

London Sexual Health Transformation project

Update November 2015

Background

This is the second of our regular monthly update briefings about this project, set up to work in partnership to deliver a new commissioning model for open access sexual health services across much of the capital, including Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) (services for the screening and treatment of Sexually Transmitted infections (STIs) and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services (SRH) (community contraceptive services). The aim of the transformation project is to design, agree and procure a system that will deliver measurably improved and cost effective public health outcomes, meet the increasing demand and deliver better value.

The Case for Change

As stated previously, there are a number of compelling reasons why this transformation project is necessary.

1. The need for sexual health services in London is significantly higher than the England average, and has risen significantly in recent years.
2. There are noticeable variations in access and activity across London boroughs, with high numbers of residents from across London accessing services in central London.
3. Given London's complex pattern of open access services, there are important advantages for London boroughs to transform and commission services together
4. We must continue to ensure strong clinical governance, safeguarding and quality assurance arrangements are in place for commissioning open access services
5. We want to respond to current and future financial challenges, and ensure we are making the best use of resources available

New Boroughs Join the Transformation Project

We are pleased to announce that four new boroughs have now joined the collaborative. Havering, Hounslow, Kingston and Richmond have now signed up to be part of the partnership, which means that there are now 26 London boroughs working together to improve sexual health services across the city.

This is very good news. The more boroughs we have as part of the work as we progress will of course mean greater buying power and better coordination of services for patients.

Cabinet Discussions

The Business Case has been concluded and cabinet papers are being presented at Council Cabinet meetings starting this month. Each of the cabinet meetings are being asked for

- Approval to take part in a joint procurement process organised on a sub-regional basis to commission sexual health GUM services
- Approval to join a pan London procurement of a web based system to include a front end portal for advice, guidance and access to services including access to home/self-sampling kits for sexually transmitted infections
- Approval to join a pan London procurement of a confidential partner notification system

So far one borough has received delegated authority and agreement from their cabinet, with most other discussions planned for the December cycle of meetings. A small number are taking the paper in the New Year.

Service Specification

We have been joined by Meroe Bleasdille from the Service Development Team at Public Health England. She is now working with the Clinical Sub Group to develop the detailed service specification to inform the procurement process.

Integrated Tariff

Discussions are continuing on integrated tariff. The plan is to see if, when and where it can best be introduced as the project continues.

Collaborative Agreement

The programme board is also continuing discussions about the collaborative agreement. This is important as it will clarify the partnership principles that we will all work to.

Information and engagement

Further engagement activity is taking place to test out our assumptions and help to nuance the model and manage implication as necessary.

We held a very positive workshop with commissioners in early October and a similar meeting for clinicians is planned for mid-November. In some boroughs we are looking to work with Healthwatch to use any existing networks they might have to help us test out the business model with patients and others and we are also distributing a simple survey via council websites. One focus group with service users has taken place and another is planned for later this month. We will also be contributing to a seminar for elected members

in January and will be re working the West London Alliance web site to provide easier access to our documents and information.

Timeline

The business case and papers seeking cabinet support from boroughs will all have been to cabinet meetings by the end of January 2016. This would allow us to start the formal procurement process in February, award the contract by the end of the year and start the new service in April 2017.

For further details on the project please contact

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