



‘Leading improvement in sexual health across the south west’

## South West Sexual Health Board Newsletter Spring 2018

### Chair’s Update

Thanks for reading the Spring Newsletter. Please feel free to circulate it widely to anyone who might be interested and to get back to me with comments, suggestions and additions to the circulation list.

Work is continuing on our two key initiatives, firstly the South West Sexual Health conference which will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 at Taunton Racecourse. The theme of the day will be digital innovations and future opportunities, with a mix of plenary presentations, short-fire talks, panel discussion, workshops and poster presentations. Please save the date and look out for further updates in due course. Secondly, the development of an online resource for the Office to store documents, meeting information and shared information is ongoing and preparation work has started in readiness for transfer of documents.

At the January meeting of the Programme Board discussions took place around protecting sexual health services in the south west and the proposal for developing a piece of work looking at how to respond to the reduction in sexual health funding. We are currently reviewing the ideas discussed with a view to a potential piece of work in this area.

Prof Mark Pietroni

[Mark.pietroni@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:Mark.pietroni@southglos.gov.uk)

### Work plan update

A working group have been meeting regularly to plan the first **south west sexual health conference**, which will be held on 2nd May 2018 at Taunton Racecourse. The overarching theme of the day will be digital innovations, future opportunities and new technologies. The conference aims to establish joint strategic goals for sexual health in the south west by bringing people together to share and learn, showcasing examples of good practice and exciting, innovative work. The day itself will include a mix of plenary presentations, short-fire talks, panel discussion, workshops and poster presentations.

For more information on any aspect of the Directors of Public Health Network and Office for Sexual Health South West please contact: [wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk)

Two key speakers will open the event by presenting information on developing online sexual health services and exploring the implications of social media. Workshops and short-fire presentations will cover a range of topics to include:

- ChemSex
- RSE and the impact of increasing social media
- Young people and challenging negative attitudes about sex
- Geomapping
- Changing practice to embrace developments in digital technology
- Transgender issues and developing transgender friendly services
- PrEP, PrEPster and HIV online testing

The working group are continuing to develop the conference programme. Registration information and further details about the conference will be sent out in late March.

The **workforce development project** is starting to come together with the completion of a south west staffing list which has been checked against the electronic staff record system. The development of a directory of current training opportunities is also nearing completion, following final checks to ensure accuracy and ease of use. The final stage of the project will involve consultation with the lead nurses and commissioners to identify specific training requirements and compare this to the current range of training provision in the south west. This information will then inform recommendations for future workforce and training developments.

The Office for Sexual Health are also supporting a national Health Education England task and finish group that has been established to look specifically at the **sexual health and reproductive health workforce** under the chairmanship of Prof Selena Gray. Initial work will be carried out to consider the issues that currently exist around the differing sets of professional standards. It is hoped that work from the south west workforce development project will feed in to the national project when complete.

A **sexual health briefing** focusing on relationships and sex education (RSE) has been developed for local authority councillors. From the academic year 2019/2020, schools will be expected to deliver RSE to secondary pupils and relationships education to primary aged children. This briefing sets out the rationale for providing comprehensive RSE in schools and the opportunities that statutory RSE offers to local authorities in safeguarding young people and improving their public health outcomes. The south west briefing will be complemented by a national paper to be disseminated by Public Health England later this year.

Work is continuing on the development of an **online resource** for the Office. The resource will enable the storage of documents, meeting details, papers of interest and shared sexual health information. Preparation work has started in readiness for the organisation and transfer of documents. It has been agreed that the ideal platform will be KHub (Knowledge Hub), a public service web-portal, via PHE. This is currently undergoing reconfiguration work, but as soon as this is complete, the Office will establish its own online presence.

The **south west sexual violence online directory** is now up and running ([www.survivorpathway.org.uk](http://www.survivorpathway.org.uk)). The information on the site will be continually monitored, with updating and adjustments made as necessary. A full review is planned for the end of March followed by a full programme of promotion, marketing and training.

