

Dealing with Drug Litter - A Proactive Approach

Drug Related Litter Scrutiny Enquiry

Mitch Sanders, Service Director for Transactions & Universal Services

Recording Drug Litter & Injuries

Needle Stick Injuries recorded on the Health & Safety System:

- 2015/16 - 1
- 2017/18 - 1 to date

Community Safety have been logging drug litter finds since 2016 recorded by:

- Cleansing
- Parks and Open Spaces,
- HMO Licensing
- Tree Team
- Housing.

Data is shared with police, drug agencies and council departments.

Drug Litter Data in Context

- Recorded to raise awareness in the interest of staff safety;
- Staff empty bins, pick up bulk refuse, clear fly-tipping, cut down trees and remove encampments;
- Needles are found inside plastic bags, in cardboard boxes and in bedding;
- Staff report all needles they come across not just needles discarded on the street;
- Reports do not distinguish between those that are uncapped, capped or discarded in sharps boxes; Litter can be wipes, spoons, sterile water bottles and deal bags;
- **All reports are of needles discarded in public places.**

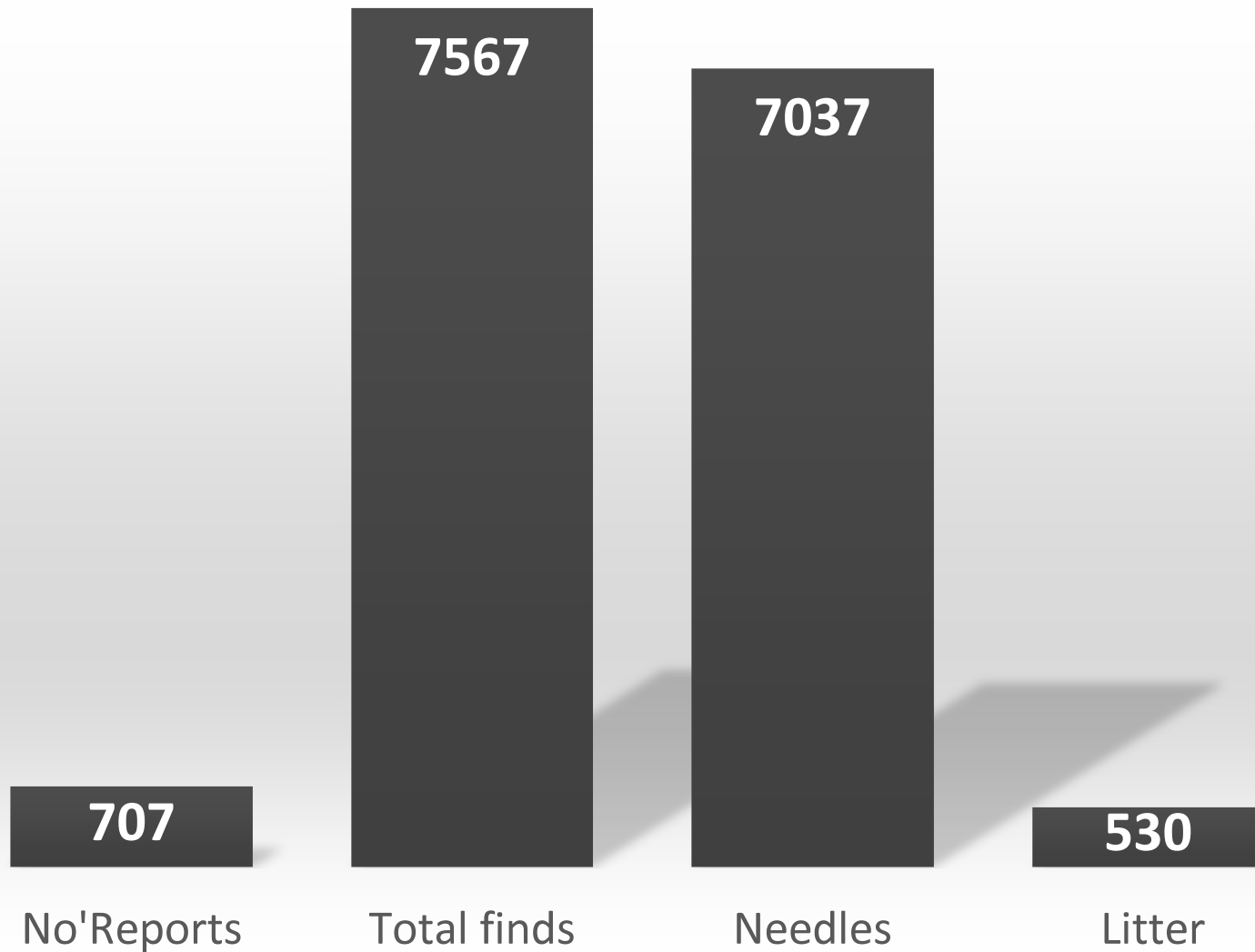
Health & Safety Safe Working Procedure – Contamination and Needlestick Incidents

Staff are trained and equipped to deal with sharps.

