

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board

DATE: 9 October 2024

REPORTING OFFICER: Assistant Divisional Director of Nursing: Sexual Health & HIV

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing – Sexual Health

SUBJECT: Halton Integrated Sexual Health Service – Annual Report

WARD(S) Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To provide members of the Board with an overview and present key highlights from Axess Sexual Health Service Halton Annual Report 2023/24 with an emphasis on older people.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board note the contents of the annual report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Axess are commissioned by the Local Authority to provide Halton's integrated Sexual Health Service for the local population including STI & HIV testing and treatment, contraception, support, advice as well as specialist services including young persons, outreach and sexual health education.

3.2 Halton's Axess Annual Report 2023/24 looks back on the service's work and achievements over the past 12 months, key data and benchmarking across all areas of the service as well as emerging challenges and areas for development.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Sexual health services are imperative to supporting delivery of the health and wellbeing strategy.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified at this time.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Improving Health, Promoting Wellbeing and Supporting Greater Independence

The sexual health service provides valuable services to support and improve the health of Halton residents. The contents of the annual report focus directly on improving health and promoting wellbeing.

6.2 Building a Strong, Sustainable Local Economy

None identified.

6.3 Supporting Children, Young People and Families

The sexual health service provides support, education and advice including to young people and families as well as close partnership working with local organisations who work with these cohorts, which is detailed in the annual report.

6.4 Tackling Inequality and Helping Those Who Are Most In Need

The service directly supports these priorities, which is detailed in the annual report. Examples include through the outreach programme.

6.5 Working Towards a Greener Future

Sustainability is a priority within the service's social value commitments, which is detailed in the annual report.

6.6 Valuing and Appreciating Halton and Our Community

Having local, accessible and tailored sexual health services is key to demonstrating commitment to valuing and appreciating the community and its residents. The service supports these priorities.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The annual report in itself does not present any obvious risks. However there may be risks associated with the service that are assessed and mitigations in place as appropriate.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 Equality and diversity are key considerations in all areas of the service and this is demonstrated through the annual report. The annual report provides data on which to base decisions to tackle health inequalities.

9.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The service has a commitment to delivering social value as part of the contract and worked to expand this in 23/24, which is detailed in the annual report. A sustainability working group has been established to support efforts to minimise the impact of the service on the environment, which aligns with the Council's response to the environment and climate emergency. Examples include initiatives to manage waste and excess consumption.

10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Axess Annual Report 23/24 - Halton