

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Sexual Health Update		
Contributors	Ruth Hutt	Item No.	8
Class	Part 1 / Part 2	Date: 28 January 2014	

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The Purpose of this report is to provide an overview of sexual health in Lewisham, the current commissioning arrangements and the development of the tri-borough (Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark) Sexual Health Strategy.

2. Recommendation/s

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- Note the contents on the report.
 - Contribute to the consultation on the Sexual Health Strategy.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. 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 area¹.*
- 3.2. Commissioning of abortion, sterilisation and HIV care and support services is the responsibility of clinical commissioning groups.
- 3.3. Improving sexual health is identified as one of the 9 priorities of Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. A summary of local sexual health needs is available on the Lewisham JSNA website <http://www.lewishamsna.org.uk/home/priority-outcomes/sexual-health>
- 3.4. 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

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

appropriate access to and choice of high-quality local services. It also links to the priority “Healthy, active and enjoyable”

4. Background

- 4.1. The neighbouring boroughs of Lambeth and Southwark have similar sexual health issues. A tri-borough commissioning arrangement was developed across the 3 boroughs post April 2013, which has ensured that the overview for all sexual health commissioning (including the services which are the responsibility of the CCGs) is held together and economies of scale can be achieved working with providers and across populations.
- 4.2. The governance of the new arrangements is overseen by a tri-borough commissioning board which includes representation from all 3 boroughs and CCGs. Each borough then has its own internal governance arrangements to their respective Health and Wellbeing Boards.
- 4.3. A new sexual health strategy is currently being developed to inform commissioning plans and service developments across the 3 boroughs. A needs assessment is currently being finalised which will inform the strategy.
- 4.4. London Councils Leaders made a decision in 2013 to commission a Londonwide HIV Prevention Programme which all boroughs will contribute to on a pro-rata basis based on their local HIV prevalence.

5. Acute Sexually Transmitted Infections

- 5.1. Lewisham has high levels of sexual health need. Diagnosis of acute sexually transmitted infections (STIs) has been rising over time following a similar trend across London and neighbouring boroughs. Rates of re-infection within 12 months are higher than nationally, and highest in 15-24 year olds. Thirty-five percent of men presenting to Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) clinics with an STI are men who have sex with men (MSM). Rates of gonorrhoea and syphilis are particularly high in this group. Over 80% of gonorrhoea and syphilis infections diagnosed in GUM clinics are in MSM.
- 5.2. In the 15-24 year old age group 9% of those tested for Chlamydia have the infection. Lewisham has one of the most successful Chlamydia screening programmes in the country. High rates of diagnosis are in part a reflection of high levels of screening activity as Chlamydia infection often has no symptoms.

6. HIV

- 6.1. Between 2007 and 2012 the number of people living with HIV in Lewisham has increased by 30%. The diagnosed prevalence rate is

7.9 per 1,000 (1509 individuals) the 8th highest in London (London rate is 5.5 per 1,000). Lambeth and Southwark have the highest rates of 14.4 and 12.2 per 1,000 respectively. HIV rates are increasing mainly as a result of people living longer with HIV infection.

- 6.2. In Lewisham, historically there have been more new infections diagnosed through heterosexually acquired infection mainly among the Black African population. In 2011 this changed and there were more new infections diagnosed through sex between men.
- 6.3. Late diagnosis is the most important predictor of HIV-related morbidity and short-term mortality. It is a critical component of the Public Health Outcomes Framework and monitoring is essential to evaluate the success of expanded HIV testing.
- 6.4. In Lewisham between 2009 and 2011, 52% of HIV diagnoses were made at a late stage of infection compared to 50% (95% CI 49-51) in England. 32% of men who have sex with men (MSM) and 69% of heterosexuals men were diagnosed late.
- 6.5. Lewisham was the first London borough to introduce HIV testing as part of the new patient check, undertaken by GPs, in line with the Chief Medical Officer's guidance.

7. Teenage Pregnancy

- 7.1. Annual teenage pregnancy rates are available up until 2011. The rate has been falling in Lewisham in line with London and national trends, although the first quarter of 2013 does show an increase (mirrored in London and England). The actual numbers have also dropped significantly over the same time period. The proportion of conceptions leading to abortion has remained relatively stable at 53-55%.

