

# Wellbeing Policy Development and Scrutiny (PDS) Panel

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2014

## Risk Assessment for Item 12: Sexual Health (HIV)

### Proposed recommendation(s) of report:

- The local Sexual Health Board has recently been re-established and will support the undertaking of a rapid sexual health needs assessment ensuring its key focus is on making progress against the *Public Health Outcomes Framework* targets. This will include measures to reduce the numbers of people diagnosed late with HIV.
- The local Sexual Health Board is in the process of developing a local strategy to increase the uptake of HIV testing particularly amongst the most vulnerable groups such as men who have sex with men (MSM), This will include analysing data from current service providers, working with local voluntary sector providers and taking the views of those within the cohort to help meet need
- Our service specifications have been revised to ensure that HIV testing is now offered as a core intervention from mainstream sexual health services commissioned by the council. Currently 88% of BaNES residents who access a sexual health service are offered a HIV test with 76% subsequently accepting that test, compared to a South West regional average of 80% and 62% respectively (PHE 2013); we are seeking to increase this rate during 2014/15
- We are examining ways in which we can roll out point of care (PoC) HIV testing in collaboration with voluntary sector providers to enable self-testing. This measure will complement existing HIV testing already in place
- We are working with colleagues from BaNES Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) during 2014/15 to examine opportunities to increase the level of HIV testing delivered through primary care settings, in addition to PoC testing as detailed above
- We are working with colleagues from NHS England who commission HIV treatment and care services to review and ensure there is consistent access to anti-retroviral therapy (ART) for those

diagnosed with HIV. This will include clinical audit of CD4 and viral load counts and a review of local HIV pathways, to ensure local services are fully in line with British HIV Association (BHIVA) guidance

- Our specialist providers will be supporting the *It Starts With Me* targeted campaign by HIV Prevention England that will focus on groups at higher risk of HIV, such as men who have sex with men (MSM), by increasing awareness of the benefits of reducing HIV infection risk, commencing in Summer 2014

### **Risks relating to proposed recommendation(s)**

No significant risks identified

### **Risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

The risks of not taking the proposed recommendations are that B&NES Council will lack a coherent strategy in attempting to reduce the number of people diagnosed late with HIV.

Without monitoring our service contracts for HIV testing we will be unable to understand the level of HIV testing being offered in sexual health services.

Without working with BaNES Clinical Commissioning Group we will be unable to join up potential opportunities to develop HIV testing in a range of settings

NHS England commissions HIV treatment and care services for the population of BaNES. With working with this organisation we run the risk of not enabling those diagnosed with HIV to access anti-retroviral treatment

With the proportion of late HIV diagnoses being high, not enabling local service providers to take part in targeted campaigns will mean we are less able to target group at higher risk of HIV

### **Actions to manage risks of not taking proposed recommendation(s)**

The development of a new sexual health strategy will happen regardless as there are wider sexual health issues beyond HIV that also require a coordinated, strategic response

The monitoring of service contracts is a normal part of the contractual monitoring process so will happen regardless

Our sexual health board includes partners who represent BaNES Clinical Commissioning Group and NHS England and can be a vehicle to support HIV testing and treatment

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