

Information briefing

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Report To: Health, Wellbeing and the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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Title: Birmingham Sexual Health Services, Umbrella (UHB) – 1 year Report into New Contract

Summary:

Attached to this briefing is an Annual Report, presented by University Hospitals Birmingham. The Annual Report covers progress against Birmingham's Sexual Health Service outcomes, during year one of the five-year contract, which commenced in August 2015.

The report presents performance data for each of the 10 outcomes, along with commentary on strategies undertaken and areas for development going forward.

Key Commissioning Intentions

In line with the Health and Social Care Act (2012), local authorities are responsible for the provision of comprehensive, open access sexual health services – as such, BCC continues to deliver the following mandated services: testing and treatment of STIs, testing for HIV and all forms of contraception. Services are available to everyone over the age of 13, regardless of their residence or status (e.g. NRPF).

Outcomes

The Umbrella Sexual Health services in Birmingham continue to work to the 10 agreed outcomes, including 3 which are monitored nationally in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF). Each of these outcomes is discussed in detail in the attached report.

As Commissioning Managers, we are satisfied with what has been achieved during year one, with 9 of the 10 outcomes performing in line with expectations. In the case of the outcome related to Chlamydia diagnosis, we are confident that Umbrella's planned actions will produce improved results in year two and beyond.

From ongoing discussions between commissioners and UHB, there is confidence in the strategy going forward, including the continued promotion of STI testing via home-testing kits and pharmacies; more focused GP activity incentivising chlamydia and HIV testing; and further work with priority groups and at risk populations.

Joint work is also underway between UHB and commissioners to examine the 100+ key performance indicators currently reported on. The intention of this work is to ensure that progress against outcomes is accurately reflected in a meaningful way, without being unduly burdensome on UHB and their delivery partners.

Mobilisation, Transition and Transformation

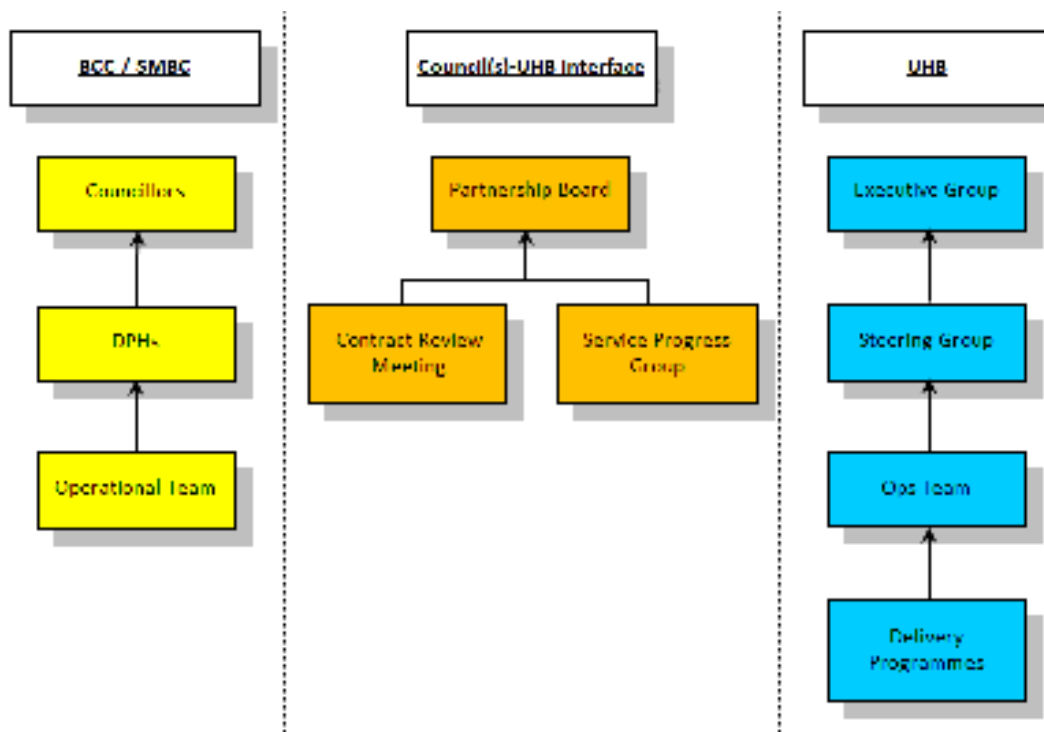
Since the commencement of new services in August 2015, a major mobilisation effort has taken place, successfully aligning formerly fragmented services under the Umbrella brand, including access to contraception and treatment and testing for sexually transmitted infections. This has been a significant undertaking to deliver an integrated system of this scale, which other local authorities are now looking to replicate. Public Health England fully endorse the Umbrella concept which is now in place and are planning to use it as an exemplar of an integrated model of delivery.

During this first year, contracts have been finalised, posts successfully recruited to, and a range of training delivered; all of which is likely to see further improvements in year two.

With the support of Public Health England, commissioners and UHB have continued to use nationally available data and support, in order to develop, for example, the Chlamydia Care Pathway programme, which is designed to improve detection rates, transmission, and coverage of eligible populations.

Single System of Governance

The sexual health contract is a major partnership, with Birmingham City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and UHB collaborating to focus on achieving outcomes. The governance arrangements are illustrated by the following diagram:



Service User Engagement

As a method of quality testing, towards the end of year one, BCC initiated Mystery Shopping of the Umbrella service with the support of Public Health Interns. This was undertaken in two phases: (i) the Umbrella website and (ii) visits to clinics and focused on the priority groups. General feedback was positive and critical observations were shared with UHB at the most recent Partnership Board. UHB will share the feedback with their operational team, for learning and improvement.

Background information:

The attached document provides detailed analysis of year one activity and progress in Sexual Health services.