

# Walking Aid Recycling Project



Cardiff And Vale UHB have undertaken an innovative project to further develop the level of walking aids recycling. The Walking Aid Project focuses on raising public awareness of the importance of returning, and refurbishing walking aids. It utilises social media to launch periodic walking aid amnesties, and information sharing both within and across organisations on how to do this. This prudent approach incorporates a collaborative partnership with the Probation Service-Community Rehabilitation Company, Community Payback Service to refurbish walking aids. This means that offenders positively contribute by recycling walking aids for the NHS, thus helping make best use of public resources, reducing waste, improving our environmental footprint and helping to build a sustainable future together in line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Objectives.

## Long Term



To embed sustainable change, achieve and maintain the 70% recycling target set within the overarching Waste Strategy for Wales : Towards Zero Waste (2010) through continuing to work in collaboration with cross-sector partners and the community.

## Prevention



Prevent creating unnecessary waste, through avoidable purchase of new walking aids and failure to refurbish or recycle the metal.

## Integration



This is a collaborative initiative with the Probation Service. Sustaining public and cross organisational awareness of the importance of recovering and refurbishing walking aids, and their timely provision to patients through avoiding purchasing delays.

## Collaboration



Collaboration with Probation Service-Community Rehabilitation Company, Community Payback Service; engagement with all areas of the UHB, charities, primary care providers and general public to encourage awareness of equipment return.

## Involvement



UHB has sought to engage the broader community through leaflets and posters, social media, and the local press, in addition to cross-sector support from public sector providers and charities.

Walking aids keep people mobile either following surgery or if someone has a long term condition such as arthritis. The growing and aging population means that there is an increase in demand for these, but often only for short term use. Refurbishing these both reduces waste and cost, which can be better spent elsewhere in the NHS. It is reliant on an awareness and willingness to return equipment, and the capacity to refurbish what is returned. The awareness raising campaign together with partnership collaborations have demonstrated that this initiative can make best use of public resources, reduce waste, and improve our environmental footprint, helping to build a sustainable future together.

For further information please contact:

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