Council and it may be appropriate to refer to the local agency for specialist injecting advice.

2.7.3 Injecting equipment will be paid for by the Council and delivered directly to the Service Provider. Injecting equipment is supplied in pre-prepared packs by a Supplier who requires 2-3 days' delivery notice. Order packs via the Council.

2.7.4 Waste collection will be paid for and arranged directly by the Council. Only needle & syringe programme waste should be included in the waste. The Supplier requires 5-7 days' collection notice.

2.7.5 WSCC encourage all Service Providers to promote all Healthy Lifestyle Services eg EHC, Stop Smoking) to Service Users attending NSPs.

3.Applicable Service Standards

3.1 National standards

Service Providers must comply with all NICE guidance appropriate for the Service, including guidance issued during the Contract Period.
See NICE (2014) Needle & Syringe Programmes, Public Health Guidance 18 Update, see http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PHG.

3.2 Local standards

3.2.1 Service Providers must be accredited by the Council. The NSP logo should be displayed prominently in the Service Provider's window. The Service Provider shall request a replacement logo if the window is replaced or a new logo is required.

3.2.2 WSCC would expect the Service Provider to attend annual up-dates as arranged by the Council.

3.3.3 Service Providers should adhere to relevant infection control procedures.

4. Key Service Outcomes

4.1 Evaluation

During the Contract Period there are a number of indicators that will be measured and used to evaluate the effectiveness of the Service, detailed below:

4.1.1 Provision of a discrete Service every day that the Service Provider is open.

4.1.2 Maintenance of adequate stock levels; aim not to run out of equipment.

4.1.3 All equipment distributed to Service Users is to be recorded and available on request by the Council.

4.1.4 All bins returned to be recorded and available on request by the Council.

4.1.5 All records to be safely stored and appropriately destroyed.

4.1.6 Attendance at related workshops provided by WSCC.

5. Location of Council Premises / Service Provider Premises

The Service will be provided at Service Provider premises that have been accredited.

6. Remuneration Schedule

The Service attracts 2 elements; a retainer fee and a pack fee.

6.1 Retainer fee

The Service attracts a retainer fee of £500 per annum. The retainer fee is paid annually in advance for the stock held on-site, including the safe segregation of associated waste.

6.2 Pack fee

Only packs agreed with WSCC should be used. Packs are pre-prepared and delivered to the Service Provider as individual units. Each pack distributed attracts a payment of £1.75 and is paid monthly in arrears.

APPENDIX A

INCIDENT / REPORTED CONCERN (including refusal to provide NSP)

Date of notification/today's date :

Your ref/name:

Our ref: VF, Vicky.fenwick@westsussex.gov.uk; Public Health, 3rd Floor Offices, Crawley Library, Southgate Avenue, Crawley RH10 6HG.

Overall description of incident or concern:

Subject / Reason for Concern	
Subject's name / initials if a patient	
Age (if patient)	
Subject's contact address (not if the subject is a patient) 1. Residential 2. Work	
Subject's contact number(s) (if known)	
If the patient has been informed of error (date/time)	

Details of incident/concern (continue overleaf if required)**:**