

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Title	Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy Action Plan		
Contributor	Executive Director for Community Services, Director of Public Health.	Item	7
Class	Part 1 (for information)	14 January 2015	

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report presents the contents of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy Action Plan. The Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy was launched in April 2014 for a period of consultation, including presentation at boroughs' relevant scrutiny or health committees.
- 1.2 The Strategy and subsequent Action Plan are based on a public health needs assessment, covers analysis of investment and service delivery and makes recommendations regarding a direction of travel for shifting investment from clinic-based services to community provision and prevention and promotion.
- 1.3 The strategy was developed with input from stakeholders, and consultation has included engagement with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and specific focus groups with young people, MSM (men who have sex with men) and black and ethnic minorities.

2. Recommendation

Members of the Healthier Communities Select Committee are recommended to note the contents of the Action Plan.

3. Policy context

- 3.1 From April 2013, as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the responsibility for population based health improvement through the provision of Public Health specialist advice, strategic responsibility and the commissioning of a range of health improvement services transferred to local authorities. The duties are covered by Part 2 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry into Premises by local Healthwatch representatives) Regulations 2013, which sets out specific duties regarding public health advice services, weighing and measuring of children, health checks, and sexual health services and protecting the health of the local population.
- 3.2 These duties were transferred from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and the interventions and services commissioned cover all the population for universal access, as well as targeted services, and include specialist targeted areas such as sexual health and substance misuse services.
- 3.3 Lambeth Council is the host for a small sexual health commissioning team which operates across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham (as was the arrangement in the PCT). Lambeth is also host for the London-wide HIV prevention programme,

which is high-level and high-profile, and led by the London Directors of Public Health.

- 3.4 The commissioning service, hosted by Lambeth, is governed by a three borough Board, chaired by Kerry Crichlow, Strategic Commissioning Director for Adults and Children's Services in Southwark. Lewisham Council is represented by Ruth Hutt, public health consultant from the shared services team. The Council is responsible for commissioning open access GUM provision, sexual health prevention and promotion, community contraception, and sexual health in pharmacies and primary care. The 3-borough team also commissions termination of pregnancy services and HIV care and support on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 3.5 London local authorities account for 18 out of the 20 local authorities with the highest diagnosed prevalence rate of HIV in the country. In 2013, the diagnosed HIV prevalence in Lewisham was 8.2 per 1,000 population aged 15-59 years (compared to 2 per 1,000 in England). In Lambeth it was 14.7 per 1,000 population aged 15-59 years and in Southwark it was 12.6 per 1,000. Recently released Public Health figures show increases in serious STIs such as gonorrhoea, with treatment-resistant strains becoming an increasing problem. Gonorrhoea rates have doubled in Lewisham over the last 5 years.

4. Background

- 4.1 Against this background, the Commissioning Board had a priority to develop a three-borough sexual health strategy, to tackle high levels of need and set clear prevention and promotion programmes in place. The strategy builds on previous LSL strategies, achievements and work of Modernisation Initiative; there was an initial stakeholder engagement day in September 2013, which helped to build the local strategic priorities. Following extensive commissioning and public health engagement, a draft strategy was finalised and launched for consultation in April 2014.
- 4.2 The strategy sets out the local HIV and sexual health landscape, assessing previous strategies, financial resources and sexual health services in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, as follows:
- Promotion and prevention
 - Sexual health services/GUM/psychosexual
 - Primary Care
 - HIV Care and support
 - Termination of pregnancy (abortion)
 - Young peoples services & teenage pregnancy
- 4.3 The strategy sets out the following vision and strategic priorities:
- Embedding good sexual health and wellness as part of a wider health agenda
 - Actively promoting good sexual health and healthy safe relationships, not just the absence of disease
 - Reducing the stigma attached to sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Focusing on those statistically most at risk thereby reducing health inequalities

- Reducing the rates of unplanned pregnancy and repeat terminations, especially for under 18 year olds
- Reducing rates of undiagnosed STIs and HIV
- Aligning strategic priorities with the intentions of our local CCGs
- Developing the workforce to deliver integrated and improved services
- Shifting the balance of care to community-based services that are accessible and responsive to the needs of service users

4.4 The Action Plan describes key actions and timescales for delivery of commitments made with the strategy

5. The Action Plan

5.1 The Action Plan is attached as an Appendix.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 In 2014/15 the Public Health grant for Lewisham was £20.08M. Sexual Health expenditure accounts for 36% of the public health grant.

6.2 In 2013/14, Lewisham's budget for clinical services was £6.992M, with cost pressures of £300k in demand-led Genito-Uninary Medicine (GUM clinic presentations). A total of over £29m was spent on sexual health services across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, mainly on clinic- based GUM services

6.3 As part of the Lewisham Futures Programme a savings proposal of up to £322k was set against sexual health. Delivering this level of saving may make the implementation of aspects of the Action Plan very challenging. A final decision regarding the level of investment in sexual health by Lewisham Council will be made in February 2015

7. Legal Implications

7.1 There are no specific legal implications arising but it should be noted that, with effect from 1 April 2013, local authorities are required to ensure that comprehensive, open access, confidential sexual health services are available to all people who are present in their area whether resident in their area or not.

7.2 Members of the Board are reminded that under Section 195 Health and Social Care Act 2012, health and wellbeing boards are under a duty to encourage integrated working between the persons who arrange for health and social care services in the area

8. Crime and Disorder Implications

8.1 There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report.

9. Equalities Implications

9.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is being further developed to incorporate the detailed response to the consultation.

10. Environmental Implications

10.1 There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

11. Conclusion

11.1 The consultation on the Strategy endorsed the overall direction of travel. The Action Plan incorporates responses to the Strategy Consultation. Delivery on key actions described in the Action Plan for 2014-2015 are already underway.

Background Documents

Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy 2014-2017

Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, Sexual Health Epidemiology, 2013/14

Both documents are available at:

<http://www.lambeth.gov.uk/consultations/lambeth-southwark-lewisham-sexual-health-strategy-consultation>

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