Department of Health Update by Andrea Duncan

Development of the Public Health System

A series of Public Health System Reform Updates will be published shortly including the Public Health Outcomes Framework, The Public Health Funding Regime and the Public Health England Operating Model.

The team are in the process of developing a transition plan for sexual health in consultation with stakeholders and SHA sexual health leads.

Sexual Health Policy Document

Work is progressing on producing the new policy document. The planned publication date is now Spring 2012.

Sexual Health Tariff Development

Building on the tariff work done by NHS London, the department is looking to develop a national set of integrated sexual health currencies during 2012-13.

A national reference group is being established with stakeholders from across the country to oversee the development of the currencies, and ensure there is national applicability. We are currently seeking nominations for the national reference group and the first meeting is planned for February 2012.

HIV Outpatient Tariff

DH is to introduce a HIV adult outpatient service in shadow form from April 2012. The intention is to have a mandatory currency in 2013-14.

This currency, based on a clinical pathway provides for three categories of patient:
Category 1: Newly diagnosed or within the first year of ART.
Category 2: Stable patients.
Category 3: Medically complex patients.

The clinical pathways and guidance for service users will be available on the DH PbR website. To support the introduction of the currency, PbR is working with the HPA to develop a new national dataset. This dataset is currently being reviewed by the Information Standards Boards with a roll out planned starting in 2012.

Andrea Duncan
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Cheshire & Merseyside Sexual Health Network Update
by Anna Fillingham & Simon Henning

Stakeholder workshops - North West Sexual Health Tariffs and Pathways

CMSHN hosted a very well attended workshop on the 18th October with over 70 enthusiastic delegates. These included commissioners and provider services, for the “road test” of the pathways and tariffs developed in London by the Pathways Analytics Team.

Following this the North West Commissioners met in Manchester on the 4th November with a good turnout and a very productive workshop.
Cheshire & Merseyside Sexual Health Network (continued)

On the 16th November CMSHN hosted the provider workshop and had an excellent turn out from across the Cheshire and Merseyside Community and Sexual Health (CASH) and Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) services. The meeting went very well and there was a huge amount of excitement in being involved in the process.

Simon Henning, CMSHN Lead said ‘This is a fantastic opportunity for us to road test the tariffs and the pathways and hopefully we will be able to adopt them across Cheshire and Merseyside and the North West. It will revolutionise the commissioning and provision of sexual health services, ensuring greater holistic provision and choice for clients.’

Commissioners and providers across Cheshire and Merseyside are currently wading through their budgets so that we can compare what the current spend and costs are for sexual health services, so that the financial impact of moving to the tariffs and pathways can be assessed. For further information please contact simon.henning@nhs.net

Condom Distribution/ C-Card Schemes

Online community - The CMSHN team have supported a group of C-Card Coordinators and Managers to develop an online community to share good practice and raise queries about best practice. This group is available to anyone involved in schemes across the country; to join please visit www.communities.idea.gov.uk and search for ‘CMSHN Condom Distribution Schemes’

Mapping and Joint Working – supported by the CMSHN team each lead in C&M is sharing details about their schemes to identify areas of joint working and best practice; a small workshop will be going ahead in January to explore these issues further.

For further information please contact anna.fillingham@nhs.net

Learning Disabilities and Relationships and Sex Education – Parent Course Development

A group of sexual health professionals and parents of young people with learning disabilities have developed a toolkit to support the delivery of parent’s courses to aid communication of relationships and sexual health issues.

The CMSHN team have formatted and collated the toolkit and uploaded to an online community – here group members can access and suggest amends to the toolkit. An evaluation is underway of two pilot courses and this will feed into the development of the toolkit. Once a final copy is produced by Spring 2012 the toolkit will be available to share with colleagues.

