

**CABINET – 24 MARCH 2020****DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2020-23****REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****PART A****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval to consult on a draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy for 2020-23.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that:

- (a) The draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy for 2020 – 23 (attached as the appendix to this report) be approved for consultation;
- (b) A further report be considered by the Cabinet on 23 June 2020 detailing the findings of the consultation and presenting the Strategy for approval.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

3. The 2016-2019 Sexual Health Strategy made significant progress in combining a fragmented system into a single service. The 2020-23 strategy will focus on sexual health improvement, leadership and policy in Leicestershire. This will allow for further progress to be made, which recognises the changing commissioning landscape, development of the integrated care system and its impact on partners.
4. Undertaking consultation on the draft Strategy will ensure its priorities meet the needs of the local population and it is aligned with the work of other key stakeholders. It is also in keeping with the Council's corporate standards to ensure that all stakeholders are made aware of the Local Authority's priorities and given the opportunity to make comment upon these at an early stage.

**Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

5. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, consultation will commence in April 2020 for a period of eight weeks.
6. The draft Strategy will be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 28 May 2020 and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

as part of the consultation. The outcome of the consultation together with the final Strategy for approval will be presented to the Cabinet on 23 June 2020.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

7. The draft Strategy considers the achievements made thus far and outlines the key priorities for the next three years to further improve sexual health outcomes for Leicestershire's residents. These priorities align with the County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 which aims to be 'Working together for the benefit of everyone'. In particular, the wellbeing and opportunity objective which states that people need to be enabled to take control of their own health and wellbeing throughout their lives and for the Council to support the population to stay well through prevention and early intervention. The draft Strategy also looks to build on elements of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Communities Strategy.
8. The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 (made under the National Health Services Act 2006) requires upper tier local authorities to arrange for the provision of specific services, including sexual health. Local authorities are required to provide:

*'open access sexual health services for everyone present in their area, covering; free sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, and notification of sexual partners of infected persons; and free contraception, and reasonable access to all methods of contraception'<sup>1</sup>.*

9. The Cabinet approved the 2016 – 19 Strategy at its meeting on 19 April 2016.

### **Resource Implications**

10. There are no immediate resource implications arising from this report. The commissioning of sexual health services is primarily a responsibility of Leicestershire County Council and has a budget of £3.3m from the public health grant.
11. The Strategy aims to develop new approaches to meet the needs of the local population in the most cost-effective way. The Partnership working aspects of the Strategy will see better joint working with organisations such as NHS England. The management cost of this work will be met from existing management budgets. Improved partnership working will offer opportunities for efficiency in service delivery and commissioning.

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<sup>1</sup> DH (2013) Commissioning Sexual Health Services and Interventions: Best Practice Guidance for Local Authorities. Department of Health, London.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

12. This report has been circulated to all Members of the County Council.

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

13. The sexual health needs of the population are evolving. Over the past few decades there have been significant changes in relationships and how people live their lives including personal attitudes and beliefs, social norms, peer pressure, confidence and self-esteem, misuse of drugs and alcohol, coercion and abuse. It is important that the services commissioned by the County Council continue to meet these changing needs.
14. Good sexual health is important to individuals and to society. The World Health Organisation (WHO), 2002 defines sexual health as ‘... a state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality.’
15. Sexual ill health can affect all parts of society. Investment in sexual health not only improves the overall health of the population, it is also cost effective. The consequences of poor sexual health cost the NHS in 2010 an estimated £193million in unintended pregnancies and in 2012/13 approximately £630million in HIV treatment and care. National evidence as reported by Public Health England (2019). Health Economics: evidence review also suggests that:
  - Every one pound invested in contraception saves £11.09 in averted negative outcomes;
  - £1 invested in LARC (Long-acting reversible contraception) methods saves £13.42 in averted outcomes;
16. Since the implementation of the 2016-2019 Sexual Health Strategy, services have significantly improved and fragmentation in service delivery across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) has been reduced. Examples include re-commissioning of an integrated sexual health service, embedding new technologies such as online Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and developing contractual agreements to allow patients to access cervical screening and coils across providers. As a result, good progress against many sexual health indicators have been made when compared nationally and to local comparator authorities. The 2020-23 Strategy will build on the strong foundations established by the 2016-2019 strategy.
17. The Council has utilised the latest evidence from the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter on sexual health which was completed in September 2019 to help shape the draft Strategy’s priorities. The assessment of local and national data concerning STIs, the diagnosed prevalence rate of HIV and the abortion rate proved particularly useful.

