

## **Drug Related Litter (DRL)**

Recent surveys conducted by Sandwell Council (ASB Survey, Research Sandwell, Sept. 2007) indicate that, in Sandwell, the incidence and fear of discarded needles/syringes is low.

However, discarded needles and syringes, if not handled appropriately, may cause serious health hazards to the community, including the spread of blood-borne viruses (e.g. HIV or Hepatitis). By taking the actions below, you will have helped to improve the safety of the community (especially children), including your own family.

### **If you come across a discarded needle or syringe in Sandwell:**

- DO NOT touch or attempt to remove it.
- If it is found in a *public* space/area: telephone Sandwell Council on **0845 359 7501**. They will arrange for the needle/syringe to be collected and disposed of safely. This line is open Mon – Fri: 8am-8pm; Sat: 8.30am-1.30pm
- If the needle/syringe is found in a *private* area/space: let the owner of the building (e.g. landlord) or landowner know

### **If you do sustain any injury from a discarded needle/syringe:**

- DO NOT suck the injured area;
- Encourage bleeding if the needle has broken the skin, by squeezing;
- Wash the injured area with soap and water and cover with a plaster; and
- Seek medical advice as soon as possible, from your GP or your local Accident and Emergency (A&E) department