For further information please contact anna.fillingham@nhs.net

‘Expecting More’, a theatre in education project – raising awareness of teenage pregnancy in schools in Western Cheshire

‘Expecting More’ is a theatre in education project for West Cheshire Secondary Schools, aimed to raise awareness and dispel myths about teenage pregnancy. Earlier on this year the show was officially launched by West Cheshire and Chester City Council (CWaCC). It is now touring and has been booked 14 times by secondary schools in the West Cheshire Area. ‘Engage’ Performing Arts Company is interested to help launch this show in other areas and would welcome any enquiries.

Attached is a basic case study of the show and the tour dates so far in West Cheshire.

Teenage Pregnancy rate continues to decline. Data Released 22/11/11

The Office for National Statistics released under-18 conception data for 3rd Quarter 2010 on 22nd November; showing the national rate continues to decline.

Across all regions, the rolling quarterly average under -18 conception rate is at its lowest level since the start of quarterly

data records in 1998. In the North West of England the rate of under-18 conceptions fell by 7.4% from Q3 2009. The rolling quarterly average shows a continuing decline in conception rates.

Most local authority areas in Cheshire and Merseyside have seen a decrease in conception rate, for a breakdown of your local data please contact your Teenage Pregnancy lead or anna.fillingham@nhs.net

Call for examples – Support in schools for young mothers who are breastfeeding

Do you have any examples to demonstrate how young people can be supported whilst breastfeeding and still at school? i.e. what arrangements are or could be made so the young person continues to breastfeed, facing no barriers because she is at school.

Please send any examples to anna.fillingham@nhs.net

World AIDS Day Event at Sahir House

This World AIDS Day, Sahir House campaigned locally by giving out over a 100 World AIDS Day packs for individuals / organisations / businesses to use to raise awareness. Packs included posters, ribbons, fact sheets, statistical information, collection tins etc. Their dedicated team of volunteers also carried out many fundraising collections in theatres, pubs, local train stations and as well as raising money gave out 1000’s of red ribbons.

You may have also noticed the red ribbon being illuminated on Liverpool University’s Active Learning Laboratory on Brownlow Hill this week, this has had a great impact as so many people have enquired and commented on it, again, highlighting this international day of awareness.
Cumbria & Lancashire Sexual Health Networks Update by Jackie Routledge

On behalf of Lancashire, Cumbria, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen

The current Network structure

The network remains a small group of commissioners and public health colleagues, but the membership will change to include local authority colleagues. Within Lancashire, with our local authority colleagues, we have formed a Children and Young Peoples Sexual Health and Substance Misuse Strategic Board, which feeds into the Health and Wellbeing Board. The partnership has agreed an action plan with the Network’s activities embedded into this. We are keen to ensure that the sexual health strategy for the area takes into account all ages and are therefore continuing the Network to facilitate this. We continue to foster closer working, by hosting joint Sexual Health Steering Groups, with our immediate neighbours. The current work of the Network is focussed around preparing for the changes, in a landscape of finite resource and uncertainty we are aware that this may mean that the structure could change.

Lancashire and Branding

We are moving forward with the branding and have engaged with numerous partners to agree an approach. The next steps for this are to work with an existing brand and market it to greater potential. The brand will have a primary focus on young people, be relevant to both genders and all orientations. Young people will be involved in its further development and support and sense check all content on the website. We are mindful that some brands have good recognition locally, for example ‘Connect’, ‘Brook’ and ‘Talkwise’, the strategy is to use them in conjunction with the corporate branding.

Young People Condom Schemes

East Lancashire has recently undertaken a tender for their CCard Scheme and the Network are looking to share some of the learning. The remaining PCT’s are making slower progress with the condom schemes, whilst we have agreed a model and marketing, the issue is more about how the schemes are managed and the resource available for their sustainability. We have decided to review the schemes in the New Year. In the meantime, those sites that are active continue to be supported.

Commissioning

The work in relation to single service integrated specifications, for sexual health is ongoing and requires negotiation with providers. The aim for 2012/13 is to agree a set of single Key Performance Indicators. Having shared indicators will give greater intelligence not just about activity, but performance against investment. This intelligence will help to inform future commissioning. We are looking to extend this work to enhance local service arrangements where possible.

