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Repurposing of Cardboard: a pilot partnership between Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board and ELITE Paper Solutions

BACKGROUND

CTMUHB produces over 2,000 tonnes of waste annually. This is recycled, incinerated or sent to landfill. In October 2022, 9.263 tonnes of cardboard was collected by a Waste Disposal Contractor across CTMUHB at significant financial cost.

Approximately 0.44 tonnes of cardboard is collected from RGH each month. This average collection corresponds to approximately 5.28 tonnes per year.

Cardboard is classified as "waste" and collected weekly using a HGV Roll on roll off skip.

SOLUTION

It was proposed that a local social enterprise, ELITE Paper Solutions collected cardboard from a pilot site at the same time as they deliver/collect confidential waste bins. The social enterprise will provide this service for no cost to the Health Board.

Cardboard is shredded and baled, and purchased by the Dog & Mounted Section, South Wales Police for horse and dog bedding. Cardboard is biodegradable within up to eight weeks of use.

BENEFITS

Current costs to the Health Board to remove cardboard from RGH is = £865.32 annually. Using ELITE to remove cardboard comes at no cost to the Health Board.

Repurposing cardboard from RGH by Elite results in a smaller carbon footprint. ie 666.00 kgCO₂e annually compared to 133.66 kgCO₂e annually.

The disability rights organisation, Scope, states that disabled people are almost twice as likely to be unemployed as non-disabled people, and 3 times as likely to be economically inactive. ELITE provides local employment and training to disabled and disadvantaged people in Merthyr Tydfil - an area of high deprivation (WIMD).

The project was awarded first prize in NHS Wales Awards in the category : *Working Seamlessly across the Public and Third Sector* in November 2023.



"As CTM Waste and Fleet Management I know we must reduce and recycle whatever waste we can, alongside reducing incineration to cut back on carbon emissions. Furthermore, the cost saving from repurposing cardboard with ELITE Paper Solutions gives important financial gain in difficult current times. Supporting our local economy is vital to the CTM 2030 vision."

Craig Edwards

Environmental, Waste and
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