## Overview of the Draft Strategy

18. The draft Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2020-23 is attached to this report as the appendix. This document outlines the five key priorities for improving sexual health services and population outcomes across Leicestershire. These are briefly set out below:

- i. **Empowering Leicestershire to make informed positive choices about their reproductive and sexual health.** An informed population is able to take greater control of their own health and wellbeing. Public health behavioural insights work will use social media and behavioural change work to increase knowledge and decision making.
- ii. **Flexible, accessible services that take a proportionate universalism approach.** Services and support will be provided with a targeted approach which focuses most on those with greater need;
- iii. **Fulfilling reproductive intentions;** Helping people to plan whether and when they have children by providing information and access to contraception services across the county;
- iv. **Reduce the cause and effect of health inequalities on sexual health.** Poor sexual health can result from inequalities in the wider determinants of health, such as education, income and geography. High quality sexuality education (RSE) is critical to empower young people in schools, and enable access to sexual health services for vulnerable groups such as those who are homeless or experiencing domestic violence or sexual violence.
- v. **Strategic partnership approach to sexual health improvement across LLR.** Continue to work with partners in health, including primary care, education and the voluntary sector to ensure streamlined patient pathways and improved quality of service.

19. The Strategy describes each priority in detail, structuring each around three key questions:

- Where are we now?
- What do we want to achieve?
- How will we get there?

20. The overall focus of the Strategy is to empower people to make informed and positive choices about their sexual and reproductive health and to ensure that services meet the needs of the whole population. In particular, this includes those who are at high risk of poor sexual health, such as those experiencing homelessness, substance misuse or domestic or sexual violence as well as those from minority ethnic groups or for men who have sex with men.

21. It will be an essential part of the leadership and delivery of the strategy that the Council continues to work with partners including Rutland and Leicester City,

primary care, as well as providers of the integrated sexual health strategy and the University Hospitals of Leicestershire NHS Trust

### **Consultation**

22. Subject to approval, an eight-week consultation period will begin at the start of April 2020. The draft Strategy will be published on the Council's website alongside the recently undertaken JSNA on sexual health in order for members of the public to read and comment on the document. A dedicated inbox for responses will be established. A consultation event will be held during April, with an open invitation to health professionals and those responsible for delivering RSE in schools. In addition, a number of groups, such as the Leicestershire Equality Challenge Group and the Youth Council will be invited to comment on the draft Strategy.
23. The draft strategy will be considered by the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 28 May and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 June. Results will be analysed and used to inform a final version of the Strategy which will be presented to the Cabinet for approval in June.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

24. As part of the development of the final Strategy, an Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will be undertaken to identify equality issues which need to be taken into account. The outcome of the assessment will be considered by the Cabinet alongside the final Strategy in June 2020.

### **Risk Assessment**

25. The Sexual Health Strategy aims to reduce a number of current risks identified within the wider sexual health system, however there remain some potential risks which could impact on the successful delivery of the Strategy. These include a budget reduction to the Public Health Grant or the reduction of wider local authority budgets and the increasing demand and cost of integrated sexual health services. The local commissioning of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) (a form of antiviral medication that when taken appropriately can prevent the acquisition of HIV), likely to be introduced in April 2020, could also put additional pressure on the Department's budget.

### **Background Papers**

Report to the Cabinet – 19 April 2016 – Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2016 – 19

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s118134/Cabinet%20Report-%20Sexual%20Health%20Strategy-%20April%202016%20-FINAL.pdf>

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment <https://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/jsna-sexual-health.pdf>

Public Health England (2018). Health matters: reproductive health and pregnancy planning. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-matters-reproductive-health-and-pregnancy-planning/health-matters-reproductive-health-and-pregnancy-planning>

Public Health England (2019). Health Economics: evidence review.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-economics-evidence-resource>

Public Health England. Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles (2018).

<https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/SEXUALHEALTH>

## **Appendix**

Appendix - Leicestershire Sexual Health Strategy 2020-23

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