



# Faculty of Public Health

of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom

Working to improve the public's health

## Sexual Health Special Interest Group

### Newsletter March 2016

#### *Welcome*

Welcome to our first newsletter. I hope that you find the information useful. Please let us know what you think. You are also welcome to submit items for inclusion in our future newsletters.

The Sexual Health SIG was established in the summer of 2016;

- to develop and advocate policies and programmes in relation to sexual health to support the Faculty's delivery of its strategic plan;
- to identify and share good practice and emerging evidence and developments in the field;
- to provide expert advice to the Faculty and its members ;
- and provide a forum for members and colleagues with an interest in sexual and reproductive health.

Our membership, terms of reference and work-plan, together with minutes of our meetings are available at [www.fph.org.uk/](http://www.fph.org.uk/) You will see that we are aiming to produce professional briefing notes during the course of the year on key sexual health topics—do let us know of any specific issues you would like us to consider.

We would always welcome new members, no matter your experience or expertise. Please feel free to contact us through the Faculty or my emailing our acting coordinator, Megan Harris at [meganharris@nhs.net](mailto:meganharris@nhs.net).

Patrick Saunders  
Acting Chair

#### *Services and Policies*

[The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health](#) has a number of very experienced sexual and reproductive healthcare clinicians who are willing to act as 'advisors' to commissioners or managers wanting to review or tender their sexual and reproductive health (SRH) service. These clinicians are based all over the UK and can travel to areas that they do not work to ensure no conflict of interest. For more information please contact Harry Walker at [policymanager@fsrh.org](mailto:policymanager@fsrh.org)



[The London Sexual Health Transformation Programme](#) was established in 2014 to deliver a new collaborative commissioning model for open-access sexual health services across the capital, including genito-urinary medicine (GUM) services for the screening and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and SRH services. There was a realisation across London that the sexual health system was not sustainable in its current form. Transformation across the system needed to take place in order to meet the changing needs of residents and reduce the transmission of STIs which were, and continue to be, the highest in the country.

The programme has engaged 32 boroughs and conducted significant engagement with clinicians, patients and the public in developing plans for a new system that has three main elements:

- Procuring a new online service to better signpost patients and provide home testing kits where clinically justified
- Agreeing a new pricing mechanism that supports flexibility and planning and ensures services are paid for fairly
- Supporting sub regional groups of boroughs as they commission face-to-face services for their populations.

Further information available at <http://www.wla.london/pages/WLA-385> or contact:  
Dr Andrew Howe, Programme Director, [Andrew.Howe@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Howe@harrow.gov.uk);  
Mary Cleary, Programme Lead, [mary.clearylyons@cluthamanagement.com](mailto:mary.clearylyons@cluthamanagement.com);  
Mark Wall, Communications Lead, [mark@markwall.co.uk](mailto:mark@markwall.co.uk)

## *Report from the Frontline*



### *Future Design of Hertfordshire's HIV Services, Report from the Workshop held in October 2016 Jim McManus*

We had a lively and informed audience drawn from all the key disciplines, agencies and experiences including clinicians, commissioners, practitioners, providers, policymakers and people with HIV (more would have been very welcome). We started with some 'what might the future hold' horizon scanning to set the scene. There were especially well received presentations from Jane Anderson (Public Health England), David Buck (The King's Fund) and Mike Brady (Terence Higgins Trust). Jane's session included the experiences of people considered virological successes (achieving viral suppression) but complicated in every other sense.

This helped us coalesce around the theme that we need to go beyond 90-90-90. Interestingly, all of the speakers tried to do some segmentation of population into different streams of living with HIV. David presented some early lessons from their work about lack of joined

up policy and strategy and thought the workshop would be very useful in informing his national work.

A quick win to build on the workshop would be how we can capture HIV testing carried out by voluntary sector agencies and not simply from sexual health services. National policy leadership was identified as a key challenge and I think there is a significant opportunity for ongoing Public Health England (PHE) input to this. This is especially important given the increasing burden on NHS England's resources. But the lack of national coherent strategy was apparent throughout as a glaring gap.

The positive reports by user advocates of the effectiveness of our campaign around smoking cessation in people with HIV locally was especially encouraging as were the, albeit anecdotal, reports of smokers switching to e-cigarettes then completely off nicotine, together with some evidence of increased uptake of smoking cessation.

There was a clear concern that a dislocation was developing between the HIV-provider sector narrative and that of the commissioners 'long-term manageable condition'. This same discussion was repeated at the HIV providers' forum in December. Another issue identified was whether HIV providers, given their expertise could span out to provide self-management in non HIV areas such as diabetes, heart failure or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

Our suggested key actions following the workshop:

- the need to go beyond UNAIDS 90-90-90 with additional three metrics:
  - \* 90% of people with HIV engaged in service design
  - \* 90% of people with HIV reporting optimal quality of life
  - \* 90% of people knowledgeable about HIV so we continue to reduce stigma
- work through the three examples given at the workshop to develop a 6x90 pathway for each of them as the basis of our strategy
- convene a working group of multiple stakeholders to write a new action plan
- build better user engagement and funding peer advocates and user engagement champions
- start to redesign our HIV services engaging with NHS England including integrating HIV into co-commissioning.

