

Sexual Health: Treatment and Prevention Services in Birmingham

Presentation to the Health & Social Care Overview &
Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday 21st February 2023



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Umbrella Sexual Health Service Overview

- Currently joint-commissioned with Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) and provided by University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust from 10th August 2015.
- Recent extension to 31st March 2024 due to impact of initial constraints of the COVID-19 pandemic and anticipation of the new national sexual health policy and national service specification, alongside commissioning and procurement guidance.
- Contract extension period to provide the necessary time to ratify the draft Sexual Health Strategy 2023-2030 and to use the consultation findings to inform the commissioning and procurement process for a new service to commence on 1st April 2024.
- Current annual block contract value of £14,038,467. Yearly spend since contract commencement is detailed in supporting information. Inflationary uplift for 2023/24 is to be agreed.

Umbrella Sexual Health Service Overview

Core City Cost Comparison 2021/22

Contract spend per head of population benchmarked against 8 core cities*:

| Rank by Spending | Spend per head of population** |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Highest spend: Newcastle | £18.42 |
| 6 th highest spend: Birmingham | £14.38 |
| Lowest spend: Bristol | £9.87 |
| Mean value | £13.30 |

* England core cities: Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Nottingham and Sheffield

** Data Source: Local Authority Revenue Outturns 2021/22

Sexual Health Service Requirements

Statutory Service Mandated to Commission:

- Open access sexual health services
- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment
- Advice and access to a broad range of contraception and preventing unplanned pregnancy

Key Public Health Outcome Framework & Locally Agreed Outcomes:

- Increasing the use of good quality contraception to reduce under-18 conceptions and abortions for all ages
- Reducing the late diagnosis of HIV and transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections and Blood Borne Viruses to prevent reinfection by ensuring prompt access for earlier diagnosis and treatment
- Providing better access to services for high risk priority groups
- Improved support for people vulnerable to, and victims of, sexual coercion, sexual violence and exploitation
- Increasing the chlamydia screened diagnostic rate in the 15-24 age group

Public Health Outcomes Framework Performance 2022

1. Reducing Under 18 Conceptions

The conceptions rate per 1,000 women aged 15-17 continues to decline in line with England rates. In 2020, the rate in Birmingham was 16.1 compared to 13.0 for England and slightly above than the West Midlands rate of 15.1.

2. Prescribing Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC)

In 2020, total prescribed LARC per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years was 26.5, below the rates for England (34.6) and the West Midlands (27.3).

3. Reducing the Late Diagnosis of HIV

Between 2019-2021, the percentage of late HIV diagnoses in Birmingham was 43.0% - comparable to the England average of 43.4% and West Midlands average of 42.8%.

4. New STI Diagnoses*

There were 554 all new STI diagnoses per 100,000 of the population in Birmingham in 2021. This was similar to the England rate of 551, but higher than the West Midlands rate of 429.

➤ Increasing Chlamydia Diagnosis in 15-24 year-olds (per 100,000):

In 2021, the rate was 1,032 compared to 1,334 for England and 1,121 for the West Midlands.

(Data Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/>, accessed 23/01/2023)

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Public Health Outcomes Framework Performance

Core City Performance Comparison

| PHOF Indicator | Core City Ranking |
|--|-------------------|
| Reducing under 18 conceptions (2020) | 4 th |
| Prescribing LARC (2020) | 7 th |
| Reducing the late diagnosis of HIV (2019-21) | 5 th |
| New STI diagnoses (2021) | 3 rd |
| Increasing chlamydia diagnoses in 15-24 year-olds (2021) | 8 th |

* Increasing access and GP coverage through Pathway Improvement Programme

** Umbrella is undertaking a city-wide chlamydia campaign in February 2023 to improve chlamydia testing rates by promoting STI home testing and utilising 154 Umbrella pharmacies and social media.

Updates & Future Plans

Fast Track Cities+

- On 5th October 2022, Birmingham officially signed up to the Fast-Track Cities+ initiative – a worldwide drive to achieve the UN AIDS 95:95:95 HIV targets, the World Health Organisation (WHO) goals of eliminating Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C by 2030 and eliminating tuberculosis (TB) by 2035.
- Birmingham has pioneered the way by adding specific targets for viral hepatitis and TB which are informed by global and national targets.
- Birmingham is developing a jointly owned FTC+ Action Plan using the findings of an engagement and needs assessment completed in April 2022. The initiative effectiveness will be continuously monitored through the targets which have been agreed by the Steering Group.
- The FTC+ Action Plan will inform the new sexual health service specification.

Updates & Future Plans (continued)

Contract Procurement (post March 2024)

- Sexual Health Needs Assessment published.
- Draft Sexual Health Strategy 2023-30 approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board and being reviewed and refreshed prior to publication.
- Service Specification to incorporate national guidance, co-production with citizens and key partners alongside market engagement, and be developed in conjunction with procurement and commissioning strategies.
- Joint commissioning with SMBC and in line with the Integrated Care System approach.

Safeguarding Pathways for Under 13s

- Develop on-going provision as part of the wider sexual health system from 1st April 2024.

Updates & Future Plans (continued)

Pathway Improvement Programme

BCC, SMBC and UHB working collaboratively on three workstreams:

- **LARC** - increasing access, GP coverage, wider reaching comms and ease of booking.
- **Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)** – review of processes and awareness raising in underserved groups. PrEP is taken by someone who is HIV negative to prevent HIV transmission. Part of combination HIV prevention, alongside health promotion, condom use, regular testing and HIV treatment.
- **Business Continuity** - including building on the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Updates & Future Plans (continued)

Mpox Global Outbreak

- 3,404 confirmed cases in England in mainly gay and bisexual men who have sex with men from 06/05/22 to 19/12/22. 64 cases in Birmingham.
- Opportunistic testing and 1st and 2nd dose vaccination clinics set up in collaboration between Umbrella and BSol ICS at Whittall Street and Birmingham LGBT - including vaccinations for clinical staff.
- 1,499 vaccinations provided to 31/12/2022 (Umbrella - 601; BSol ICS - 898)
- Zero new confirmed cases in January 2023 in Birmingham but opportunistic testing and vaccinations continue (284 currently on BSol ICS waiting list).
- Vaccine cost reimbursable via NHSE, however, staffing and resources required to manage the clinics placed additional demand on the service, initially limiting access to some services.