Teenage Pregnancy Statistics 2007-2011 (ONS)

Lewisham trend	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Number of conceptions	311	296	235	198	184
Rate/1,000 females aged 15-17 (using ONS population)	70.8	68.8	55.6	48.6	39.9

- 7.2. Up until 2009 schools were offered sex and relationships education (SRE) sessions delivered by the local sexual health service. When this provision was decommissioned there was a drop in clinic attendances amongst young people. The SRE provision has been effective in forming a bridge between the schools and the clinics and made young people aware of where they could go to get support and advice even if

they were not currently sexually active. In the summer term of 2013 secondary schools were offered the opportunity to get free SRE input into years 8 and 9 delivered jointly with the sexual health and school nursing team. The focus of these sessions was on 'Staying Safe' and in particular highlighting the risks of sexual exploitation, acceptable relationship boundaries and how to access services. Sustaining input into sessions such as these now forms part of the school age nursing strategy.

8. Abortion

- 8.1. Abortion rates have been falling in Lewisham as well the neighbouring boroughs, whilst remaining relatively stable in London and England. Despite this abortion rates in Lewisham are amongst the highest in the country. In 2012, with Lewisham being the 2nd highest in London and England after Barking and Dagenham. Lewisham has the highest under 18 abortion rate in England and rates are particularly high in black women.
- 8.2. All three boroughs have high rates of repeat termination. Repeat abortion rates are highest in Lewisham (47%), followed by Southwark (46%) and Lambeth (44%). This compares to 37% in London. In women under 25 years old, 37% in Lewisham and 33% in Lambeth and Southwark attended for a repeat abortion in 2012. This compares to 27% in London.

9. Local Services:

- 9.1. Sexual health services are currently delivered in a broad range of settings including:
 - GP practices (contraception, STI & HIV testing and treatment)
 - Pharmacies (emergency contraception, condoms)
 - Hospitals (GUM and HIV clinics)
 - Sexual health clinics (contraception and STI testing and treatment)
 - Online (chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening, condom card registration for access to free condoms)
- 9.2. Lewisham has 4 sexual health clinics across the borough at Downham Health and Leisure Centre, Sydenham Green Health Centre, Rushey Green and the Waldron. Full GUM services including complex STI treatment and special clinics for men who have sex with men are now available at the Waldron. HIV services are provided at the Lewisham Hospital site at the Alexis clinic. In addition to this Lewisham residents can access GUM and HIV services outside of the borough. Most GUM activity currently occurs at Kings Hospital, Guys and St Thomas's Hospital and Chelsea and Westminster NHS Trust.

- 9.3. 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.

10. Strategy Development

- 10.1. A needs assessment and service mapping has underpinned the development of the LSL Sexual Health Strategy. A first draft of this document is expected to be completed in late January. A period of consultation with service users, local residents, providers and commissioners (including local authority and clinical commissioning groups) will occur following its publication.
- 10.2. The Strategy will focus on providing a stepped care approach to sexual health, including health promotion and prevention of sexual ill health, self management, improving access to services which screen for STIs through provision online, in primary care (GPs and pharmacies), and in other settings. The Strategy will also address gaps in the current provision of services to some vulnerable groups including those with mental health problems, those affected by substance misuse, those with learning difficulties and with cultural barriers which prevent them from accessing services.
- 10.3. Sexual health services are predominately demand led. The focus of commissioning has been on the delivery of testing and treatment services rather than prevention of sexual 'ill health' and promotion of good sexual health. Escalating costs and new outbreaks associated with changing sexual practices requires a new approach to the commissioning of sexual health services.

11. Financial implications

- 11.1. The London Borough of Lewisham has a sexual health budget of £6.99M for sexual health services (2013/14). The majority (£5.86M) of this is invested in sexual health clinics and GUM services. This excludes the abortion service and HIV care and support services commissioned by the CCG.
- 11.2. Sexual health services are funded through the Public Health Grant which is ring fenced for at least two years (2013/14 and 2014/15).
- 11.3. The cost of services can all be met from the agreed 2013/14 budget. Expenditure against contracts whose value is dependent on volume is being monitored closely.

12. Legal implications

- 12.1. A legal agreement between the 3 boroughs of Lewisham, Lambeth and Southwark underpins the sexual health commissioning arrangement with 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.
- 12.2. A section 75 agreement between Lewisham CCG and Lewisham Council underpins the contracting arrangements with Lewisham and Greenwich Trust.
- 12.3. 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.”

13. Crime and Disorder Implications

None.

14. Equalities Implications

- 14.1. Sexual health need is disproportionately higher in those from certain BME groups specifically Black African and Caribbean, those identifying as gay or bisexual, those from the most deprived areas and young people (under 25).
- 14.2. Sexual health services are commissioned to help reduce these inequalities, informed by the needs assessment, which considers different population groups and this will be further addressed through the LSL Sexual Health Strategy.
- 14.3. An Equality Analysis Assessment (EAA) will be carried out as part of the strategy development.

