

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD
TUESDAY 9 DECEMBER 2014 AT 10.00 a.m.**

Sexual Health Commissioning Update

Report of the Director of Public Health

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1.0 Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Board on progress in implementing the Sexual Health Strategy, especially the commissioning of a new integrated Sexual Health Service.

2.0 Summary

- 2.1 Work is progressing on implementing the Sexual Health Strategy agreed by the County Council Cabinet. and specifically the new integrated Sexual Health Service has been commissioned and work is progressing on this at pace.
- 2.2 Following a full competitive tender, Hertfordshire County Council has awarded the contract to provide Hertfordshire's new integrated sexual health service Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH), working in partnership with Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust already delivers integrated sexual health services to four London boroughs – Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Barnet.
- 2.3 The first draft of the Sexual Health Improvement Plan is currently out for consultation with key partners responsible for supporting its implementation.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Board note changes to sexual health services within Hertfordshire and the initiatives to address the sexual health needs of the local population.

4.0 Background

4.1 The Executive Member for Public Health and Localism has lead for sexual health within the County Council's public health responsibilities and the Health and Care Act 2012 makes the Director of Public Health responsible for commissioning the provision of most services relating to sexual health in Hertfordshire. The County Council's Cabinet approved the 5 year Hertfordshire Sexual Health and Wellbeing Plan (2014 – 2019) at its meeting on 24 March 2014. This update reports on progress against two of the priorities agreed in that plan which have implications across the system, specifically:

- (i) Commissioning sexual health services in Hertfordshire as a single countywide service providing both contraceptive and genito-urinary medicine services.
- (ii) Developing and implementing an integrated sexual health promotion, prevention and harm reduction plan.

Integrated Sexual Health Service

4.2 A full competitive tender process has been undertaken to award the contract for the provision of the new integrated Sexual Health Service.

4.3 The award of contract has been approved by the Director of Public Health as a Chief Officer Decision, and all tendering organisations have been informed.

4.4 The mobilisation of the new service has commenced, including communications with current staff who are expected to transfer into the new service. The new integrated sexual health service will go live from April 2015, aiming to improve sexual health by providing easy access to services through open access 'one stop shops' throughout Hertfordshire. These will be in accessible locations across the county, have extended opening hours and will provide services to meet sexual health and contraceptive needs on one site. The new service will include the full breadth of genito-urinary medicine and contraceptive services and provide a dedicated outreach team for young people and those at high risk of poor sexual health.

4.5 The Hertfordshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment 2013 stated that the historical provision of sexual health services in Hertfordshire has:

- a) Geographic gaps in service access and few clinics providing both genito-urinary medicine and contraception services
- b) No central booking system, which makes access more difficult than necessary specific outreach services for vulnerable or higher risk groups

- c) Given these issues, it was agreed to develop the service by re-commissioning for a single provider through a competitive tender process.
- 4.6 The new service will provide the full breadth of genito-urinary medicine and contraceptive services [excluding contraceptive services provided by GPs in primary care]. This will include outreach services to young people and vulnerable groups, support and advice for primary care services, opportunistic Chlamydia testing, HIV testing and promotion and organisation of condom distribution.
- 4.6.1 HIV voluntary sector support and care is already commissioned by the Director of Public Health
- 4.6.2 HIV treatment is the responsibility of NHS England and discussions are underway between Public Health, NHS England and the new providers to ensure effective and robust HIV treatment and care pathways and services are in place.
- 4.7 The procurement process for the new integrated Sexual Health Service began in April 2014 with a presentation to potential providers interested in delivering the new service. Interested organisations submitted a Pre-Qualification Questionnaire which was used to assess their financial viability and infrastructure. As a result, four organisations were invited to tender for the contract.
- 4.6 All organisations have been informed of the result

Sexual Health Improvement Plan

- 4.7 There is a need for a strategic approach to sexual health promotion to improve sexual health awareness across the whole population, and optimise access to testing and treatment. Within this young people and vulnerable groups have specific needs. With the exception of the Hertfordshire Teenage Pregnancy Strategy 2014-2015, there is no current action plan for sexual health promotion and prevention in Hertfordshire. Thus one of the key recommendations of the Hertfordshire Sexual Health Strategy 2014-2019 was the development of an integrated plan for sexual health improvement.
- 4.8 Over the past six months current sexual health initiatives and services across Hertfordshire have been mapped and developed into a draft sexual health improvement plan with a series of evidence based recommendations. The plan is currently being shared with key partners for comment. The matrix of recommendations will form a commissioning framework to guide commissioning, both from the provider of the integrated sexual health service, and with other stakeholders across the Hertfordshire system. Proposed actions include:

- a) Deliver a social marketing campaign aimed at women (16 years and over) to increase awareness of services that provide full information and choice about the range of contraceptive methods available including Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC).
- b) Commission a training programme for teaching staff in schools and colleges on 'Preventing Violence and Abuse in Teenage Relationships'
- c) Hold a sexual health inequalities event (intended February 2015) to gather local intelligence on groups vulnerable to poor sexual health in Hertfordshire and use findings to inform service development
- d) Increase the availability of sexual health and reproductive health services are available to young people including C-Card (free condoms scheme) and Chlamydia Screening
- e) Increase the uptake of HIV testing in men who have sex with men (MSM) by providing point of care testing and access to self-sampling HIV kits.
- f) Develop specific interventions for groups at risk of poor sexual health outcomes such as an outreach service for commercial sex workers

5 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been carried out regarding the Sexual Health Improvement Plan and was submitted to the County Council's Public Health and Localism Cabinet Panel in October 2014. Minimal equalities impacts were identified; The Sexual Health Improvement Plan aims to promote equality and equity, even when there is an identified need to focus or target interventions and information at high need groups. An action plan for mitigating identified impacts is set out in the EqIA.

6. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The budget allocation for Sexual Health Improvement in 2014/2015 is £760,562.
- 7.2 The procurement of an Integrated Sexual Health Service will support substantial savings. It is estimated that this will be £400,000 in 2015/16 and in the subsequent five years of the contract.
- 7.3 Furthermore the new service will be in a position to identify more efficient and innovative solutions to service delivery, including the repatriation of patients to Hertfordshire services.

Report signed off by	Public health management board
Sponsoring HWB Member/s	Jim McManus
Hertfordshire HWB Strategy priorities supported by this report	Healthy Living
Needs assessment (activity taken) Major service user engagement exercise in 2012, major needs assessment undertaken in 2013 and published	
Consultation/public involvement (activity taken or planned) Major service user engagement exercise in 2012, major needs assessment undertaken in 2013 and published. User and stakeholder panel throughout tender process for new service. The report, plan and needs assessment can be accessed here http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/cabinet/17873395/ The sexual health improvement plan is out for public consultation currently. Anyone interested should contact rob.bacon@hertfordshire.gov.uk	
Equality and diversity implications	
A full EQIA was undertaken . http://www.hertsdirect.org/your-council/civic_calendar/publichealthlocalismcp/18340685/ This work will significantly support meeting the public sector equality duty in relation to sexual health	
Acronyms or terms used	
Initials	In full
EqIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
GP	General Practitioner