

London Borough of Wandsworth 2025-2030

Sexual and Reproductive Health Partnership Strategy

Contents

Foreword	3	Eight intervention areas for action	10
Executive Summary	4	Antenatal, Intrapartum & Postnatal Care	11
Our Vision	5	Comprehensive Education and Information	12
Introduction	5	Contraception Counselling & Provision	14
What is sexual and reproductive health and why is it important?	5	Gender-based Violence Prevention, Support & Care	16
Operational framework for understanding sexual and reproductive health	6	Fertility & Reproductive Care	18
Context and considerations	7	Prevention & Control of HIV and other STIs	20
The life course approach	7	Safe Abortion Care	22
The global and national context	7	Sexual Function and Psychosexual Counselling	23
The regional and local context	7	How will we deliver this strategy?	24
How did we develop this strategy?	8	Governance	24
Stakeholder and Community Engagement	8	How will we monitor progress?	24
High Level Strategic Priorities (our goals)	8	Appendix One – Current Providers	25
		Glossary	26
		References	27



Foreword

Cllr Graeme Henderson, Cabinet Member for Health, Wandsworth Borough Council

I am delighted to endorse this important strategy aimed at improving the sexual and reproductive health of our community. This strategy is the result of strong partnership working between Local Authority, Health and Community and Voluntary sector colleagues. At the heart of the strategy is the ambition to provide comprehensive and quality sexual and reproductive health care that meets the needs of our population and reduces health inequalities. This is in line with the council priority for a compassionate Wandsworth that truly listens and is ambitious for all where communities feel confident, protected and supported.



Our vision for sexual and reproductive health services is ambitious, yet we recognise the constraints of limited resources. This strategy is based on a thorough analysis of the local data on sexual and reproductive health needs, but it takes into account more than just the data. We have listened to those that live, work and are educated in Wandsworth, including those from the most vulnerable groups, to understand what it is that they want to see in this strategy. This has ensured that it is the needs of the local population that are prioritised when tough decisions around resource allocation are made.

This strategy is aligned with key national strategies including the National HIV Action Plan for England and Women's Health Strategy for England ensuring that we continue to work in a coordinated way across the system.

The Local Authority has a range of roles in the delivery of sexual and reproductive health. Core responsibilities are the commissioning of sexual health treatment and prevention services and the development and implementation of the sexual and reproductive health strategies. The Local Authority also has a lead role in the delivery of prevention work such as supporting schools in training around relationships and sex education (RSE), building skills and confidence of the wider workforce to build knowledge in relation to sexual health, health promotion, and development of educational campaigns.

This is an action focussed strategy with clear aims and objectives that will ensure that we are on track to improving STI detection and treatment, increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services and increased targeted interventions for those facing inequalities.

Wandsworth Care Alliance

The conversations with residents and voluntary sector organisations in our community reflected in this strategy prepares for a future focus on community and collaboration. We welcome and encourage further commitment from organisations represented in this strategy to involve and co-produce sexual and reproductive health interventions with our community. Actions developed and implemented with the community have greater impact. This is particularly important for increasing prevention activity and creating accessible services to tackle the health inequalities evidenced in our borough. The recognition of the links between the many determinants of health is very important.

The voluntary sector organisations who are and will become partners in these actions will be crucial to reach the community on their own terms, delivering services and empowering people with information to keep well.

Jason Edgington, Director, Wandsworth Care Alliance



Executive Summary

The Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy is an ambitious, collaborative plan that outlines the actions to be taken by the local authority, NHS, and community and voluntary sector that will improve the sexual and reproductive health of Wandsworth residents, over the next 5 years.

Sexual and reproductive health is an important public health issue with health, social and economic impacts that can affect the population across the life course. Equitable access to sexual and reproductive health services is essential to improve the health and well-being of individuals and populations.

The strategy is informed by the global, national, regional and local context which collectively identifies need, guides priority and funding decisions and drives improved health outcomes for sexual and reproductive health. The strategy is guided by six high level strategic priorities that emerged from a comprehensive local sexual and reproductive health needs assessment and extensive public and partnership consultation.

1. Promote RSE and sexual and reproductive health education through the life course, targeting disproportionately affected and underserved groups.
2. Improved prevention of and rapid, targeted diagnosis and access to treatment for STIs and HIV.
3. Improve HIV prevention including the increased uptake of PrEP amongst underserved groups.
4. Increased reproductive choice and prevention of reproductive related ill-health.
5. Increased role of wider community in promoting positive sexual and reproductive health recognising links to emotional health and wellbeing.
6. Identification of child sexual abuse that recognises links to longer term health outcomes.

The needs assessment identified 15 key recommendations to take forward through our strategy:

- Provide appropriate advice, information and training to parents & carers to enable early conversations that build a strong foundation for RSE and protective behaviours through the life-course.
- Strengthen support to schools, teacher training and youth and community services to build skills in the delivery of relationships and sex education, including how to access services and providing more information on reproductive health.
- Increase training for the wider health, social care and voluntary sector workforce to build confidence and skills to engage residents in healthy discussions on sexual and reproductive health through the life course, including the identification of sexual harm or abuse.
- Prioritise the expansion of access to contraceptive choices, particularly LARC through expanding online contraceptive services, integrating the new national pharmacy contraceptive service and expanding routine 'open' LARC availability in General Practice.
- Work towards standardisation of the pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) offer across south west London ensuring EHC can be clearly accessed and promoted to high risk groups.
- Ensure that the forthcoming sexual and reproductive health strategy complements and strengthens existing crime prevention, VAWG (violence against women and girls) and safeguarding strategies, recognising the links between sexual and domestic violence and poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes.
- Provide appropriate advice, information and training to better equip the workforce to identify and support those at risk of or experiencing child sexual abuse.
- Increase access of ethnic minority and lower socio-economic groups in reproductive health services, specifically fertility, cervical screening and reproductive cancer prevention and treatment programmes.
- Explore ways to improve access to menopause support including provision of HRT for ethnic minority groups.
- Employ targeted STI prevention programmes that encourage consistent and correct condom use, STI related screening / testing programmes and take-up of STI related vaccinations.
- Prioritise the provision of online and open access, adequately funded sexual health services for rapid STI diagnosis and treatment with robust contact tracing.
- Strive to achieve zero HIV transmission through targeted early diagnosis and identifying and enabling underserved groups to increase access to PrEP.
- Improve referral and access to both pre-conception and post-abortion contraceptive options via abortion, perinatal, midwifery and 0-19 health services.
- Increase awareness of the link between sexual dysfunction, cardiovascular health, dementia and early death.
- Increase the understanding and representation of underserved groups within our partnership approach to tackling inequalities in relation to sexual and reproductive health outcomes.



To deliver on the high-level priorities and 15 recommendations the strategy adopts the World Health Organisation framework for operationalising action to promote sexual and reproductive health. In doing so, it takes a life course approach and identifies local action for each of the eight intervention areas:

- Antenatal, Intrapartum & Postnatal Care
- Comprehensive Education and Information
- Contraception Counselling & Provision
- Gender-based Violence Prevention, Support & Care
- Fertility & Reproductive Care
- Prevention & Control of HIV and other STIs
- Safe Abortion Care
- Sexual Function and Psychosexual Counselling

Actions are informed by a comprehensive local [sexual and reproductive health needs assessment](#) and extensive public and partnership consultation.

Each of the eight intervention areas presented in this strategy provide a summary of the current local evidence, an outline of our current offer, a reflection of common themes or issues felt to be pertinent to the population of Wandsworth and a list of priority actions we will take forward to build on our current offer.

Our strategy is ambitious but recognises the constraints of limited resources. By focusing our efforts on those who experience poorer sexual and reproductive health outcomes and those who are seldom heard, we will maximise impact and create a more equitable and accessible preventive and healthcare landscape for all.

Our Vision

Our vision for sexual and reproductive health is one that embraces the holistic well-being of our community. We acknowledge the interconnectedness of sexual and reproductive health with physical, mental, and social well-being.

We are committed to fostering an environment where people who work, live, or go to school in the borough can achieve optimal and enjoyable sexual and reproductive health outcomes that are free from violence and coercion across the life course.

By improving education, information, and equitable access to services, people will be empowered to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive lives.

