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| Date | 9 September 2022 | Service | Public health/Commissioning |

1. The project or decision that this assessment is being undertaken for

This EAA is being conducted to assess the impact of a proposed change in clinic venues and opening times for the Lewisham and Greenwich Trust (LGT) run sexual and reproductive health service.

The current service runs out of three sites in the borough as set out in the table below:

| Site | Opening times | Open to: |
|--|---|---|
| Waldron Health Centre, Amersham Vale | Monday: 10am-7pm Tuesday: 10am-7pm Wednesday: 2pm-7pm Thursday: 10am-7pm Friday: 8.30am-3pm Saturday: 9.30am-2pm | All ages and genders |
| The Primary Care Centre, Hawstead Road | Monday: 10am-7pm Tuesday: 10am-7pm Wednesday: 2pm-7pm Thursday: 10am-7pm | All ages and genders although has a historic link to a female only clinic |
| Downham Health & Leisure Centre | Wednesday: 2pm-7pm Thursday: 10am-7pm | Primarily for those aged under 25 years, although all ages are seen |

Description of Service

The LGT sexual health service in Lewisham community sites offers a range of services to all ages across the borough. They offer sexual health testing and management, emergency contraception (pill and UID), contraception, free condoms, PrEP and PEP, contraception advice, pregnancy testing, advice and referral (where necessary and appropriate).

Description of proposed changes

Since 2016/17, sexual health budgets have reduced by approximately £1.8 million. An additional £409k was provided to be used for additional responsibilities for HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis. A large contributing factor to this reduction was the introduction of the Integrated Sexual Health Tariff across London, implemented in Lewisham through a new contract in April 2017.

During the time of the current contract, all sexual health providers (as part of NHS trusts) have experienced a number of inflationary pressures including annual NHS pay awards, and increasing complexity of patients attending clinics. Less complex activity has moved to an online service.

As part of negotiations to extend the contract into 22/23 and beyond, LGT informed officers of a significant deficit, now stated at £1.2m. This is partially driven by the inflationary pressures above, but also by high estates costs and unadjusted staffing. LGT have proposed a reduction to their staffing costs, and the closure of clinic sessions on Downham site, where currently a small proportion of the service is offered to young people 2 afternoons a week.

This EAA will feed into papers that will be sent to Mayor and Cabinet, Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthier Select Committee.

2. The protected characteristics or other equalities factors potentially impacted by this decision

| | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Age | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ethnicity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maternity | <input type="checkbox"/> Language spoken | <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please define: |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gender identity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Disability | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Household type | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Religion | <input type="checkbox"/> Carer status | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sexual orientation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Income | |

Sexual Health services are open to all Lewisham residents who may share in any of the protected characteristics or equalities factor, but the main implications are likely to be for those individuals who share the characteristics highlighted above.

Within the overall alteration to the service, we expect there to be some negative impacts, but also positive impacts in other areas. We know that there are a small number of young people attending the clinic each year when compared with the other clinics. However, we know that more young people prefer to use the online e-service, which will not have a cap on usage. Young people under the age of 25 will continue to be catered for in Waldron and Hawstead Road Clinics.

3. The evidence to support the analysis

A thorough assessment of the data and research required to perform this EAA was undertaken at the outset of the work.

The following data sources were identified:

- 1) **Demographic data from 2011 Census, Office for National Statistics, Greater London Authority** – used to determine the prevalence of having a protected characteristic in the Lewisham population.
- 2) **Service monitoring data** for all of the services listed above, including age, gender, ethnicity and deprivation data (where available) to determine the current reach of service to different population groups. The source for all data, unless otherwise stated, is the LGT sexual health service.
- 3) **Stakeholder Consultation** – as described below.

Changes to services may impact the protected characteristics selected by affecting the reach of services. The current uptake of services by protected characteristics is described below.

4. The analysis

Uptake of services by venue

The figures below show the level of activity seen across the three Lewisham sites between 2019 and 2022 (Figure 1). The Downham site has the lowest number of clients out of the three sites, and when looking at the number of unique clients (some people will attend the clinics more than once a year) the numbers are even lower (see Figure 2).

Figure 1: All visits to Lewisham sexual health services by site (2019/20-2021/22)

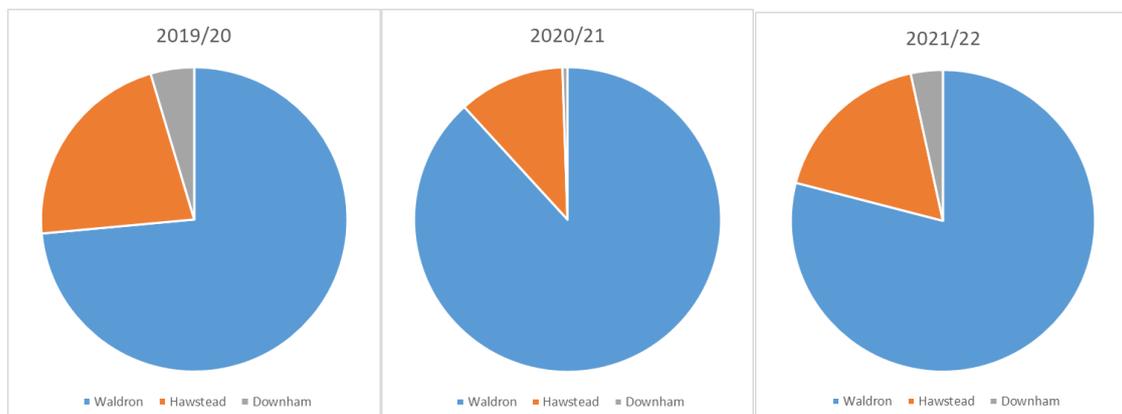
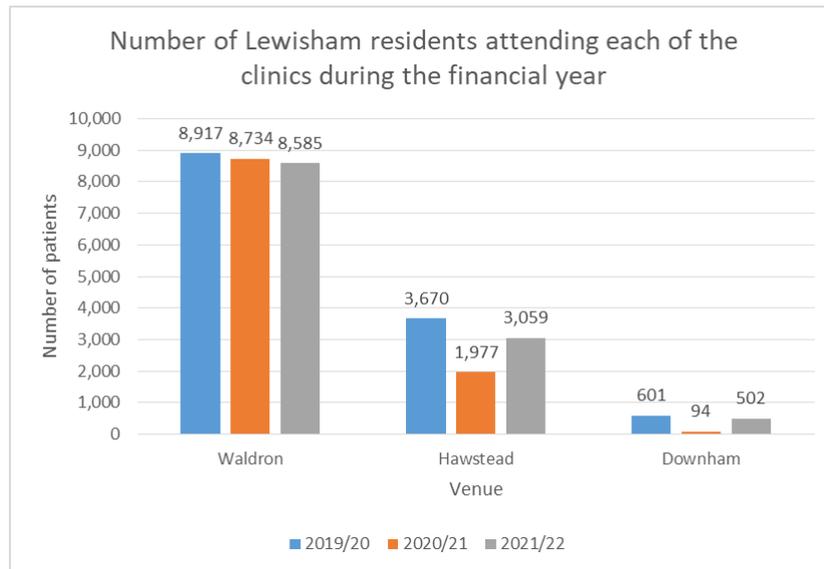


