



## Case study: Yorkshire Ambulance Service Plastic Free Canteen

### Introduction

- The following case study is based on The PI'YAS'tic Free Restaurant initiative conducted by Yorkshire Ambulance Service (YAS) to remove avoidable single-use plastics from its restaurant in an accelerated timescale.

### Baseline

- YAS identified that 206,440 pieces of single-use plastic items were being consumed annually in their restaurant.
- YAS identified 15 single-use plastic products of interest including:
  - Sandwich bags
  - Salad containers
  - Potion pots with lids
  - Cutlery
  - Plastic lined cups and lids
  - Stirrers
  - Milk bottles
  - Beverage bottles
  - Sauce sachets
  - Crisp packet
- YAS's main challenge was deciding whether to opt for a plastic replacement that had less impact or simply remove that option. In many cases, YAS decided to opt to remove the options for disposable products all together. Due to the lack of compostable waste facilities in the area, YAS decided not to opt for compostable alternatives.

### Output

- Headline: actions in 2019/20 have removed nearly 200,000 items of single-use plastic from the waste stream.
- In the first year of the campaign, YAS estimates to have removed:
  - 7800 one-pint plastic milk bottles
  - 1040 four-pint plastic milk bottles
  - 9600 plastic tubs
  - 104,000 plastic cups
  - 12,000 plastic sandwich bags
  - 72,000 plastic cutlery pieces
- Reduced the amount of plastic waste by approximately 4 tonnes a year
- Saved over £4000 a year in procurement costs for plastic packaging

## How?

- YAS's kitchen management embraced the change and requested that all supplies and deliveries made to the kitchen had reduced or no plastic alternatives. Working closely with the kitchen staff YAS eliminated a lot of the waste from the products. Staff are aware of the problems with plastic. Most staff embraced the changes although there were some who were unsure as to what to do initially.

<b>Plastic product</b>	<b>Replaced with</b>
Plastic 1 and 4 pint milk bottles	Glass milk bottles
Plastic lined cups	Rentable cups through a 'rent-a-mug' scheme - £1 returnable reusable cup
Plastic sandwich bags	Paper bags
Plastic salad bowls/take away containers	Ceramic bowls/plate, if leaving the premises, cardboard container
Plastic cutlery	Returnable metal knife/fork or if eating out, wooden knife/fork
Plastic stirrers	Wooden stirrer
Sauce sachets	Large sauce, vinegar, sugar and salt pots
Plastic beverage bottles	Cans, water refill point

- YAS had a full poster and newsletter campaign with a launch event to get staff engaged with why we were doing this with details of the impact that eliminating plastic from the canteen could have.

## Next steps

- YAS are hosting two placement students to evaluate the impact of their plastic project as well as the wider waste project
- Continue to identify alternatives for products that do not current have a substitute, e.g. crisps packets
- Look at more circular economy packaging (returnable and reusable) for other products