

# **Response, Restart and Recovery**

## ***Sexual Health Services***

November 2020

# Sexual Health Services

- Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Local Authorities are mandated to provide comprehensive sexual health services including the provision of contraception, contraceptive advice, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and psychosexual counselling.
- NHS England (NHSE) are responsible for the provision of Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) treatment and care services, which for Kent residents is passed to Kent County Council to commission under a Section 75 agreement.
- Kent delivers sexual health services through a combination of face to face and virtual methods to increase access and provide flexibility, details of the contracts are visualised at the end of this slide pack.
- These slides provide a summary of the impact of Coronavirus, response of services and priority actions needed to support recovery.



# Sexual Health Service – Impact of COVID

## National Guidance

- Staff repatriation to aid NHS services and priorities
- Need to move out of premises with capacity restrictions (where KCC not a landlord)
- Business continuity planning to protect at risk groups (staff and users)
- Extended time for Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) procedures and other services to adhere to social distancing

## Service impacts

- Rapid shift to online triage and delivery
- Reduced capacity in both primary care and pharmacy due to competing national priorities
- Outreach delivery reduced, but a focus on supporting those most in need

## Service Activity and Trends

- Increased activity for the online STI testing service and psychosexual therapy service
- Decreased activity for the young person condom programme, specialist sexual health clinics and LARC delivery in primary care due to national guidance

# Sexual Health Service - Response to Covid-19

## Service Delivery Prior to Covid-19

- Specialist sexual health services offered booked and walk in clinics, with some walk in clinics allocated for young people only. Outreach offered to at risk groups
- Online STI testing service offered asymptomatic screening only with symptomatic seen in clinic
- LARC delivered via primary care and specialist sexual health clinics
- Community Pharmacy offered face to face consultations
- Psychosexual Therapy delivered Face to Face
- Young Person Condom Programme included outreach and provided brief intervention training to youth hubs
- Aim to reduce out of area activity and increase digital

## Service Delivery Post Covid-19

- Walk in clinics no longer offered and reduced outreach
- Service users triaged remotely and either signposted to appropriate non contact services or offered booked appointment for those who need to be seen in clinic
- Online service offers asymptomatic and some symptomatic screening to assist with demand on clinics
- LARC capacity in primary care reduced, specialist integrated sexual health services creating additional LARC capacity to meet demand
- Community Pharmacy offers virtual consultations over the phone to minimise service user face to face contact time
- Psychosexual Therapy primarily delivers virtual therapies
- The young person condom programme deliver virtual training sessions to upskill the wider workforce
- Reduction in Out of Area activity, increased use of digital

# Sexual Health Service - Response to Covid-19

## Sexual Health Projects Prior to Covid-19

- Sexual Health Transformation workstream covering IT systems, Community Pharmacy, Communication and Premises
- New sexual health clinic capital projects for The Flete Unit (Margate) and Rowan Tree (Tunbridge Wells)
- The transfer of the PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) Impact Trial to routine delivery via specialist integrated sexual health services
- Review of Long Acting Reversible Contraception contracts with primary care
- Review of premises to ensure we have the appropriate coverage across Kent

## Sexual Health Projects Post Covid-19

- Re-evaluation of sexual health transformation priorities in light of Covid-19
- Continuing with the New sexual health clinic capital projects in Margate and Tunbridge Wells
- Continuing the launch of the PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) to routine delivery via specialist integrated sexual health services and monitoring demand
- Collaborate with Kent Medway CCG on their restart programme to review all contraception options in terms of access and funding opportunities across Kent
- Digital Accessibility
- Contractual revisions to reflect service changes
- National cervical screening in sexual health clinics

The partnership agreement between Kent's specialist integrated sexual health providers and KCC provided an effective mechanism to respond rapidly to new requirements. Through collaboration a number of new and enhanced services were implemented to manage demand and ensure clients can be seen in a safe way.

## New and Enhanced Services

- Funding used differently to meet need e.g. increase online STI testing which has seen an increase due to less face to face appointments within clinics
- Creation of a new symptomatic triage process via the online STI testing service to reduce the pressure on the integrated services
- Supplier Relief payment mechanism created to provide additional funding to both pharmacy and general practice to stabilise the market and provide cash flow
- Creation of oral contraception posted to home delivered by integrated sexual health services to prevent face to face contact where possible and ease pressures on pharmacies
- Additional capacity created for Psychosexual Therapy by enabling virtual delivery and providing a flexible service enabling appointments outside of core clinic times

# Sexual Health Services- Key Learning, Opportunities and Risks

## Key Learning

- Stability of service offer was maintained through digital methods including home STI testing service, psychosexual therapy service, remote consultations and online condom programme. Digital delivery can also increase the capacity of services
- Popularity of new services introduced including remote consultations and applicable drugs treatments posted directly to the persons home
- Initial feedback that virtual consultations facilitated by highly skilled staff delivers less patient contacts and the same outcomes although further work is required to evidence this
- The emphasis on digital delivery may increase barriers to access services for certain groups of people. Digital delivery also minimises safeguarding and outreach opportunities
- Strong relationships with sexual health partners enables quick decision making and continued service delivery

