

**REPORT TO:** Health and Wellbeing Board

**DATE:** 12 November 2014

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Sexual Health Service

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform members of Halton's Health and Wellbeing Board of the introduction of a new Integrated Sexual Health Service for Halton.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the contents of the report are noted along with the accompanying presentation.**

### 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 As part of their new Public Health responsibilities local authorities are mandated to commission the following sexual health services:

- Contraception outside the GP contract (this includes long acting reversible contraception including implants and intra uterine devices);
- HIV testing (HIV treatment is the responsibility of NHS England);
- Chlamydia testing as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme and treatment;
- Testing and treatment of other sexually transmitted infections;
- Sexual health aspects of psycho sexual counselling;
- Any sexual health specialist services e.g. sexual health promotion, young persons' services, HIV prevention, outreach work, teenage pregnancy etc

3.2 Prior to 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 these services were delivered under four separate contracts each with a different area of focus or responsibility but with strong interdependencies between the services.

3.3 Halton participated in a review of sexual health services provided across Cheshire and Merseyside in late 2013. This resulted in the development of a common specification for integrated sexual health services combining the elements listed above which local authorities were able to adapt to meet local circumstances.

3.4 The Halton specification was adapted to fit local need and take account of feedback from two public and stakeholder surveys and several focus groups held with young people and young Mums on both sides of the Borough. The tender opportunity to deliver the integrated sexual health service was advertised on the Due North Chest e-procurement system at the end of March 2014 and interviews of shortlisted candidates were held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

3.5 The bid led by Warrington and Halton NHS Hospitals Trust was the most economically advantageous and was, therefore, successful. The Trust has sub contracted elements of the service to St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust (Level 1 and 2 services<sup>1</sup>) and Terrence Higgins Trust (Chlamydia screening and HIV prevention) with the ultimate aim to form a partnership structure.

3.6 Key features of the bid include:

- A “hub and spoke” approach with hubs at Widnes Urgent Care Centre (UCC - formerly the Health Care Resource Centre) and Halton Hospital (Block 8) and spokes at Chapelfield, Castlefields and St Pauls Health Centres.
- All age clinics delivering Levels 1,2 and 3<sup>2</sup> services at Halton Hospital with plans to provide all level clinics at Widnes UCC once laboratory facilities have been installed;
- All age level 1 and 2 clinics at spoke locations;
- Young peoples sexual health clinics at St Pauls HC, Chapelfield HC and Widnes UCC including a Saturday clinic for young people;
- Proposals to work with Commissioners to deliver a service between the hours of 9am to 8pm weekdays and 12pm to 3pm at weekends;
- Proposals to provide all age clinics 7 days per week through provision of an additional clinic on Sunday at Halton Hospital and Saturday at Widnes UCC.

3.7 The new contract commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> November although some elements, such as the all level clinics at Widnes UCC will take slightly longer to implement due to the ongoing refurbishment of the building.

3.8 It is anticipated that the integration of the services will offer a more

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<sup>1</sup> Level 1 and 2 services refer to basic and intermediate care including uncomplicated contraception and STI testing and treatment

<sup>2</sup> Level 3 services relate to more complex care relating to for example HIV testing and partner notification and complicated STI and contraception services

streamlined and comprehensive service for service users since all their sexual health needs are capable of being delivered at one site and in many cases within a single consultation. This should reduce the risk of service users “falling between the cracks” as there will be no need to refer to a different service.

- 3.9 Since all staff are to be trained to deliver at all levels of the service, this will result in a more flexible and responsive workforce and increased development opportunities and job satisfaction for staff.
- 3.10 Ultimately, it is anticipated that the integrated service will lead to improved outcomes for Halton residents including reduced levels of unwanted and teenage pregnancies, greater control over sexually transmitted infections and earlier diagnosis of HIV.

#### **4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 placed a mandatory duty on local authorities to commission the services set out in this report.

#### **5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Integrated Sexual Health service will be funded by Halton Borough Council’s Public Health budget.

#### **6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL’S PRIORITIES**

##### **6.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

The services provided aim to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted infections in young people (and adults) and reduce levels of teenage pregnancy.

##### **6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

##### **6.3 A Healthy Halton**

The services aim to prevent the incidence and spread of sexually transmitted infections in Halton.

##### **6.4 A Safer Halton**

None directly

##### **6.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal**

None directly

#### **7.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

- 7.1 A risk assessment has been undertaken in relation to full implementation of the new service by the Provider and measures put in place to manage/mitigate the identified risks.

## **8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY**

The new service will incorporate a level of targeted outreach and health promotion activities with high risk groups and people less likely or able to engage with the service.

## **9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Not applicable.