For more information on any aspect of the Directors of Public Health Network and Office for Sexual Health South West please contact: [wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk)

## Information and Research

The latest **academic and evidence into practice** presented at the South West Sexual Health Programme Board in January by Dr Patrick Horner, Consultant Senior Lecturer, School of Social and Community Medicine, University of Bristol, included the following topics:

*Cambiano V, Miners A, Dunn D, McCormack S, Ong KJ, Gill ON, et al. Cost-effectiveness of pre-exposure prophylaxis for HIV prevention in men who have sex with men in the UK: a modelling study and health economic evaluation. The Lancet Infectious Diseases.18(1):85-94.*

*King CC, Ellington SR, Davis NL, Coombs RW, Pyra M, Hong T, et al. Prevalence, Magnitude, and Correlates of HIV-1 Genital Shedding in Women on Antiretroviral Therapy. The Journal of Infectious Diseases. 2017;216(12):1534-40.*

*Cabecinha M, Mercer CH, Gravningen K, Aicken C, Jones KG, Tanton C, et al. Finding sexual partners online: prevalence and associations with sexual behaviour, STI diagnoses and other sexual health outcomes in the British population. Sexually Transmitted Infections. 2017;93(8):572-82.*



Academic Update  
Network for South West

Andrew Evans from **The Eddystone Trust** reported to the January Board on a number of issues including the campaign work around National HIV Testing Week, where one of the aspects was a call for prominent figures across the south west to be tested, a number of councillors and MPs across the region took part. Eddystone carried out 87 testing sessions / 173 tests, which is three times the usual number. It was recorded that 60% of this group were first time testers. A current survey is also underway looking at testing environments and where specific users of specific sex apps would like to undertake testing, Grindr is one of those apps being surveyed. There is also a very detailed survey of young people that has been undertaken for over 3,000 respondents across the south west. It is a very basic survey looking at condom usage, sexuality and testing history, this will also enable further exploration and targeting of future prevention work, particularly amongst the trans population, via respondents willingness to take part in future evaluations and surveys. PrEP information events are also being held for both those privately purchasing or taking part in the impact trial, where support and advice is being offered.

## Events and Resources

The **National Lesbian, Bisexual and Trans Women's Health Week** will run from the 12-17 March 2018. The aim of the week is to raise awareness about LBT women's health inequalities, to make it easier for service providers to empower service users and for communities to support LBT women. More information can be found here: [LBT week](#)

A **RSE survey for local authorities** has been launched to better help understand what provision looks like across the south west. The responses will be collated to provide a list of those resources currently on offer in preparation for statutory RSE in schools. It is also hoped to identify where there might be opportunities for partnership working across the south west. Various conferences are being planned to include a focus on RSE with both the Terence Higgins Trust and Eddystone Trust coordinating messages and programmes across the south west.

For more information on any aspect of the Directors of Public Health Network and Office for Sexual Health South West please contact: [wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk)

The RSE Hub **briefing for councillors on RSE**, published in 2013, has been refreshed to reflect the most recent data, evidence, policy and delivery context. This was a collaboration between The RSE Hub, Sex Education Forum, Local Government Association and Public Health England. Click this link to download the file: [http://www.rsehub.org.uk/resources/relationships-and-sex-education-\(councillors\)](http://www.rsehub.org.uk/resources/relationships-and-sex-education-(councillors))

PHE have recently shared a helpful **evaluation resource for testing services** in primary care and although there are considerable challenges ahead for sexual health services, there is greater potential for increasing collaborative working and developing new models of engaging with primary care. A LARC pilot undertaken by One Care in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire tested several collaborative working service delivery models and has been successful in engaging practices and demonstrated an appetite to develop new collaborative approaches. The pilot report executive summary is available via this link: [LARC Exec Summary](#).

PHE has refreshed its **data guidance** to help health professionals including local government, service providers and commissioners understand the sexual health data that is available across England. The guidance demonstrates how the data can be accessed and includes data collected by Public Health England and other organisations. The data can be accessed via the following link: [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual and reproductive health](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sexual-and-reproductive-health)

PHE has launched a **sexual health campaign** to encourage condom use by young adults to reduce the rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Visit the campaign website via this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/protect-against-stis-use-a-condom/home>

PHE and LGA have published new guidance to help local areas review their **teenage pregnancy** programmes to identify gaps and strengthen the prevention pathway for all young people. Updated PHE teenage pregnancy narrative reports for local areas are also available to inform commissioning decisions and help improve outcomes:

[>PHE/LGA – publication – 15 Jan 2018](#)

[>Framework document](#)

[>Powerpoint version of framework](#)

DfE has published new guidance on **sexual violence and sexual harassment between children and young people in schools and colleges**. The document highlights the legal framework and statutory guidance and offers case studies and examples of good practice. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) has summarised the main aspects of the guidance:

[>DfE – publication – 14 Dec 2017](#)

[>Guidance](#)

[>NSPCC summary](#)

Click on these links for the **latest information, news and highlights** from [BASHH](#), [Brook](#), the [Eddystone Trust](#), the [RSE Hub](#) and the [Terrence Higgins Trust](#).

For more information on any aspect of the Directors of Public Health Network and Office for Sexual Health South West please contact: [wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.lawton@southglos.gov.uk)