

DECISION RECORD ¹

Subject: Change in the location of premises for the delivery of sexual health services

Staff Contact: Jane Banbury

Executive Member: Jim McManus

Tel: 01438-843879

Portfolio: Public Health

1. Decision

The Public Health Service will agree with the commissioned Sexual Health Service provider, Central London Community Healthcare Trust, to consolidate clinics across the county during 2019/20 into the new service delivery model of a three centre specialist service. All three centres will provide the full range of contracted sexual health services

The three centres will be located in Stevenage (North), and Watford (West) with additional investment for a brand-new centre in Hatfield (Central) due to open at the end of 2019. All sites have good transport links and centrally located within their town centres.

2. Reasons for the decision

The model takes into consideration what has worked well, service user feedback and the level of resources needed to maintain an adequate level of both Sexual Health and Contraception services, while making best use of other local services.

There is a range of provision for contraceptive services across Hertfordshire, so to avoid duplication and to ensure the best possible use of sexual health specialists, smaller mainly contraception clinics will be consolidated into the three specialist sexual health centres. This will result in the closure of clinics during 2019 in St Albans, Hertford, Hemel Hempstead, Potters Bar, Bishops Stortford, and Waltham Cross. These clinics are only open for a short time between 2 hours a week to one or two days per week.

Access to contraception (including hormonal contraceptive pill, injection and emergency contraception) will continue to be available within General Practice across Hertfordshire. Some General Practices are contracted by Hertfordshire County Council to provide additional Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) services (e.g. implants, coil).

With the introduction of three specialist centres and an increase in the online STI testing service, we will be able to reach circa 62,000 residents per annum, maintaining the current level of service available.

Currently, most patients attending smaller mainly contraception clinics do not access these services on a regular basis. The majority of contraception requested could be accessed within Primary Care.

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These changes will enable the Council to provide a broad skill mix of staff working within each sexual health centre and make best use of specialist Consultant and nurse led time, making each centre a focus of excellence for those with complex sexual health needs.

We will continue to consult with stakeholders including GP's and Children Services and provide regular updates on the launch of the strategy and developments of the new service model.

Service users will be informed on changes to services in advance of closures and offered alternative clinics and services.

An EqlA has been undertaken.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected ²

Public Health considered maintaining current service provision and staffing arrangements. This was rejected as the changes to the service model are in line with the council's intent for sexual health provision over the next 5 years, building on evidence and incorporating new technologies and cost-effective delivery models.

4. Consultation

(a) Comments of Executive Member : Cllr Tim Hutchings^{3 4}

(b) Comments of other consultees ⁵

5. Following consultation with, and the concurrence of the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.

Signed:

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Title:Director of Public Health Date: ...10th June 2019.....

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6. Copies of agreed document to:

- All consultees
- Chairman, and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- hard & electronic copy (for public inspection both at County Hall and on Hertsdirect) Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.

¹ for guidance see Chief Legal Officer's note "Taking Decisions"

² details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer at the time the decision was made

³ record any conflict of interest declared by any Executive Member consulted. If an Executive Member declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from the Chief Legal Officer

⁴ If the matter has general significance for the Council and/or is, or is likely to be, controversial, then the officer shall consult the appropriate Executive Member before proceeding. In some cases it will be necessary to consult more than one Executive Member, and in some cases the Leader of the Council will need to be consulted

⁵ If the matter has local significance, but no general significance for the Council and no controversial aspects, the officer shall consult or inform the local member in writing (or by e mail) and proceed. It is essential that all officers responsible for delivering services ensure that local members are kept well briefed on issues affecting their areas.

