

Healthier Communities Select Committee			
Report Title	Update on sexual health services commissioned and provided in the borough following Public Health transfer		
Key Decision	No	Item No.	7
Ward	All		
Contributors	Executive Director for Community Services, Executive Director for Resources and Regeneration, Head of Law		
Class	Part 1	Date:	9 July 2013

1. Summary

- 1.1 Sexual Health is a local priority. Levels of sexually transmitted infections, abortions and HIV infections have risen in the last few years. Continuing previous arrangements, Lewisham has a collaborative commissioning arrangement with Lambeth and Southwark to strategically commission sexual health and HIV services across the 3 boroughs.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the sexual health services commissioned and provided in the borough; prevalence and outcomes related to sexual health and the new commissioning arrangements for sexual health following the transfer of public health to Local Authorities on 1st April 2013.
- 2.2 The report also provides an update on the HIV care and support service review implementation which was previously brought to the committee in October 2011 and March 2012.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report.

4. Policy Context

- 4.1 From April 2013 Local Authorities took over the responsibility for commissioning sexual health services from Primary Care Trusts - *'Local Authorities will become responsible for commissioning comprehensive open-access accessible and confidential contraception and sexually transmitted infections (STIs) testing and treatment services, for the benefit of all persons of all ages present in the area'*¹.

¹ Public health in local government factsheet. Department of Health, 20 December 2011.

- 4.2 The Lewisham Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board identified sexual health as one of the 9 priorities for Lewisham over the next three years. A summary of local sexual health needs is available on the Lewisham JSNA website <http://www.lewishamjsna.org.uk/home/priority-outcomes/sexual-health>
- 4.3 This paper supports the Sustainable Community Strategy principles of narrowing the gap in outcomes for citizens and Delivering together efficiently, effectively and equitably – ensuring that all citizens have appropriate access to and choice of high-quality local services. It also links to the priority “Healthy, active and enjoyable”

5. Background

- 5.1 The neighbouring boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark have similar sexual health issues and for many years there has been a collaborative sexual health and HIV commissioning arrangement between the former PCTs led by Lambeth PCT. The team commissioned abortion services, HIV prevention, care and support and some aspects of sexual health.

6. Current commissioning arrangements

- 6.1 Building on the historical arrangements a tri-borough Sexual Health and HIV commissioning team has been established hosted by Lambeth Council to commission HIV prevention, care and support and sexual health services across the 3 boroughs. The services commissioned through this arrangement are outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Services commissioned through the Lambeth Sexual Health and HIV Commissioning Team

