



The Bolton Sexual Health Network



The Website for the Bolton
Sexual Health Network

www.sexualhealthbolton.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER

SEXUAL HEALTH AND CHOOSING HEALTH WHITE PAPER

The government's White Paper on improving public health in England, "Choosing Health: Making Healthy Choices Easier" was published in November 2004, with a delivery plan published the following March. The White Paper promised new funding to modernise sexual health services, making them more accessible and providing faster access to treatment.

The delivery plan for Choosing Health set out a range of targets in the area of sexual health, bringing together targets included within the Teenage Pregnancy strategy (1999) and National Sexual Health and HIV strategy (2001) including:

- To reduce under-18 conception rates.
- Faster access to GUM services, making progress towards offering all GUM appointments within 48 hours of contacting a service by 2008.
- Progress towards the national roll out of Chlamydia screening by 2007, including opportunistic screening in non-traditional sites such as pharmacies.
- Application of standards for HIV services and reducing STI's
- To develop sexual health services delivered through a flexible multidisciplinary workforce in a range of settings, extending the roles of other health workers.

A key task for the Bolton Sexual Health Network was to respond locally to these commitments set by government through commissioning and planning sexual health services and health promotion activity.

The additional funding allocation from Choosing Health has allowed the following service developments to be planned:

- Development of sexual health services to meet the 48 hour access target
- Providing sexual health clinics to on street sex workers within 'Urban Outreach.'
- Setting up a counselling service for the Termination of Pregnancy service
- Creation of a new post 'Sexual Health Training Programme Coordinator' to progress the development of multi-disciplinary sexual health work.
- Extend the provision of training and education to a wide range of agencies
- Sexual Health outreach workers to work in Public Sex Environments
- Increased capacity for the expansion of the condom promotion scheme

These new plans will be implemented from 2007 onwards. For further information about these developments please contact Jayne Littler, Lead for Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health on 01204 337303 or email jayne.littler@bolton.gov.uk.

SEXUAL HEALTH TRAINING UPDATE FROM THE SEXUAL HEALTH TRAINING POOL

The sexual health training pool has planned a programme of training for 2007/2008 which offers workers from a wide range of agencies the opportunity to develop their skills and understanding around sexual health. To support the delivery of the training programme the training pool is recruiting to a new full time post, Sexual Health Training Programme Coordinator, early in 2007. The training pool has also commissioned the Family Planning Association to deliver a nine day training for trainers course in Bolton during January, February and March 2007 which twelve workers from different agencies in Bolton have enrolled on. This will increase the capacity of the training pool to deliver its' planned programme.

Training Programme

The following courses are available, free of charge, to those working in Bolton from both the voluntary and statutory sectors. Workers from outside of Bolton can access these courses (see course booklet for fees)

Sexploration -

A one day course for workers to develop a holistic approach to sexual health through exploration of attitudes and values.

Dates: May 23rd; July 13th; October 1st 2007; January 15th 2008

Delaying Early Sex 'Let's Leave it Till Later' -

A two day course for workers to develop additional skills in order to help young people see the benefits of delaying early sex and to give young people the skills and confidence to resist pressure to have sex they don't want.

Dates: April 26th + 27th; November 6th + 7th 2007

Accredited Training for Workers working with young people -

A four day course for workers working with young people who want to gain more skills and confidence in delivering sexual health and relationships education.

Dates: September 10th + 11th + 17th + 18th 2007
February 14th + 15th + 21st + 22nd 2008

Condom Promotion Scheme Training -

A two hour course for workers from voluntary and statutory agencies who currently participate, or would like to, in the Bolton Condom Promotion Scheme.

Dates: May 18th; August 16th; November 16th 2007; February 13th 2008

Further details of each course, including the aim and learning outcomes are within the programme booklet which is available as a pdf document on the Bolton Sexual Health website www.sexualhealthbolton.co.uk

To book a place on any of these courses please contact Claire Dagnall, Sexual Health Training Pool Administrator on 01204 907752 or email claire.dagnall@bolton.nhs.uk.

Bespoke Training

As well as running courses at our venues we are keen to bring training out to you. Many of our courses can be run within your organisation and we can tailor bespoke training to meet your needs. This may include brief 'taster sessions' or workshops at a time convenient for staff to attend (eg. lunchtime or after work).

Peer Education Programme

The sexual health training pool is developing a sexual health peer education programme. Training will be provided for young people to become peer educators around sexual health issues. To find out details of peer education training contact Andrew Mulholland, Senior Health Promotion Specialist on 01204 332123 or email andrew.mulholland@bolton.gov.uk.



SEXUAL HEALTH RESOURCES

A new booklet, titled 'Help!', to help pregnant teenagers and teenage parents in Bolton is now available. It uses cartoons to help young people explore options available to them and gives useful addresses and contacts in Bolton.

A range of sexual health resources, including booklets, leaflets and posters are available from the Bolton PCT Learning and Resource Library. The library has recently moved and is now located within the main central library, Le Mans Crescent. The library has extended its opening hours and it is now open:

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9am—7.30pm

Wednesday and Friday 9am—5.30pm

Saturday 9am—5pm

The contact telephone number is 01204 462490.

