

Emergency Needle Provision in Custody Suite Policy Statement



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This document has been assessed for:	
Compliance with Legislation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Equality Impact Assessment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Freedom of Information issues	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Human Rights compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Health and Safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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1. Policy statement

Cleveland Police is committed to harm reduction and partnership working. The sharing of needles and the discarding of used needles in public places are major risks to the community.

Cleveland Police will introduce a system whereby clean needles, injecting equipment and containers to dispose of used needles safely, can be given to appropriately assessed intravenous drug users when leaving custody.

In supplying these items; intravenous drug users leaving custody will be discouraged from sharing, therefore reducing the risk of spreading infectious diseases within the drug using criminal community.

Subsequently the risk of Police Officers and other front line workers contracting highly infectious blood borne diseases through needle stick injuries will be reduced.

Arrest Referral Workers based in the four main custody suites will manage and administer the process, Police Officers and Police Staff employed by Cleveland Police will not be involved in providing equipment to prisoners.