

<b>Committee:</b> Health and Wellbeing Board – For Information	<b>Dated:</b> 06 May 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Sexual and Reproductive Health Commissioning Update	Public
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation’s Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	2, 4
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	No
<b>If so, how much?</b>	N.a.
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	N.a.
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain’s Department?</b>	N.a.
<b>Report of:</b> Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children’s Services  Dr Sandra Husbands, Director of Public Health	For Information
<b>Report author:</b> Xenia Koumi, Department of Community and Children’s Services	

### Summary

This report provides an update to the Health and Wellbeing Board about commissioning activities to protect and improve the sexual and reproductive health of our local communities and reduce sexual health-related inequalities. These activities include the provision of a range of both universal and targeted services designed to support the local population.

SRH services for the City of London and Hackney are jointly commissioned, led by the City and Hackney Public Health team with support from Hackney Council commissioners, legal, and procurement on the City Corporation’s behalf. Recharges for the City of London’s contributions are arranged via the Service Level Agreement (SLA) between the City Corporation and Hackney Council.

A Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment, as well as a local Women’s Health Survey, are underway. The findings from these will be used to develop a sexual health strategy and supporting commissioning plan working with the City and Hackney Integrated Care Partnership Board.

### Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.

- Promote the ongoing City & Hackney Women's Reproductive Health Survey

## Main Report

### Background

The City of London and Hackney Public Health and commissioning team currently commissions eleven key services for both City and Hackney residents:

Service	Provider	FY 21/22 spend by CoL (approx.)
Level 3 Specialist Sexual Health Clinics	Homerton Sexual Health Service (Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust)	£134,000
Enhanced sexual health services in primary care	GP Confederation	£10,500
Enhanced sexual health services in pharmacies	Community pharmacies	£140,000*
HIV prevention and support for adults living with HIV (Lot 1)	Positive East	£4,911
HIV prevention and support for children, young people, and families affected by HIV (Lot 2)	Body & Soul	£5,000
Sexual health and other support for commercial Sex Workers (Open Doors)	Homerton Sexual Health Service (Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust)	£57,000
Sexual health e-service (Sexual Health London - SHL) (Sexually transmitted Infection testing, chlamydia treatment, and emergency and routine contraception)	City of London Corporation and Preventx	£40,000 (includes activity, governance and management charges)
Vulnerable Babies' Service (baby milk for babies born to HIV-positive mothers)	Homerton Sexual Health Service (Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust)	£7,500*
Condom and sexual health resources distribution for young people	Young Hackney	£1,575
CHYPS Plus	Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust	£15,500
London HIV Prevention Programme	Lambeth Council	£2,697.25
<b>Total</b>		<b>£418,683</b>

\*Spend is combined for the City and Hackney

This represents roughly 25% of the Public Health Grant allocation to the City of London for 2021/22.

In terms of the Level 3 Specialist Sexual Health clinics, local residents can access any of these across England, with the City of London then rebilled for the cost of services provided.

The City and Hackney also participate and contribute to the London HIV Prevention Programme, which delivers campaigns, engagement, and outreach across the capital.

Impact of COVID on services:

Access to and uptake of services continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Commissioners are closely monitoring these impacts, in partnership with service providers. Many services have had to reduce the appointments they make available to patients, as a result of ongoing infection prevention control (IPC) measures (such as distancing and enhanced cleaning) in order to keep staff and patients safe.

As part of the COVID responses services were asked to prioritise vulnerable residents, providing treatments and the provision of LARC (Long-Acting Reversible Contraception). Although the provision of LARC was initially severely disrupted during 2020, focused efforts and prioritisation has meant that provision across the local system has now returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Where possible services that could be provided remotely were implemented and promoted. The sexual health e-service, which pre pandemic provided asymptomatic postal based sexually transmitted infection screening and treatment for chlamydia, widened its remit to include some symptomatic testing. The usage of this service increased by 145% between 2018/19 and 2020/21 (units of activity). The cost of providing the e-service (activity only) also increased from £15,212 in 2018/2019 to £985,962 in 2021/22 (for the City only).

## **Current Position**

Commissioning updates:

### Development of new SRH service for targeted high-risk communities:

A procurement exercise has recently concluded for a new SRH service aimed at City and Hackney residents aged 16+ from black and other ethnic minority communities, who experience higher levels of unmet need with regard to their sexual and reproductive health.

Among other objectives, the service is focused on improving access to information and education about good SRH; improving awareness of, access

to, and uptake of, PrEP, STI testing, and contraception; improving referral pathways between clinical and non-clinical settings; supporting wider local efforts to proactively address and reduce inequalities experienced by black communities, including relating to their SRH; acting as a “front door” into other services; promoting the “U=U” message and helping to tackle HIV-related stigma; and sharing learnings from engagement with target groups with system stakeholders.

The contract has been awarded and the service will go live on 1 July 2022, with implementation currently under way. The contract will be for five years (3+1+1) with a maximum total value of £400,000 (City and Hackney combined).