Introduction

The sexual and reproductive health needs of the local population was assessed in the latest revision of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment (SRHNA), published in 2024. This assessment was a collaborative effort informed by engagement and collaboration with stakeholders including residents, safeguarding boards, community and voluntary sector partnerships, disabilities partnerships, crime prevention partners and young people's participation groups. The SRHNA identified six high-level strategic priorities and 15 key recommendations that informed the development of this strategy. These priorities and recommendations were further refined by stakeholders and public consultation during the development of this strategy.

What is sexual and reproductive health and why is it important?

Sexual and reproductive health is an important public health issue with health, social and economic impacts that can affect the population across the life course. Experiencing good sexual and reproductive health is a fundamental aspect of human identity and life experience. This sexual and reproductive health strategy adopts the World Health Organisation's (WHO) current working definitions for sexual health and reproductive health:

Sexual Health:

"...a state of physical, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease, dysfunction or infirmity. Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. For sexual health to be attained and maintained, the sexual rights of all persons must be respected, protected and fulfilled".¹

Reproductive Health:

"...a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and to its functions and processes. Reproductive health implies that people are able to have a satisfying and safe sex life and that they have the capability to reproduce and the freedom to decide if, when and how often to do so".²

Poor sexual and reproductive health can lead to a range of outcomes including STIs, HIV, unintended pregnancies, abortions, and psychological impacts of sexual coercion and abuse. Each of these can lead to long-lasting and costly impacts for both individuals and wider society. This may include reduced education, social and economic opportunities, or longer-term health issues such as genital and liver cancers, pelvic inflammatory disease, and poor maternity outcomes. Poor sexual and reproductive health is not evenly distributed, with some communities disproportionately affected, including young people, gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM), people living in poverty, specific ethnic minority communities, and people living with HIV. Impacts, however, can be reduced through safer sex practices, regular testing, and access to sexual health and reproductive services.³

Proactive health promotion and high-quality health education can improve outcomes by encouraging safer sexual behaviour and testing. Consistent and correct condom use substantially reduces the risk of being infected with an STI and immunisation reduces the risk of being infected with certain infections. STI screening, open access to sexual health services for rapid STI diagnosis and treatment with robust contact tracing allows earlier diagnosis and reduces the length of time that people can transmit to others. Persistent inequalities in relation to reproductive health further impacts on access to prevention, treatment and care options.

Operational framework for understanding sexual and reproductive health

This strategy uses the 2017 WHO framework for sexual and reproductive health, recognising that these two areas are interconnected, and they support and protect each other. The eight intervention areas, four each for sexual health (blue ribbon) and reproductive health (orange ribbon), are of equal importance. Each intervention area enhances the impact of the others and, as a result, strengthens the attainment of sexual health as a whole.⁴

The orange and blue ribbons support the central premise that good sexual and reproductive health in turn supports physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality, as shown in the white centre of the rosette.





Context and considerations

The life course approach

A life course approach to health and well-being considers how biological (including genetic), social and behavioural factors throughout life and across generations act independently, cumulatively, and interactively to influence health outcomes. Sexual and reproductive health is important throughout the life course, at every age and for every community, both as an independent aspect of health and for underpinning identity, personal well-being, and relationships.

A life course approach might include positive parenting from a very early age to create the social and emotional foundations on which healthy and safe relationships can be built, including setting personal boundaries and self-awareness that can prevent exploitation or abuse.

During the school years, evidence-based education in the classroom equips children to develop the knowledge and skills to grow into healthy adults seeking healthy relationships that are free from exploitation and abuse.

The working age population is a diverse group who may experience a range of significant life events from marriage, pregnancy, and parenting alongside physiological changes. Sexual and reproductive health for working-age adults bridges contraception, pregnancy, termination of pregnancy and diagnosis and treatment of STIs.⁵

Sexual activity in later life is a period in which adults may become more socially isolated as they leave the workplace, develop impairments, or become bereaved. Although there is some evidence that sexual activity declines with age, there is also clear evidence that many adults remain sexually active well into old age,⁶ adjusting and adapting to disability and disease to continue to enjoy fulfilling sex lives.⁷ Although not all older people seek an active sex life, for those that do, sexual dysfunction can have a significant impact on mental health and well-being.⁸ Sexual dysfunction is not an inevitability of ageing, for either gender, but rather a reflection of the burden of accumulated risk factors and immediate stressors.⁹

The global and national context

This strategy is informed by the global and national context which collectively identifies need, guides priority and funding decisions and drives improved health outcomes. Universal access to sexual and reproductive health care services including family planning, information and education is within the United Nations recognised Sustainable Development Goals (SDG3).

The strategy reflects the [Core20PLUS](#) national NHS England approach to inform action to reduce healthcare inequalities at both national and system level. Core20 looks to accelerate action for the most deprived 20% of the population, while PLUS focuses on population groups more vulnerable to poorer health outcomes

The strategy reflects the UK commitment to achieving zero new HIV infections, AIDS and HIV-related deaths in England by 2030, set out in Toward Zero: the national HIV Action Plan for England¹⁰. This plan sets out how partners will work across the health system to intensify work around the core themes to prevent, test, treat and retain quality of life for those with HIV.

It also reflects commitments set out in the first Women's Health Strategy for England (2022) which prioritises promoting positive reproductive health for women. Overlapping areas for action include:

- Menstrual health and gynaecological conditions
- Fertility, pregnancy, pregnancy loss and postnatal support
- Menopause
- Cancers (including reproductive cancers)
- Health impacts of violence against women and girls (including sexual violence)

As the strategy is implemented it will be guided and informed by the new S.T.I. (Situation, Target groups, Interventions) Prioritisation Framework (2024) which shifts the focus of control efforts towards reducing adverse health outcomes and addressing inequalities. The framework acknowledges that the sexual health needs of the population can only be met through working in partnership. This includes identifying or establishing local structures to enable effective collaborative working.

The regional and local context

London currently carries a high proportion of the national HIV epidemic, with a third of all new diagnoses in England being made here.¹¹ In 2018, London councils signed the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities which is a global movement aiming to end HIV transmission by 2030. London is already leading the way in diagnosis and treatment, surpassing the global 95-95-95 target in 2017, but aims to be the first city in the world to end new cases of HIV and achieve zero preventable deaths and zero stigma by 2030.

The London Sexual Health Transformation Programme (LSHP) is a partnership of 31 London local authorities, that co-ordinates strategy and planning of sexual health services in the capital and has included lead commissioning responsibility for the London-wide Sexual Health [London.UK \(SHL.UK\)](#),¹² London's sexual health e-service. The e-service provides free and easy access to self-sampling for STIs and HIV, routine contraception, emergency hormonal contraception (EHC), and signposting to local services. The service provides testing for a range of STIs including chlamydia, gonorrhoea, HIV, syphilis, hepatitis B and hepatitis C via samples that can be collected at home.

This strategy delivers on the key objectives of the Council's Prevention Framework model.¹³ This model has at its centre the aim of embedding prevention as a system delivery tool to promote health and to reduce health inequalities. It does this at three interconnecting levels within a system; people, community, and environment. The key objectives of the prevention framework are to:

- Deliver an evidence-based approach to prevention to support the wider Council to strengthen delivery of prevention through its work.
- Facilitate making the healthy choice, the easy choice.
- Support a tailored approach to prevention.
- Connect with policies and initiatives to enable prevention work to be sustainable.
- Create supportive communities and health-promoting environments.

How did we develop this strategy?

The strategy was informed by a comprehensive [sexual and reproductive health needs assessment](#) published in July 2024.¹⁴ The needs assessment systematically reviewed the evidence base to understand current and future sexual and reproductive health need for the population of Wandsworth. The strategy builds on progress made in our last sexual health strategy ending in 2024.

The needs assessment provided an analysis of sexual and reproductive health epidemiology across the life course, with a particular focus on those who experience disproportionately poorer outcomes including young people, GBMSM, Black, Asian and minority ethnic groups and those who are underrepresented in service provision. It reviewed the current provision and reach of a broad range of sexual and reproductive health services and assessed local sexual and reproductive health need in the context of other health issues including mental health, substance misuse, homelessness, and the impact of COVID-19. It compared the borough's need with that at a regional and national level and with statistical neighbours and made recommendations for future action in relation to service commissioning and strategy development.