Road Testing The London Integrated Sexual Health Tariffs

The road test has some parameters, so in tandem; we are extending the exercise to include abortion services, condom schemes, etc. It is hoped that this very valuable piece of work, will help to clarify the real cost of sexual health locally. In addition to this, we feel we will be able to understand the different arrangements and contract values, again giving greater support for commissioning in the future. Whilst we are very motivated to commission using this methodology, we have taken the stand to only agree to road test and will give consideration to the impact of adoption as a next step.
HIV

The development of a HIV formulary is well underway with a second draft being agreed. The development has the full cooperation of the clinicians. The formulary includes a list of drugs considered to be immediate and necessary, the intention being to encourage patients to seek their general medical care from their own general practitioners. We have been able to follow the work in London around a HIV policy to inform the formulary. Also it’s noted that pharmaceutical companies have made some changes lately to the cost of drugs that has some benefits.

To reduce the numbers of late diagnosis of HIV, we have expressed an increased expectation in all contracts to test. We have also undertaken 5 education and training events across Lancashire, Blackpool and Blackburn with Darwen for the benefit of Primary Care. Whilst attendance has been mixed, with events attracting between 6-18 participants, they have been very well received. The events were also an opportunity for the new ‘Positive Living’, Lancashire and Blackburn with Darwen’s integrated HIV support and advice service to engage with primary care and make them aware of services available for those living with HIV.

The events involved a mix of presentation and case studies and were very well received by those who attended. Consequently, we are convinced that the programme works, but are looking at other opportunities to present the information. We are also keen to engage secondary care colleagues, such as dermatologists and TB clinicians.

As a direct result of this networking, with HIV Nurses and consultants across pan Lancashire, we are implementing a clinical forum. The forum intends to support, those who are often working in some level of isolation and to allow time for clinical supervision. The other aspect of the forum will be to agree the formulary, look at the introduction of new drugs and generally work towards improved care and treatment, as well as prevention and reduction of late diagnosis.

As a Network, we are enjoying the benefits of collaborating and working more closely with the other networks. We feel we should garner the networks across the North West and formalise the relationships to gain the greatest benefit. The Network proposes a development half day/ day with our other sexual health network colleagues in the New Year, a salient time after the road test.

Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network Update
by Neil Jenkinson, Wendy Alam and Sarah Stephenson

The Emerging Vision for Greater Manchester Sexual Health Services

The NHS in Greater Manchester post-April 2013

In preparation for the dissolution of the PCTs in 2013, the Network is preparing a compendium of commissioning documents to hand over to future commissioners of sexual health services. We are keen that the successes and improvements in local sexual health services provide a legacy for the future as well as meeting the Quality, Innovation, Productivity & Prevention (QIPP) agenda.

With this in mind, the Network’s work plan and its Priority Action Groups (PAGs) have been refocused following discussion with Network members. Each PAG will contribute to the Network’s overall agenda by working on complementary projects including:

- The development of a business case for an integrated Greater Manchester IMT system
- Optimising the CaSH service profile
- Overseeing the Chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening programme (RUclear)
- Contribution to future commissioning arrangements
- An engagement strategy for local authorities and Public Health England
- Service specifications for: the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC); young people’s services and; prevention and training work
- Supporting NHS Greater Manchester in delivering service transformation priority areas.

Service specifications will be completed by April 2012 and the first, a draft service specification for integrated adult sexual health services, is out for consultation until Sunday 11 December 2011. Commissioners from outside Greater Manchester have specifications for their local area which we have been interested in adapting GM service specifications for their local area which we are happy to share.

Sexual health tariff

The Network, in conjunction with the Cheshire & Merseyside Network and Cumbria and Lancashire PCTs, funded sexual health tariff workshops facilitated by Pathway Analytics. These workshops trained PCTs and providers to help “road-test” draft sexual health pathways and tariffs. A feedback event is scheduled for February 2012.
Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network Update (continued)

RUclear?

