

Sexual Health Public Consultation – Further Background Information

Background Information – Sexual Health Services in Wigan

Q. What aspects of sexual health services are Wigan Council responsible for?

In 2013, Councils became responsible for commissioning most sexual health services and interventions as part of their statutory public health responsibilities.

This does not include termination of pregnancy (abortion) services, some of the sexual health services delivered by General practitioners (GPs), contraception that is delivered for gynaecological purposes, HIV treatment, and sterilisation for women and men, all of which are commissioned by other local or regional bodies.

Q. How have sexual health services developed and improved in Wigan borough over the last few years?

In 2017, a review of Wigan borough's sexual health services found several opportunities for improvement in the way services were delivered by a range of local organisations. These included better coordination between different providers, more innovative ways of how services are delivered, and reducing some of the challenges that residents are facing.

The review, included consultation with residents and other stakeholders, and it resulted in changes to the way sexual health services were delivered in the Wigan borough.

As a result of these changes, several improvements were made in how sexual health services are delivered in Wigan borough, including:

- The delivery of high-quality specialist sexual healthcare provision in the Borough
- Integrated pathways meaning that patients can access specialist sexual health provision in the Borough, and have a range of sexual healthcare needs met by the same organisation
- Greater variety of ways to access sexual healthcare, including through telephone triaging, online ordering of tests, postal/click and collect services, and 'Test and Go'
- An increased outreach offer that takes sexual healthcare provision out to the community and works with our most vulnerable residents and with the other professionals and agencies that help them
- The delivery of an award-winning 'Relationship and Sexual Education Programme' in secondary schools across the Borough

The Public Consultation – Further Information

Q. Why are we asking for people's views?

We collect learning and insight about sexual health services on an ongoing basis through things like; information from the services, patient feedback, and comments from health and care professionals such as GPs and other colleagues as well as staff working in sexual health services in the Wigan borough.

All this learning, taken together, gives us information that is used to help us improve our sexual health services.

We are starting to design and plan the services we want to be delivering in the borough from April 2024. The information from this public consultation will enable us to do this.

Q. What else will this public consultation involve?

Alongside a public survey, we will be running some face-to-face focus groups with:

- Residents who have specific and additional needs that sexual health services should consider
- Staff who provide sexual health services in the Wigan borough
- Other professionals who might deliver elements of sexual and reproductive health services or refer patients to them.

There will also be drop-in consultation sessions at Spectrum clinics and young persons' drop-in clinics in Wigan and Leigh, as well as at Sullivan Way sexual health clinics.

As part of the consultation process staff from affected services will be supported to provide their input into the process.

Q. What is included in the public consultation?

To ensure that our learning from the public consultation builds on and strengthens previous learning, this consultation will focus on a few specific areas we want to know more about, including:

- Increasing access to provision in local communities
- Residents' experiences and views on the recent changes in the offer, including online ordering, postal/Click and Collect, and Test and Go
- How can we make it easier for you/residents to access the right service for your/their needs at the right time

There are also a few things that are not included in the consultation, such as:

Not included	Rationale
Any change to the physical spaces where the central hubs are delivered from (Standishgate Wigan, Leigh Health Centre, Leigh)	It would not be feasible to consider moving our main premises due to the lease and contractual arrangements that are presently in place. The lease and contractual arrangements that are presently in place extend beyond April 2024.
Anything which may compromise a legal procurement process	To be able to effectively procure high quality services that meet residents' needs, it is important that an effective procurement process can be carried out. Any areas of consultation that could prejudice a procurement process would therefore not benefit the Borough.
Specific opening times or clinic session (to be determined via engagement activity led by provider(s))	We will be requiring our sexual health service to engage with residents and service users to inform some aspects of delivery, including specific opening times and clinic session arrangements. This will be done separately to this consultation.
The Greater Manchester HIV Prevention and Support Service	Salford Council commissions this service on behalf of Greater Manchester, which is delivered by a partnership between BHA for Equalities (formerly Black Health Agency), LGBT Foundation and George House Trust.
Cost of the service	No significant savings are envisaged at this stage. However the budget for this service has not yet been finalised. Separate review work is currently ongoing in relation to spend and payment models.

After the Public Consultation

Q. How will the consultation feedback be used?

The feedback through this consultation will be used, in conjunction with other review work, to inform a final proposed model for sexual health services in the borough from 1st April 2024.

Q. What are the timelines we are working to?

The public consultation will close on 5th July. The information gathered will be analysed and published in July 2023.

We anticipate securing a provider or providers for the services by the end of October 2023, with delivery of the new contract commencing by 1st April 2024.

Q. After the consultation, what can we expect to still be provided?

The sexual health service will continue to provide all methods of contraception, emergency contraception, Post-Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) medication for those at risk of contracting HIV, vaccinations, and information, advice, testing and management for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), and sexual health promotion, including HIV awareness.

The service will continue to be delivered out of two main town centre hubs, in Wigan and Leigh, and include some drop-in provision for young people.

There will continue to be a range of means by which residents can access sexual healthcare and support, such as telephone triaging, appointment clinics, drop-in sessions for young people, 'Test and Go' services, online services and postal/click and collect.

This consultation will influence how these services are provided.

Q. What other opportunities are we exploring?

In addition to what is already available, we think there are further opportunities in delivering sexual health services, as follows, to:

- Extend the current telephone triage system across some other sexual healthcare providers in Wigan to be able to help more people get to the right service for them at the right time
- Introduce an online system where people can book appointments, get test results and find out what treatment they need
- Deliver an increased outreach into people's own communities and specific groups of residents who are facing additional challenges for their sexual health
- Improve the access to female contraception, particularly coils and implants
- Continue the Relationship and Sex Education offer and support schools and colleges to increase the relationship and sexual healthcare education and support that is available in schools
- Ensure that, when appropriate to do so and with patients' consent, patient information can be shared by services to help improve individuals' care and experience when they are going to different services
- Increase the training and support offer to frontline healthcare professionals in Wigan to increase the number of healthcare professionals who can help residents with their sexual healthcare needs

This will let us know if you agree with these opportunities, areas of further improvement, or if we have missed any ideas.

Q. Who will deliver the provision?

We anticipate there could potentially be a wide range of interest in the contract from a variety of different organisations. The successful provider(s) will be selected through a robust and transparent procurement process.

The following contracts commissioned by Wigan Council will not be affected by the procurement process:

- Delivery of coil and implant fits and removals in Primary Care
- Delivery of Emergency Hormonal Contraception in local pharmacies
- Greater Manchester HIV Prevention and Support Services
- Freetesting.hiv