Stakeholder and Community Engagement

The needs assessment and strategy were driven by stakeholder and community consultation throughout their production. This has included:

Community engagement activities: Workshops and focus groups were held throughout 2023 and early 2024 with young people, older people, young people and adults with learning disabilities, LGBTQ groups, people from black ethnic community groups and service users to understand the experiences of communities in relation to sexual and reproductive health and gain their views on strategic priorities and actions. Over 70 individuals took part.

Residents and staff surveys: Surveys were conducted with 87 residents with a connection to Wandsworth and 36 sexual health service staff to inform both the commissioning of the integrated sexual health service and the needs assessments. Findings were incorporated into the needs assessment and informed the key recommendations and high-level priorities.

Engagement with strategic partners: Findings of the needs assessment and high-level priorities were shared with key strategic partnership groups from across the council, health, and community sector partnership. This included CVS forums, safeguarding partnerships, pharmacy providers, health provider forums, disabilities partnerships, council consultation groups, mental health provider forums and drug service partners.

Key stakeholders workshop: In July 2024 a stakeholder workshop was held with 46 key partners to shape the priorities and actions proposed for the strategy. Partners from across the health, social care, schools and community and voluntary sector services worked together to develop our vision statement and agree priority actions that target those most at need and are set within the confines of tight budgets.

Public consultation: A public consultation was developed for the strategy and ran for 6 weeks during autumn 2024. The consultation set out the draft vision, high level priorities and actions under each of the 8 interventions areas. The purpose of this was to gather consensus on priority areas for action. The consultation, promoted via the council website, residents' and provider networks, reached 95 respondents, 54.9% said that they live, study, work or socialise in Wandsworth.

At every stage, feedback was taken on board and the strategy and action plans amended accordingly. An Equality Impact Needs Assessment (EINA)¹⁵ was completed in line with corporate council requirements, to assess the impact of this strategy on the nine protected characteristics specified in the Equality Act (2010) and groups with socio-economic disadvantages.

The public consultation demonstrated that there was a good level of satisfaction with the current sexual and reproductive health offer across the borough, but a clear and strong disappointment with the overall decline in national funding for these services.

The SRHNA drew out six high level strategic priorities and 15 key recommendations that were then mapped to the eight World Health Organisation intervention areas that promote positive

sexual health (shown in blue) and **reproductive health (shown in orange)**.

The sexual and reproductive health needs assessment suggested high level priority areas for the strategy and the life course approach (Start well, Live well and Age well). Specific attention was also given to those in underserved groups.

High Level Strategic Priorities (our goals)

Six high level strategic priorities were proposed by the sexual and reproductive health needs assessment steering group and were further tested and refined as the forthcoming strategy was developed. They became strategic goals:

1. Promote RSE and sexual and reproductive health education through the life course, targeting disproportionately affected and underserved groups.
2. Improved prevention of and rapid, targeted diagnosis and access to treatment for STIs and HIV.
3. Improve HIV prevention including the increased uptake of PrEP amongst underserved groups.
4. Increased reproductive choice and prevention of reproductive related ill-health.
5. Increased role of wider community in promoting positive sexual and reproductive health recognising links to emotional health and well-being.
6. Identification of child sexual abuse that recognises links to longer term health outcomes.



Intervention Area	Recommendation	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Antenatal, intrapartum and Postnatal care	Provide appropriate advice, information and training to parents & carers to enable early conversations that build a strong foundation for RSE and protective behaviours through the life-course.	1	Start Well
Comprehensive education and information	Strengthen support to schools, teacher training and youth and community services to build skills in the delivery of relationships and sex education, including how to access services and providing more information on reproductive health.	1	Start Well
	Increase training for the wider health, social care and voluntary sector workforce to build confidence and skills to engage residents in healthy discussions on sexual and reproductive health through the life course, including the identification of sexual harm or abuse.	1	Live Well Age Well
Contraception counselling and provision	Prioritise the expansion of access to contraceptive choices, particularly LARC through expanding online contraceptive services, integrating the new national pharmacy contraceptive service and expanding routine 'open' LARC availability in General Practice.	4	Live Well
	Work towards standardisation of the pharmacy EHC offer across south west London ensuring EHC can be clearly accessed and promoted to high risk groups.	4	Live Well
Gender based violence and care	Ensure that the forthcoming sexual and reproductive health strategy complements and strengthens existing crime prevention, VAWG and safeguarding strategies, recognising the links between sexual and domestic violence and poor sexual and reproductive health outcomes.	5	Start Well Live Well
	Provide appropriate advice, information and training to better equip the workforce to identify and support those at risk of or experiencing child sexual abuse.	6	Start Well
Fertility and reproductive care	Increase access of ethnic minority and lower socio-economic groups in reproductive health services, specifically fertility, cervical screening and reproductive cancer prevention and treatment programmes.	4	Start Well Live Well
	Explore ways to improve access to menopause support including provision of HRT for ethnic minority groups.	4	Start Well Live Well
Prevention and control of HIV and other STIs	Employ targeted STI prevention programmes that encourage consistent and correct condom use, STI related screening / testing programmes and take-up of STI related vaccinations.	2	Start Well Live Well
	Prioritise the provision of online and open access, adequately funded sexual health services for rapid STI diagnosis and treatment with robust contact tracing.	2, 3	Start Well Live Well
	Strive to achieve zero HIV transmission through targeted early diagnosis and identifying and enabling underserved groups to increase access to PrEP.	2, 3	Live Well Age Well
Safe abortion care	Improve referral and access to both pre-conception and post-abortion contraceptive options via abortion, perinatal, midwifery and 0-19 health services.	4, 5	Start Well Live Well
Sexual functioning and psychosexual counselling	Increase awareness of the link between sexual dysfunction, cardiovascular health, dementia and early death.	5	Live Well Age Well
Fair approach for all	Increase the understanding and representation of underserved groups within our partnership approach to tackling inequalities in relation to sexual and reproductive health outcomes.	1, 5	Start Well Live Well Age Well



Eight intervention areas for action

It is understood that many areas cross-over and interventions are therefore interconnected. Where possible the strategy links interventions and actions to areas where they 'best fit'.

Actions that we will seek to prioritise will be targeted towards priority and underserved groups and are displayed in the order of highest priority as identified by our stakeholders.

Antenatal, Intrapartum & Postnatal Care

Pregnancy, childbirth and the first six weeks after childbirth are critical times for maternal and newborn survival.

Good quality antenatal, intrapartum, and postnatal care are vital to reducing adverse outcomes of pregnancy, labour and delivery, and to optimising the well-being of women and their infants. Maternal health service provision includes postpartum contraception and diagnosis and treatment of STIs.

What does the evidence tell us?



Conceptions in Wandsworth have **fallen 12.4%** in 5 years

Perinatal mortality is lower than London and England rates at **5.2 per 1000** in 2021

Mixed ethnicity groups are underrepresented in pelvic organ prolapse diagnosis

16% of women under 25 who have previously had a birth **had abortions**



1 in 3 women experience **urinary incontinence** three months after birth, this drops to 1 in 7 six months after birth



Teenage parents and their children experience **poorer health, educational and economic outcomes**



Mothers under the age of 20 have 60% higher rates of infant mortality and 63% higher risk of living in poverty compared to older mothers ¹⁶

In Wandsworth, **under-18 conception rates** have dropped 89.2% since 1998

58% of under 18 conceptions lead to abortions in Wandsworth, higher than the England averages

What do we currently offer?

Shared learning between sexual health practitioners and 0-19 practitioners

Social care/prebirth assessments for under 18s by specialist midwives and **health visitors**

Targeted antenatal health visiting contacts for vulnerable mothers

Family Nurse Partnership for young women aged 24 & under

The family nurse partnership is an evidence based intensive, targeted home-visiting programme for first-time young mothers and families. Evidence shows that young women go on to have longer intervals between their next pregnancies which lead to better outcomes for their pregnancies and children's health.

South West London Perinatal Mental Health Service

St George's Hospital Birth Trauma Clinic

Mother and baby health checks with the GP

Get you better self-management app for post-partum pelvic support

Healthwatch post-natal support for black and minority ethnic communities

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?



Young women and young adults from black minority and ethnic backgrounds told us they did not feel they had enough specific information regarding pelvic health such as the importance of pelvic floor exercises.

Encourage midwifery services to promote vaccinations.

Focus on working with the NHS to reduce maternal death and risk for women from black heritage populations.

Provide specialist clinics for those that are neurodiverse, with sensory rooms.



What additional actions will we prioritise?