Although the screening volume for October was approximately 400 screens down on last years figures, GM is performing well against next year’s proposed diagnosis target (actual target yet to be confirmed) with a diagnosis rate of 2.4% ranged between 1.9-3.4%.

From December we are jointly piloting with two PCTs advertising on ‘Life channel’ in GP surgeries registered with RUclear to promote Chlamydia screening in primary care, hopefully this will increase uptake.

The Number of home testing kits being requested on the HIV and syphilis pilot remains constant at around 10 per day.
To date we have picked up 1 person positive for HIV and 5 positive syphilis cases all of whom were referred to GU.

Office opening hours: Monday-Friday 8.30am - 5.30pm with an extended opening time on Tuesday evening to 6.30pm.

Visit our website
Further information about the Network and our contact details can be found on our website: http://sexualhealthnetwork.co.uk

Policies and guidelines
New policy – Guidance on sperm washing for couples affected by hepatitis B or C

The Network has prepared guidelines for PCTs managing sperm washing applications from couples affected by hepatitis B and C. These guidelines will help PCTs make more robust and consistent decisions. Once published, other PCTs are welcome to adopt the guidelines, but we’d be grateful if you’d credit us as your source. If you would like a copy of the guidelines please contact sarah.stephenson@manchester.nhs.uk

Policy review - Access to IVF and/or sperm washing guidelines
It’s a year since the guidelines were implemented and we are in the middle of a Lean review of the process with findings circulated in the new year. With immediate effect, all applications must be submitted by the couple’s HIV doctor to ensure that the pathway is followed and delays are avoided.

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Surveillance of STIs in the North West
By Kathy Chandler and Roberto Vivancos

HIV: Testing times

With World Aids Day on 1 December, we thought it opportune to report on HIV again. In recent years the number of HIV new diagnoses has reduced throughout the North West (see Issue 31, June 2011). At the same time the number of people living with HIV has increased over the years. With better access to services and treatment people are living longer with HIV. With three in every five people who died from HIV each year diagnosed late, this is one of the main factors associated with poorer prognosis.

The HIV confidential helpline is open 4 - 5.30pm Monday-Friday.

National HIV testing guidelines (1), which we have highlighted in previous issues, recommend universal testing in Genitourinary Medicine and in antenatal services.

During 2010, nearly 140,000 people attending GUM clinics in the North West were offered HIV testing. However, only 71% took up the offer. The uptake tends to increase with age and is higher in males than females (Figure 1).

GUM clinic attendees are an at risk population resulting in relatively high positivity around 0.5%. There is great variability in the proportion who accepts testing in this setting across the region (Figure 2).
Surveillance of STIs in the North West

Various PCTs across the region are also starting to pilot and commission community and outreach services targeted to at risk populations in accordance to NICE guidelines (3,4). Hopefully with the increase in HIV testing, we can see the proportion of people diagnosed late come down in the near future.

In contrast, acceptance of testing in antenatal care has much improved in recent years, with uptake across the region in 2010 being 97.1% (2)(Figure 3). Although there is still variation between antenatal service providers, the gap is much lower than that for GUM clinics.

References:


4. NICE. Increasing the uptake of HIV testing among men who have sex with men [Internet]. 2011 Mar [cited 2011 Nov 24]; Available from: http://guidance.nice.org.uk/PH34
“Who should be offered a HIV Test?”
by Simon Henning

It is estimated that there are approximately 86,000 people living with HIV in the UK and a third of those are undiagnosed. On average, of all those who die as a result of HIV infection every year, three out of five are diagnosed late – that is after the point where treatment should have begun. Late diagnosis is associated with poorer prognosis for the patient and increased costs to the NHS. There are excellent treatment options but these are most effective if the infection is diagnosed early. Increasing testing and case detection will also reduce onward transmission of the virus.

