

Ref no: 031230519
From: Public
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Subject: Recycling plastics

REQUEST

I have worked at Whiston hospital for over a year now as a ward hostess for Medirest and have noticed that there is no sufficient system for recycling plastic waste within the catering department. I make a personal contribution to recycling at home, therefore it always bothers me when I come into work and have to throw many recyclable materials, such as milk cartons in the bin weekly.

Such a large company could have a big impact on environmental sustainability. There are small bins for recyclable materials and plastic bottles in the Spice of Life restaurant (which are sufficient for restaurant use only), which suggests there is already a recycling system in place at the trust. Perhaps more bins could be included in the ward pantries and satellites. The steamplicity meals for patients are also packaged in plastic so perhaps these could be recycled too.

I would be most grateful if you could get back to me about this and let me know whether anything is being done.

RESPONSE

St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust has a contract in place for the removal of its waste and to ensure that the waste is recycled.

Whiston Hospital General Waste is collected as Mixed Recycling. This means the majority of this waste stream gets transported to WSR waste recycling plant in Halton. This is a materials recovery facility (MRF) that allows them to separate out recyclables. These recyclables are baled at their site and moved on to various specialist-reprocessing facilities for further treatment.

This process of recycling Whiston's General waste is currently the preferred method.

If you have any more questions or ideas regarding waste recycling or sustainability please feel free to contact:

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Any ideas or suggestions on ways we can improve our impact on the environment are welcomed.