

Fact Sheet

New Integrated Sexual Health Services

Who?

Although there are good sexual health services available in Luton after careful review, Luton Borough Council has decided that there is a need to improve and integrate the services.

There are currently gaps in the service and the Council wants to make sure that people can easily access all sexual health services.

This includes vulnerable groups such as young people. This means that we will need to increase choice in terms of time and venue and ensure that the full-range of services are available.

What?

In order to improve sexual and reproductive health services the Council proposes that they are integrated under one roof. This will enable people to get the help that they need from one provider. Some services will still be available from individual GPs and pharmacies.

This will offer a more consistent high quality service, provide more choice to patients and ensure cost-effectiveness. Sexual health services are currently separated into sexually transmitted infection services, contraceptive or family planning services, and young people's services. By adopting a one-stop-shop approach, these services will be easily and equally accessible to all users.

The Council recognises that it may be necessary to provide separate young people's services and gender-specific clinics.

The main benefit of a one-stop-shop is that it can also provide reassurance that people will be seen discreetly and in confidence, so reducing the stigma compared to attending a GUM clinic.

One-stop-shops are more popular than non-integrated sexual health services among young people and men.

For healthcare professionals one-stop-shops also provide the opportunity to identify other areas where people may need additional help, e.g. giving contraception advice to a person attending for an STI test can reduce the possibility of an unplanned pregnancy at the same time as well as testing for the STI.

Why?

The reasons for providing a one-stop shop are to:

- address the rising rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and the need to focus on the diagnosis of Chlamydia
- reduce the onward transmission and late diagnosis of HIV
- continue to reduce the under 18 conception rate and lower the proportion of under 25 late abortions
- achieve greater communication and coordination to protect children and young people from sexual exploitation and violence
- place a greater emphasis on prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and early diagnosis of HIV by promoting good sexual health and wellbeing
- make best use of clinical and non-clinical staff including doctors, nurses, health-care assistants and all support roles
- optimise the use of buildings and facilities to increase access at venues and regularising times for service users
- provide access to a comprehensive range of sexual health services for all ages on a 'one stop shop' basis ensuring no-one is turned away or vulnerable people are not lost to the system
- develop a 'hub and spoke' service delivery model with the hub being in or in close proximity to the town centre, spokes will be provided in high need areas
- ensure that people are aware of the new service and how and where they can access and contact it through one number, one email and one website
- promote improved links and greater partnerships with primary care (GPs and Pharmacies) and other key services including Drugs and Alcohol, Maternity, Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Sexual Assault and Referral Centres (SARC) and Abortion Services
- provide greater training and development opportunities for staff and partner agencies.



When?

Following consultation with users and the public and key partner agencies a new specification will be developed and providers will be invited to tender over this calendar year with the new service starting in April 2016.

Where?

The new service will cover the Luton area. In a one-stop shop approach, these services are integrated and will be provided from several sites. We are looking for a 'hub' site located near to, or in, the town centre and 'spoke' sites in areas of high need in the town.

Summary

The new Integrated Sexual Health Service for Luton will provide a one-stop shop for your sexual health needs. A range of services will be provided free of charge including:

- contraception (including condoms, coils and implants) and emergency contraception
- natural family planning
- pregnancy testing
- unplanned pregnancy advice and referral and pre-termination clinics
- sexual health and relationship counselling
- sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing including chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing and treatment
- full genito-urinary medicine (GUM) sexual health screening and treatment
- HIV testing and treatment
- smear tests
- advice on any other concerns you may have regarding sexual health
- women can also make their own appointment for abortion counselling and referral.

Contact

Morag Stewart

Deputy Director of Public Health, Luton Borough Council, 3rd Floor,
Town Hall Extension, Upper George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ
Tel: 01582 548438 (8438) • Email: morag.stewart@luton.gov.uk