

**SUMMARY**

There remain a number of challenges for sexual health and sexual health services within Southwark attributable to:

- The continued high rates of sexually transmitted infections and HIV.
- The diversity of population need and the range of services required to meet them.
- The requirement to make significant savings to the public health sexual health budget
- The risks to population health if access to testing and treatment is not maintained.

This paper provides an update on the Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy.

**Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy 2014 – 2017**

- The Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Strategy was completed in May 2014 by the LSL Strategy working group. It was informed by:
  - Extensive engagement with public health specialist and commissioners throughout LSL.
  - An in-depth Epidemiology Report written by LSL Public Health Teams and is available alongside the Strategy document for consultation.
  - Stakeholder engagement, including a stakeholder engagement day held in September 2013 attended by representatives from the NHS, Local Authority, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.
  
- **The aims of the LSL sexual health strategy are to:**
  1. Promoting good sexual health, not just the absence of disease and deliver better prevention.
  2. Reduce the stigma attached to sexually transmitted infections and sexual health
  3. Focus on those statistically most at risk of poor sexual health and health inequalities.
  4. Reduce the rates of unplanned pregnancy and repeat terminations, especially for under 18 year old conceptions.
  5. Reduce rates of undiagnosed sexually transmitted infections and HIV (including late diagnosis).
  6. Improve access to testing and treatment.
  7. Align strategic priorities with CCGs, other Council strategies and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies.
  8. Commissioning to improve cost effectiveness.

- **These are underpinned by seven key actions for 2016/17**
  1. Refocus activity away from clinics towards home sampling, online services, and primary care and pharmacy to:
    - i. Better meet complex need by increasing capacity within clinics to deliver more complex work.
    - ii. Reduce costs and produce cashable savings.
    - iii. Deliver services closer to home.
  2. Working with primary care and pharmacy to enhance their capacity and offer within sexual health and HIV testing.
  3. Deliver improved services for people living with HIV by implementing the recommendations of the HIV Care and Support Review.
  4. Reduce rate of abortion and repeat abortions.
  5. Safeguard young people and reach out to the most vulnerable to improve their sexual health.
  6. Promote service user involvement.
- The strategy is overseen by the Lambeth Southwark and Lewisham Sexual Health Board, chaired by the director of Integrated Commissioning at Lambeth Council.
- Table 1 provides an update on the strategy and table 2 provides an overview of current and future service provision.