Figure 2: Number of unique visits to Lewisham sexual health clinics between 2019 and 2022



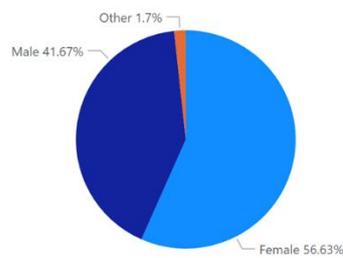
Alongside face to face services, there is a borough offer for online sexual health services (the e-service). Figure 3 below sets out the age and sex breakdown of the online usage for Lewisham. As can be seen from the bar chart on the right hand side, one quarter of the borough population aged 19 and under use the e-service for their sexual health needs.

Figure 3: Usage of online sexual and reproductive health services

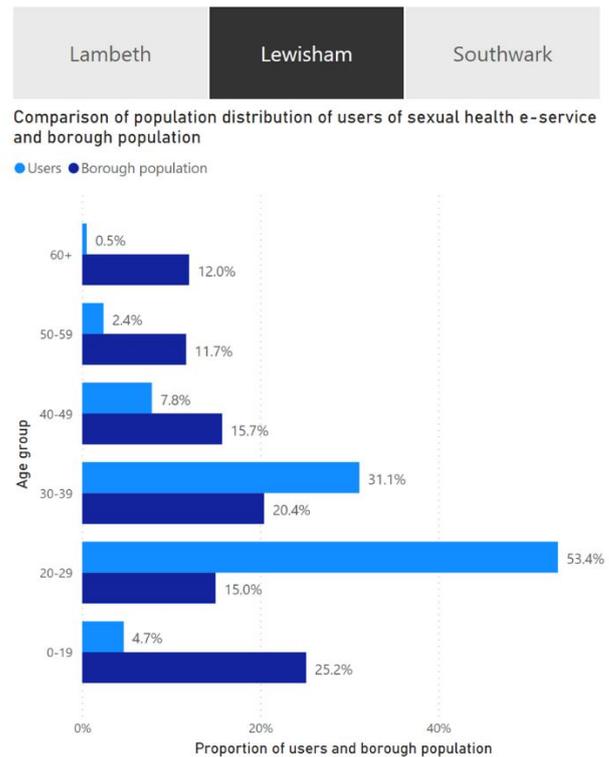
Age and sex breakdown

| Financial year | Age group | No. of users | Proportion of users | Proportion of borough population |
|----------------|-----------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| 2018-19 | 0-19 | 495 | 4.7% | 25.2% |
| 2019-20 | 20-29 | 5642 | 53.5% | 15.0% |
| 2020-21 | 30-39 | 3280 | 31.1% | 20.4% |
| 2021-22 | 40-49 | 823 | 7.8% | 15.7% |
| 2022-23 | 50-59 | 249 | 2.4% | 11.7% |
| | 60+ | 55 | 0.5% | 12.0% |

Proportion by sex of clients



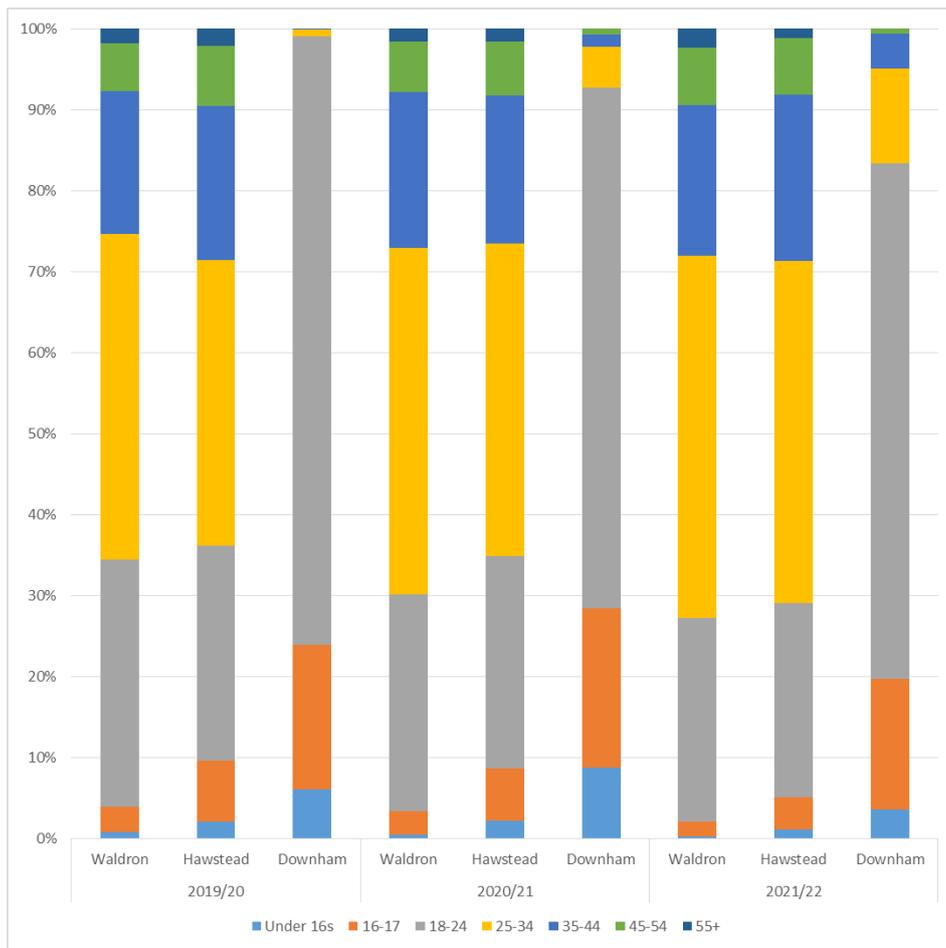
| Age group | Female | Male |
|-----------|--------|-------|
| 0-19 | 25.1% | 25.3% |
| 20-29 | 15.6% | 14.4% |
| 30-39 | 20.4% | 20.4% |
| 40-49 | 15.6% | 15.8% |
| 50-59 | 11.6% | 11.7% |
| 60+ | 11.7% | 12.3% |



Uptake of services by protected characteristics

When the age groups of those who are seen over time in each of the clinics, Downham has a larger proportion of 18-24 year old clients than Waldron or Hawstead Road sites. However, this is to be expected as Downham is advertised as a 25 and under only clinic. Interestingly, there are visits to the other sites of the same age groups, and also over 25 year olds recorded as being seen at the Downham site, suggesting additional capacity to do so (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Proportion of sexual health service use by age group and site between 2019 and 2022



The ethnicity of those attending the sexual health clinics does not differ significantly between sites. For all three sites, the most common ethnicity of clients is white British, followed by Black – other mixed. Interestingly, there are fewer other white background but more white & black Caribbean reported ethnicity at Downham (depicted in the orange bar in Figure 5). This could be a reflection of the changing demographic of the younger population in the borough (see Figure 6).

