

**ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES PARTNERSHIP**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Children, Young People and Families Partnership</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> November 2013</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Progress report in relation to safeguarding arrangements for young people accessing sexual health services in Rotherham.</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>Public Health</b>

**5. Summary**

This report is to update the Partnership in relation to the progress made to date on the development of care pathways and safeguarding reporting mechanisms for all young people accessing sexual health services in Rotherham.

Service providers and commissioners are in the process of harmonising protocols and reviewing care pathways.

**6. Recommendations**

That the Partnership notes the progress made.

Full implementation across GUM and CASH by the end of December 2013

**7. Proposals and Details**

Following the recommendations of the Partnership a group was established to look at the development of protocols and referral mechanisms in relation to appropriate sexual health service provision and safeguarding.

Care pathways will be developed to allow for the extension of the Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) service in Pharmacies to young women aged 14 to 16 which will include an automatic referrals for all under 16 year olds to a named team within IYSS. Public Health will work with both IYSS and Pharmacy representatives to agree the necessary protocols and pathways prior to the extension being agreed. This work is now underway.

An electronic recording system (similar to that already in use for supervised consumption of drugs at Pharmacies) is being introduced which will immediately alert any Pharmacist to the pathway that will allow for accurate monitoring.

Protocols in relation to under 16 year old children attending the Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CaSH) already include

screening for sexual exploitation.

These will be developed to raise the profile of CSE to enhance the capture of concerns in relation to possible sexual exploitation and contain appropriate referral mechanisms.

GUM and CaSH are moving to an integrated service where the protocols and referral criteria should be harmonised. These protocols are currently being worked on and an algorithm for referral to the newly appointed sexual exploitation nurse is being developed.

Once this work is completed these specialist protocols will be developed for use in general practice.

## **8. Finance**

No further financial considerations.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

Rotherham has made good progress in relation to tackling unintended teenage pregnancy, the numbers having fallen in recent years. The lack of community based EHC provision for younger, vulnerable young women could lead to an upward trend in unintended pregnancy, reversing the progress that has been made in the borough.

Rotherham also needs to tackle the level of sexually transmitted infections in the population by targeting those most at risk. It has been acknowledged, however, that there are safeguarding issues to be taken into consideration with sexual activity below the age of 16 years and, therefore, an automatic referral system between Community Pharmacists and IYSS is being developed and the referral pathways for the specialised services are being strengthened.

## **10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications**

There are implications for performance in relation to the Public Health Outcomes Framework (Teenage pregnancy, Chlamydia screening and HIV early detection). The further development of the safeguarding measures should also be seen as a contribution to measures designed to identify and prevent sexual exploitation.

## **11. Background Papers and Consultation**

Public Health Outcome Framework for England, 2013 - 2016

### **Contact Name :**

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