



Ref. No: 069090522
From: Public
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Subject: Commissioned sexual health services

REQUEST AND RESPONSE

PrEP Local Authority survey

Introduction

We have now had two years of routine commissioning for the HIV prevention drug PrEP. In the national goal of ending all new HIV transmissions by 2030, PrEP is a vital tool in reducing new HIV cases.

We understand that sexual health services have been under pressure, and we want to work collaboratively with those services and decision makers to find solutions to PrEP access.

Your Local Authority

1. Name of Local Authority

St Helens Borough Council

Section 2 - Please respond to the following questions in section 2, for each level 3 sexual health service you commission in your local authority area. Please complete a separate word document for each service.

2.1. Name of clinic/service prescribing PrEP

St Helens Sexual Health provided by St Helens and Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

2.2. In terms of assessing the eligibility for PrEP, which of the current methods does your service use to assess a patient's eligibility?

- Telephone consultation with a member of staff
- Face to face appointments

2.3. Is this service currently booking new appointments for PrEP initiation for eligible patients?

Yes

2.4. Does your service currently have an upper limit or cap on the total number of possible PrEP prescriptions/patients it can accept?

No

If you answered yes, please answer the below:

2.4.1. What is the current upper limit or cap on the number of PrEP prescriptions/patients?

N/A

2.5. How many people are currently enrolled in this service receiving PrEP?

We have 134 patients currently with 268 attendances coded for Prep. (PREPA)

2.6. How long is the average time from requesting a PrEP appointment to PrEP initiation?

Approximately 1 week

2.7. Is there currently any waiting list for PrEP in your service?

No

If you answered yes, please answer the below:

2.7.1. What is the current average waiting list time for those waiting for PrEP?

2.7.2. How many people are currently on the waiting list?

N/A

2.8. Has COVID affected the number of PrEP appointments available? (Please specify)

Yes. Due to redeployment/staff illness we were unable to roll out our Nurse PrEP training in 2021 so patients were having to be booked as extra patients on Dr lists. We have now implemented a training package for our Band 6 and 7 Nurses allowing more Clinicians to be able to offer first/repeat PrEP. All Nurses have had training on eligibility for PrEP so can signpost patients to Clinicians who are more aware in order to administer PrEP so patients are not having delays in care.

2.9. What length of PrEP prescription does the service currently offer for first prescription/initiation (tick all that apply)?

3-month prescription

2.10. What length of PrEP prescription does the service currently offer for repeat and follow up prescriptions (tick all that apply)?

3-month prescription

2.11. Please share any data you have about the population prescribed PrEP in this service, broken down by key population groups, specifically, gender, age, sexual orientation and ethnicity?

Section 40 – Personal Information

We are unable to provide precise figures when those figures refer to individuals in volumes of 5 or less due to the risk that individuals will be re-identified, as we are required to protect their identity under the General Data Protection Regulations & Data Protection Act 2018. In such circumstances, sections 40(2) and (3) of the Freedom of Information Act apply. In this case, our view is that disclosure would breach the first data protection principle. This states that personal data should be processed “lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner”. It is the lawful aspect

of this principle which, in our view, would be breached by disclosure. In such circumstances section 40 confers an absolute exemption on disclosure.

Age Breakdown	Number of Patients	Gender Breakdown		Ethnicity Breakdown	
		Female	Male		
18	<5	Female	<5	White British	122
19	<5	Male	132	Any Other White Background	7
20	<5			Mixed White & Black Caribbean	<5
21	<5			Indian	<5
22	<5			Any Other Black Background	<5
23	<5			Any Other Ethnic Group	<5
24	<5			Not Stated	<5
25	<5				
26	<5				
27	<5				
28	<5				
29	7				
30	6				
31	6				
32	<5				
33	<5				
34	<5				
35	<5				
36	8				
37	<5				
38	<5				
39	<5				
40	<5				
41	<5				
42	<5				
44	<5				

45	<5				
47	<5				
48	<5				
49	<5				
50	<5				
52	<5				
53	<5				
56	<5				
57	<5				
59	<5				
60	<5				
61	<5				
63	<5				
64	<5				
65	<5				
67	<5				
68	<5				
71	<5				
72	<5				
77	<5				

2.12. Do you have any plans for targeted outreach to communities currently under-represented in PrEP prescribing in your service?

No

If you answered yes, please answer the questions below:

2.12.1. Are these plans currently funded?

2.12.2. Please share any further details of your plans if possible.

N/A

If you answered no to question 2.12, please answer the question below:

2.12.3. Are there any barriers or reasons why this work is not able to take place? (Please specify)

Our current level of workforce doesn't allow for this. This applies to both Doctors, Nurses and our Healthcare assistants. We do have a health improvement team who provide Sexual Health outreach for young people, injecting drug users and offer STI screening for asylum seekers. If someone was deemed eligible for PrEP then the team would try and facilitate getting them to clinic for PrEP.

2.13. Are there any PrEP service changes planned or envisaged in the next 6 months? (Please specify)

Yes. Once all Nurses are trained, patients will be able to call reception and have a telephone PrEP review before coming for a short appointment for screening and collection of meds. Future digital developments will also help to enhance the service.

2.14. Do you have the resources or tools you need to ensure everyone who is eligible for PrEP or might benefit from it is identified and able to access PrEP?

Yes. As our Directorate comes under Community Care, we will be training local GPs to ensure that they are up to date with PrEP eligibility. We have also added our PrEP clinic to choose and book for our local area so if a GP sees a patient who they think might be eligible, they can directly refer the patient to our service.

If you answer no, please answer the below question:

2.14.1. What additional resources does your clinic require to increase the identification of eligible patients and uptake of PrEP?

N/A