Figure 5: Reported Ethnicity of clients to sexual health community services between 2021 and 2022

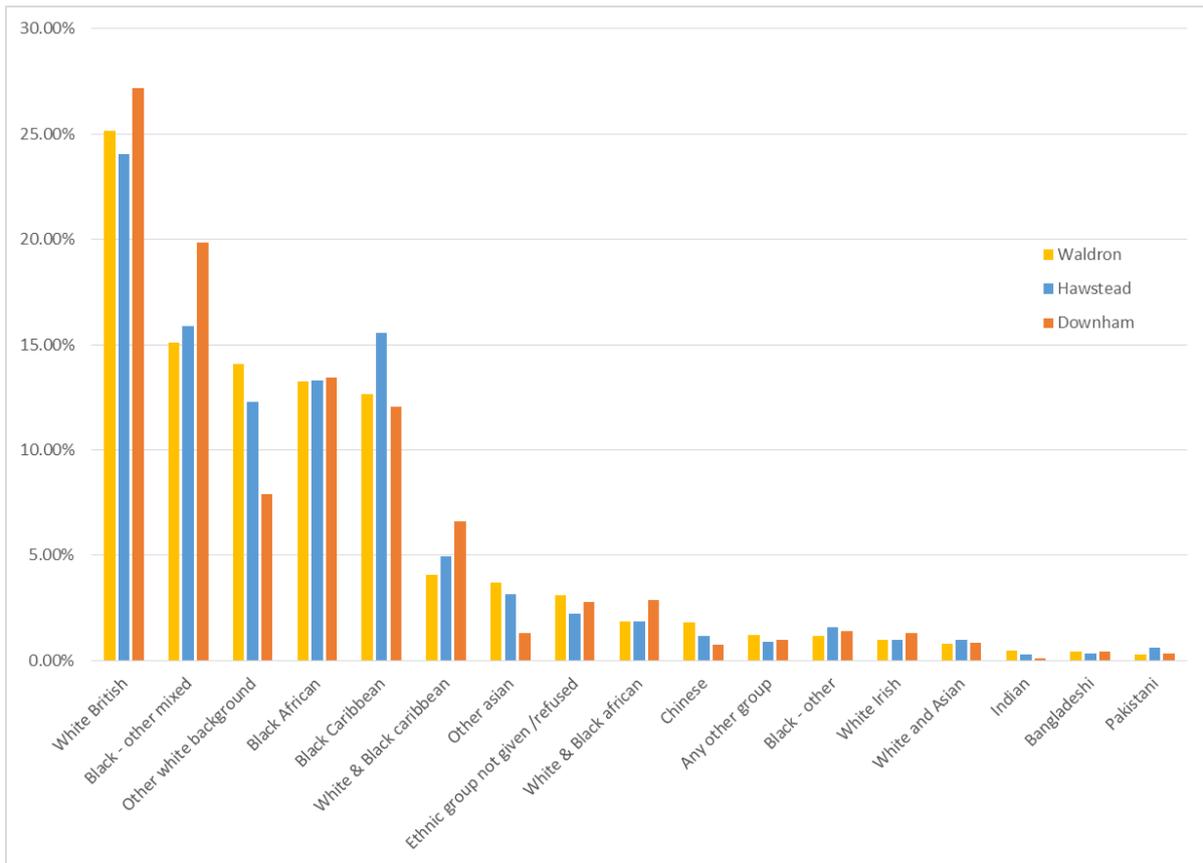
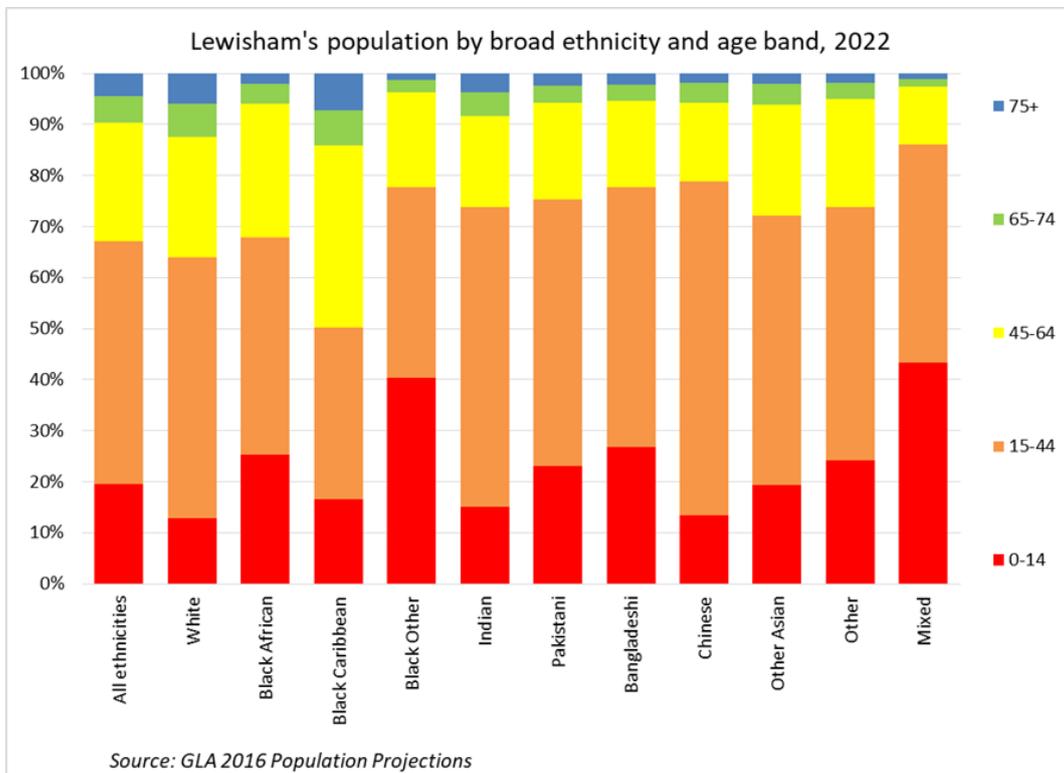
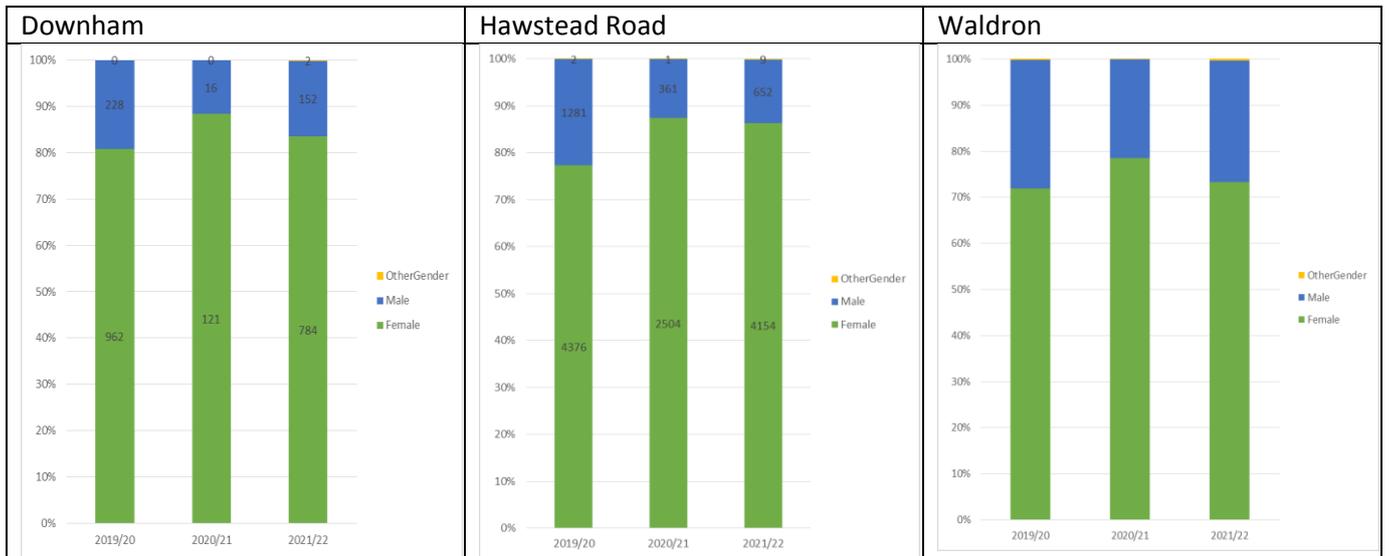


