

What to do when a young person presents at a needle exchange site and appears to be aged under-18.

The process for conducting needle exchange with under-18s is very different to the adult process. The ultimate aim is to get the young person assessed by a young people's worker, and into a treatment service. Please take the following steps:

- Ask the person their age, and try to get some personal information from them about their injecting behaviour, where they live, where they have previously got needles from etc.
- If the young person is willing to disclose information, and wants to be referred to a young people's service, try and facilitate this referral on the spot, and contact one of the named agencies below.
- If they will not disclose any information, and you assess that needles should be given, you must state clearly that needles will be provided on this occasion but that the young person should contact a treatment service.
- Always give the young person an information card about treatment services with needles.
- Telephone one of the local young people's service to make them aware that you have just provided a young person with needles. Give them any information you have, and that worker will pass the information on to other young people's workers. (It does not matter who you contact).
- Record information as part of routine Needle exchange recording as well. All information will be stored in line with needle exchange confidentiality policies and will not be passed to anyone other than the DAAT, for monitoring purposes.

What to do if the same young person presents at the service on another occasion:

- Follow the same process to the left.
- Consider strengthening the delivery of the message that they must contact a young people's specific agency.
- Do not deter the young person from attending the needle exchange, and give them needles if it is assessed as being better than not giving them. Try to keep them engaged.
- Contact a young people's agency for advice and support around talking to the young person. They may even be able to come to the pharmacy.

Local Services:

Young Users (countywide):

01480 415278

or call Suzanne on 079719597349

Bridgegate (Fenland):

01733314 551

or call Lisa on 077646 99906

DialDruglink (Huntingdonshire):

01480 474974