

# Development of Sexual Health Services in Primary Care

Senior Registrar Project

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# Structure of week

- 4 sessions in General Practice – Marlow
- 4 sessions in GUM Clinic – Wycombe hospital, including 1 young persons session
- Remainder of time - project

# Aim of Project:

'To identify options for redesign of local genitourinary medicine service provision in the Mid and South Buckinghamshire area, enabling greater provision of level 1 and 2 services in primary care'

# What was the need for this project?

- Increased rates of sexually transmitted infections and demand for services, both locally and nationally
- National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (2001)
- New government targets – 48 hour access for all by 2008 (Choosing Health 2004)
- GUM services - top NHS priority 2006 – ‘Selby 6’
- Current provision for genitourinary services in primary care is patchy in Buckinghamshire area – demonstrated by survey of GPs in VoA in 2005

# National Strategy for Sexual Health & HIV (2001) – Service levels

## Level 1:

- Sexual history and risk assessment
- HIV testing and counselling
- Assessment and testing for women with symptoms of sexually transmitted infections (STI)
- Assessment and referral of men with symptoms of STI
- Hep B immunisation for those at risk
  
- Contraceptive information and services
- Cervical screening
- Pregnancy testing

## Level 2:

- Testing and treating for STI
- Partner notification
- Invasive tests for STI for men (until non-invasive available)
  
- IUD insertion
- Vasectomy
- Contraceptive implant insertion

## Level 3:

- Specialised HIV treatment and care
- Management of specialised infection
- Co-ordination of partner notification for whole area
- Outreach for STI prevention
- Outreach contraception services/Specialised contraception

# Outline of Project:

- Consultation - GPs
  - Patients
  - Investigation of existing models of sexual health services in other parts of UK i.e. Birmingham and Gloucestershire
- Development of candidate models
- Pilot

# Main issues:

- Funding
- Training
- Partner Notification
- Male Testing

# In summary:

The aim of this project was thus to:

- Identify candidate models for enhanced sexual health service provision in primary care
- Conduct initial options appraisal of candidate models
- Test feasibility/acceptability of various models with GPs
- Advise the PCT of the training/support/resources required to increase capacity of sexual health provision in primary care
- Advise PCT on initial pilot to evaluate one or more of the candidate models identified.

## Ensuring:

- Any proposed model will increase effective capacity for genitourinary services in primary care
- Services are developed alongside secondary genitourinary (GU) medicine services rather than as separate entity
- New services do not create further demand on GU medicine clinics

And:

- With more level 1 and 2 services carried out in primary care, GU Medicine clinics able to focus more on level 3 services
- Improved access to effective services in primary care equally throughout the Mid and South Bucks area in order to benefit all
- Government targets of 100% 48 hour access to GU medicine clinics by 2008 are met
- Improved sexual health of our population

# Goals attained:

- Completed survey of local GPs
- Creation of local 'strategy'
- Information document for GPs to inform them what we should be doing routinely in primary care
- Level 2 service specification document
- Testing and management protocol
- Input into creation of partner notification letter

- Links to RCGP Sex, Drugs and HIV Task group
- Increased confidence in working independently and alongside professionals from a number of fields, information gathering and working to deadlines
- Increased understanding of commissioning and NHS management as a whole

# Most importantly.....

- Proposals for Level 2 GUM services in primary care have been agreed by local PEC board and pilots to be introduced in near future
- Meeting to decide competencies for GPs wishing to carry these services scheduled for 15/03/07

# Difficulties:

- Time constraints
- Getting hold of people
- Juggling essentially 3 jobs
- Motivation