Figure 6: Lewisham's population by broad ethnicity and age band, 2022



The figure below (Figure 7) shows the gender of clients visiting each of the sexual health sites in 2021/22. Whilst difficult to read the detail, females (depicted in green) make up more than 70% of clients across all the sites. At the Downham site, less than 20% of the clients are reported as male.

Figure 7: Gender of clients visiting sexual health sites 2021/22



Self-reported sexual identity by clinic is shown in the figures below. It's noticeable that the majority of those attending the Downham clinic (Figure 8) report their sexuality as 'women who have sex with men'. Men who have sex with women are the next largest proportion to visit the clinic. This pattern is similar to the Hawstead Road clinic (Figure 9) and Waldron Health Centre clinic (Figure 10) proportions.

Figure 8: Sexual identity of those attending the Downham Clinic between 2019/20 and 2021/22

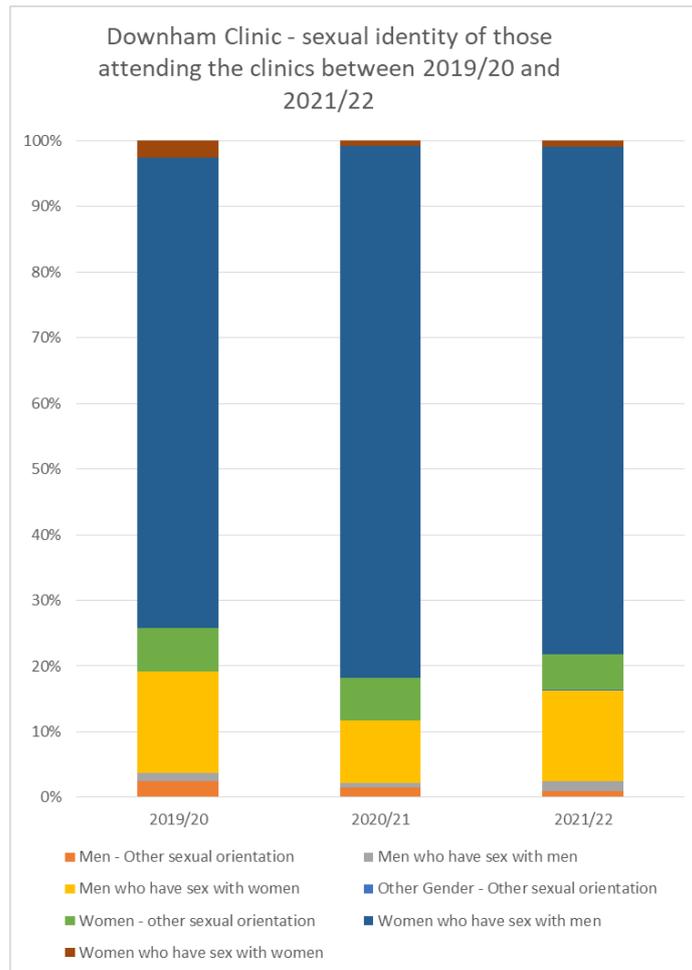


Figure 9: Sexual identity of those attending the Hawstead Road Clinic between 2019/20 and 2021/22

