

## **BACKGROUND**

Sexual and reproductive health is an important part of physical and mental health. It is a key part of our identity as human beings together with the fundamental human rights to privacy, a family life and living free from discrimination. Essential elements of good sexual health are equitable relationships and sexual fulfilment with access to information and services to avoid the risk of unintended pregnancy, illness or disease.

Sexual and reproductive health goes well beyond the medical model of the treatment of disease. The World Health Organisation definition of sexual health captures this point:

*“Sexual Health is a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing, related to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled “<sup>1</sup>*

This definition is central to the purpose of the Sexual Health Board and provides an important focus for the future development of strategic planning.

## **OUTCOME**

The population of Bath and North East Somerset have good sexual and reproductive health.

## **PURPOSE**

- To oversee the development, promotion and delivery of a strategic plan for sexual and reproductive health in B&NES
- To influence the commissioning and delivery of high-quality sexual and reproductive health promotion, clinical provision and sexual health-related social care, ensuring quality within service delivery and equitable provision according to need
- To influence wider relevant strategic partnerships to ensure that sexual and reproductive health is taken account of

- To provide a forum for service providers, commissioners and wider partners from across voluntary and statutory sectors to discuss service, strategic and policy developments as equal partners
- To ensure effective partnership responses are developed and delivered in respect of all sexual and reproductive health services for B&NES residents.

### **SCOPE**

The key elements of sexual and reproductive health covered by Sexual Health Board are:

1. Sexually transmitted infections
2. Contraception
3. Unintended pregnancy and safe termination of pregnancy
4. Young people's sexual health; and relationships and sexual health education
5. Psychosexual issues
6. Promotion of safe sexual experiences
7. Teenage pregnancy
8. HIV

Other areas such as rape, sexual violence and sexual exploitation, perimenopausal sexual health, fertility, sexual dysfunction and gynaecological issues, whilst linked to the area are out of direct scope, although linkages with these areas will be developed where required.

**Terms of Reference 2023**

The Board will encourage sexual and reproductive health services to work in collaboration with key local organisations and partnership groups that work with vulnerable/at risk populations who are at risk of poorer sexual health outcomes for example substance misuse, supported housing etc.

**FUNCTIONS**

1. To identify the sexual and reproductive health needs of the population of Bath and North East Somerset
2. To take a strategic, collaborative and co-ordinated approach to the implementation of national sexual and reproductive health and related strategies and programmes
3. To ensure collaboration between the various commissioners and leads of sexual and reproductive health services (e.g. integrated sexual health services, HIV treatment and care, termination of pregnancy etc.)
4. To agree a set of priorities that will inform future sexual and reproductive health commissioning intentions in line with national guidance
5. To develop, and lead on the implementation of, the Bath and North East Somerset sexual and reproductive health strategy and action plan
6. To initiate and agree the aims of sexual and reproductive health working groups that support the delivery of the action plan
7. To lead continuous improvement within available resources, and identify gaps in the quality, range, consistency and accessibility of sexual and reproductive health services across the partnership by receiving from relevant commissioners and considering an overview of provider activity and quality measures, making recommendations as necessary
8. To identify ways in which the service user's experience of services can be enhanced, through for example, referral mechanisms, joint promotional materials, and shared service information
9. To ensure that expert clinical and other specialist input is available to provide direction to the commissioning and improvement of local sexual health services
10. To tackle inequalities, stigma and discrimination that have a negative impact on sexual and reproductive health

**FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

The board will meet three times per calendar year; however, if urgent issues arise that require more immediate discussion additional meetings will be arranged as required

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

All members need to attend all meetings. If unable to attend, they may submit written comments or send a substitute, as well as sending comments via email.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Agenda items to be received two weeks before meetings.  
Agenda and associated papers will be sent out one week before meetings.  
Minutes will be circulated two weeks after meetings.

**DECISION MAKING**

50% of members are required to be in agreement for decision making. Members not in attendance at meeting will be given 2 weeks to comment on decisions.

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

The Sexual Health Board will be directly accountable to the Health and Wellbeing Board and will report annually.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Paul Scott ( <b>Chair</b> )	Associate Director and Consultant in Public Health	Public Health, B&NES Council	<a href="mailto:Paul_scott@bathnes.gov.uk">Paul_scott@bathnes.gov.uk</a>
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**Sexual Health Board  
Terms of Reference 2023**

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<b>TBC</b>	Education representative	Education representative	
<b>TBC</b>	Child Sexual Exploitation Lead	Willow Project	
<b>TBC</b>	ToP Service Commissioning Lead	BSW ICB	

**These terms of reference will be reviewed annually.  
Next review date: SEPTEMBER 2023**

**REFERENCES:**

1. WHO (2006). *Defining sexual health - Report of a technical consultation on sexual health, 28 – 31 January 2002, Geneva*. Sexual Health Document Series, World Health Organisation, Geneva. Available from: [http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/sexual\\_health/defining\\_sexual\\_health.pdf](http://www.who.int/reproductivehealth/publications/sexual_health/defining_sexual_health.pdf)