We would like to draw your attention to a short but important document produced by the Cheshire & Merseyside Sexual Health Network, “Who should be offered a HIV Test?” In order to support improved HIV testing in Cheshire and Merseyside, the document provides hyperlinks to useful reference information (such as the UK HIV Testing guidelines, NICE guidance, the Health Select Committee report, global and local HIV prevalence data and resources produced by the Medical Foundation for AIDS and Sexual Health). Most importantly, the document gives clear guidance around when an HIV test should be recommended.

We would recommend that this document be widely circulated to clinicians in primary and secondary care and that it be available electronically (preferably on clinicians’ desktops) so that the useful hyperlinks can be activated when required. If you require further help in implementing this guidance, please contact Simon Henning on simon.henning@nhs.net or 0151 201 4155.

Get on Top - Elizabeth Kay
On behalf of Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust, ISIS Health Promotion Team

Background to the project
In response to high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and teenage pregnancy in areas across the region, Isis Sexual Health Promotion Team (Southport & Formby NHS Trust) have been using NHS Sefton Public Health funding to explore and to roll-out a fresh approach to educating young people about sex and sexual health, with the aim of reducing the number of young people engaging in risky sex.

Behaviour changes we wanted to promote were to increase the uptake of Chlamydia screening especially in groups who don’t access mainstream services, to increase awareness in LARC (long acting reversible contraceptive methods) and the local C Card (community condom distribution scheme). We also wanted to see an increase in young people who were considering delaying their first sexual activity, and with this, make them feel more confident as potential service users. Finally, the project wanted to challenge attitudes to gender roles and stereotypes.

We are aware from the evidence that young people are so much more savvy than us older people when it comes to using the new technologies as a means of communication, and that these together with the popular social networking sites, are a preferred route for gathering information and communicating with each other.

Next Steps
With this in mind, baseline research was commissioned from The Centre for Public Health at Liverpool John Moores University. This research focussed on exploring the Sefton 16-19 age group on their attitudes to sexual health and their knowledge of how they can improve their sexual health. It also examined their preferred routes of communication for sexual health behaviour related information. A follow up study is planned for January 2012 to evaluate awareness of the website and any behaviour change intentions.

What the research found:
- Males worry about STIs
- Females worry about pregnancy
- Online preferred to offline
- Steer clear of Facebook
- Social networks are important

From this a new Sefton brand for sexual health information and a new approach to getting people up to-speed and in control of their sex lives has been developed called Get On Top.

The special feature of this initiative is that it adopts a ‘peer-education’ approach to tackling the issue, recruiting local young people to encourage “people like them” to take control of all aspects of their sex life. This has been led by a team of young volunteers called “brand ambassadors”. They were all local residents and aged 16-19.

Apart from providing a steer on the website content, the brand ambassadors have written and acted out the virals and they will play a key role in promoting it to their peers.
Get on top - Elizabeth Kay (continued)

Project tactics included:
- Brand ambassadors
- Dedicated project website: www.get-on-top.co.uk
- Promotional wristbands and lollipops
- Viral films x2: “Talking Bits (what he said/what she said) and Handbag” http:// clickid.co.uk/getontop2/video- gallery/

The value of collaboration
Get on Top was launched on November 28\textsuperscript{th}, and has so far received really good feedback from both the young people involved in the project themselves, and from colleagues in partner agencies. Further evaluation is planned early next year as a follow up against the project outcomes.

“They listened to what we had to say and showed us that they thought it was important.” and “They made our ideas real, that's why we came back.” Fern Thompson.

Michelle Stoops, an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor has been awarded ‘Public Servant of the Year’ Submitted by Anna Fillingham

Michelle Stoops, a Specialist Independent Sexual Violence Advisor has been awarded 'Public Servant of the Year'. Michelle is employed by Liverpool Community Health and has worked for the past six years as an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor based at the Armistead Street Project, a groundbreaking venture which works with street sex workers. Michelle’s role is to support women who have been victims of sexual violence and encourage those women to report it to the police and go through the justice system, if the wish to do so. She works closely with Safe Place Merseyside to access women into the service. This work requires gaining the trust of the police and of the sex workers, which she has been able to do after many years spent on outreach. Michelle also co-ordinates the Armistead Street “Ugly Mugs" scheme, which enables sex workers to report crimes committed against them to the project which can then alert other sex workers to potential attackers. Ugly Mugs is also another means of encouraging sex workers to report crimes to the police.