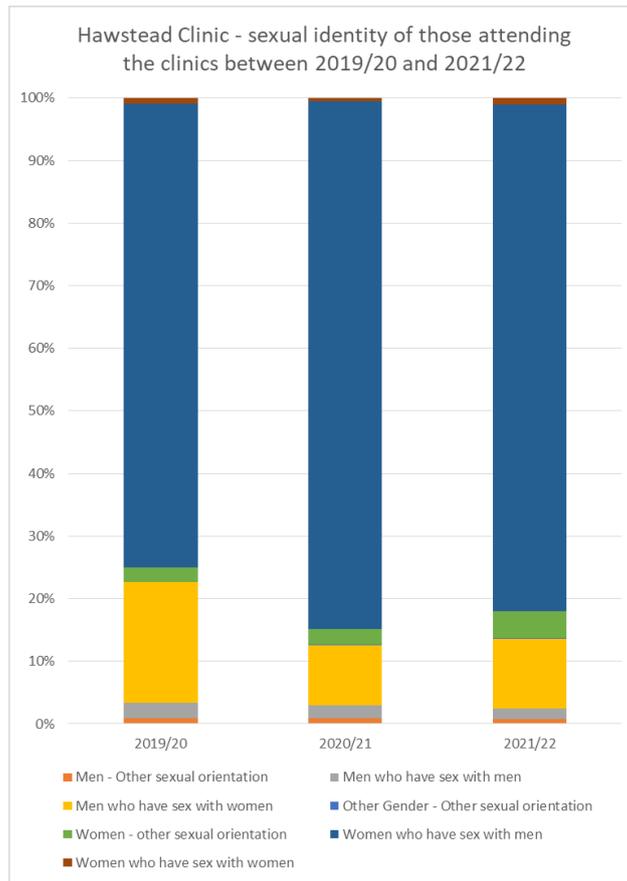
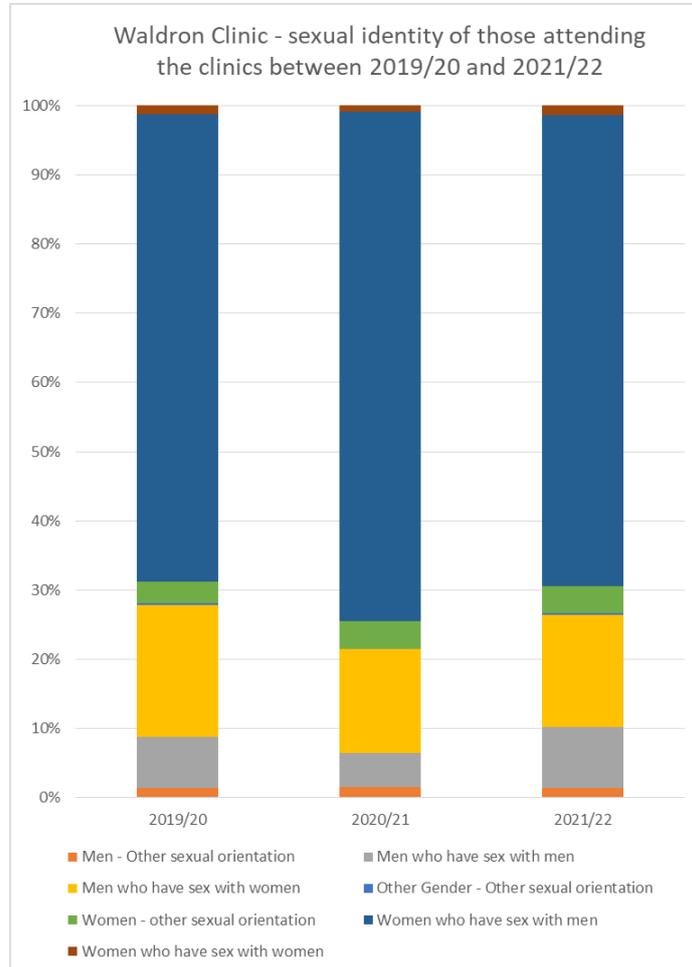


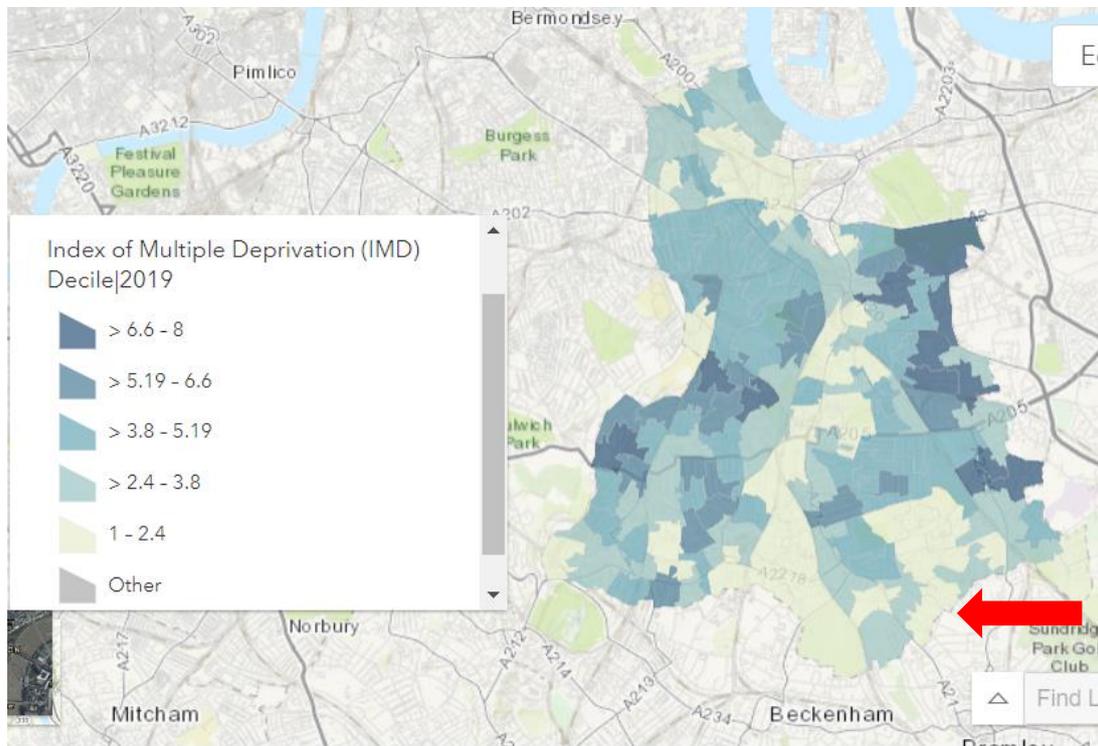
Figure 10: Sexual identity of those attending the Waldron Health Centre Clinic between 2019/20 and 2021/22



Data on disability, religious beliefs or language spoken are not collected by the service, and therefore cannot be presented for analysis.

Figure 11, below, shows the borough's deprivation by lower super output area. Downham clinic is based in one of the most deprived areas of the borough (indicated by the red arrow on the map in Figure 11).