#### Condom and sexual health resources for young people:

A Service Level Agreement has been drawn up between the City and Hackney Public Health team and Young Hackney’s Health and Wellbeing team. Young Hackney is a Hackney Council service supporting young people. The SLA covers the delivery of additional SRH elements to young people across the City and Hackney from February 2022, building upon the existing SRH engagement work undertaken by the team.

Young adults in England are viewed as having greater sexual health needs compared with the general public. Young adults are one of the groups with the highest burdens of STIs. In both the City and Hackney, 16 to 24 year-olds account for a disproportionately high rate of local STI diagnoses.

This new service looks to build on the experience, expertise, and reputation of Young Hackney among local young people and organisations. The service will ensure that young people in Hackney and the City have access to information they need to help them to understand sexuality and respect themselves and others, as well as in understanding the reasons for delaying sexual activity, and making healthy choices. The service will deliver improved outcomes related to young people’s sexual health, such as a reduction in STIs and unwanted/ teenage pregnancies; leading to a reduction in inequalities as a result of sexual health.

The SLA will have an initial duration of 15 months, at a cost of £105,000 per year (£131,250 total), with the City’s contribution at £1,575.

#### Sexual health e-service contract:

Hackney and the City, along with the majority of other London authorities, have agreed to exercise the option to extend the pan-London sexual health e-service by a further three-years until August 2025. The contract is managed by the London Sexual Health Programme team, who are the lead commissioners for the service, hosted by the City Corporation, acting on behalf of all participating authorities.

The e-service provides self-testing STI kits and was recently expanded to include both emergency and routine contraception that can be ordered online by City and

Hackney residents. The service has been key to maintaining access to STI testing throughout the COVID pandemic whilst allowing clinic based services to focus on the more complex cases and provision of LARC.

There are core costs for the management of the e-service, which total £1,300 per year. The majority of spend for this service is activity-based; between 1 April and 30 November 2021 this totalled £38,700 for the City.

#### Level 3 Specialist Sexual Health Clinics:

The service, which is delivered by Homerton Sexual Health Service (part of Homerton University Hospital Foundation Trust), has an eight year contract, with an initial break clause in July 2022. An extension of this contract for a further two years (to July 2024) has recently been agreed.

The service is well respected by patients and stakeholders alike and delivers an excellent standard of care. Despite challenges experienced as a result of the pandemic, the service has been resilient and has continued to deliver excellent outcomes for patients.

Attendances at the clinics by City and Hackney residents account for approximately 57% of all patient activity at the clinics based in Hackney and the City of London. The majority of the other attendances are by residents of neighbouring boroughs who are cross charged by the Homerton for their residents' use. Attendances by City residents at Homerton sexual health clinics accounted for 28% of attendances at all SH clinics by City residents in 2021/22. In addition, Homerton accounts for 12% of City residents' access to PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis).

#### HIV prevention and support:

Local services for HIV prevention and support were commissioned from a North East London Framework that ended in 2021. The framework was recommissioned using an updated specification and continued to focus on two client groups: Lot 1-adults living with HIV and Lot 2- children, young people, and families affected by HIV.

Reprocurement was undertaken jointly with other North East London boroughs, bringing benefits such as joint procurement and commissioning, and delivery of the service at scale across areas that share similar needs and outcomes with respect to their residents. The contracts were awarded to Positive East at £98,000 per year for Lot 1 and to Body and Soul at £16,000 per year for Lot 2 (for both City and Hackney) with a City contribution of £4,911 and £5,000 respectively.

#### Open Doors service for Sex Workers:

The contract for the support service for on-street and off-street Commercial Sex Workers in Hackney and the City was due to end in March 2022 and has recently been approved for a further three-year (2+1) extension. The annual contract value is £371,000 with the City contributing £57,000.

#### Enhanced sexual health services in primary care and community pharmacies:

Contracts remain in place for the provision of enhanced sexual health services in primary care and community pharmacies. These services include STI screening and treatment provision, LARC fittings (primary care), and provision of emergency contraception and condoms to under-25s, as well as those aged 25+ in higher-risk groups. Activity across these services is monitored by commissioners to assess how well they are meeting unmet needs and how they are being impacted by, or responding to, developments in the pandemic.

Both of these services are paid primarily on an activity basis. The maximum contract value for the primary care service is £350,000 per year, and for the pharmacy service is £140,000 per year (for the City and Hackney combined).

### CHYPS Plus

CHYPS Plus is the young people's clinical health and wellbeing service provided by Homerton University Hospital Foundation NHS Trust. In addition to other services, it provides a child-centred, clinical and treatment service to support sexual and emotional health, including STI testing and treatment, and LARC fittings. Prior to the pandemic, the service had achieved its engagement target, however since the start of the pandemic, activity has been at approximately half of these levels as a result of COVID-19-related measures and school closures, where the service has not been able to undertake outreach at pre-pandemic levels.