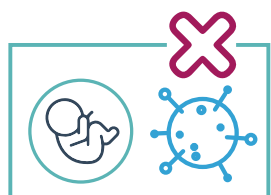
Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Explore expansion of home visiting by health visitors and health practitioners with vulnerable groups.	4	SW, LW
Early engagement, support and education on sexual and reproductive health with young fathers.	1, 4	SW
Seek improved support for women post-miscarriage.	4, 5	SW, LW
Training for health visitors and midwifery to improve antenatal and postnatal support for adults with learning disabilities.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW
Seek direct referral from health visiting to perinatal pelvic health services.	4	SW, LW
Enable opportunistic sexual and reproductive health conversations in breastfeeding cafes.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW
Deliver targeted pelvic health campaigns.	4	LW, AW

Comprehensive Education and Information

Comprehensive education and information involve the provision of accurate, age-appropriate and up-to-date information on physical, psychological and social aspects of sexuality and reproduction, as well as sexual and reproductive health and ill health.

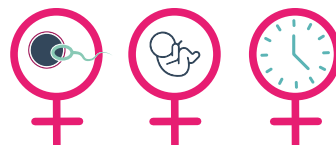
Accurate information can address gaps in knowledge, dispel misconceptions and build comprehensive understanding, as well as foster empowerment, positive attitudes and values, and healthy behaviours.

What does the evidence tell us?

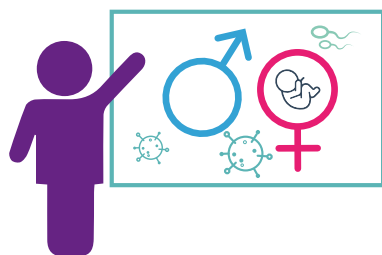


RSE prevents unintended pregnancies and STIs and empowers young people¹⁷

Nationally **Period poverty** has increased from 12% to **21%**, the equivalent of **22,000 women** in Wandsworth



Reproductive health including fertility, menopause, pregnancy and miscarriage form part of the **evidence-based mandatory RSE curriculum** for secondary schools



School based sex education has a cost-effective ratio of **£4,965** and benefits last 5 years or more¹⁸

Older people over the age of 80 continue to be sexually active but there is only **limited support** available to them¹⁹



What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?

“ Among Year 6 pupils, boys are less likely than girls to be having conversations about puberty and growing up in Wandsworth.

25% of Year 10 boys and 35% of Year 10 girls said that they think most young people start having sex before the age of 16, however, only 10% of Year 10 boys and 11% of Year 10 girls said that they have had, or are currently in, a sexual relationship.

Year 10 pupils expressed that RSE lessons had helped them to learn most about consent, followed by sex and the law, but less about contraception for both boys and girls.

Over half of respondents to a workforce survey on sexual health said they had not received any training in relation to sexual health over the last three years and 35% had received only a basic introduction. Confidence to deliver sexual and reproductive education by the workforce was rated as low.

Young people and adults with learning disabilities expressed a wish to learn more about sex and relationships and how to access services. Desire for anonymity and confidentiality in accessing services was paramount. Safety was also an important emerging issue. Concerns around when professionals may break confidentiality, and with whom, in cases where safeguarding concerns were identified.

Care experienced young people told us that young people need to be aware of the full range of contraceptive options but cited difficulty accessing confidential services due to care provision restrictions, including needing parental agreement for aspects of the care orders. This meant they did not feel they had the same right to confidential information, advice, and support as other young people. ”



What do we currently offer?

Mandated delivery of the [national guidance on Relationships Sex and Health Education](#) in schools

[School health](#) provide information, advice and guidance on relationships and sexual health

[Healthy schools Wandsworth](#) incorporating RSE training and policy development

[Spectra](#) Sexual health outreach service supporting RSE in schools, alternative education and colleges, including boys and young men's service

[Evolve](#) prevention sessions covering sexual and reproductive health

Communication campaigns for [HIV testing week](#), [World Aids day](#) and [Sexual Health Week](#)

[Getting it on](#) website for information on sexual health for young people aged 19 and under

[Metro](#) provide training for GPs and pharmacists on sexual health and consent for young people

Youth Justice Service prevention work with primary, secondary and colleges including police led summer camps

RSE training for professionals working with people with disabilities – leading to additional sexual and reproductive health support for adults with learning disabilities

Advice and information through [healthier together and Wandsworth](#) council health information webpages and RSE [Easy read resources](#) for adults with Learning Disabilities from Choice Support

ICB lead engagement sessions with the voluntary and community sector and adhoc learning through different healthcare forums, including nursing forums

What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Increase RSE and reproductive health education in teacher training in school and non-school settings that is linked with access to services.	1, 4, 5	SW
Increase RSE and reproductive health education for care experienced young people through those who work with them.	1, 4, 5,	SW
Increase sexual and reproductive health education and use of supportive products for people with and carers of those with learning disabilities.	1, 4, 5	SW
Promote period positivity as part of RSE and reproductive health.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW
Promote menopause education for all, including within workplace health.	1, 5	LW
Advice, information and training with parents & carers to enable early conversations that build a strong foundation for RSE and protective behaviours through the life-course.	1, 5	SW
Develop a directory of sexual and reproductive health services including links to education resources including for people with learning disabilities.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW, AW
Provide further training for health and local practitioners on the specific sexual and reproductive health needs of LGBTQ+ communities to reduce stigma and enhance access to services.	2,3, 4, 5	LW, AW
Explore possibilities for developing or delivering culturally competent training in sexual and reproductive health education.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	LW
Training for health champions to raise awareness of sexual and reproductive health that is culturally appropriate.	1,5	LW, AW
Training for professionals on the sexual and reproductive health needs for sanctuary seekers, including access to period products and supplies.	1, 4, 5	AW
Develop a targeted sexual and reproductive health education project with older people.	1, 5	AW
Increase commitment to sexual health promotion and training with the workforce including development of a Make Every Contact Count (MECC) module on sexual and reproductive health.	1,4	LW, AW

Contraception Counselling & Provision

Contraception is one of the most cost-effective health-care interventions, preventing unintended pregnancies and abortions, as well as related complications of unsafe abortions.

It also contributes to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality. Prevention of unintended pregnancy through contraception enables more educational opportunities for girls, thereby improving their socioeconomic status and overall well-being.

What does the evidence tell us?



For every £1 invested **£11.09 is saved** from averting the outcomes of unplanned pregnancies ²⁰

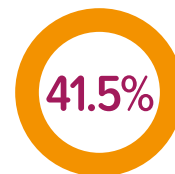


LARC saves £29 a year per woman compared to the contraceptive pill by avoiding unplanned pregnancies ²¹

29.9 per 1000 females were **prescribed LARC** in Wandsworth in 2022



41.5% of 25 year old women chose **LARC** in Wandsworth



18.5 per 1000

18.5 per 1000 women were **prescribed LARC** by their GP in Wandsworth, the **5th highest rate in London**



Contraception provision has **increased** in Wandsworth

What do we currently offer?

Free emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) to women regardless of age from borough **pharmacies**

Wandsworth offers free access to EHC for people up to the age of 55 with an excellent uptake and service users more likely to live in deprived areas of the borough.

Full range of contraception provided through **Integrated Sexual Health (ISH)** Services

Advice and information on contraception post termination of pregnancy

Sign posting to contraceptive care during and post pregnancy including miscarriage, LARC after C-section, oral contraception

Get it – access to condoms online to allow young people quick access to free condoms

Community and **school nurses** provide one to one conversations about contraceptive choices and signposting

ISH service training to increase the number of Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) fitters in general practice

The ISH service supports LARC training and competence for health care workers in GP surgeries which increases availability and enabled provision to return swiftly post pandemic.

Weekly 'pit stop' for sex worker service in Wandsworth for accessing contraception

Targeted campaigns to raise awareness of how to access contraception, including LARC



What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Promote contraceptive choice and availability to priority and underserved groups.	1, 4	LW
Expand condom provision to young people accessing CAMHS, YJS, Care Leaving Services and through school health drop-ins.	2, 4	SW
Increase number of LARC fitters in general practice, though recognising this is hampered by workforce issues.	4	LW
Develop a streamlined pathway that enables women to access LARC from general practices other than their own practice.	4	LW
Roll out the new Pharmacy Contraception Service (PCS) to Wandsworth Pharmacies.	4	LW
Support Wandsworth to switch on a pan London online contraceptive service.	4	LW
Ensure sexual health outreach is accessible to alternative education settings, colleges and 6th forms.	2, 4	SW
Support the standardisation of the SWL EHC pharmacy offer including IT platforms, training and accreditation and supporting resources.	4	LW
Support the delivery and review of a pilot contraception clinic within a mental health service in Wandsworth.	4	LW

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?