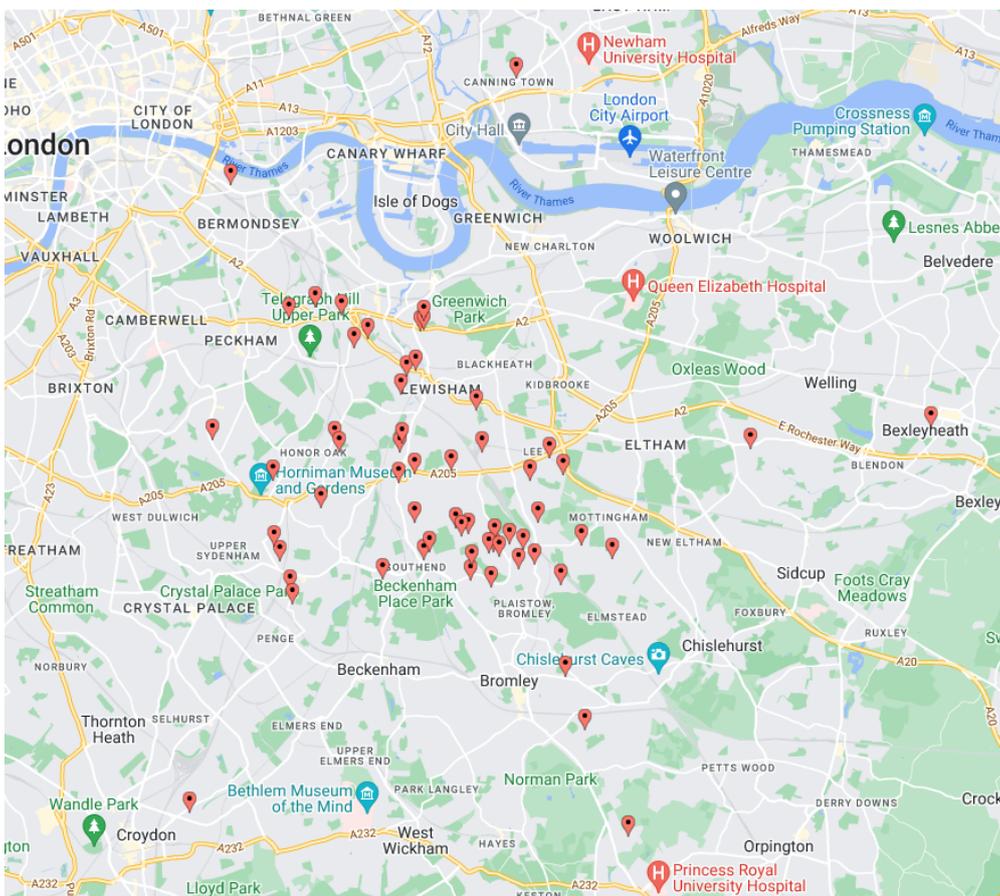
Figure 11: Index of multiple deprivation for Lewisham, where 1=the most deprived



Source: Lewisham observatory, [Lewisham Observatory – Deprivation – Map](#), accessed 9/9/2022

Clients who visited the clinic between 17 August and 1st September 2022 were asked about their use of the clinic. There were a total of 63 respondents to the questions. Approximately 9 out of 10 of them were female and Figure 12 shows where they travelled from to use the clinic.

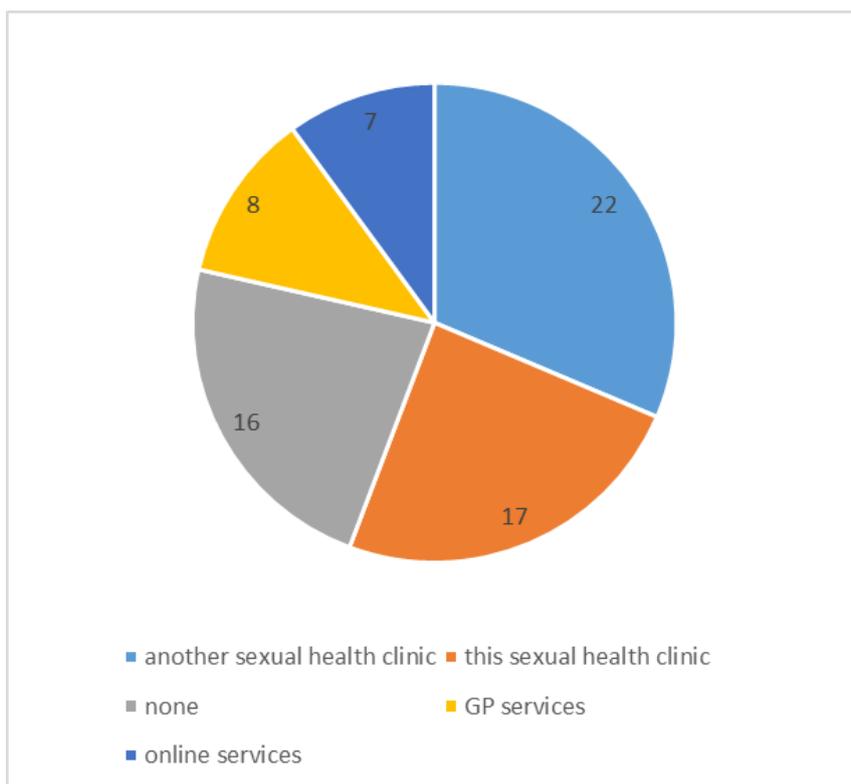
Figure 12: Map showing the location of respondents to a service user questionnaire in Downham Clinic between August and September 2022



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

Respondents were asked what services they had tried to contact. Approximately one quarter had been trying to attend Downham clinic, with nearly a third trying to access another sexual health clinic and one in 10 their GP service (see Figure 13).

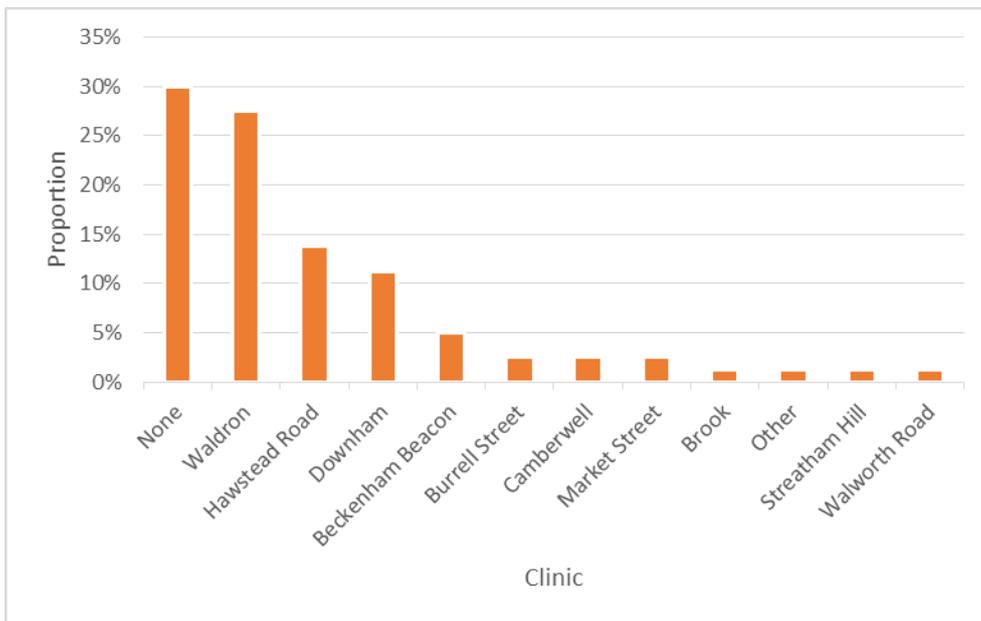
Figure 13: Services attempted to contact by service users of the Downham Clinic between 17th August and 1 September 2022



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

When asked what clinics clients had previously attended prior to coming to Downham, one third had not attended a clinic previously, but one in five had attended either the Waldron or the Hawstead Road clinics previously. One in ten had previously attended Downham and the remainder had attended clinics outside of the borough (see Figure 14).

