



Health Scrutiny Committee  
18 March 2015

## Prevention and Sexual Health in Surrey

**Purpose of the report:** *Scrutiny of Services*

To provide an update on last year's report to the Health Scrutiny Committee about sexual health prevention work currently taking place in Surrey.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following publication of the Healthy Lives, Healthy People white paper and changes introduced in the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities took on a new public health role from April 2013. The new arrangements for the commissioning of sexual health services are summarised below:
- 1.2 Local authorities will commission comprehensive sexual health services as per the commissioning guidance, A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England, from the Department of Health. These services include:
- contraception including long acting reversible contraception (implants and the coil)
  - sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, chlamydia screening as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) and HIV testing;
  - sexual health aspects of psychosexual counselling;
  - sexual health specialist services, including young people's sexual health and teenage pregnancy services, outreach, HIV prevention and sexual health promotion services in schools, colleges and pharmacies.

- 1.3 In Surrey, the Council commissions sexual health services for young people and adults. Public Health commission sexual health services for contraception, reproductive health and STI testing and treatment. Services for Young People commission sexual health improvement for young people through centre based youth work and the Youth Support Service.
- 1.4 Education and prevention is a key part of promoting good sexual health and relies on developing good, productive working relationships between key stakeholder agencies including: Public Health, schools, colleges, services for young people and sexual health services who will work together under the strategic leadership of the Health & Wellbeing Board, Children & Young People's Partnership and Surrey Safeguarding Children's Board.

## **2. SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

The last report to the Committee in January 2014 gave a detailed description of the sexual health prevention work currently taking place in schools, colleges and Services for Young People in Surrey.

- 2.1 There are a number of sexual health services in Surrey specifically for young people including clinics, access to emergency contraception through community pharmacies and the Surrey Chlamydia Screening Programme. In addition, all mainstream sexual health services in Surrey are 'You're Welcome' accredited. 'You're Welcome' is a voluntary scheme to ensure that mainstream health services are accessible and welcoming to young people.
- 2.2 Since the last report to the committee in January 2014 Public Health has taken on the commissioning of the condom distribution scheme and the locality based teenage pregnancy advisors from SCC services for young people (both services are described in the previous report). This has been a positive move and mirrors the sexual health commissioning guidance highlighted in section 1.
- 2.3 In addition to the dedicated sexual health services described, the universal School Nursing service, commissioned by Public Health, also have a role in promoting positive sexual health. The teams working within the three community providers in Surrey support schools in the delivery of Sex and Relationship Education as well as providing clinics within the community.

## **3. ADULT PROVISION**

- 3.1 In Surrey there are three providers of sexual health services. The main community provider is Virgin Care Services Limited and they provide contraception and sexually transmitted infection (STI) screening services across the county.
- 3.2 Ashford and St Peter's and Frimley Park Hospitals are both commissioned to provide STI testing and treatment.

- 3.3 These services are open access which means that they can be used by non-Surrey residents. This is the case for all sexual health services in the country.
- 3.4 Under their general contract, GPs provide basic contraception and advice. They are additionally commissioned by Public Health to provide long acting, reversible contraception.

#### **4. SEXUAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1 A sexual health needs assessment was undertaken by Public Health running from January – September 2014. The needs assessment followed the National Framework for Sexual Health and looked at sexual health across the life-course. The age categories were, 11-16, 16-24, and 24 +.
- 4.2 The assessment involved all key partner agencies including representatives from our current community sexual health provider, Virgin Care, both of our acute hospital GUM clinics, Ashford and St Peter's and Frimley Park and Surrey County Council Services for Young People.
- 4.3 The assessment also included a strong focus on user engagement and engagement with young people through an online survey promoted by the Council and wider partners and bespoke focus groups organised by Services for Young People.
- 4.4 The needs assessment gathered information on the sexual health needs of the population of Surrey to inform commissioning intentions for 2015/16 and the Sexual Health Strategy for Surrey.
- 4.5 The analysis of the needs of people who engage in risky sexual behaviour identified the following key areas of need:
- Runnymede and Spelthorne have higher than the national average rates of teenage conceptions.
  - Of these conceptions over 60% result in termination.
  - Woking has a higher than the national rate of HIV.
  - Both adults and young people wanted better access to services including more flexible opening times such as evenings and weekends.
  - Both adults and young people felt that sexual health services could be promoted more effectively.
  - There are gaps in service provision particularly in the Runnymede area.
  - Young people expressed an interest in the use of social media to promote sexual health services and sexual health advice.

The full findings of the sexual health needs assessment are due to be published in spring 2015.

#### **5. PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION REVIEW**

5.1 In early 2014, a review of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) in schools and academies in Surrey was carried out. All 84 maintained schools and academies were invited to participate, 43 (51%) of schools responded. Findings relevant to sexual health were:

- 68% of respondents report that they have an up to date Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) Policy.
- 92% were aware of the Healthy Schools website and just over half knew of supporting toolkits for subjects linked to PSHE (which includes the SRE toolkit).
- 45% said they would like information and training in SRE.

5.2 Recommendations and next steps from the review include:

- Demonstrate and promote the impact PSHE can have on school progress measures.
- Development of SRE support for secondary schools to be mapped and prioritised according to both education and health need, and Healthy Schools (including PSHE) support to be provided in order for them to deliver effective practice in promoting mental and physical health and wellbeing.
- Identified teachers and staff (including school nurses and external contributors) to receive support towards taking part in the PSHE programme.

## **6. CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 While there are a good range of sexual health prevention services already available in Surrey, work is underway to take a more strategic approach to future commissioning. The findings from the sexual health needs assessment and the review of PSHE have provided intelligence to shape this work.

## **7. FUTURE PLANS AND NEXT STEPS**

7.1 Driven by both a need to improve outcomes from our current service providers, the timescales of existing contracts and changes in national guidance, SCC public health, working with our colleagues and partners will produce a sexual health commissioning strategy that outline the future commissioning of an integrated service based on the national service specification.

7.2 Timeframe:

- Sexual Health needs assessment published spring 2015
- Sexual Health Commissioning Strategy developed by end of 2015
- Integrated Sexual Health Service Specification for Surrey developed Spring 2016
- Commissioning and procurement processes start early 2016.

## **8. RECOMMENDATIONS:**

8.1 Sexual health prevention work in Surrey should be reviewed again by the Committee in 12-18 months as preparation for re-commissioning commences.

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