## Opportunities

- Develop own estate to provide even greater security
- Consolidate sexual health estate to rationalise costs while maintaining access
- Maintain digital enhancements to provide a more flexible access to service while also bringing cost efficiencies
- Work with partner agencies to target contraceptive funding at most appropriate access route
- Reduction in Out of Area activity may enable revenue to be redirected into Kent services

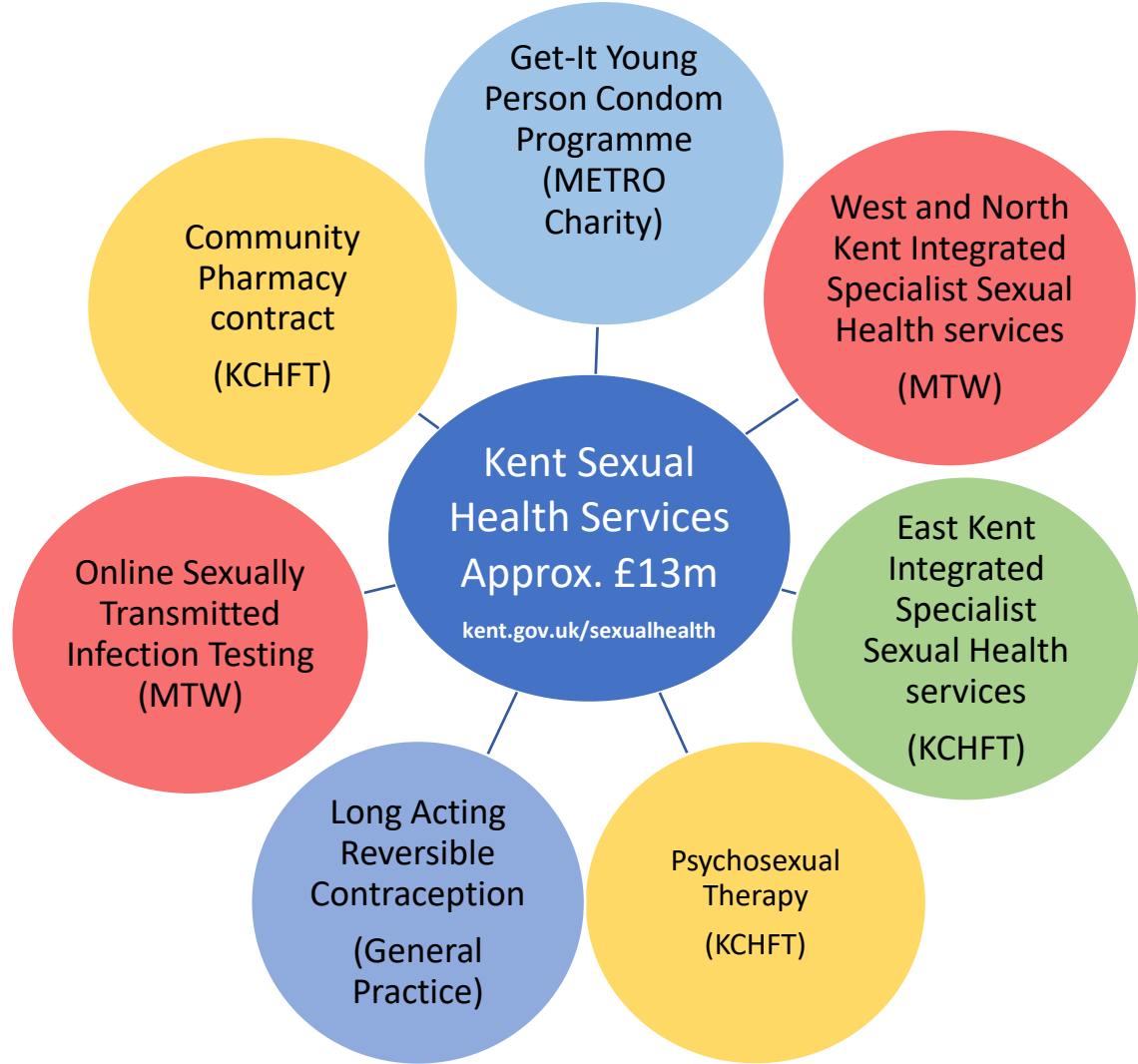
## Risks

- Prevented re-entering shared premises due to capacity restrictions in services operating in those premises
- Staff repatriation to aid national priorities e.g. second wave
- Restarting primary care may be impacted by winter flu pressures, potential Covid-19 vaccine or Covid-19 second wave
- Additional costs continue to be incurred due to Covid-19 and current sexual health budget pressure for 2021-22 is est. £1.8m.
- National guidance requiring services to stop



# Visual of Kent Sexual Health Services

Sexual Health Premises provided by KCC across services



Out of Area Activity for Kent Residents accessing open access services

**NOTE:**  
2020/21 budgeted figures