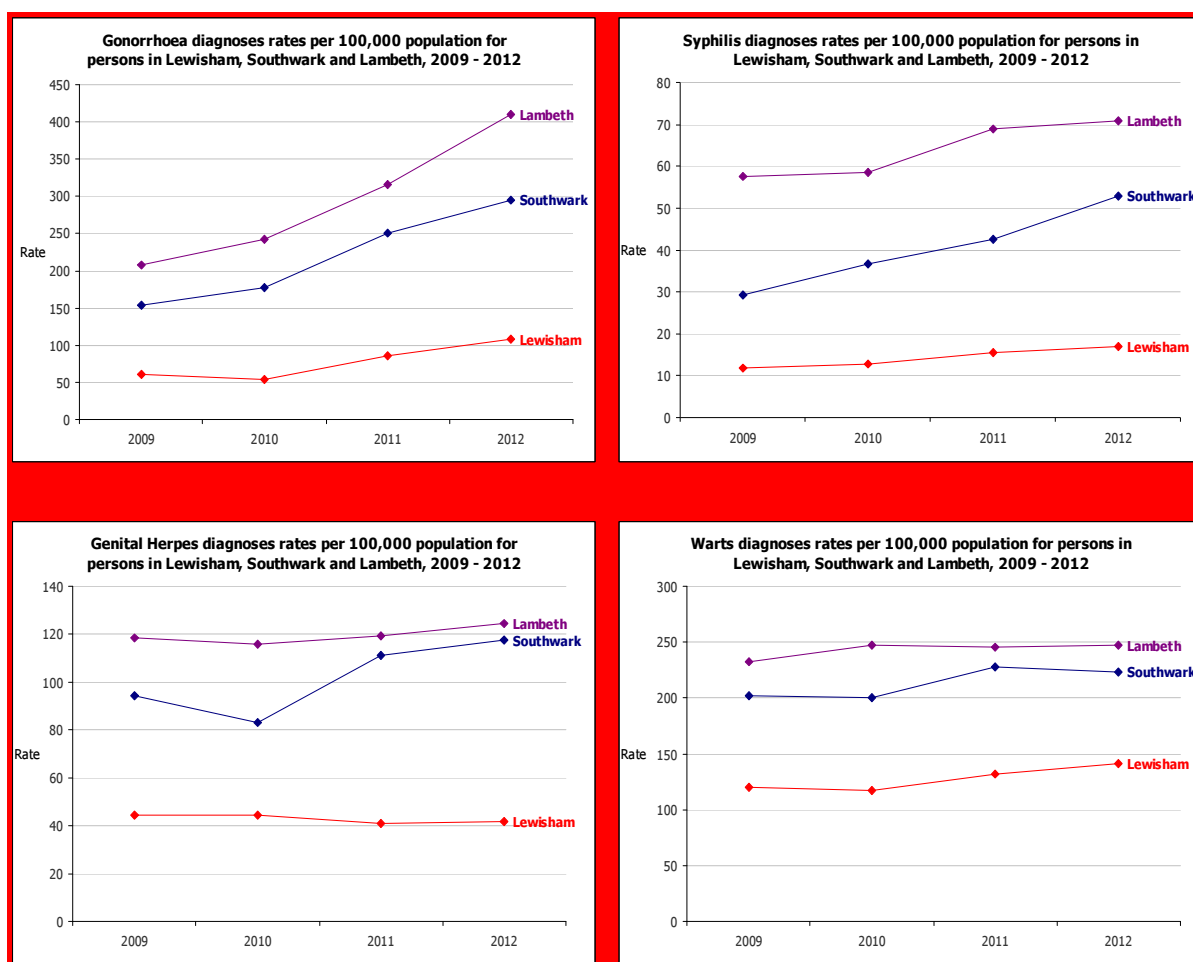
Service	Budget 2013/14
Sexual Health (GUM, Community Contraception and STI testing and treatment)	£5,874,695
Pan London HIV Prevention Programme PLHIVPP	£59,451
LSL HIV Prevention	£113,255

- 6.2 Some aspects of sexual health have historically been commissioned locally in Lewisham by Public Health officers, this includes some elements of GP sexual health service provision and online STI screening. Where this is the case these arrangements have remained in place for 2013/14 and will be reviewed in year.

7. Prevalence of Sexually Transmitted Infections and HIV

- 7.1 There have been recent increases in STIs across London. The prevalence of STIs in Lewisham is high compared to other parts of London and England, although lower than Lambeth and Southwark. Rates of all STIs have been rising over the past few years, particularly in men who have sex with men.

Figure 1: STI trends in Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark 2009-12



7.2 Lewisham has high rates of Chlamydia, but this is partly a result of the success of the screening programme, which results in approximately half the 15-24 year old population. Around 10% of the screened population are diagnosed with the Chlamydia and 2% have gonorrhoea.

7.3 Between 2007 and 2011 the number of people living with HIV in Lewisham has increased by 30%. The diagnosed prevalence rate is 7.8 per 1,000 the 8th highest in London (London rate is 5.4 per 1,000). Lambeth and Southwark have the highest rates of 13.8 and 11.7 per 1,000 respectively. HIV rates are increasing mainly as a result of people living longer with HIV infection.

7.4 Overall, new diagnoses of HIV have been falling steadily since 2004, however the London data for 2012 shows an increase in new diagnoses of HIV. This is due to an increase in new infections acquired through sex between men.

7.5 Late diagnosis of HIV is an important indicator of the effectiveness of HIV testing programmes. The earlier HIV is diagnosed the better the outcomes are for the individual. Early diagnosis also reduces the risk of onward transmission of infection. Late diagnosis of HIV has fallen in Lewisham to 50% of all new diagnosed infections in 2011 from 63% in 2010.

