

APPENDIX F: Sexual and reproductive health services

1. Background

- 1.1 From 1st April 2013 local authorities are required to arrange for the provision of open-access sexual health services.
The total allocated budget for clinical sexual health services commissioned by Brighton and Hove City Council in 2013/14 is £4m. The existing service provider contracts end on 31st March 2014.
- 1.2 The two main services are:
The Claude Nicol genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinic (BSUH)
The Morley Street contraception and sexual health (CASH) clinic (SCT)
- 1.3 These services are required to be open-access and self-referral. The GUM clinic provides testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), partner notification and health advice. Since 2008 there has been a national requirement that anyone requiring an appointment to be seen at a GUM clinic should be offered one to be seen within 48 hours. The CASH service provides access to the full range of contraception including long acting reversible (LARC) methods, pregnancy testing, abortion counselling and cervical cytology. The service also offers a dedicated young people's service and co-ordinates the local delivery of the national chlamydia screening programme for under-25 year olds.
- 1.4 Additional support is provided by a GP with special interest (GPwSI) in sexual health service.

2. Procurement Plans

- 2.1 The GUM and CASH services have been delivered by the current providers for a number of years. The services are commissioned and operate completely independently under different payment mechanisms. The latest best practice and commissioning guidelines suggest that integrated GUM and CASH services provide a more clinically and cost effective and efficient model of care.
- 2.2 It is therefore proposed to undertake a procurement by tender for an integrated sexual health service. The Department of Health is currently developing a model service specification for this purpose. It is proposed to extend the current contracts for one year to allow sufficient time for a robust and transparent process to take place.
- 2.3 The timetable for this procurement is:

Stakeholder consultation begins **August/September 2013**
Tender documentation 1st issue **January 2014**
First round submissions received **March 2014**
Second round submissions received **June 2014**
Successful provider decision **August 2014**
Mobilisation **November 2014 – March 2015**
Contract commencement **April 2015**

Stephen Nicholson – Lead commissioner HIV and sexual health, May 2013