A summary of the day, together with presentations, is available from [jim.mcmanus@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:jim.mcmanus@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

## ***Publications and Reports***



FSRH has published its updated *Service Standards for Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare*

<https://www.fsrh.org/news/updated-service-standards-for-sexual-and-reproductive/>

*A pill too hard to swallow: how the NHS is limiting access to high priced drugs*  
by Gornall J, Hoey A and Ozieranksi P. BMJ 2016;354:i4117 doi: 10.1136/bmj.i4117 reports on a joint investigation by the BMJ and Cambridge and Bath Universities uncovers how NHS England tried to limit access to expensive Hepatitis C drugs. It is also available at this site: <http://freepdfhosting.com/54b426e3b3.pdf?platform=hootsuite>



*HIV in Primary Care: an essential guide for GPs, practice nurses and other members of the primary healthcare team.* Third edition by Dr Philippa Matthews, Dr Sara Madge, Dr Surinder Singh and Dr Nick Theobald.

Revised and updated for 2016, this booklet provides essential information about HIV for GPs and the primary healthcare team including clinical diagnosis, how to offer an HIV test and give results, primary healthcare for people with HIV including reproductive health and immunisation, how to complement HIV specialist care, and practice policies and systems, a reference guide to antiretrovirals, drug interactions and side effects, managing HIV-related problems, information for patients and a list of useful HIV and sexual health organisations and websites. Print copies available from MEDFASH at £12 per copy (bulk discounts available) [enquiries@medfash.bma.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@medfash.bma.org.uk), or the pdf version can be downloaded for £5 <http://www.medfash.org.uk/publications>



## *FPH members challenge NHS England's position on commissioning PrEP*

Several FPH members were involved in supporting the challenge of NHS England's contention that it had no responsibility for commissioning Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). [Jim's McManus's blog](#) is good reading. This is a fundamentally important issue for public health in general and not simply sexual health given its implications for the principle of the NHS's commitment to prevention as well as treatment. The Court of Appeal subsequently ruled on 10 November that NHS England has wide preventive powers, including powers to commission PrEP for HIV.

The Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH) has released a [statement](#) that strongly welcomed the court judgement confirming their position that NHS England has the power to commission this drug.

Further background resources on PrEP:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2016/aug/02/nhs-prep-hiv-drugs-gay-mens-lives>
- [http://www.fph.org.uk/high\\_court\\_ruling\\_on\\_prep\\_'landmark\\_moment'](http://www.fph.org.uk/high_court_ruling_on_prep_'landmark_moment')
- <http://www.bmj.com/content/354/bmj.i3515/rapid-responses> (response from SIG)
- <http://www.aidsmap.com/Second-UK-cost-effectiveness-study-finds-that-large-PrEP-programmes-may-need-drug-price-cut-to-be-affordable/page/3000951/>

## Conferences and Seminars

If you are aware of any conferences or seminars that might be of interest to SIG members, please let us know.



**FSRH**

The Faculty of Sexual & Reproductive  
Healthcare of the Royal College  
of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive  
Healthcare is holding their Annual Scientific  
meeting in Cardiff on 27-28 April 2017.

<https://www.fsrh.org/events/fsrh-annual-scientific-meeting-2017-cardiff/>



The ROYAL  
SOCIETY of  
MEDICINE

The Royal Society of Medicine is holding their 4th Nation  
Conference on HIV and Ageing in London on 12th May 2017

<https://www.rsm.ac.uk/events/events-listing/2016-2017/sections/sexuality-sexual-health-section/seh01-hiv-and-ageing-4th-national-conference.aspx>

**BASHH**



British Association for Sexual Health and HIV's Annual Conference is taking  
place in Belfast from 18th-20th June 2017

To book a place follow the link below:

<https://www.bashh.org/events/annual-conference/annual-conference-2017/>



Faculty of Public Health' Annual Conference - Public Health beyond borders:  
driving change with evidence takes place in Telford on 20th-21st June, 2017

[http://www.fph.org.uk/fph\\_annual\\_conference\\_and\\_public\\_health\\_expo\\_2017](http://www.fph.org.uk/fph_annual_conference_and_public_health_expo_2017)

FACULTY OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH

A joint Faculty of Public Health and Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare Conference is being held on 22 September 2017 at the King's Fund, London. The conference is provisionally titled "*Navigating the Commissioning Landscape – working together effectively*". More details will follow in the next newsletter