8. Local Sexual Health Services

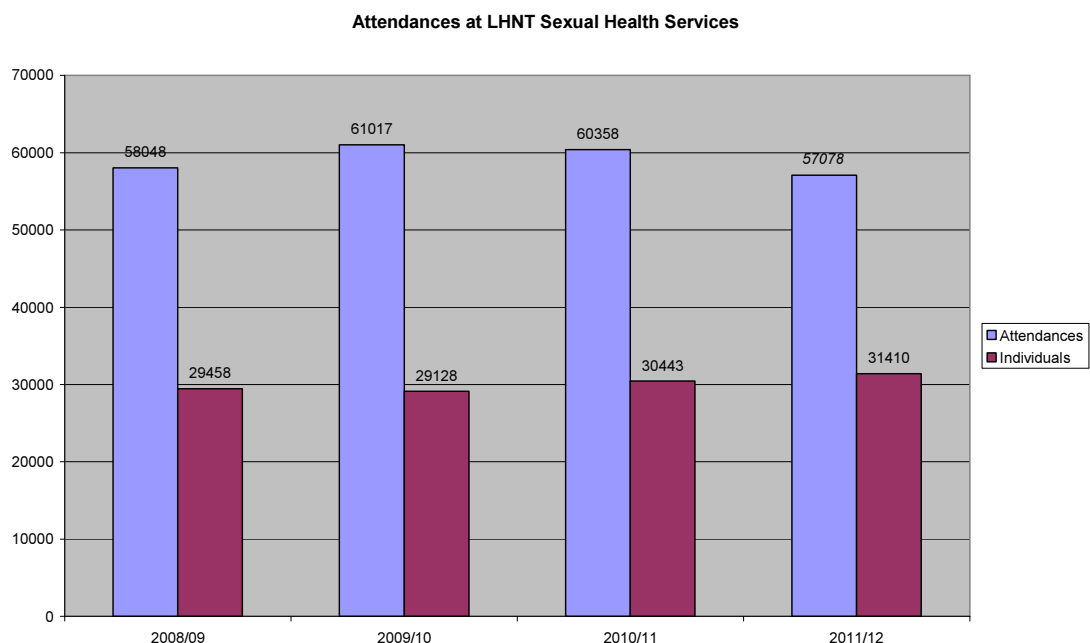
8.1 Sexual health services are currently delivered in a broad range of settings including:

- GP practices (contraception, STI testing and treatment)
- Pharmacies (emergency contraception)
- Hospitals (GUM and HIV clinics)
- Sexual health clinics (contraception and STI testing and treatment)
- Online (chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening)

8.2 In addition to this youth services, libraries and some pharmacies distribute condoms through the pan-London Condom Card Scheme (Come Correct). Condoms are also available to those at high risk of HIV infection through the Safer Partnership (which is partnership of voluntary sector organisations). Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust sexual health service also provides sex and relationships education in local schools and run a clinic at Lewisham College.

8.3 Lewisham Healthcare NHS Trust run 4 sexual health clinics across Lewisham at the Waldron Health Centre, Downham Health and Leisure Centre, Rushey Green Primary Care Centre and Sydenham Green Health Centre. The clinics are well established and very busy. They predominately operate on a walk in basis, with no appointment required. They see around 30,000 patients a year. Figure 2 shows activity over the last 4 years (2012/13 not yet available).

Figure 2: Attendances at LHNT sexual health clinics



8.4 Genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services are specialist sexual health services which test diagnose and treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs). GUM services are 'open access'. This means patients do not require a referral to access them.

- 8.5 Currently 75% of activity for Lewisham residents occurs within 5 providers (see table below). From November 2012 Lewisham Healthcare Trust started providing GUM services at the Waldron. It is anticipated that this will repatriate some activity back into borough particularly from Westminster and Camden which attract large numbers of gay men into their services. It is also possible it may increase demand for services by uncovering previously unmet need.