“ Perception from the local population to continue to increase access to contraceptive choices.

In terms of accessing contraceptive services respondents said they would prefer to go to their GP or a sexual health service within their GP surgery, followed by a specialist sexual health service.

GPs and pharmacists said they would like to provide more, but this had to be appropriately funded.

Teenagers do not easily know where to get free condoms - this should be much more widely publicised.



Gender-based Violence Prevention, Support & Care

Gender-based violence (GBV) can take many forms, including physical, sexual and emotional violence. It includes violence that is based on gender identity or sexual orientation.

Health sector interventions to address GBV include early identification through clinical inquiry; first-line support and response; treatment and care for intimate partner violence and sexual assault (e.g. emergency contraception, presumptive treatment for STIs, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV and mental health care).

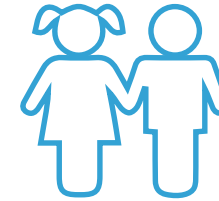
Education at secondary school age, economic empowerment of women, work on changing perceptions of masculinity and social norms, and home visiting programmes to reduce child maltreatment are all important to reduce GBV.²² Freedom from violence supports safer sexual relationships, reduces the risk of STIs, enables access to contraception and maternal health care, and increases access to needed health care, including sexual health and reproductive health care.

Actions under this heading are linked to the **violence against women and girls (VAWG) strategy** developed by the Community Safety Partnership

What does the evidence tell us?



Sexual offences in Wandsworth have increased to 2.3 per 1000 people



1% of children on a child protection plan where registered under **sexual abuse**, consistent for the last 3 years



Children and young people exposed to **pornography** were more likely to have **unhealthy relationship perceptions**²³

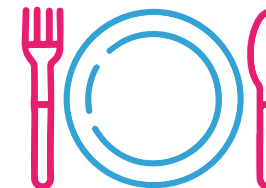
At least **1 in 10** children in England and Wales are estimated to be **sexually abused before the age of 16**²⁴



NHS services saw **30,335 FGM cases** between 2015 and 2022. The majority of those seen were **under 18**²⁵



Transgender pupils in Wandsworth were **40% more likely** to experience **controlling partner behaviour** than non-transgender pupils



Year 10 pupils eligible for free school meals were more likely to have experienced **controlling partner behaviour** than those not eligible

Refugee and asylum-seekers are often vulnerable and may have experienced **sexual violence and exploitation**^{26 27}



Many people with a **learning disability** are able to engage in **safe, healthy and happy personal and sexual relationships** and have a right to do so when given RSE



What do we currently offer?

[A guide for parents and carers on identifying and supporting children and young people at risk of exploitation](#)

Loudmouth Theatre in education programmes for children and young people to identify signs of exploitation and abuse with information about how to get help

'Calling it Out' is a Loudmouth Theatre in Education production that addresses attitudes that perpetuate harmful sexual behaviours, misogyny, consent and sexual harassment; challenging young people to 'call out' harmful behaviours. Teachers said: "It raises awareness of appropriate attitudes and acceptable behaviours and made it very clear what sexual assault and harassment are." "It has clear messages regarding sexism and sexting; how to challenge the issues;... addresses peer pressure and illustrates typical scenarios really well".

Information on sexual harassment and harm on gettingiton.org.uk

Spectra offer to schools: workshops for parents, group work on masculinity, consent and counselling for young people

MOPAC secondary school toolkit and training on 'ending gender based violence'

NSPCC **Hackett tool kit** Understanding Sexualised Behaviour in children promoted to schools

ISH service supporting young people and adults who have experienced sexual violence with referral to **The Havens** rape crisis centre

CAMHS trauma focussed therapy for young people affected by sexual assault

Spectra dedicated sex worker support and outreach service

2nd voice- street safety for Autism Spectrum Disorder community & families offering training and well-being on keeping safe

A South West London **LGBTQ+ Police Community Liaison Officer**

Support for those affected by Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) through **FORWARD** and easy read resources on **FGM** from Choice Support

The Elays network provides services for Somali communities and works to facilitate access including for SEND

Cassandra Centre provides advice, support and counselling services for families and young people in abusive relationships

Mushkil Aasaan promotes female and family focussed Muslim community advocacy

What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Advise, information and training to identify and support those at risk of or experiencing child sexual abuse.	6	SW
Garner support for working with the NSPCC to roll out the PANTS campaign across the borough.	6	SW
Encourage all health professionals to ask routine questions about sexual violence and domestic abuse.	1, 5	SW, LW, AW
Healthy relationships training for all.	1, 5	SW, LW, AW
Training for health care staff on the needs of sex workers and how to support them, including maintaining confidentiality and provision of harm reduction supplies.	2, 4, 5	LW
Sex worker inclusive pathways and safeguarding protocols with clarity on support offered to sex workers.	2, 4	LW
Increase education on gender-based violence with boys and young men.	1, 5	SW, LW
Staff and provider training for hotels and AirBnBs to spot signs of potential exploitation.	1, 5	SW, LW

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?



11% of boys and 7% of girls in Year 10 said they have been intentionally physically harmed and 2% of boys and 8% of girls in Year 10 said they have been sexually harmed or harassed.²⁸

Young adults with learning disabilities shared their experiences of sexual harm, abuse and bullying which impacts on relationships throughout their life.

There are widespread barriers for sex workers in accessing local support, housing, health and community care services and other support networks.

54% of Year 10 boys and 39% of Year 10 girls said they have viewed pornographic images (videos, pictures online/social media or in a magazine/photographs), compared to 58% and 38% respectively in other areas conducting the same survey.

Sex workers expressed a lack of awareness by professionals and provision of suitable safer sex and harm reduction supplies including latex free condoms and menstrual sponges.



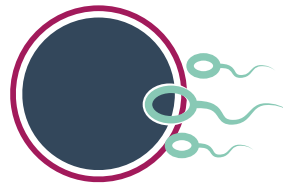
Fertility & Reproductive Care

Reproductive health through the life course can be measured through the prevalence of a variety of reproductive related ill-health indicators including related cancers. Access to cervical screening is currently unequal and uptake is low.

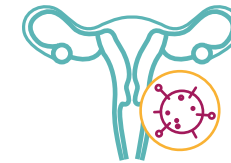
Failure to become pregnant after 12 months of regular, unprotected sexual intercourse is defined as infertility. In addition to the psychosocial impact on individuals of not being able to have children, the effects of infertility can be far-reaching, including gender-based violence. Access to fertility care however, is easier for some ethnic groups and those in higher socio-economic groups.

The menopause usually affects women between the ages of 45 and 55 but can also happen earlier or following surgery to remove the ovaries or uterus. Symptoms can include anxiety, mood swings, hot flushes and irregular periods which can continue for a considerable time before and after periods cease. These symptoms can have a big impact on health (including sexual health), life, relationships and work.

What does the evidence tell us?

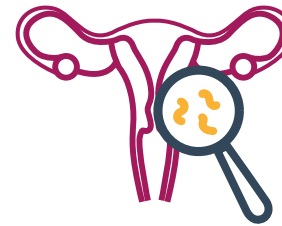


18% of Wandsworth females **seeking fertility treatment** were from the **least deprived socio-economic quintile** and **62% were White**

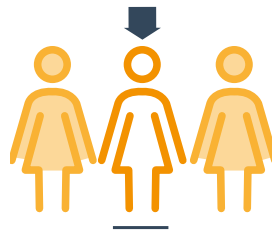
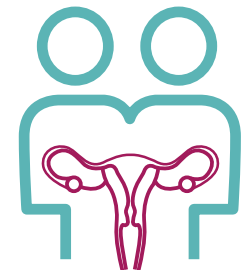


99.8% of cervical cancers are preventable yet rates are 65% higher in the most deprived quintile compared to the least and white ethnicity groups are over-represented in diagnosis²⁹

Cervical screening coverage in Wandsworth is **61.9%** for 25-49 year olds, well **below** the **80% national target**³⁰



Lesbian and bisexual women are less likely to go for **cervical screening** than heterosexual women³¹



White women are **more likely to be diagnosed with menopause** than Black or Asian women



Incidence rates of **prostate cancer have increased by almost half** since the 1990s and are **projected to increase** by a further **15%** between 2023 to 2025³²

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?