The service has been in place since 2016 and an extension was provided until August 2023, as this service is being considered as part of the wider 0-25s recommissioning programme of work being led by the City of London and Hackney Public Health team. The annual contract value for the service is £516,760, with a City contribution of £15,500.

### London HIV Prevention Programme:

The London HIV Prevention Programme (LHPP) was established in April 2014, following the HIV Prevention Needs Assessment for London. The programme is coordinated on behalf of the London local authorities by Lambeth Council and has two workstreams: a promotional campaign targeted at MSM, black Africans, and all Londoners ("Do it London"); and a sexual health outreach service for MSM only. The GMI Partnership – Metro, Spectra, Positive East, The Love Tank, and Freedoms Shop – is subcontracted to deliver these elements.

The key aims of the programme are:

- Engage MSM communities through outreach, to increase their awareness of HIV prevention and behaviour change, which reduces HIV and STI incidence.
- Establish HIV testing as normalised, regular, and appropriate behaviour, including the provision of community-based rapid HIV testing.
- Increase the number of MSM who test for HIV and STIs regularly.
- Promote the knowledge and uptake of prevention methods, including PrEP, condoms, and "U=U".

- Ensure the promotion, provision, and distribution of condoms and lubricants free at the point of access for London MSM.
- Encourage and promote harm-reduction behaviours related to HIV transmission among key target audiences in key venues and spaces, as well as engaging with MSM online.
- Align all interventions with “Do it London” campaigns in engaging populations at risk of HIV.

The City’s contribution to the programme is £2,697.25.

### City & Hackney SRH Needs Assessment and Women’s Health Survey:

A Needs Assessment for SRH in Hackney and the City of London is currently being undertaken, with the aim of identifying unmet needs and informing future commissioning decisions, as well as the development of a local SRH strategy. There are complementary projects underway and being planned, the findings of which will help to inform the Needs Assessment. These include a local Women’s Health Survey, which launched in April and will be running until 30 May, as well as deep-dive research into PrEP uptake among Black African communities in Hackney and the City of London.

The SRH Needs Assessment is planned to be completed in late July 2022 and will then be used to develop a sexual health strategy and accompanying commissioning strategy for the local area. As a number of related sexual health services such as termination services, sexual assault referral services and gynaecological services are commissioned by the NHS, a joint strategy is proposed that would be developed in conjunction with The Integrated Care Partnership Board.

### **Options**

No options are proposed.

### **Proposals**

There are no proposals outlined.

### **Key Data**

The following data is taken from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities’ (OHID) Sexual and Reproductive Health Fingertips tool<sup>1</sup>.

Caution should be taken when looking at 2020 data, as sexual behaviours as well as access to screening/ testing, diagnosis, and treatment were all disrupted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, it is important to bear in mind the small resident population of the City and the impact this has when calculating rates per population, when the actual values are very small.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/sexualhealth>

While there hasn't been a significant change in the overall rate per 100,000 of new STI diagnoses in the City (excluding chlamydia in the under-25s), the actual number of new diagnoses has been increasing steadily since 2012. In 2019 it was 247, up from 235 in 2018. In 2020 the City performed similarly to the London average, but significantly worse than the England average.

The HIV diagnosed prevalence rate per 1,000 among those aged fifteen continued to decline in 2019 from a peak in 2016/17, however in 2020 it remained higher than both the London and England averages.

The City of London has strong HIV testing coverage compared with other London authorities (61.5% compared with 54.7% respectively), and in 2019 shared similar chlamydia screening and detection rates as other London areas.

The rate per 1,000 of total prescribed LARC (excluding injections) among City residents remained similar to 2019 in 2020, and is statistically significantly lower than the England average, and among the lowest in London.

## **Corporate & Strategic Implications**

Strategic implications – This report outlines the discharge of statutory duties of the City Corporation under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to protect and improve the health of its local populations, including sexual and reproductive health.

The report also aligns with the following outcomes of the Corporate Plan:

- Outcome 2: People enjoy good health and wellbeing
- Outcome 4: Communities are cohesive and have the facilities they need

Financial implications - None

Resource implications - None

Legal implications - None

Risk implications - None

Equalities implications – The provision of services to support, protect, and improve the sexual and reproductive health of local populations (as well as others, where open-access services are available), helps to reduce health inequalities, and supports the ambitions of the Equalities Act 2010. Commissioned services are required to provide data on protected characteristics of the service users/ patients they support, for monitoring purposes, and to ensure that nobody is excluded from access as a result of their protected characteristics.

Climate implications - None

Security implications - None

## **Conclusion**

This report provides an update on the commissioning activities of the City of London and Hackney Public Health team to support the sexual and reproductive health of the City's populations. It includes a breakdown of the different services commissioned by



the Local Authority, as well as activity, spend, and commissioning intentions for the near future.

### **Appendices**

None

### **Background Papers**

None

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