Chair’s Update

Thanks for reading the Autumn 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.

Financial support from Public Health England and the South West Directors of Public Health has now been received and will enable the Office to continue for the next three years. Through the strategic review in consultation with key stakeholders and the Sexual Health Board a new work plan has been developed reflecting the priorities and key topics identified. There are two key initiatives for the current year: a south west area sexual health conference to be held during 2018 and a website for the Office which will be designed largely to act as a document store and to ease sharing of public facing documents.

Prof Mark Pietroni
Mark.pietroni@southglos.gov.uk

Work plan update

The workforce development project aims to clarify the composition of the sexual health workforce across the south west to aid workforce planning and development. The project will be delivered in three stages, firstly checking the electronic staff record system lists against current staffing records. This information will be collated centrally to create a regional list, to help understand the current workforce composition, including gaps and staffing issues. Secondly, a directory of currently available training opportunities for the sexual health workforce will be collated. Thirdly, through consultation with local leads and commissioners, a list of the training requirements and skills needed by the sexual health workforce will be established. A comparison between existing opportunities and needs will then form recommendations for developing future training provision.

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
A sexual health briefing note 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 southwest briefing will be complemented by a national paper to be disseminated by Public Health England in the New Year.

As part of the sexual violence project Lisa Benjamin from SARSAS and Jo Bray from Rubicon attended the South West Sexual Health Programme Board in October to give an update on the survivor pathway website. The website was originally set up in 2014 within the Avon and Somerset area as a directory of sexual violence services to help victims identify appropriate support. Rubicon have redesigned and rebuilt the website so that it now covers the whole of the southwest. It was launched in September but is being monitored and updated continually, with a planned review and high profile promotion in six months’ time. NHS England were thanked for their funding which will be ongoing for three years to cover promotional materials, training and updates. The website has been designed to be extremely user friendly and available on any device and can be accessed via this link: www.survivorpathway.org.uk

Becks Marsh, Senior Health and Justice Associate, NHS England, provided an update at the October Programme Board on the South West SARC configuration. South West SARCs will be required to work across Force boundaries, to encourage greater flexibility of access for service users and to build clinical networks and the sharing of expertise and resources. Two Centres of Excellence will serve the region: one will be based in Exeter and the other will be based near the M4/M5 motorway network near north Bristol. These SARCs will co-locate both adult and paediatric provision and will work closely together to coordinate clinical networks, quality, workforce and service development. Adult SARCs (for people aged 16 years and over) will operate in Cornwall, Plymouth, Gloucester and Swindon. Children and young people from these areas will attend the paediatric facilities in Exeter and near north Bristol for acute care and specialist assessment. In the majority of cases, non-recent/historic child sexual assault (CSA) provision will continue to be the responsibility of local paediatric services. Contract award is expected during the early part of 2018 with contract launch taking place on 1st October. Please contact Rebecca.marsh9@nhs.net for further information

Information and Research

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


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• A two-year PrEP Impact Trial is now underway. More details are available on the trial website:

Impact Trial website: [https://www.prepimpacttrial.org.uk/](https://www.prepimpacttrial.org.uk/)


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**Events and Resources**

**National HIV Testing Week** starts on Saturday 18\(^{th}\) November. For more information go to the [HIV Prevention England website](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/update-on-prep-impact-trial-in-england)

**FPA** (the Family Planning Association) has just launched **Sexwise**, a new online resource to help the public make healthy, safe and informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health. This is part of the PHE funded national health promotion programme for SRH, delivered by the FPA. **Sexwise** is also designed to be a ‘go-to’ national resource for up to date trusted information for health professionals, including GPs, public health nurses, midwives, health visitors and pharmacists. More information can be found via this link [https://sexwise.fpa.org.uk/](https://sexwise.fpa.org.uk/)

**BASHH** sexual health standards will be updated during 2018. A national audit on syphilis has been completed and a further audit is underway focusing on gonorrhea with results expected in November. Sarah Wollaston MP has agreed to take part in a question and answer session at the South West BASHH meeting in November. For further news, events and updates please visit the [BASHH website](https://sexwise.fpa.org.uk/).

**PHE** will be holding a CSE workshop on 30\(^{th}\) January 2018 in Bristol – further details to be announced.

Click on these links for the latest information, news and highlights from [Brook](https://www.brook.org.uk), the [Eddystone Trust](https://www.eddystone.org.uk), the [RSE Hub](https://www.rsehub.org) and the [Terrence Higgins Trust](https://www Terrence Higgins Trust).

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