

Appendix 1.

Response to the Health Select Commissions' Recommendations – Access to Contraception Scrutiny Review

	Recommendation	Cabinet Decision (Accepted/ Rejected/ Deferred)	Cabinet Response (detailing proposed action if accepted, rationale for rejection, and why and when issue will be reconsidered if deferred)	Officer Responsible	Action by (Date)
1	Commissioning and Service Delivery a) That the relevant Council Services consider and review the feasibility of mobile outreach clinics or rotating sexual health outreach services where contraception, including LARC can be accessed in rural and underserved areas. b) That the relevant Council Services and relevant partners consider including sexual health services, specifically including contraceptive advice guidance and provision, in the new town centre health hub, ensuring flexible, reliable and discreet 'drop-in' access and reduced stigma.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are: a) For Public Health and Commissioning to work with the current sexual health provider to review existing outreach provision and consider the feasibility of further expansion within the scope of the current Sexual Health Contract b) For Council Services and partner organisations to explore the feasibility of delivering sexual health services, including contraceptive advice, guidance and provision, within the new town centre health hub	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	September 2026
2	Education, Public Awareness and Messaging a) That the relevant Council Services work in collaboration with appropriate partners to strengthen and extend the reach of a borough-wide, sex-positive public health campaign promoting safe, consensual, and informed sexual activity that makes effective use of the contraceptive and sexual health services available in Rotherham. The Commission particularly advocates the use of modern messaging strategies that harness the power of local 'influencers' via social media platforms (e.g. TikTok, Snapchat, Instagram) wherever possible to reach younger demographics with engaging, accurate contraception and sexual health messaging that reaches them directly in places they naturally frequent and counteracts disinformation. b) That the relevant Council Services encourage schools to deliver consistent, comprehensive PSHE, including ongoing practical contraceptive education and	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are: a) For Council Services to work with the Sexual Health Provider to explore opportunities to expand existing promotional activity. This should include, but not be limited to, increased promotion of the sexual health and contraception offer across other services to support effective signposting into sexual health provision, as well as promotion through appropriate websites and social media channels. b) To gain assurance from all schools that comprehensive Relationship and Sex Education (RSE) is delivered to all young	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2027

	awareness of confidentiality rights and works with them to improve parental engagement and understanding of the benefits of making informed contraceptive and sexual health choices.		people across the borough, and offer support where required		
3	Digital Access and Information a) That the relevant Council Services work to improve Council public health websites to deliver youth-friendly information on contraception and sexual health services and providing/signposting to relevant sources of information, advice and guidance aimed at assisting that demographic to make informed choices. b) That the relevant Council Services work to develop a centralised digital resource or landing page consolidating sexual health information, service locations, and confidentiality guidance, with links to age group/demographic specific issues and information.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Review the Rotherham Council website to ensure it effectively signposts users to reliable information on sexual health b) Consider the need to develop a dedicated landing page following the review of signposting on the Council website	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2027
4	Youth Access and Confidentiality a) That the relevant Council Services consider how, ideally in collaboration with relevant partners such as schools and NHS services, to raise awareness of Fraser guidelines and NHS app privacy settings to reassure young people about confidentiality when accessing contraception. b) That the relevant Council Services work with MESMAC and other relevant youth services to expand outreach and ensure visibility and borough wide accessibility of services, particularly for LGBTQ+ and vulnerable groups.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Align this work to Recommendation 3 to ensure awareness raising is aligned with any wider promotional work b) Align this work to Recommendation 1, ensuring outreach activity is considered in partnership with the current sexual health provider and aligned with the existing Sexual Health Action Plan.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	December 2026
5	Data, Monitoring and Strategic Alignment a) That the relevant Council Services include the location of sexual health clinics, drop-in centres, and pharmacies providing emergency contraception on the Rotherham mapping system (where grit salt bin locations, planning applications etc. can be found), or create a standalone map resource to allow Rotherham residents to easily identify all locations in the borough where they can access contraception. b) That relevant Council Services review local data on terminations and teenage pregnancies to assess emerging trends, identify the root causes and facilitate the formulation and implementation targeted interventions that address their drivers.	Partially Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet partially accepts this recommendation. The proposed actions are to: a) Align with actions outlined in recommendation 3 to ensure that information about local services is appropriately signposted online and via other services working in the community b) Recognise that local data is already routinely monitored by Public Health and Commissioning to inform the delivery and commissioning of the current sexual health service. c) Consider the review recommendations within the commissioning cycle and the development	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	December 2026

	c) That relevant Council Services ensure that the recommendations, observations and broad ambitions from this review are considered in the next commissioning cycle in 2027, and in the development/revision of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.		or refresh of the borough's sexual health strategy and action plan.		
6	That the recommendations and wider ambitions as approved by Health Select Commission, be submitted to Cabinet for consideration and response.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	May 2026
7	Following submission to Cabinet, that those recommendations within the control and influence of external bodies, are shared with relevant health partners and commissioners for consideration and response.	Accepted	It is proposed that Cabinet accepts this recommendation. The proposed action is for the progression of this work to be overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board.	Ian Spicer, Executive Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health	July 2026