



HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 6 SEPTEMBER 2017

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

RE-PROCUREMENT OF INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to consult the Committee on a proposed model for integrated sexual health services to be commissioned across Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. The proposals are informed by the Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy (2016 – 2019) which was approved by Cabinet in April 2016.
3. The Cabinet considered the outcome of an independent review of Early Help and Prevention (EHAP) Services and approved the EHAP Strategy arising from that review at its meeting in June 2016. The proposed new model for integrated sexual health services is within the scope of the review and strategy.
4. A report was presented to Cabinet on 23rd June 2017 where the draft model for delivery of integrated sexual health services was agreed for consultation. It was also agreed that a further report be submitted to Cabinet in November 2017 regarding the outcome of the consultation exercise and presenting the final service model for approval.

Background

5. Upper tier local authorities have a statutory responsibility to provide a comprehensive open access sexual health service.
6. The Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) delivers a range of services across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland (LLR) including:
 - contraceptive services;
 - psychosexual services(sexual health aspects);
 - sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment;
 - a specific young people's service (i.e. for under 25 year olds);
 - outreach and health promotion services;
 - professional training;
 - network management;
 - sexual health leadership role across LLR.

7. The current integrated sexual health service contract commissioned by Leicestershire County Council, Rutland Council and Leicester City Council ends on 31 December 2018.
8. The main service is currently delivered from two main sexual health service clinic locations (St. Peters Health Centre, Leicester and Loughborough Health Centre) and a range of sessional locations (four being in Leicestershire, 12 in Leicester City, 1 in Rutland). There are additional sessions specifically for under 25 year olds and outreach sessions for targeted groups.
9. Analysis of service usage shows that of the 20,628 attendances by Leicestershire residents in 2016 to the ISHS, 36% were to the Leicester City hub clinic, 55% to the Loughborough hub clinic, 1% to the Rutland sessional clinic, and 8% to the four Leicestershire sessional clinics (Coalville, Hinckley, Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough). There were 145 attendances to outreach clinic sessions, of which 70% were at male sauna sites in Leicester City locations, and 12% in settings to reach sex workers. There were also 230 attendances to the specific young people's service sessional clinics ('Choices' clinics) delivered in Leicester City and Rutland, with 64% attending City locations.
10. Young people are frequent users of the current 'all age' sites, with 48% of all of the service activity by Leicestershire residents at these sites being people under 25 years of age.
11. Other sexual health contracts for condom distribution and pregnancy testing schemes for under 25 year olds, and sexual health promotion and HIV prevention projects for groups at higher risk of poor sexual health, are currently separately commissioned. It is intended that the re-procurement of integrated sexual health services will include these contracts to enable further integration of sexual health services into the model.

Proposals/Options

12. The outcome of a joint review with partners across LLR of access and use of current sexual health services across the area, briefly outlined above, has formed the basis of the proposed new model. Details of the new model so far as it relates to Leicestershire, are set out below:
 - The main clinics in suitable premises in Leicester City and Loughborough to be retained with current services to continue.
 - Sessional clinics in Coalville, Hinckley and Market Harborough to be retained and delivered from suitable premises in those towns.
 - Age restrictions for the sessional clinics in Coalville, Hinckley and Market Harborough to those under 25 years of age only.
 - Closure of the sessional clinic in Melton Mowbray due to low usage. The closest alternative sessional clinic will be in Oakham, Rutland.
 - The current model of chlamydia screening available via online self-sampling tests for 15 to 24 year olds, in line with the National chlamydia screening programme, to be retained and expanded into a full STI and HIV online self-sampling test available to all age groups.
 - Greater focus to be given to increasing HIV testing via targeted promotion of the online STI and HIV testing service for high risk groups, with additional risk

reduction work to be carried out and focusing on men who have sex with men (MSM).

- The current clinical outreach services provided across LLR for high risk groups, i.e. MSM (e.g. at male saunas and voluntary sector project venues appropriate for MSM) and sex workers, to be retained.
- The condom distribution service for under 25s to be retained and expanded to all age groups where an appropriate need is identified and confirmed through repeated access and registration with the service.
- Strengthening of access to community based pregnancy testing for under 25 year olds by developing additional pregnancy testing sites in appropriate settings.
- Increase access to information and advice services via further development of the sexual health website and via telephone advice lines and through patient consultations.

