

Sandpiper ward

The recycling story – bringing staff and patients together

Staff:

“When patients are bored they often knock on the door & ask if they can help to tidy up the recycling, which helps distract them from any potential disruptive behaviours”



Key:

“There is no great plan, everyone gets involved and it just works”



Terracycle (an organisation that rewards you with points for qualifying waste, which are redeemable to a non-profit organisation)

First shipment of bread bags received £5.92!

So far collected:

£115 – 116kg various plastics

£36 – 72kg aluminum cans

Introducing Sandpiper Ward



Sandpiper ward is part of Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber (RDaSH) NHS Foundation Trust. It is an acute ward for both male and female adults of working age.

An unforeseen opportunity

Initially Kay, a pharmacy technician, had been collecting empty bread bags for a friend for a dog charity. Soon a few team members became intrigued by the bags being stored and one nursing assistant posed the question to Kay “***why can’t we recycle for our ward?***”.

Kay had found out about an organisation called Terracycle (an organisation that has programmes to reward you with points for qualifying waste. These points are redeemable for a cash payment to a non-profit organisation).

The idea was put forward to managers who were in full support and staff on Sandpiper ward were on board too.

The recycling begins!



The recycling begun by collecting empty bread bags, toiletries and biscuits. Then they were accepted onto another programme to start collecting disposable gloves. Followed by aluminum drinks cans, which were recycled at a local recycling point. Accepted onto further programmes to start collecting crisp packets, toothpaste and later laundry packaging and confectionary.

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Team & patient involvement



Patients were engaged early on. They were actively involved in the recycling for example; they were collecting cans of pop from the start. One patient designed a poster of what to collect & they were (in Kay's words) **"fully engrossed designing it"** and asking **"is the poster alright, have I done enough?"** patients often ask throughout the day **"Do you need a hand sorting out the recycling?"**. The team were involved early on too. so it was fast becoming a whole team approach. The domestic team had started collecting empty soap dispenser packets.

The impact of staff/patient relationship?



The recycling has brought the staff and patients together. Every Friday there are community meetings that are held on the ward for an opportunity for patients to talk about anything they like. Often "recycling" is the topic of discussion and patients ask

"How much money do we have in the pot?" . They discuss what they would like to buy for the ward – the latest request is a giant connect 4! Patients are often involved in weighing the recycling collections too. The new patients that are admitted are quickly told by other patients what is recycled and where things go – it is a whole team approach!
Kay: "There is no great plan, everyone gets involved and it just works"

Where is the recycling project at now?



Since around November 2022 the recycling is now collected in a more organised style with separate

boxes for toothpaste, cans, crisp packets. Terracycle give cash in value for the recycling weight which they allow two claims a year. The café down the road also collect s coffee bags and bakery packaging, empty cans, along with Co-op crisps and bakery packaging. Weekly community meetings help to sustain the project and the patients want to know what can we use the recycle money to buy, for example drum / art group. The money raised seems to act as an incentive. Also, the money raised has been used to buy some hygiene products for patients brought in by crisis.

Thanks to Louise, Ward Manager, Kay, pharmacy technician and the staff & Patients on Sandpiper for sharing their story'