CHLAMYDIA SCREENING PROGRAMME IN BOLTON

Bolton is part of the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Network project to reduce new cases of chlamydial infection. The R U Clear ? Chlamydia screening programme for 15 – 24 year olds is part of a nationwide initiative. It provides opportunistic screening of sexually active young men and women who do not have any symptoms and would not normally access or be offered a Chlamydia test.

Research shows one in ten young people has Chlamydia in the UK and it is the most common preventable cause of infertility in women. The test is non invasive involving a urine sample and treatment usually involves just one dose of antibiotics.

Each area of Greater Manchester, including Bolton, will roll out screening in 3 phases. The first phase occurred during the later part of 2006 and screening is currently available at Bolton Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health, The Parallel Young Peoples' Health Centre and all contraceptive / family planning clinics. An information leaflet with details of where to get tested in Bolton is now available. The second phase, planned to be implemented before June 2007, will extend the service to youth and community venues, drugs services, colleges, termination of pregnancy providers and youth justice services. The final phase will cover general practices, pharmacies and schools during the later part of 2007.

Tonie Russell is the R U Clear programme coordinator across Bolton, Salford, Ashton, Wigan, and Leigh and can be contacted on 07811268414. More details of the programme can be found on the website at www.ruclear.co.uk.

SEXUAL HEALTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Sexual Health And Relationships Partnership for young people (SHARP4Youth) has carried out a mapping exercise to provide an overview of current sexual health input across education and non-education settings for young people accessing services in Bolton.

From this exercise a need has been identified to offer more support to schools to help them provide a strong and consistent Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) curriculum. The aim is to support all secondary schools to include SRE in their school development plan and to follow SRE schemes of work as well as to identify staff training needs which will support them in the delivery of SRE to students. A new post, 'Sex and Relationships Development Officer' has been created and the new post holder, Alison Holden, will be contacting schools soon.

The majority of non-education settings, including youth clubs and voluntary agencies such as the YMCA, Bypass, Lads and Girls Club reported that staff had neither received or delivered training around sexual health and very few held specific sexual health sessions/ events to address the sexual health needs of young people accessing their services. The sexual health training pool will be promoting the training courses within their training programme (2007/'08) to workers within non-education settings. Courses include 'Delaying First Sex' and an accredited four day course for people working with young people around sexual health.

The sexual health training pool will also be developing a peer education programme, recruiting and training young people to support other young people around their sexual health.

To find out more information about SHARP4Youth and the plans to improve the sexual health of young people in Bolton contact Andrew Mulholland on 01204 332123 or email andrew.mulholland@bolton.gov.uk.

NEWS AND EVENTS

- The RU Clear ? Chlamydia screening programme was launched across Wigan, Bolton and Salford on Friday 9th February at the JJB Stadium in Wigan.
- The Bolton Condom Promotion scheme held an event on Valentines Day in the Town Hall Square promoting the use of condoms as part of a wider safer sex message.
- Representatives from agencies working with black African communities in Bolton have been invited to an event to enable them to network and develop effective strategies and partnerships to support people with HIV, reduce HIV transmission and raise awareness about the importance of knowing one's HIV status.





The Bolton
Sexual Health Network



FEATURED SERVICE

BOLTON CENTRE FOR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Dramatic improvements in access to sexual health services have been achieved in Bolton with a combination of measures to modernise the service. The successful integration of sexual and reproductive health services provides both sexual health and contraceptive services at Bolton Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health based at the Royal Bolton Hospital and managed by Bolton PCT, and the community clinics to satisfy the needs of the Bolton community.

New roles and responsibilities for staff, communication technology and multi-disciplinary team working have led to the modernisation of the service making it more efficient and accessible.

The sexual health department is the first in the UK to train assistant practitioners, and now has four who have qualified and are a key step to modernising the skill mix. Their new role has enabled registered nurses to take on a more pro-active role trained in both sexual and reproductive health seeing asymptomatic new patients which in turn releases the medical staff to see patients with symptoms and more complex sexual and reproductive health issues.



Staff team at Bolton Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health

The growth in mobile phone use has also provided an opportunity to change working practices, with the use of text messaging to give test results. This has proved an enormous success with service users as it reduces the need for further attendance and allows more new patients to be seen.

The team has worked hard particularly over the past few months to achieve the key measure for GU waiting times of being seen within 48 hours. The latest statistics show that in England on average this is achieved in 65% of cases. In Bolton we have achieved 81%, and more recent weekly clinic monitoring shows the centre is offering 100% 48 hour access to patients.

We are constantly looking for new ways to modernise the service to make it more efficient, accessible and a more pleasant environment for both service users and staff alike, and hope to apply the same philosophy and efficiency to the wider arena of sexual health to the Bolton community with the implementation of the chlamydia screening programme to be launched in February 2007.

Dr Emile Morgan Lead Clinician
Renata Hewart Lead Nurse

Bolton Centre for Sexual and Reproductive Health

COMMISSIONING HIV SERVICES / SOCIAL CARE AND PREVENTION

A specialist commissioning group has been formed to inform the future development of HIV clinical services, social care and prevention work. A needs assessment is underway and this process will involve:

- speaking with key stakeholders to establish an overview of current provision.
- identifying local priorities taking into consideration epidemiological data.
- consulting with service users and priority groups, including gay men and people from black African communities.
- production of recommendations to inform future provision of clinical services, social care and prevention work.

For further information please contact Andrew Mulholland on 01204 332123 or email andrew.mulholland@bolton.gov.uk

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