



Report Title: Lambeth, Southwark & Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy and Consultation

Author: Elizabeth Clowes

Position: Assistant Director, Commissioning, LB Lambeth

Contact details: EClowes@lambeth.gov.uk

Purpose of report: To inform Southwark Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of the contents of, and consultation period for, the LSL Sexual Health Strategy 2014-2017

Recommendations: The Committee is asked to endorse the strategic principles outlined in the strategy, and comment on any specific issues

1. Background and Service Delivery

- 1.1 From April 2013, as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, the responsibility for population based health improvement through the provision of Public Health specialist advice, strategic responsibility and the commissioning of a range of health improvement services transferred to local authorities. The duties are covered by Part 2 of the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry into Premises by local Healthwatch representatives) Regulations 2013, which sets out specific duties regarding public health advice services, weighing and measuring of children, health checks, sexual health services and protecting the health of the local population.
- 1.2 These duties were transferred from Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and included the transfer of 8 NHS staff under Transfer of Undertaking of Protection of Employment (TUPE) who delivered health improvement within the PCTs. The interventions and services commissioned cover all the population for universal access as well as targeted services, and include specialist targeted areas such as teenage pregnancy, sexual health and substance misuse services.
- 1.3 The provision of Public Health specialist advice now operates across the two boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth; it is a shared service hosted by Southwark Council. Lambeth Council is the host for a small sexual health commissioning team which operates across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham (as was the arrangement in the PCT). The commissioning service is governed by a three borough Board, chaired by Kerry Crichlow, strategic commissioning director for adults and children's services in Southwark. The Council is responsible for commission open access GUM provision, sexual health prevention and promotion, community contraception, and sexual health in pharmacies and primary care and HIV care and support. The 3-borough team also

commissions termination of pregnancy services on behalf of the Clinical Commissioning Groups.

- 1.4 Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham has some of the poorest sexual health in the country. Sexually transmitted infection rates in Southwark high and rising, especially MSM (men who have sex with men) and Black African and young people Southwark has the 3rd highest rate of acute STIs diagnosed in England (2012: 2199.4/100,000). HIV prevalence is also rising – 2012 Southwark rate was 11.7 /1000 15-59 yr olds (England rate 2/ 1000). There is a continuing reduction of under 18 conception, but rates in Southwark still high - 31.8/1000 (London rate 25.9/1000) Termination of pregnancy rates high in Southwark, especially repeat rate (46%) with a concentration in Camberwell and Bermondsey.

2. Strategy

2.1 Against this background, the Commissioning Board had a priority to develop a three-borough sexual health strategy, to tackle high levels of need and set clear prevention and promotion programmes in place. The strategy builds on previous LSL strategies, achievements and work of Modernisation Initiative ; there was an initial stakeholder engagement day in September 2013, which helped to build the local strategic priorities. Following extensive commissioning and public health engagement, a draft strategy was finalised and launched for consultation in April 2014.

- 2.2 The strategy sets out the local HIV and sexual health landscape, assessing previous strategies, financial resources and sexual health services in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, as follows:

- Promotion and prevention
- Sexual health services/GUM/psychosexual
- Primary Care
- HIV Care and support
- TOPs
- Young peoples services & teenage pregnancy

2.3 The strategy sets out the following vision and strategic priorities:

- Embedding good sexual health and wellness as part of a wider health agenda
- Actively promoting good sexual health and healthy safe relationships, not just the absence of disease
- Reducing the stigma attached to sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Focusing on those statistically most at risk thereby reducing health inequalities
- Reducing the rates of unplanned pregnancy and repeat terminations, especially for under 18 year olds
- Reducing rates of undiagnosed STIs and HIV

- Aligning strategic priorities with the intentions of our local CCGs
- Developing the workforce to deliver integrated and improved services
- Shifting the balance of care to community-based services that are accessible and responsive to the needs of service users

2.4 The strategy is in consultation until the end of July 2014: it is available on local websites, CCGs have been included in consultation, and specific focus groups have been held in each borough for MSM, black and ethnic minorities and young people, as these three groups were highlighted in the strategy as requiring particular focus. Scrutiny committees in each borough are also being consulted, prior to presenting findings at each health and Well Being Board in October.

2.5 An action plan has been developed to deliver the strategy, which will be overseen by the three boroughs Commissioning Board.