Education on reproductive health is limited.

Increase support for same sex-parents trying to conceive.

Counselling and mental health support for those who are having problems with fertility.

Residents would be most likely to use sexual health services for 'menopause care' but recognise this is not a routine offer.

Provide funding for menopause advice in integrated sexual health services.





What do we currently offer?

Facts on reproductive health in relation to fertility, miscarriage and menopause are part of the mandatory [RSHE](#) schools guidance

[School health](#) provide education on fertility and reproductive health in schools, Pupil Referral Units, Youth Justice Services and Special schools

Encouragement of menopause policies in public and voluntary organisations e.g. Local Authority

[Prostate cancer screening](#) available via General Practice for men aged over 50

Prostate cancer awareness raising campaigns linked to national campaign days

[Cervical cancer screening](#) insight gathering pilot in to understand the barriers to screening uptake for South Asian women attending Mushkil Aasaan

[Connecting Health Communities](#) Wandsworth have attended community engagement sessions and had conversations with over 100 women on the barriers to accessing cervical screening for South Asian communities. Including outreach in existing female only community events, in spaces people feel safe in, works well.

IVF and fertility preservation commissioned by the ICB with all SWL patients entitled for fertility investigation by GP

[Easy read resources](#) for adults with Learning Disabilities from Choice Support

Safe, peer led spaces to provide health and wellbeing support for sex workers including access to sexual health and reproductive supplies.

[Sex workers](#) can access counselling, signposting for financial, housing and social support alongside wellbeing resource packs including condoms, STI, HIV, drug and pregnancy testing kits and signposting for contraception and reproductive health. "...staff have pointed me to other services I needed... I'm now getting proper mental health support after a decade of ignoring/self medicating... things are getting better not worse. I wouldn't have found those services if I didn't go to the drop in."

What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Increase the representation of ethnic minority and lower socio-economic groups in reproductive health services, specifically fertility, cervical screening and reproductive cancer prevention and treatment programmes.	4, 5	LW, AW
Targeted action and/or campaign to increase take-up of cervical screening in lesbian and bisexual women.	4, 5	LW
Promote and work with parents to understand the importance of accessing the HPV vaccine and re-offer HPV vaccine when parents decline.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW
Explore ways to improve access to menopause support including provision of HRT for ethnic minority groups.	4, 5	LW, AW
Promote men's reproductive and fertility care with clear pathways to access.	4, 5	LW, AW
Joint action on women's health hubs to formalise the interconnectedness of sexual and reproductive health.	4, 5	SW, LW
Joined up working with family hubs with easily accessible resource packs.	1, 4, 5	SW, LW
Delivery of a fertility awareness campaign targeting lower take-up groups.	4, 5	SW, LW

Prevention & Control of HIV and other STIs

STIs can have short- and long-term psychological, social and financial effects on individuals, in addition to effects on overall health, fertility and sexuality. STIs can be prevented through delaying sexual activity, use of condoms, vaccination to prevent HPV and hepatitis B, circumcision to reduce HIV transmission, and increasing access to pre- and post-exposure HIV prophylaxis. Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) reduces the chances of getting HIV.

PrEP HIV medication taken by people who do not have HIV but are at high risk of being exposed to HIV through sex. STIs can be controlled through early identification and treatment, appropriate case management, improving health care-seeking behaviour, partner notification, and preventing and managing complications (e.g. pelvic inflammatory disease).

Currently, there is no cure for HIV, but there are very effective drug treatments that enable most people with the virus to live a long and healthy life. With an early diagnosis and effective treatment, most people with HIV will not develop any AIDS-related illnesses. Young people, GBMSM and Black and Minority ethnic groups are disproportionately affected by poorer sexual health and HIV outcomes.

What does the evidence tell us?



STIs are increasing at a faster rate than can be explained by increased testing

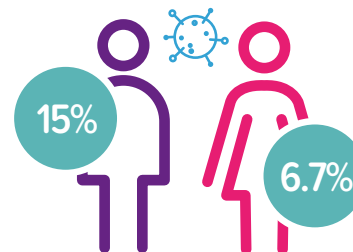


14,336 per 100,000 were tested for STIs in Wandsworth in 2022 (excluding chlamydia), **1.6 times higher** than the London rate



STI diagnosis in Wandsworth in 2022 was **1,900 per 100,000** residents, **1.3 times higher** than the London rate

In Wandsworth, the **majority of new STI diagnoses** were amongst the 3rd and 4th **most deprived quintiles**



In Wandsworth, an estimated **6.7% of women and 15% of men with new STIs** became **re-infected** with an STI within 12 months

In Wandsworth, an estimated 6.2% of women and 16.6% of men diagnosed with gonorrhoea became **reinfected** within 12 months

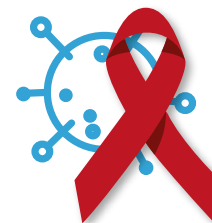


The **Chlamydia detection rate** in Wandsworth is **2,587 per 100,000** females, lower than the UKHSA recommendation of 3,250 per 100,000



Rates of syphilis are increasing, in Wandsworth rates are higher than London and England averages at **54.5 per 100,000**

Wandsworth is in the NICE **amber zone for late diagnosis of HIV** with **30.7% diagnosed** at a late stage



What do we currently offer?

School health 'chat health' interactive website for young people

Spectra STI prevention in schools

HPV vaccination in schools and for GBMSM aged 18-45

Chlamydia screening and treatment in borough **pharmacies**

ISH service providing testing, treatment and partner notifications – including for TB

The ISH service is constantly adapting to change, from re-configuring services to manage the MPOX outbreak to using new technologies for managing waiting times which is improving service user experience.

Sexual health London (**SHL.uk**), the London wide online STI testing service. In 2023, 47,163 (46,691 in 2024) STI test kits were ordered by Wandsworth residents through SHL

Spectra sexual health 'high risk' outreach service

SH-24 On-line testing and screening for STIs and HIV with rapid referral to specialist services

Involvement in fast-track cities 'getting to zero' London HIV programme

Contribute to London HIV prevention service, HIV point of care testing and PrEP referrals

HIV and STI testing in General Practice

Education and provision of PrEP during sexual health consultations

Kings and St Georges opt out HIV testing service in A&E

What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Provision of condoms, chlamydia screening and pregnancy testing at school drop-ins and 6th form / colleges.	1, 2, 5	SW
Actively implement and ensure that sexual health services adhere to 'You're Welcome' standards.	2	SW
Targeting late HIV diagnosis and increase access to PrEP among underserved groups.	3	LW, AW
Explore extension of HIV testing opportunities through general practice.	2	LW, AW
Explore opportunities for joint sexual health service provision in substance misuse services.	2, 3, 6	LW, AW
Increase sexual health outreach with people experiencing homelessness or rough sleeping.	2, 3, 6	LW
Promote sexual health services using QR codes in private spaces such as toilet cubicles.	2, 4, 5	SW
Support to enable disabled young adults to get better access to sexual health services and reproductive / hygiene related products.	2, 4, 5	SW, LW
Develop and distribute a sexual and reproductive health 'resource pack' for vulnerable groups.	2, 3, 4, 5	LW, AW
Targeted SRH campaign for WSW to increase the local knowledge base and access to health care.	2, 4, 5	LW

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?



Young adults with SEND said they wanted support to have and maintain relationships and to engage in safe sexual activity.

The limited walk-in provision and phone triage system for sexual health was reported as being a barrier for high-risk groups.

LGBTQ young people told us to promote sexual health services in private spaces so they can find out more without being seen.

Young people reported misconceptions about the confidentiality of sexual health services.

Wandsworth respondents rated the most important consideration for accessing sexual health services as the speed of getting an appointment and a service that is closer to home and availability of early morning, evening or weekend appointments.

Increase provision of sexual health outreach for the homeless.



Safe Abortion Care

Safe abortion care includes provision of information; counselling; provision of medical and/or surgical abortion; recognition and management of complications from unsafe abortion; provision of post-abortion contraception, when desired; and having in place referral systems for all required higher-level care.

There is also evidence to suggest that women who have undergone an abortion, experience an 81% increased risk of mental health problems, and nearly 10% of the incidence of mental health problems was shown to be attributable to abortion.³⁴

What does the evidence tell us?