Advice to staff who sustain a needlestick injury:

- Telephone A&E to inform them that you are en-route.
- If you feel shaky, telephone for a taxi/ask a First Aider to accompany you.
- Counselling is available if required.
- A list of agencies providing further help is available.

Data report for 2016/2017



Highest number of finds 2016/2017

May 2016 – 900 total recorded finds

- 852 needle recoveries
- 389 picked up in and around West Park Car Park associated with 9 tents forming an encampment.

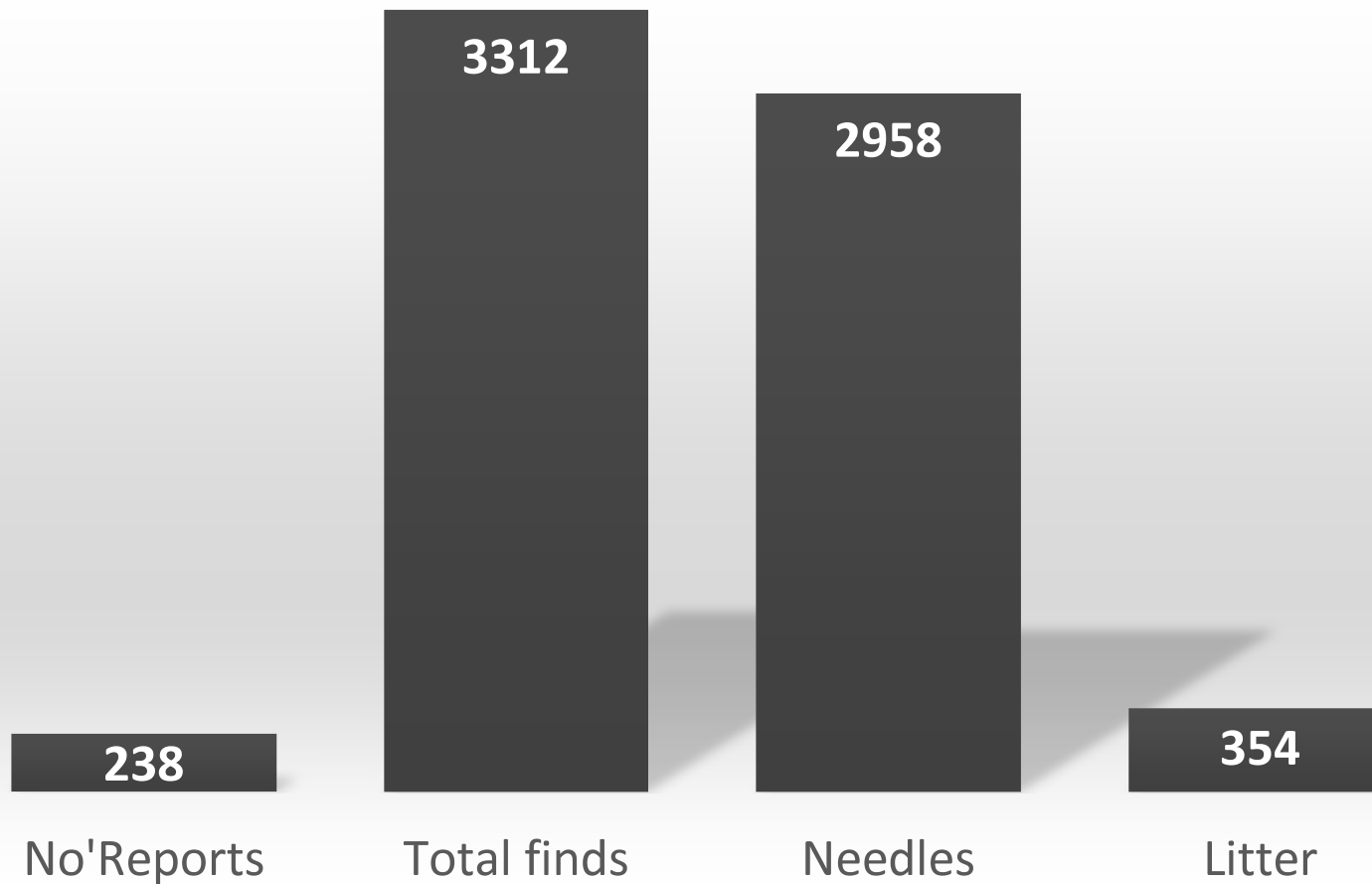
January 2017 – 1298 total recorded finds

- Included two large finds in Golden Grove (walkway toward stadium) and in and around Six Dials. 700 needles in total found in these areas.
- The above areas were cleared on mass and probably contained needles that had been there for some time.
- Bushes and undergrowth were cut back to make the area more open.