For further information, please contact:
Trish Delves or Liz Kay
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trisha.delves@nhs.net or e.kay@nhs.net
Search on YouTube GetontopSefton

Michelle Stoops is employed by Liverpool Community Health and has worked for the past six years as an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor based at the Armistead Street Project, a groundbreaking venture which works with street sex workers. Michelle’s role is to support women who have been victims of sexual violence and encourage those women to report it to the police and go through the justice system, if the wish to do so. She works closely with Safe Place Merseyside to access women into the service. This work requires gaining the trust of the police and of the sex workers, which she has been able to do after many years spent on outreach. Michelle also co-ordinates the Armistead Street “Ugly Mugs" scheme, which enables sex workers to report crimes committed against them to the project which can then alert other sex workers to potential attackers. Ugly Mugs is also another means of encouraging sex workers to report crimes to the police.

For further information about the award please visit:
In addition to this the 17th December has been made International Day to End Violence Against Sex Workers. A summary of the event can be found here:
News and events

Teenage Pregnancy Unit (TPU) Update: September 2011

The Teenage Pregnancy Unit released an update which included information about new data releases and policy announcements in the last 3 months; as well as key implementation updates and ministerial responses such as:

In response to the second quarter 2010 under-18 conception data, Nick Gibb, Minister of State for schools said:

“I am glad to see the continuing decline in the teenage pregnancy rate, which is at its lowest level for almost 30 years. We remain committed to reducing teenage pregnancies. We still have high rates compared with many other Western European countries and local areas should maintain their efforts to reduce teenage pregnancy rates and improve sexual health to give their young people the best start in life”.

Another update is due to be released in December. If you would like to receive this update please contact your local teenage pregnancy lead or anna.fillingham@nhs.net

Free training & Taster Sessions for Youth Workers: Making Space For Health (Aimed at Young People Aged 11-16)

Get involved with the lively health and wellness programme for young people aged 11-16 years old! Free training for youth workers to enable them to deliver the 10-hour accredited programme, and taster session for young people are now available.

Please look at the leaflet or for more information, contact Helen Forshaw, Youth Health Champion on 07765 861819 helen.forshaw@4children.org.uk or Lyndsy Ledden, Youth Health Champion (Knowsley) on 07765 574633 lyndsy.ledden@4children.org.uk

UK Sexual Health Awards 2012

The first ever UK Sexual Health Awards by two leading sexual health charities, Brook and FPA have been launched. Entries are welcome from professionals and volunteers. Nominations close on 31 December 2011 and the winners will be honoured at an exciting Awards night hosted by TV presenter Davina McCall at Troxy, London E1, next March.

Visit www.uksexualhealthawards.org.uk to make your nomination, find out more about the Awards, or to book individual places and tables at the event.

Engaging vulnerable young people: what works?

This half-day training course and will run twice on each date, in the mornings and afternoons the dates for the North West are: Liverpool – 25th January and Manchester – 29th February.

The price per delegate is £99+VAT including refreshments on arrival and break time.

To book your place, please click on this link: http://www.justwhistle.org.uk/events.php

Office of the Children’s Commissioner (OCC) - Inquiry launched into gang-associated and group-associated child sexual exploitation

A major two-year Inquiry, under the Children Act 2004 by the (OCC) will throw light on the scale of the sexual exploitation, of children in England.

For further information please click here.

Government response to the House of Lords HIV Report No vaccine, no cure, HIV and AIDS in the United Kingdom

The House of Lords HIV report will be a useful resource to help inform the Department of Health’s new Sexual Health Policy Framework planned for 2012.

Please click here to view the Government’s response to the above report published on 27th October.