

Consultation on changes to sexual and reproductive health services in Lambeth and Southwark:
Summary of findings for patients and the general public

Background

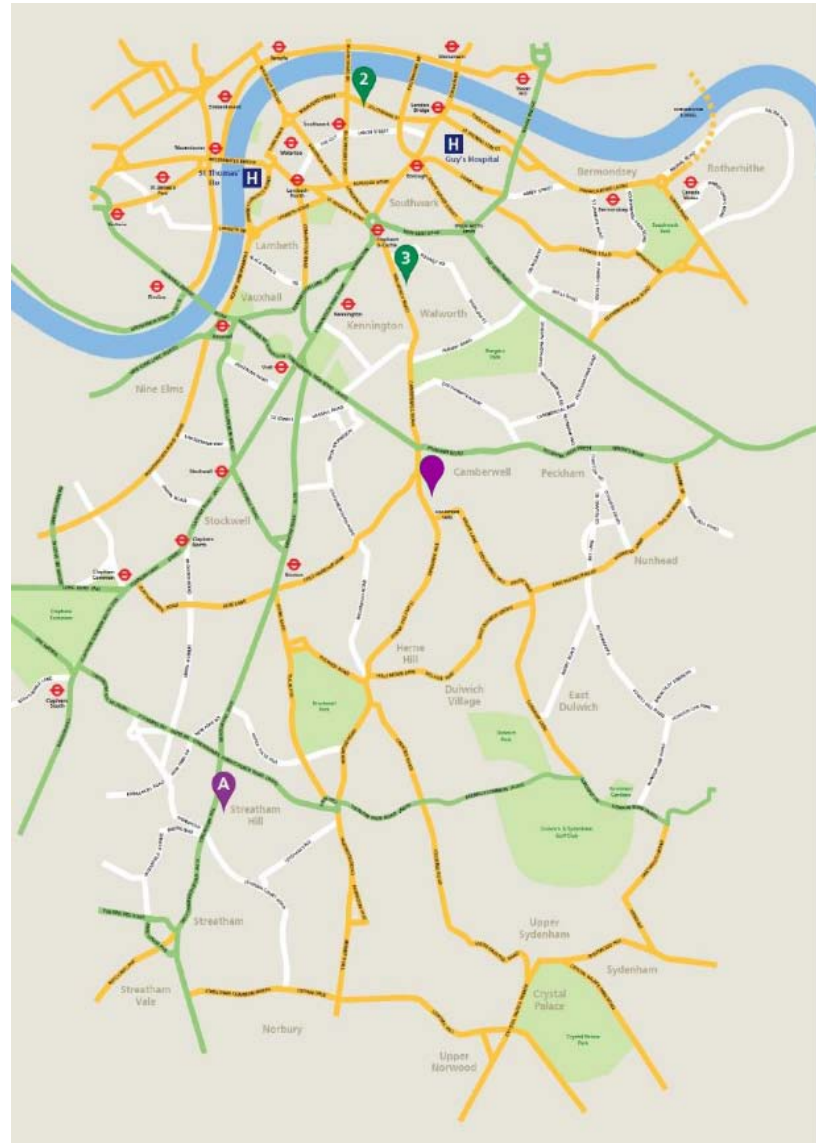
Lambeth and Southwark councils receive a Public Health grant from the government to fund a range of services to improve the health and well-being of local residents, including sexual and reproductive health services (testing, treatment and contraception). The Government has reduced the amount of money it gives to the councils to fund public health services. Overall Lambeth and Southwark councils, with support from local NHS services, need to find ways to save around £4 million, with further funding cuts expected between now and 2020. This funding reduction will affect sexual and reproductive health services provided by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust in the two boroughs. Committed to continuing to promote the sexual health and wellbeing of local residents, we need to ensure services are sustainable for the future.

Changes you will see following the consultation

1. We will continue to diagnose and treat the same number of patients

2. We will refer more patients who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic patients) and attend clinics for tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) to 'home (self)-testing' by expanding and developing the existing online testing service already provided by SH:24

3. A reduction in the number of sexual and reproductive health centres from 6 to 3



Clinics which will remain open:

Burrell Street (2)

Streatham Hill Health Centre (A)

Walworth Road (3)

Camberwell Sexual Health Centre (1) - a clinic run by King's College Hospital NHS Foundation, is unaffected by these proposals

Sexual and reproductive health services must operate an 'open access' policy. All clinics including Camberwell Sexual Health Centre, are available to residents in Lambeth and Southwark.

4. Alignment of opening hours in the remaining clinics on weekdays and longer weekday and weekend opening hours
- We have harmonised our opening hours across our sites. From 1st April 2017, the opening hours for walk in services will be :

Day	Doors open for registration at:	Clinic Start time:	Close time for registration:	Patients booked in by close of registration seen until:
Monday	8.00am	8.30am	6.00pm	7.00pm
Tuesday	8.00am	8.30am	6.00pm	7.00pm
Wednesday	12:30pm	1.00pm	6.00pm	7.00pm
Thursday	8.00am	8.30am	6.00pm	7.00pm
Friday	8.00am	8.30am	6.00pm	7.00pm
Saturday (Burrell Street only)	8.00am	8.30am	3.00pm	4.00pm
Sunday (Burrell Street only)	9.00am	9.30am	4.00pm	5.00pm

5. We will continue to offer a combination of 'walk-in clinics' and 'advance booking appointments'
6. Together with local healthcare partners, we will increase awareness and make much better use of sexual and reproductive health services that are already offered by other healthcare providers, including GPs and pharmacies

What did people tell us?

More than 500 people completed the public consultation survey and 87 people took part in other activities, including one-to-one interviews, discussion groups and a public meeting

- The vast majority appeared to understand the need to change the way the services are provided – overall no strong objections arose
- 11 free text comments in the survey and 16 patient interview respondents noted concern about and/or objection to the closure of clinic(s)
- There is positive support for increasing the use of the online service SH:24 / home testing
- Respondents requested slightly longer evening open hours than currently proposed (the strongest and most recurrent theme of feedback)
- From discussion groups we learnt some patients lack confidence in/awareness of sexual and reproductive health services offered in primary care

The full consultation report and further information can be found at: <http://www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/consultation-srh>

Thank you for your time and contributions if you took part in the consultation process, we really appreciate you taking the time to give us your feedback.

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