

ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.	Meeting	Children, Young People and Families Partnership
2.	Date	21/05/2014
3.	Title	Progress report in relation to safeguarding arrangements for young people accessing sexual health services in Rotherham
4.	Directorate	Public Health

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

7. Proposals and details

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

The proposal to extend the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) at Pharmacies to young women aged 14 to 16 has been taken to the Local Pharmaceutical Committee who have now agreed the necessary variation to the local contract.

The protocols for the automatic referral from Pharmacy have now been developed and the electronic recording system is being modified so that it shows an automatic alert (when indicated by age/date of birth) and details of the referral process. IYSS now have a draft protocol and an algorithm for referral.

A timetable for delivering training to Pharmacists in the use of the recording tool and the referral process is now being put together. Once this has been delivered the contract variation will be processed and Pharmacists signed up to the new contract will be able to operate the service extension.

The protocols in relation to under 16 year old girls attending Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CaSH) clinics are in the process of being harmonised and service level agreements with the Foundation Trust have been drawn up to reflect the integration of sexual health services. The proposed algorithm for referral to the newly appointed sexual exploitation nurse has now been circulated to professionals for comment and is currently being assessed.

Once this work has been 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 considerably in recent years. The lack of community based EHC provision for younger, vulnerable young women could reverse this trend. Rotherham also needs to tackle the level of sexually transmitted infections in the population by targeting those most at risk. There are, however, safeguarding issues to be taken into consideration with sexual activity below the ages of 16 years and, therefore, an automatic referral system between Community Pharmacists and IYSS is being introduced 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

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