

Health and Wellbeing Board			
Title	Comments of the Healthier Communities Select Committee on the proposed changes to the opening hours of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services.		
Contributor	Healthier Communities Select Committee	Item	3
Class	Part 1 (open)	Date	7 March 2019

1. Context

1.1 Under the terms of reference of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, the Committee is able to receive referrals from Healthwatch and consider whether to make any report/recommendation in relation to such referral. The Constitution provides also for the Healthier Communities Select Committee to make reports and recommendations to the Executive/Council (including the Health and Wellbeing Board).

2. Summary

2.1 This report informs the Health and Wellbeing Board of the comments and views of the Healthier Communities Select Committee, arising from discussions held on the proposed changes to the opening hours of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services in Lewisham, considered at its meeting on 27 June 2018.

2. Recommendation

2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to note the views of the Select Committee as set out in this report and agree to provide a response.

3. Healthier Communities Select Committee views

3.1 At its meeting on 27 June 2018, the Healthier Communities Select Committee received a report on a proposal to change the opening hours of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service provided by Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust (LGT) (attached as Appendix 1).

3.2 The Committee took oral evidence from Council and LGT officers. After questioning the witnesses and subsequent discussion, the Committee resolved to refer its views to the Health and Wellbeing Board in the following terms:

- *The committee notes the proposed changes to the opening hours of the Sexual and Reproductive Health service and appreciates the importance of making the changes without unnecessary delay. However, during discussions on the proposals, the members of the Committee expressed a number of queries and concerns about how service users would be made aware of the changes, if agreed, particularly those service users who may currently consider attending the outreach service at the Sydenham Green Group Practice, which would no longer be available following the proposed changes. The Committee therefore seeks further information about the plans for communication and engagement with service users in order to be reassured that the changes will be communicated as effectively as possible and avoid any negative impact on access to sexual and reproductive health services among service users.*

3.3 The members of the Committee understand that it is likely that the proposed changes will have been made by the time the Health and Wellbeing Board considers this referral. The committee wished to see the final communication and engagement plans in order to be reassured that service users were informed as effectively as possible.

4. Financial implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising out of this report, but there may be financial implications arising from carrying out the action proposed by the Committee.

5. Legal implications

5.1 The Constitution states that 'the Council has appointed the Healthier Communities Select Committee to carry out, among other things, the scrutiny of health bodies under the Local Authority (Public Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013 and other relevant legislation in place from time to time'. The Constitution provides for the Healthier Communities Select Committee to review and scrutinise the decisions and actions of the Health and Wellbeing Board and to make reports and recommendations to the Executive/Council. It is the duty of the Executive body to respond within 2 months of receipt of the report/recommendations.

6. Further implications

6.1 At this stage there are no specific environmental, equalities or crime and disorder implications to consider.

Background papers

[Healthier Communities Select Committee Agenda \(27 June 2018\)](#)

If you have any queries about this report please contact John Bardens (Scrutiny Manager) on ext. 49976.