

SCRUTINY COMMISSION FOR HEALTH ISSUES	Agenda Item No. 7
19 JULY 2011	Public Report

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FUTURE PROVISION OF EMERGENCY HORMONAL CONTRACEPTION TO YOUNG PEOPLE

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Scrutiny Commission on the proposed future delivery of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) to young people. This is in relation to the cessation of the sexual health service offered through pharmacies.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To consider the proposed delivery as a viable and sustainable option for increasing access to contraception to young people.

3. LINKS TO THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 3.1 Increasing access to contraception is linked to NI 112: reducing unintended pregnancies within the under 18 age group, a national and Local Area Agreement indicator within the priority area of creating opportunities and tackling inequalities. It also supports meeting the national and local Chlamydia Screening target to screen 35% of the 15 – 25 year old population.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The pharmacy based sexual health service was funded initially by the Strategic Health Authority (SHA) as part of a wider successful bid to test innovative new schemes to increase access to contraceptive services for young people. The scheme provided free EHC, Chlamydia Screening and condoms to the under 25 population at a cost of approximately £30,000. In 2010/11 SHA funding for the scheme ended. In the context of the financial Turnaround situation and the poorer than expected take-up of the scheme, a decision was made by NHS Peterborough not to pick-up the costs of this scheme for continued funding.
- 4.2 This decision was challenged by the Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) and escalated to the Scrutiny Commission for Health, who requested a review of the service. A review was undertaken based on revised delivery of the existing programme.
- 4.3 However, in the light of major changes both locally and nationally within the NHS a further and much more in-depth review was requested by the Chief Executive, Dr Zollinger-Read, of how all the sexual health and contraceptive services need to be delivered going forward. This in-depth review of HIV and Sexual Health service provision was completed in May 2011. As part of this work, options for delivering EHC to young people were further considered. The option that has been chosen does not include reinstating the pharmacy based scheme at this time. It is proposed that this becomes a new additional service delivered through the existing school nurse role in secondary education, pupil referral units (PRUs) and the Regional College. This is an effective way of providing increased access to clinical contraceptive advice and prescribing, but also the ongoing holistic support that many young people require.
- 4.4 This decision results in improved access for young people to EHC, contraceptive and other advice and Chlamydia Screening, whilst being delivered within existing resources. An initial non-recurrent setting up / training cost of £6,000 will be required. Agreement has been reached with the provider of school nursing services, and a training and implementation programme has been designed.

5 KEY ISSUES

5.1 The key issue to be considered by the Health Scrutiny Commission is that of improving access to clinical advice to young people in secondary education, but not re-instating the pharmacy based scheme – which was available to all young people up to aged 24 years. However, as previously described, access for all young people to sexual health and contraceptive advice is already available from the following locations:

- GP practices
- Walk-in Centre
- Young People's Contraceptive and Sexual Health Services (CaSH) based at the Rivergate Centre
- Young People's after school drop-ins where a range of holistic advice and information is given as well as sexual health and contraceptive advice
- Community-based C-Card sites (advice and free Condom distribution through the C-Card scheme)
- Community pharmacies

5.2 Members will be concerned to ensure that young people know where to go for the help and advice they need. This is something that has been addressed with other public and voluntary sector partners. A major promotional campaign targeting young people is underway to make sure they know how and where to access sexual health and contraceptive advice when they need it. This campaign also recognises risk taking behaviour resulting from alcohol and drugs, and offers advice and sign-posting to relevant agencies. It uses promotional materials, and works through social media known and accessed by young people in Peterborough. Throughout 2011/12, a three tier, *young people, sexual health and risk training* programme is in place to support front line practitioners who work directly with young people. The training programme looks at identifying risk taking behaviour and supporting young people to address their issues as well as how making appropriate referrals.

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This service will be available to all secondary schools, including PRUs and in the Regional College. However, the number of schools participating would be determined by local school policy. EHC will be available through community pharmacies; however there will continue to be a charge.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 Those already consulted within the development of the review include: School Nurse Lead, CaSH Service including the Outreach Lead who works directly with young people within 9 Secondary Schools; multi-agency Sexual Health Strategy Group. The results of the review have also been circulated widely for feedback and comment. An engagement plan is being implemented that includes consultation with the Local Pharmaceutical Committee, Head Teachers, Governors and appropriate SRE leads and young people.

8. NEXT STEPS

8.1 Equality Impact Assessment completed: 31st July 2011
Consultation process completed by: 30th September 2011
School Nurses phased training commence: October 2011 – January 2012
Planned commencement of the Scheme: October 2011 with a review after 6 months.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

9.1 HIV and Sexual Health Review (May 2011)

10. APPENDICES

10.1 Correspondence from Dr Paul Zollinger-Read, CEO, NHS Peterborough