The Wandsworth abortion rate is **15.8 per 1000**, lower than London and England rates

An overall **decrease** has been observed in Wandsworth abortion rates since 2014

The percentage of **conceptions leading to abortion** in Wandsworth **increased from 23.7% in 2017 to 28.1% in 2021**

Repeat abortions can be an indication of **domestic abuse and/or exploitation**³³

Just under one-third of **women aged <25** undergoing an abortion in 2021 had one or more **previous abortions**



Abortion rates have increased by 11% amongst women aged 25 to 29, the most of any age group in Wandsworth

90.2% of abortions are performed **under 10 weeks** in Wandsworth, this is above that for both England (88.6%) and London (88.8%)



What do we currently offer?

Termination of pregnancy services that include provision of or sign-posting to contraceptive services

An NHS led **central booking phone** service for terminations

SPECTRA offer a chaperone service to enable access to abortion services

Spectra offer existing service users the option of a companion to support with accessing and going through the abortion process. The service promotes wellbeing as clients navigate through this difficult journey.

Information and advice for young people available on **gettingiton.org.uk**

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?

“ Include termination of pregnancy resources and services in a service directory.

Provide non-judgemental access and post abortion contraception pathways.

Offer specialist training to work with neurodivergent patients.”

What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Improve referral and access to pre-conception and post-abortion contraceptive options via termination, perinatal, midwifery and 0-19 services.	4	LW
Increase post abortion counselling, especially for those with learning disabilities.	4	LW
Increase contraception options for families with children previously removed and those seeking repeat terminations.	4	LW
Provide education and awareness of non-medicalised abortion interventions.	4	LW
Further explore the relationship between age, ethnicity and abortion rates in Wandsworth.	4	LW

Sexual Function and Psychosexual Counselling

Sexual function represents the complex interaction of various physiological, psychological, physical and interpersonal factors.

Poor sexual function or sexual dysfunction are syndromes that comprise a cluster of ways in which adults may have difficulty experiencing personally satisfying sexual activities. Identifying and addressing sexual concerns and difficulties, as well as offering treatment for sexual dysfunction and disorders, are critical components of sexual health care. Psychosexual counselling provides patients with both support and specific information or advice relating to their sexual concerns; this can facilitate a return to satisfying sexual activity.

What do we currently offer?

GPs as first point of access for sexual function services and onward referral

Psychosexual counselling

Psychosexual counselling offered by **SLAM** (national)

ISH Service provide in house assessments with consultation/ history taking and refer to GP if interventions are non-therapeutic

Information and advice accessible through **pharmacies**

What did people who live, work, go to school or socialise in Wandsworth say?

“ Learning disability providers said they would like to see psychosexual support for people with SEND and their carers to encourage positive and healthy relationships.

Psychosexual services are vital for sexual well-being. Sexual problems can cause profound distress, relationship difficulties and poor quality of life.

Strong local support to continue and expand provision of psychosexual services. ”

What does the evidence tell us?



Sexual dysfunction is estimated to affect **43% of women** and **31% of men**



Erectile dysfunction is linked to cardiovascular disease, dementia, and early death and affects up to **one in five men** across the UK ³⁵



Early detection may help improve quality of life and prevent premature death

Psychosexual counselling accounts for **only 1%** of service activity in Wandsworth



Sexual difficulties are common in **patients with neurological disorders** and can affect different areas of **sexual function**

Sexual dysfunction disorders can impact significantly on interpersonal functioning and overall **quality of life**



What additional actions will we prioritise?

Action	Strategic Priority	Life Course
Continue to offer and expand psychosexual counselling and referral pathways to it.	4, 5	LW, AW
Promote services more widely across whole communities, not just in clinical environments.	1, 4, 5	LW, AW
Include erectile dysfunction question or link within NHS health checks.	1, 4	LW, AW
Increase training and public and professional awareness of the link between sexual dysfunction, cardiovascular health and dementia.	1, 4, 5	LW, AW
Develop a simple 'Age Well' guide to sexual and reproductive health.	1, 2, 3, 4, 5	LW, AW
Explore the impact of unpaid caring on sexual and reproductive health.	4, 5	LW, AW

How will we deliver this strategy?

Governance

A sexual and reproductive health strategy partnership group will be established and jointly chaired by Local Authority and Health Partners to oversee the delivery of this strategy. Representatives from provider services, public health, commissioners and voluntary sector services will actively attend and participate to ensure its collaborative and successful delivery. Young people and service users will participate in the delivery and monitoring of progress through partnership links and focused challenge sessions. A list of the main delivery partners is provided in appendix one for reference.

This group will oversee the performance management of the strategy escalating any performance delivery issues as appropriate. The group will look to ensure sexual and reproductive services and agreed actions are efficient, effective and equitable and hold members to account for completing agreed actions.

The strategy group will be accountable to the local authority's Health and Well-being Board and report to the Health and Care Partnership Committee. The Health and Well-being Board will receive updates on performance against the strategic actions outlined in this strategy. The Health and Well-being Board will have responsibility for reviewing the services delivered against the evidence base and including this within the wider health and well-being considerations for the local populations.

The progress on strategy delivery will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, where the following may be presented:

- Evidence review and policy change
- Review of services and their delivery, including service models and accessibility
- Partnership arrangements
- Performance and outcomes

How will we monitor progress?

A detailed action plan will be developed and refreshed annually to guide the delivery of the strategy. The strategy implementation group will agree key public health outcome framework (PHOF) and service-related performance indicators through which to monitor progress. This may include:

- Total prescribed LARC
- Total abortion and repeat abortion rates
- Under 18 conception rates
- STI diagnosis and testing rates, specifically gonorrhoea and chlamydia
- HIV prevalence and early diagnosis rates
- Cervical and cancer screening take-up rates
- HPV vaccination take-up
- Access to fertility and reproductive care by ethnicity & deprivation

Monitoring will be enhanced by the provision of case-studies and presentations that demonstrate the delivery of the strategy including innovative approaches to meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of our diverse population. A first task for the group will be to begin our collaborative approach through considering and prioritising local action through utilising the S.T.I. Prioritisation Framework³⁶ planning tools and intervention monitoring and evaluation templates.