City of opportunity where everyone thrives

Data Collected 2017/2018 (April to August)



Highest number of finds 2017/2018

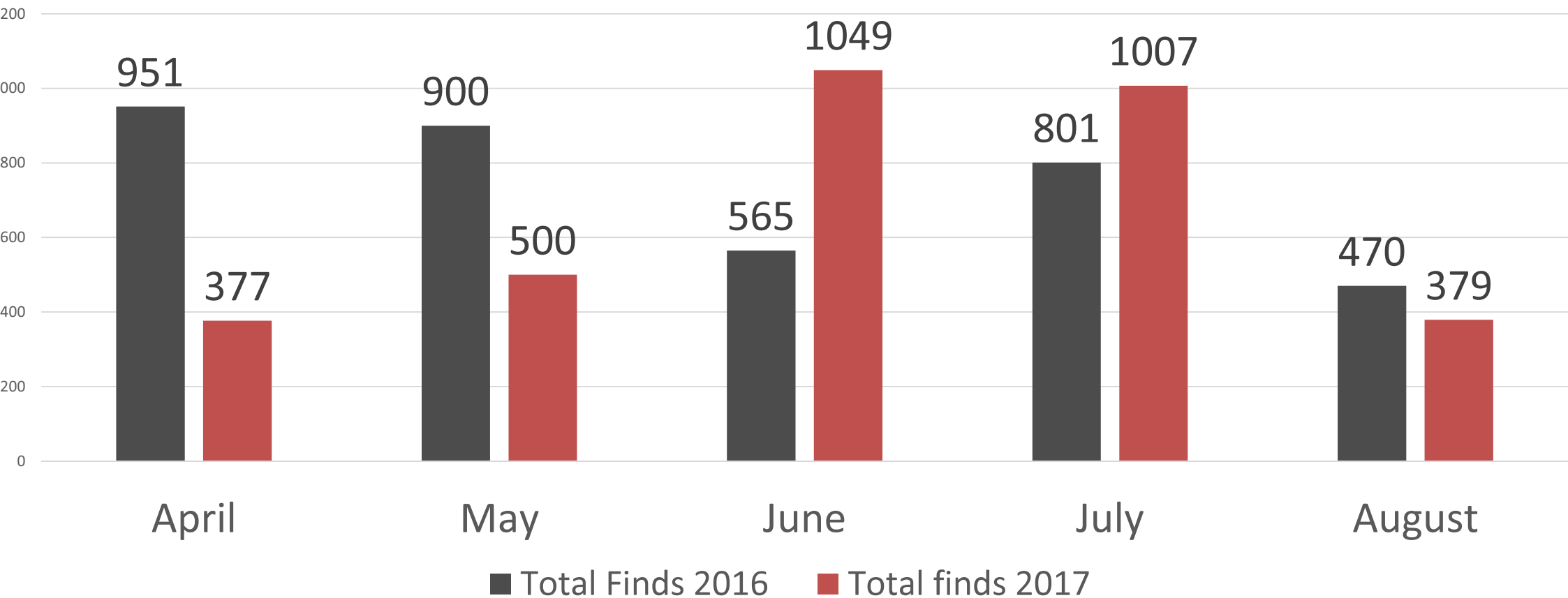
June 2017 – 1049 largest recorded finds

- 1008 needles recovered
- 41 pieces of litter
- 500+ needles found in West Park Car park found in boxes, bottles and carrier bags

July 2017– 1007 total finds

- 933 needles recovered
- 74 pieces of litter
- 110 needles and spoons recovered from Mayflower Park in around 4 tents.

Data comparison April – August 2017 (needles and litter)



What are we doing?

- Routine Cleaning and Response to reports from members of the public;
- Civil Enforcement Officers Patrol and serve notices;
- Rolling Programme - Community Safety, Police and Street Cleansing actively engage and remove rough sleepers;
- Grosvenor Square Car Park locked down from 12.00am to 5.30am every night. Further car parks closures to follow;
- Additional staff to clean our car parks;
- New team of City Welfare Wardens will be introduced soon to engage with rough sleepers, remove unattended items and remove needles and drug litter.

Sharps Reports by Public (Needles and Glass)

2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 to end Q2
297	375	229

In the last year to date:

229 reports of Sharps were dealt with by the Out of Hours Hygiene Service.

Encampments/Rough Sleepers

- Over the last 2 years there has been rise in the number of people sleeping rough and setting up encampments in our car parks and open spaces;
- During 2016/2017:
 - 257 notices were issued to rough sleepers/encampments in our car parks & 53 notices issued in our open spaces;
 - 32 tents were removed from the car parks and 106 rough sleepers moved on;
 - 8 tents removed from our open spaces and 5 rough sleepers moved on.
- The data above may include repeat rough sleepers.

Where can users dispose of their needles

- Needles can be taken back to the Needle Exchange in New Road;
- 6 Pharmacies across the city will take in used needles;
- Hostels such as Patrick House and Southampton Street will take in used needles from service users;
- The VAST team (vulnerable adults support team) will collect needles from service users.

How to Report

Online <https://my.southampton.gov.uk/>

Action Line Tel: **023 8083 3005**

Emergency Out of Hours Tel: **023 8023 3344**