13. The proposed changes to the model may reduce overall activity levels at the integrated sexual health service clinic sites. The anticipated reduction in the number of contacts made by Leicestershire residents to the service, resulting from the closure of one sessional clinic (i.e. the clinic in Melton Mowbray) and the introduction of age restrictions (under 25s only) at the other sessional clinics is estimated to be approximately 790 contacts per year, of which 97% would be over 25 year olds. The effect of this will be mitigated by:
- Promoting the provision of sexual health services already available from primary care providers.
 - Increasing the availability of self-service options such as online and vending access to self-sampling tests for STI's and HIV, expanding the age range for condom distribution, and improving access to information and advice services (all detailed above).

Consultation

14. A public consultation will run for 8 weeks commencing on 21st August 2017, to seek feedback regarding the proposed new model. The consultation will be a joint approach by the commissioning partners, but there will be separate analysis of the responses relating to each local authority area.
15. The joint consultation survey will be hosted by Leicester City Council, but will be accessible online on the County Council's website and available as a hard copy. Key partners will also be approached directly and there will be a joint approach to dissemination across all stakeholders through partnership working across LLR authorities.

Resource Implications

16. The Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017/18 to 2020/21 (MTFS) was agreed by the County Council in February 2017 and sets out the overall saving of £3.04m for EHAP Services following the outcome of the independent review considered by the Cabinet in June 2016. The new model of integrated sexual health services will support the delivery of this saving.

17. The new service contract is expected to achieve projected annual savings of £238,000. Areas where savings will be achieved include the development of new tariff arrangements for condom distribution, and the introduction of self-sampling online Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) tests. Further work is required, as part of the procurement process, to model detailed activity shifts and costs for the service from 1 January 2019.

Timetable for Decisions

18. The outcome of the consultation together with the final delivery model will be presented to Cabinet for approval in November 2017.
19. Subject to approval by Cabinet, the process of procuring providers to deliver the new service model will begin as soon as practicable, with a view to the new contract being in place from January 2019.

Conclusions

20. Following a review of the current service model, a revised delivery model is proposed across Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland, which will provide a more targeted approach, meeting the needs of each area under one integrated service.
21. This will make greater use of online services and other schemes, such as self-sampling test kits for sexually transmitted infections and HIV, and improve access to free condoms and sexual health advice and information.
22. The model will continue to provide a combined integrated service with appropriate variation to meet the needs of each local authority population.

Background papers

Report to Cabinet – Re-procurement of integrated sexual health services – 23 June 2017

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s129546/FINAL%20Re-Procurement%20of%20Int%20Sexual%20Health%20Services.pdf>

Early Help and Prevention Review and Strategy. 17 June 2016.

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s119782/FINAL%20Early%20Help%20and%20Prevention.pdf>

Report to Cabinet - Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy (2016-2019) - 19 April 2016

<http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/leicestershire-sexual-health-strategy-2016-19.pdf>

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

Not applicable

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List of Appendices

Report to the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Sexual Health Needs

Assessment and draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2016-19 – 20 January 2016

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s115781/Sexual%20Health%20Needs%20Assessment%20and%20Draft%20Leicestershire%20Sexual%20Health%20Strategy%202016-19.pdf>

Relevant Impact Assessments**Equality and Human Rights Implications**

23. An Equalities and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) was completed for the Sexual Health Strategy 2016-19, which included aspects of the proposed service changes.
24. A separate Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment has been completed in draft format which relates to the proposed model for the Integrated Sexual Health Services. The impact of a change in service model will be informed by the outcomes of consultation. The final EHRIA will be presented to Cabinet alongside the consultation outcomes in November 2017.

Partnership Working and associated issues

25. Continued engagement with partners in the production and delivery of the new model is critical. Although the model for sexual health differs across Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland, the procurement is being done jointly to allow a provider to exploit economies of scale in providing services.

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