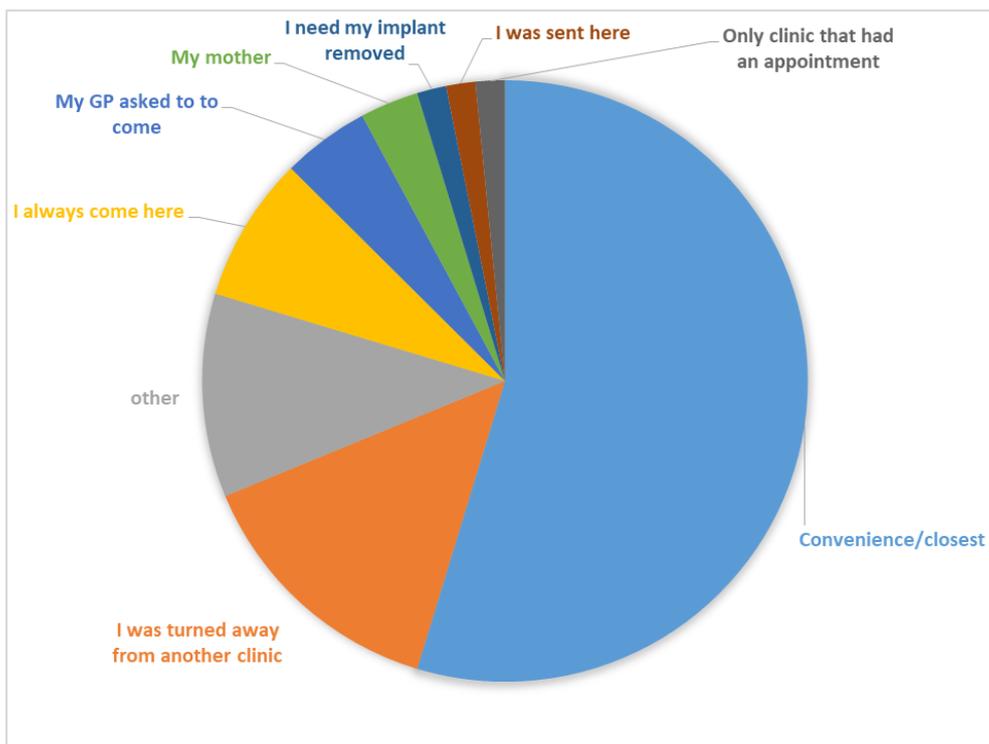
Figure 14: Previously attended clinics for sexual and reproductive health services



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

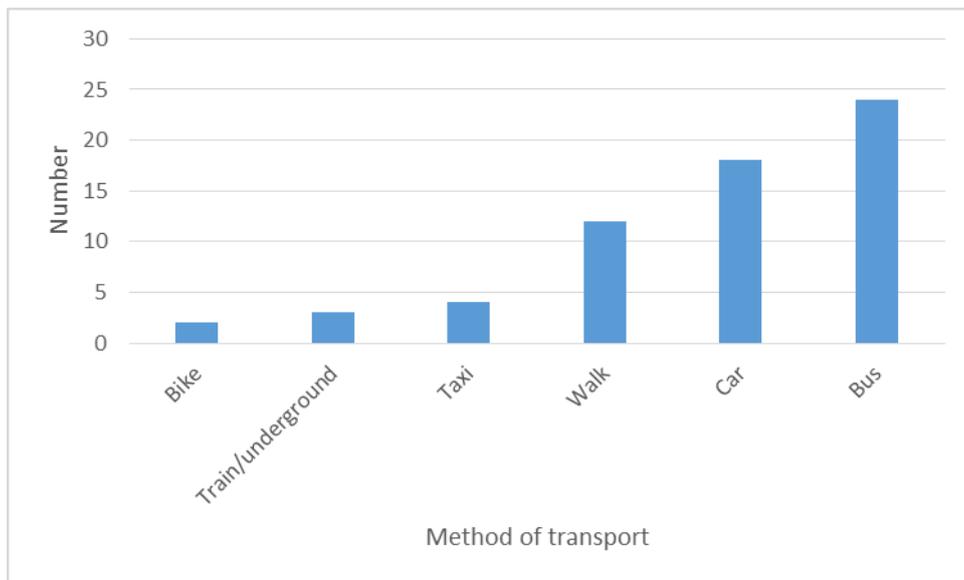
Looking to the reason for attending the clinic, more than half had attended because it was the closest and/or the most convenient. Interestingly, 14% of those that attended Downham had been turned away from a different clinic (see Figure 15). The majority of those who attended the clinic either caught the bus, drove by car, or walked there (see Figure 16). If the Downham Clinic was not available, more than half of respondents stated they would go to Waldron or Hawstead Road (see Figure 17). A very small number said they would look to attend another young person’s service.

Figure 15: Reason for attending the Downham Clinic



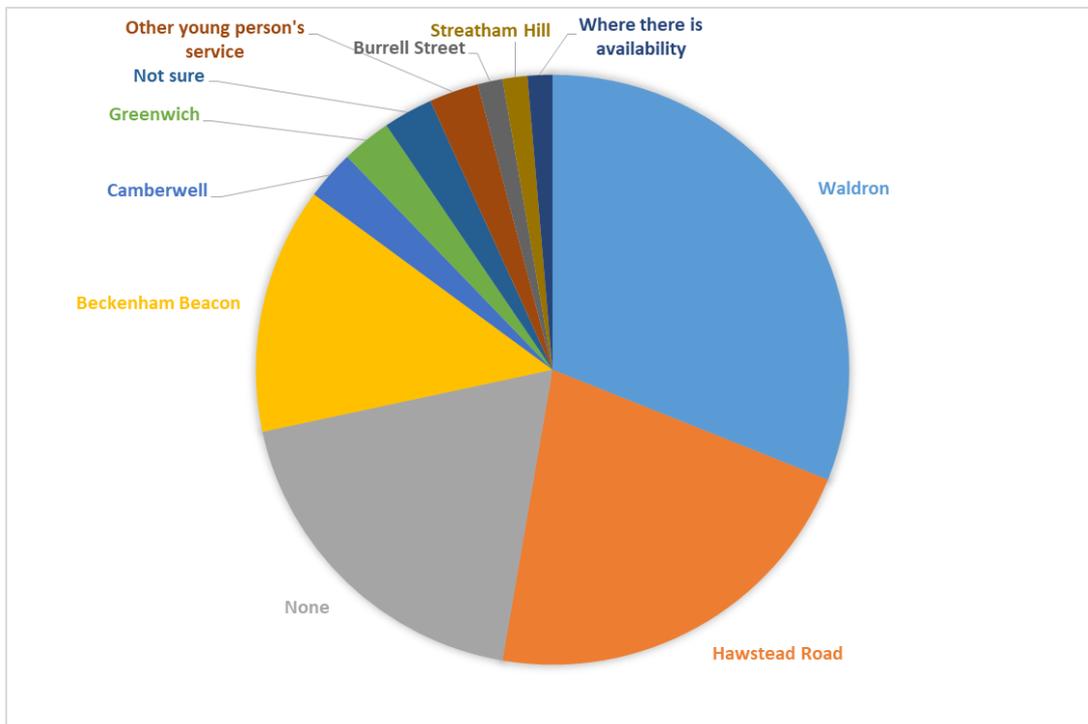
Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