15. Environmental Implications

None

16. Conclusion

- 16.1. Sexual health remains a priority for Lewisham. The new Strategy will provide opportunities for innovation in service delivery and help redress the balance between prevention and sexual health services.
- 16.2. More emphasis on healthy sexual relationships is required, particularly for young men, but also young women. Most of the emphasis to date has been on STI screening and treatment for males and more work on behaviour models would be useful to encourage a more healthy approach to sexual relationships.
- 16.3. The completed LSL Sexual Health Strategy will be presented to the Board in July 2014.

If there are any queries on this report please contact **Ruth Hutt, Consultant in Public Health**, on **020 8314 7610**, or by email at: **ruth.hutt@lewisham.gov.uk**

Appendix 1

Figure 1 Acute STIs in LSL 2009- 2012

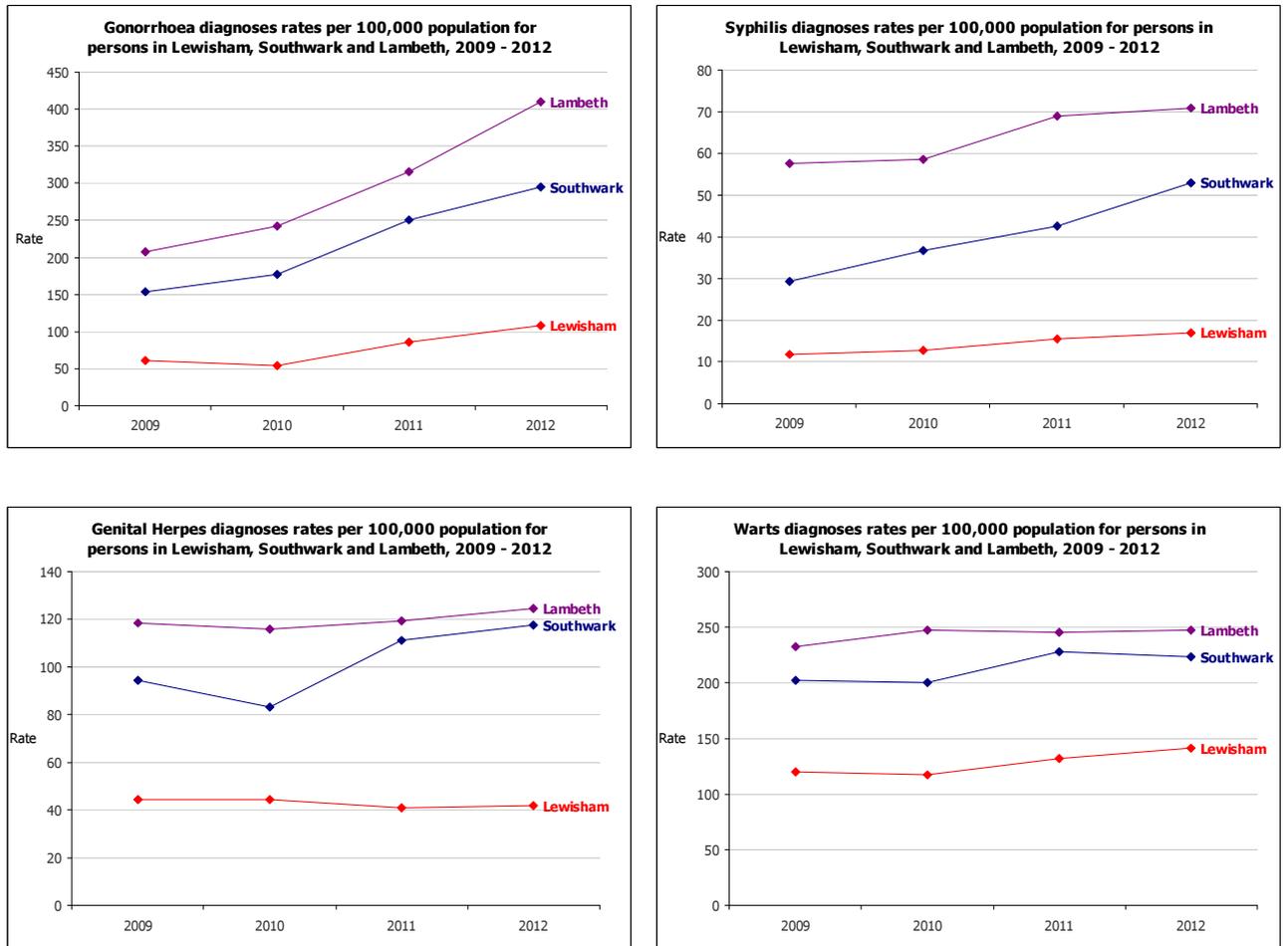


Figure 2 Teenage Pregnancy Rates LSL, London and England

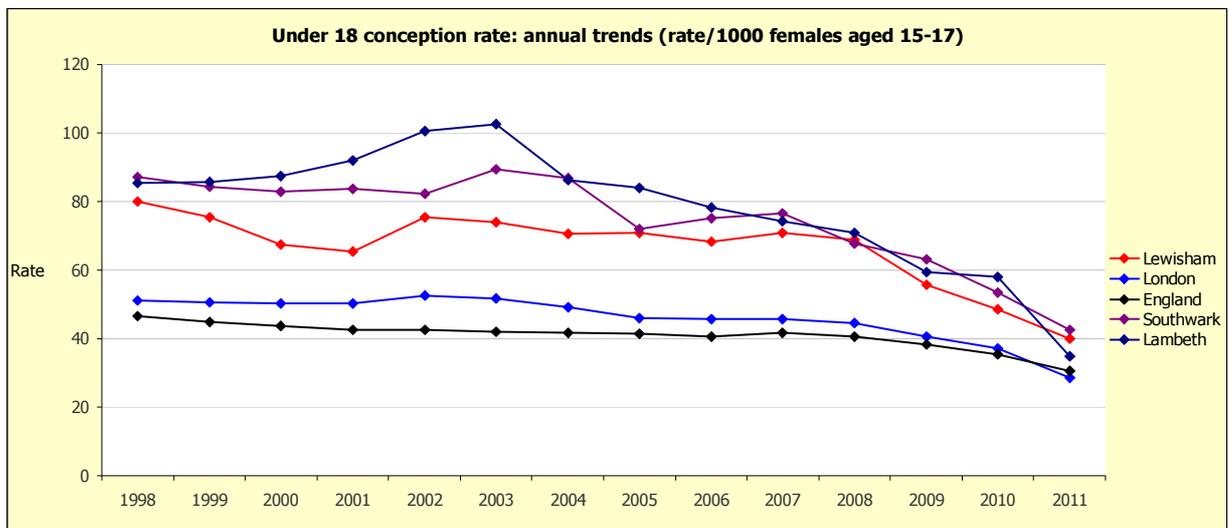


Figure 3 Abortion Rates LSL, London and England

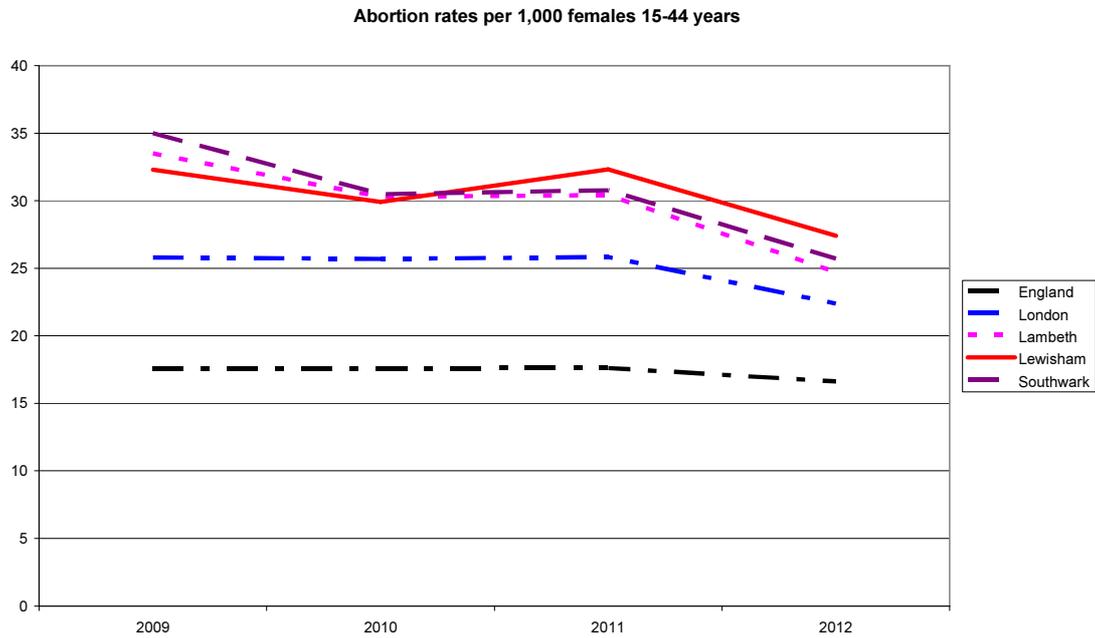


Figure 4 Abortion Rates by Ethnic Group

