

## HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD

**Subject Heading:**

Redesign of sexual health services

**Board Lead:**

Sue Milner, Interim Director of Public Health

**Report Author and contact details:**

Mark Ansell, Consultant in Public Health

**The subject matter of this report deals with the following priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy**

- Priority 1: Early help for vulnerable people
- Priority 2: Improved identification and support for people with dementia
- Priority 3: Earlier detection of cancer
- Priority 4: Tackling obesity
- Priority 5: Better integrated care for the 'frail elderly' population
- Priority 6: Better integrated care for vulnerable children
- Priority 7: Reducing avoidable hospital admissions
- Priority 8: Improve the quality of services to ensure that patient experience and long-term health outcomes are the best they can be

### SUMMARY

Effective action to improve sexual and reproductive health: -

- improves personal and population wellbeing
- saves more than it costs in terms of the overall public purse
- provides opportunities to tackle wider social ills such as domestic violence, child sexual exploitation and drug and alcohol dependency
- is an essential element in comprehensive plans to narrow health inequalities.

An effective approach to improving sexual health requires multiple commissioners and providers to coordinate their actions to ensure residents benefit from evidence based, seamless pathways of care that work to prevent problems occurring wherever possible and minimise the harm resulting when they do.

Councils are mandated to provide key elements of the overall sexual health offer ensuring people in their area have open access to services for prevention, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. These form part of the genitourinary medicine (GUM) services. Councils must also ensure access to a broad range of contraception (family planning services).

BHRUHT provides GUM and family planning services in Barking and Dagenham and Redbridge as well as Havering.

The Trust is currently incurring a significant and unsustainable loss in so doing. Planned developments across London will reduce attendances at GUM services in the future and the gap between provider income and the cost of services will grow still further.

GUM activity could be accommodated more cost effectively at one site. Barking Hospital would be preferable as Barking and Dagenham has poorer sexual health; co-location with HIV services there would yield additional benefits and the clinic space freed up at Queens Hospital would enable further improvements to urgent care across the whole health economy.

Travel times, particularly in Havering would be increased but the number of people inconvenienced will fall when home testing is made available for suitable patients and if testing and treatment for uncomplicated STIs were to be provided from level 2 services in Romford.

Level 2 services currently only offer contraceptive care. Contraception clinics are provided at multiple sites for short periods as a result considerable clinician time is wasted. Consolidation on fewer, ideally one site in each borough would be much more cost effective. Again this would result in some increase in travel times. However, general practice is accessible and is the preferred provider of contraception for the majority of women.

Recommendations are made regarding the future location of sexual health services in the borough and the suggested approach to implementing change.

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
------------------------

The Board is asked to: -

- Discuss the proposal
- Suggest any amendments and additions felt needed to the recommendations made.



# Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

- Subject to those amendments being made, agree that the Council holds a public consultation regarding the proposals to:-
  - Consolidate local level 3 GUM services at Barking Hospital. The new service will offer dedicated Young Persons clinics and clinics in the evening and on Saturday morning.
  - Limit the inconvenience caused by increased travel times to access GUM services by;
    - Modifying level 2 services to include the offer of testing and treatment of uncomplicated STIs
    - Commission home-testing for asymptomatic low risk patients.
  - Provide level 2 contraception services at one or at most two sites per borough. More specialist family planning services, required by a small number of patients, will be provided via the Level 3 hub at Barking Hospital. There should be dedicated YP clinics and clinics in the evening and on Saturday mornings. Level 2 sites will be accessible and located to best serve the whole borough i.e.
    - In Havering, in Romford – clinic space will be provided at Queens until a suitable site in the community is identified
    - In Barking and Dagenham, at Barking Hospital
    - In Redbridge, at the 2 existing sites until and unless a single site is identified that better serves the whole borough.
- Subsequently receive a report about the views of public and professionals submitted to the consultation and the final decision regarding the location of sexual health services.
- Further endorse the recommendation to:
  - Work to establish a single board with representation from the 3 Councils, BHRCCGs, NHSE , BHRUHT and other stakeholders to oversee the further development of local sexual health services
  - Work with NHS England, local CCGs and GP representatives to maintain and improve the contraception services provided by GPs to local residents.

**REPORT DETAIL**

See appended paper regarding the redesign of sexual health services



## IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

### **Financial implications and risks:**

Any significant decisions arising from this paper have or will be subject to normal governance processes within the relevant individual organisations.

### **Legal implications and risks:**

Ditto

### **Human Resources implications and risks:**

Ditto

### **Equalities implications and risks:**

Ditto

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

None