Figure 16: Method of transport used to get to the Downham Clinic



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

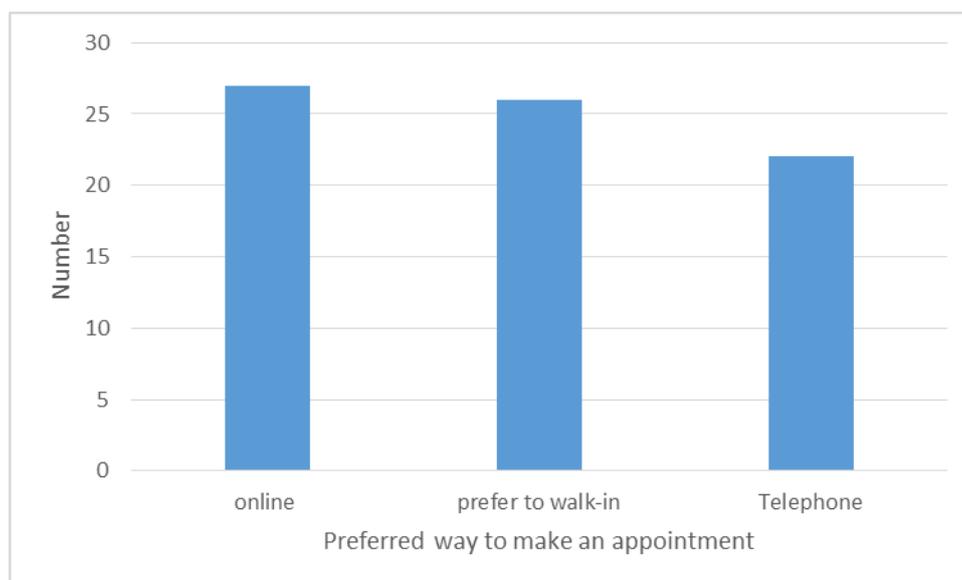
Figure 17: Where the client would attend if Downham Clinic was not available



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

Finally, when considering how people would prefer to make appointments for the clinics, there are similar numbers who would like walk in clinics as well as being able to book an appointment online (see also data from the e-service in Figure 3). There is still a desire to book appointments by telephone (see Figure 18).

Figure 18: Preferred way of making an appointment for one of the sexual and reproductive health appointments



Source: Downham Sexual Health Clinic Survey, August 2022

5. Impact summary

A summary of impact is below. Overall, with all factors and wider commissioning decisions taken into consideration, the impact was found to be neutral across all protected characteristics. The reason for this assessment is that:

- Though the proposed changes will remove access to one clinic, responses from the majority of clients suggest they will use alternative clinics within the borough for appointments. Furthermore, mitigation measures listed in section 6 will provide more support and prevention activity to young people from other providers.
 - The clinic's current opening times are restricted to two afternoons a week and usage data suggests that few people attend during those sessions that couldn't be accommodated in the remaining clinics in the borough. Additionally, the gender profile of those attending Downham is similar to the profile of Hawstead Road clinic and would not seem significantly different.
 - There are no proposed changes to the sexual health e-service, where approximately one quarter of the population aged 19 and under go for their sexual and reproductive health requirements. This online offer will mean increased access to support for young people, across all protected characteristics.
 - LGT's lead clinicians developed the clinical model, and have assured officers in detail that the model can deliver against all areas the specification. Overall the model as described through consolidation onto 2 sites and productivity gains through the new staffing structure activity could be delivered to a value at the levels the service was achieving pre-COVID. This will be offering more complex interventions, allowing more simple requirements to be delivered the online e-service.
-
- Age – Neutral
 - Ethnicity/Race – Neutral
 - Religion or belief – Neutral
 - Language spoken – Neutral
 - Gender/Sex – Neutral
 - Gender identity – Neutral
 - Disability – Neutral
 - Household type – Neutral
 - Income – Neutral
 - Carer status – Neutral
 - Sexual orientation – Neutral
 - Socio Economic – Neutral
 - Marriage and Civil Partnership – Neutral
 - Pregnancy and Maternity – Neutral

- Refugee/Migrant/ Asylum seeker – Neutral
- Health & Social Care – Neutral
- Nationality – Neutral
- Employment – Neutral

6. Mitigation

Downham residents will still be able to access sexual health services at the 2 remaining sites, and through primary care, with EHC and contraceptive consultations available at 8 pharmacies, and LARC fitting at 6 GPs. Lewisham’s and the ‘come correct’ condom card distribution scheme will also be available at 6 local sites South of the borough.

Of those service described above, residents in Downham/Grove Park will have access to the following:

- contraceptive consultations available at 2 pharmacies,
- LARC fitting at 1 GP and
- Lewisham’s ‘come correct’ condom card distribution scheme will also be available at 3 local sites

Access to e-services for STI testing and treatment and some contraception will remain uncapped to support increased access. Given challenges in access to GP contraception, additional provision was offered through Marie Stopes Initiative and this will also be retained.

‘Insight Lewisham’ young people’s substance misuse and sexual health service will offer additional outreach at youth clubs and other sites across the south of the borough, and support young people with access and navigation of sexual health services at LGT, other trusts, online and in primary care. In addition, Insight has been registered to distribute sexual health self-test kits that form part of the e-Service offer, alongside the cohort that access CGL.

The delivery of the school PSHRE curriculum will be supported by providers across the borough to ensure prevention and signposting to services are up to date and familiar to young people.

7. Service user journey that this decision or project impacts

Clients will continue to use the service in venues other than the Downham Clinic. They will be able to access the online e-service, Waldron and Hawstead Road clinics, primary care services and Insights Lewisham.

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| Signature of Head of Service | |
|-------------------------------------|--|

For further information please see the full [Corporate Equality Policy](#).