



## BRIEFING

**FOR: GENERAL PRACTICES & PHARMACIES (TEESSIDE)**

**RE: PROCUREMENT OF TEES SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICE**

**DATE: 1 OCTOBER 2015**

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Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rates in the UK have been rising steadily over the past decade with more than 1.5 million episodes of STIs seen in UK clinics every year. In Teesside the main concerns are increasing rates of some STIs such as gonorrhoea as well as high rates of unintended pregnancies in particular teenage pregnancies. There is a need for accessible and equitable services in particular for young people as well as for vulnerable and at higher risk groups.

On Teesside there has been an Integrated Sexual Health Service in existence since 2010 provided by Virgin Care Stockton LLP. On 1 April 2013 the majority of responsibility for the commissioning of Sexual Health Services transferred to the Local Authorities. Over the past 12 months there has been a process of review and consultation around this service and this has resulted in four Local Authorities jointly tendering with NHS Commissioners to identify a prime provider who will be responsible for the delivery of Sexual Health Services within Hartlepool, Stockton on Tees, Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland from 1 July 2016 for a period of 5 years.

The aim of the procurement is to ensure that there is a high quality service in place for the population of Teesside which includes treatment and care for Sexual Health. This includes contraception and genitourinary medicine, chlamydia testing, sexual health promotion, cervical screening, vasectomy, and psychosexual counselling.

The successful tenderer will be expected to provide, but not be limited to, the following:

- High quality open access sexual health services in line with national guidance and best practice including all aspects of a sexual health service that is testing, treatment and education. Care and treatment will be delivered via a network of Hubs, Spokes and Outreach Clinics as well as through General Practices and Pharmacies.
- Management and maintenance of patients records to ensure seamless care for patients across Tees.
- Access to self-managed provision including health information, online testing and Condom-Card schemes.
- A highly skilled workforce who are dual trained to meet both contraceptive and Genitourinary Medicine needs of patients.
- Support, information and training to build capacity amongst other frontline workers to contribute to improvements in sexual health outcomes.
- Training for doctors and nurses plus the wider workforce for example, youth workers, social workers, healthcare professionals and the voluntary sector to contribute to the development of a sustainable sexual health workforce.
- Services that reach the most vulnerable and at risk groups.

The procurement is led by Stockton on Tees Borough Council on behalf of the following commissioners:

- Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton on Tees Borough Council
- Hartlepool and Stockton on Tees NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- South Tees NHS Clinical Commissioning Group
- NHS England (Cumbria and Northeast)

As part of the preparation for the procurement a consultation was undertaken with the public and stakeholders (including GPs and Pharmacies). A copy of the [Executive Summary](#) can be found at [www.teespublichealth.nhs.uk](http://www.teespublichealth.nhs.uk). The tender opportunity is being advertised via the [NEPO Portal](#). If you have any questions please contact:

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