Table 2: GUM Activity by provider as percentage of all Lewisham residents activity

Host Borough	Clinic	Percentage of all Lewisham GUM activity
Lambeth	King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	27%
Southwark	Guy's Hospital	15%
Southwark	St Thomas' Hospital	11%
Westminster	Dean Street Clinic	11%
Camden	Mortimer Market Centre	7%
Bromley	Beckenham Hospital	5%
TOTAL		75%

- 8.6 **HIV:** Lewisham and Lambeth were the first London boroughs to pilot HIV testing in GP practices for newly registering patients as part of the new patient health check. As a result of this work, late diagnosis of HIV dropped from 63% to 50% between 2010 and 2012 and most of the patients seen in the local clinic were diagnosed by their GP.
- 8.7 **Abortion:** In 2011 the abortion rate in Lewisham was 32.3 per 1,000 aged 15-44. This was the 6th highest in London and higher than both Lambeth and Southwark. This equates to 2,001 abortions. In the last 2 years the rate appears to be increasing, reversing a previous decreasing trend.
- 8.8 Rates are highest in 18-19 year olds but are also higher than expected in older women particularly 25-34 year olds. Lewisham has a higher proportion of abortions performed after 13 weeks (10% compared to 8% across London) and a high rate of repeat abortions. In the under 25 age group 33% of abortions are repeat abortions, compared to 26.4% in England and 32% in London. Abortion rates are higher for Black ethnic groups than average. This is true for all age groups with Black African women particularly over-represented in the repeat abortion data. Over 50% of women in the Black African, Caribbean and Black British ethnic groups who attended for an abortion in 2011 had at least one previous abortion compared to 40% in the White ethnic group.

8.9 In 2012 a local early medical abortion service was established at the Waldron Health Centre provided by LHNT. Prior to the development of service there was no in borough abortion service and Lewisham patients had to travel out of the borough to access abortions.

9. HIV Care and Support Service Review Update

9.1 In 2011 LSL sexual health and HIV commissioners initiated a review of the existing portfolio of HIV care & support services and assessment of need to inform future commissioning intentions. The service review aimed to ensure that LSL provision for HIV care & support would be modernised to reflect the changing needs of people living with HIV in line with the epidemiological changes of HIV and advances of treatment. Updates from this workstream have previously been to HCSC in October 2011 and March 2012.

9.2 The driver for the review was HIV becoming defined as a long term condition and to support a strategic direction towards mainstreaming HIV services.

9.3 A number of new workstreams have been developed following the consultation response. These include; Children and young people; workforce training; case management and peer support. The Steering Group will continue to meet to oversee the implementation of the service review, albeit slightly reconstituted to reflect the changes in the NHS. The Service User Reference Group (SURG) continue to have an essential role and their role may be broadened to other aspects of HIV work. The engagement and consultation plan is being revised, and stakeholder events for providers are being planned to support them through the change process.

10. Financial Implications

10.1 Sexual health services are funded through the Public Health Grant which is ring fenced for at least two years (2013/14 and 2014/15).

10.2 The cost of services set out in table 1 above can all be met from the agreed 2013/14 budget. Expenditure against contracts whose value is dependent on volume will be monitored closely.

11. Legal Implications

11.1 A legal agreement is being drawn up between the 3 boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark to support the sexual health commissioning arrangement and Lambeth Council as lead commissioning organisation. This sets out amongst other things the governance arrangements between the three Councils, the terms of reference of the Commissioning Board which will have a representative of each Council and provision for decisions by unanimity, the agreed contribution by each Council to the costs of the administration of the commissioning of the services, staffing arrangements, and indemnity and insurance provision.

11.2 A section 75 agreement has been drafted between Lewisham CCG and Lewisham Council for the contracting arrangements with Lewisham Healthcare Trust which will shortly be finalised.

12. Crime and Disorder Implications

None.

13. Equalities Implications

13.1 Sexual health services are targeted at those of highest risk which includes men who have sex with men, black African and Caribbean men and women.

13.2 An Equalities Analysis Assessment (EAA) has been carried out as part of the HIV Care and Support service review, and further EAAs will be applied in relation to changes in service provision.

14. Environmental Implications

14.1 None.

15. Conclusion

15.1 Sexual health continues to be a local priority for Lewisham. Sexual health services will be reviewed over the coming year, and developed in line with emerging need and user feedback. The collaborative approach to needs assessment, commissioning and providing sexual health services across the 3 boroughs will be maintained.

If there are any queries on this report please contact Ruth Hutt, Consultant in Public Health on 020 8314 7610.