Appendix One – Current Providers

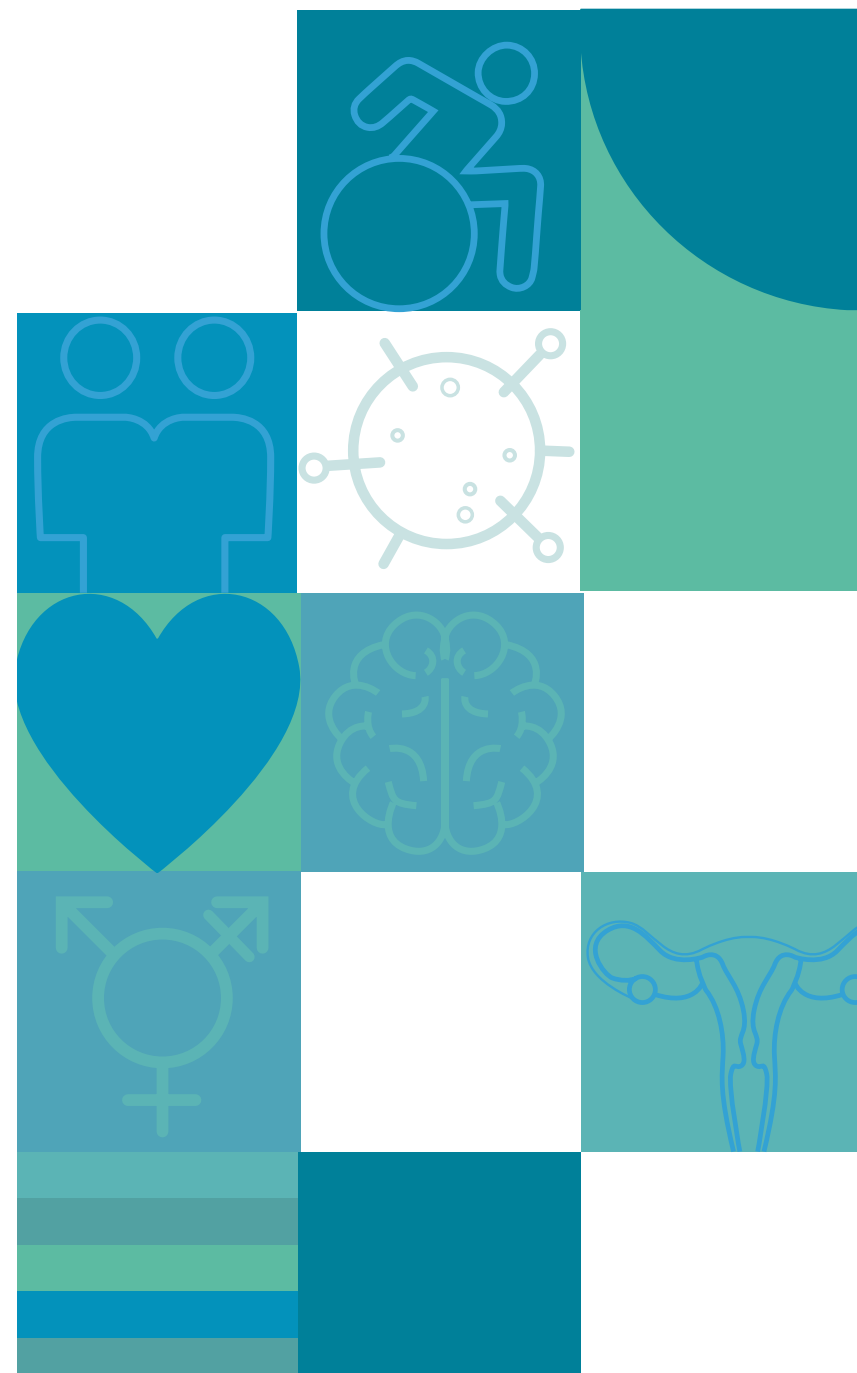
Provider	Service	Website
CLCH	0-19 health visiting and school health services including Family Nurse Partnership	clch.nhs.uk
CLCH	Integrated Sexual Health service (complex sexual health and young people's services)	www.shswl.nhs.uk
Free 2B	Safe spaces to support LGBTQ+ communities	www.free2b.lgbt
Getting it on	Southwest London, trusted advice and information website on services for young people including mental health, sexual health, drugs and alcohol, and relationships	www.gettingiton.org.uk
Metro	Support for people living with HIV Online testing and condoms for young people	metrocharity.org.uk www.getit.org.uk
Pharmacy Services	Contraception, EHC services	www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/pharmacies/
Public Health	Helping people to stay healthy and protecting them from threats to their health	Public Health PublicHealth@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk
Schools	Schools independently provide Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) following DfE statutory guidance	Wandsworth Schools www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk
Sexual Health London	London's Sexual Health e-service for sexual health testing	www.SHL.UK
Sexual Health 24	HIV and syphilis online testing kits	www.freetesting.hiv
Spectra	Point of care HIV testing Trans and gender-diverse services and support groups Outreach sexual health services	www.spectra-london.org.uk
St George's, Epsom and St Helier Hospital Group (GESH)	HIV Outpatient Services	www.stgeorges.nhs.uk/service/sexual-health/outpatient-hiv-services/
SW London Healthier Together NHS	SWL Integrated Care System for NHS services in South West London including reproductive care, termination of pregnancy services	www.swlondon-healthiertogether.nhs.uk

Glossary

C-Card / [Get It](#)

[Core20PLUS5](#)

EHC	Emergency Hormonal Contraception
EINA	Equality Impact Needs Assessment
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
GBMSM	Gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men
GBV	Gender-based violence
GiO	Getting It On
GP	General Practice
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HPV	Human Papillomavirus
ICS	Integrated Care System
ISH	Integrated Sexual Health
LARC	Long-Acting Reversible Contraception
LGBTQ	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender or Questioning
LSHP	London Sexual Health Programme
MECC	Make Every Contact Count
NICE	National Institute for Health and Care Excellence
NSPCC	National Society of the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
PrEP	Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis
PHOF	Public Health Outcome Framework
PSHE	Personal Social Health Economic
RS(H)E	Relationships, Sex and (Health) Education
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SHL.UK	Sexual Health London UK
SRH	Sexual and Reproductive Health
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infections
S.T.I.	Situation, Target groups, Interventions
TiE	Theatre in Education
UKHSA	UK Health Security Agency
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organisation
WSW	Women who have Sex with Women





References

- 1 WHO (2006a) Defining sexual health: Report of a technical consultation on sexual health, 28-31 January 2002, Geneva (updated 2010)
- 2 <https://www.who.int/westernpacific/health-topics/reproductive-health>
- 3 Department of Health (2001) The national strategy for sexual health and HI
- 4 WHO (2017) Sexual health and its linkages to reproductive health: an operational approach
- 5 WHO (2015): A life course approach to sexual and reproductive health, Entre Nous, The European Magazine for sexual and reproductive health. <https://eeca.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/Entre-Nous-82.pdf>
- 6 Bretschneider J, McCoy N. Sexual interest and behaviour in healthy 80 to 102 year olds. Arc. of sexual behaviour 1988; 17(2):109-129
- 7 Linday ST, Schumm P, Laumann EO et al. A Study of Sexuality and Health among Older Adults in the United States. N Engl J Med 2007; 357:762-774
- 8 Korfage IJ, Pluijm S et al. Erectile Dysfunction and Mental Health in a General Population of Older Men. J Sex Med 2008; 6(2): 505-512
- 9 Laumann E, Das A, Waite E. Sexual Dysfunction among Older Adults: Prevalence and Risk Factors from a Nationally Representative U.S. Probability Sample of Men and Women 57–85 Years of Age. J Sex Med 2008; 5(10): 2300-2311
- 10 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-zero-the-hiv-action-plan-for-england-2022-to-2025>
- 11 Annual epidemiological spotlight on HIV in London: 2021 data - [GOV.UK](https://gov.uk)
- 12 Sexual Health London • [SHL.UK](https://shl.uk)
- 13 <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/public-health-publications/framework-for-prevention>
- 14 <https://wandsworth.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/public-health-publications/sexual-and-reproductive-health-needs-assessment/>
- 15 https://wandsworth.gov.uk/media/tzkfnuxx/draft_eina_form_wandsworth_sexual_and_reproductive_health.pdf
- 16 Public Health England (2019) A framework for supporting teenage mother & young fathers
- 17 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/relationships-education-relationships-and-sex-education-rse-and-health-education>
- 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-economics-evidence-resource>
- 19 Sexual Health and Well-being Among Older Men and Women in England: Findings from the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing - PubMed (nih.gov)
- 20 Bayer HealthCare. Contraception Atlas. 2013
- 21 Local health and care planning menu of preventative interventions (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- 22 WHO (2017) Sexual health and its linkages to reproductive health: an operational approach
- 23 Influencers and Attitudes: How will the next generation understand domestic abuse? (womensaid.org.uk)
- 24 Child sexual abuse in 2021/22: Trends in official data (csacentre.org.uk)
- 25 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) - April 2021 to March 2022 - Report.pdf (digital.nhs.uk)
- 26 Sudbury H. & Robinson A. (2016), Barriers to sexual and reproductive health care for refugee and asylum-seeking women; BMJ, Vo 24, Issue 4
- 27 Feldman R. London: Maternity Action and Refugee Council; 2013
- 28 https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/12828/wyps_relationships_sexual_health_report_2022.pdf
- 29 <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/cervical-cancer#heading-Zero>
- 30 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/be-clear-on-cancer-first-national-cervical-screening-saves-lives-campaign/cervical-screening-uptake>
- 31 Health and Social Care and LGBT Communities - Women and Equalities Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk)
- 32 <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/prostate-cancer#heading-Zero>
- 33 <https://www.cancerresearchuk.org/health-professional/cancer-statistics/statistics-by-cancer-type/prostate-cancer#heading-Zero>
- 34 Health and Social Care and LGBT Communities - Women and Equalities Committee - House of Commons (parliament.uk)
- 35 Abortion and mental health: quantitative synthesis and analysis of research published 1995–2009 | The British Journal of Psychiatry | Cambridge Core
- 36 <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/67376f07abe1d74ea7dade2d/STI-prioritisation-framework.pdf>
- 37 Domestic Abuse Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)
- 38 <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/news/the-global-prevalence-of-erectile-dysfunction>

London Borough of Wandsworth 2025-2030

Sexual and Reproductive Health Partnership Strategy