**Chlamydia Screening in General Practice**

**Service Specification**

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| **Document control (for internal use only)** |
| FINAL 11th November 2015 |

1. **Agreement to provide**

By offering this service the Contractor agrees to comply with all requirements under the Buckinghamshire County Council Public Health Contract.

1. **Background**

Buckinghamshire County Council is committed to improving the sexual health and wellbeing of its population and targeting services to those areas of greatest need. It recognises the direct links between sexual ill health, poverty, poor housing, unemployment, discrimination and other forms of social exclusion. The main elements of a modern, comprehensive sexual health service are defined as providing:

* Contraception care and abortion
* Diagnosis and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV
* Prevention of STIs and HIV
* Services that address psychological and sexual problems

The organisation of current sexual health care provision is complex and delivered across a range of primary care providers at level one including general practice, community pharmacy and specialist providers at levels two and three. Young people under 25 years are a key target group for sexual health prevention and reducing teenage conceptions and increasing the uptake of chlamydia screening are national public health outcome indicators for sexual health.

For full details on the Buckinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment visit [www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)[[1]](#footnote-1) and to see a copy of the latest Buckinghamshire Sexual Health Strategy and the relevant sexual health needs assessment please visit [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk)

Genital *chlamydia trachomatis* infection is the sexually transmitted infection most frequently diagnosed in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England. Prevalence of infection is highest in sexually active young men and women, especially those aged under 25 years. Untreated infection can have serious long-term consequences, particularly for women, in whom it can lead to pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), ectopic pregnancy and tubal factor infertility. Since many infections are asymptomatic, a large proportion of cases remain undiagnosed, although infection can be diagnosed easily and effectively treated.

Chlamydia is part of the national Public Health Outcomes Framework and there is a national indicator based on diagnostic rates. Data on chlamydia is collected by a CTAD system at national level and data is published on a quarterly basis via the Public Health England website [www.phe.gov.uk](http://www.phe.gov.uk).

1. **Service**

This service is for the delivery of opportunistic chlamydia screening to males and females aged 15 to 24 years in the general practice setting. Primary care is a key setting for the delivery of chlamydia screening given its registered population within the target catchment age and its awareness of the needs of the local population. Young people at risk of contracting chlamydia are an important patient group being also at risk of contracting other STIs, unintended pregnancies and adopting other risky sexual health behaviours with potential adverse effects on future quality of life outcomes.

The service will work closely with the local chlamydia screening office (CSO) who will provide all patients with notification of their results and co-ordinate treatment and partner-notification for chlamydia positive patients.

***3.1 Service outcomes are to:***

* Increase access to the chlamydia screening programme by providing additional locations where people can access screening.
* Increase access for young people, to sexual health advice and referral on to specialist sexual health services where required.
* Increase clients’ knowledge of the risks associated with sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

***3.2 Definitions of clients:***

Screen all males and females aged 15 to 24 years using the correct form. Patients can be screened outside this age group using the normal microbiology form, but the screen will not generate a payment via the service specification.

***3.3 Exclusions***

Any patient screened again within 7 days of their first chlamydia screen, will not be counted and no payment made for the second screen.

No payment will be made for screening kits given out but NOT returned to the laboratory.

No payment will be made for chlamydia screens carried out on patients outside of the 15 - 24 year old target range. These screens will not count towards the practice’s target. In cases where a patient is outside the target age range a chlamydia test must be carried out using a normal microbiology form.

Patients requesting screening can be seen in general practice and/or referred to a local community based sexual health service in Aylesbury, Buckingham, Burnham, Chalfont & Gerrards Cross, Chesham, or High Wycombe. Details of all Buckinghamshire services can be found on [www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk](http://www.sexualhealthbucks.nhs.uk)

***3.4 The service will:***

1. Advertise and promote the chlamydia screening programme within their GP Practice by displaying posters, putting on TV screens and giving out patient information leaflets[[2]](#footnote-2).
2. Offer opportunistic screening to all the target population annually or after each change of partner (**see Appendix A for chlamydia screening pathway**).
3. Ensure that patients clearly in an at risk target group for example, those attending for contraceptive advice including emergency hormonal contraception, pill checks, long acting reversible contraception consultations and young people attending travel clinics should all be **routinely** offered chlamydia screening and the practice should record this.
4. Provide patients with advice about completing a chlamydia test kit and providing test kits when appropriate.
5. Ensure samples are taken on the premises if possible and that the chlamydia screening programme forms and specimens are labelled correctly.
6. Ensure the samples are stored correctly and reach the pathology laboratory for testing, as per the chlamydia screening guidelines and protocols pack.
7. Note that all results will be handled by the chlamydia screening office, but as patients will be offered a choice of treatment location, practices are expected to offer treatment if appropriate (for more information see treatment section). Patients will be asked on the test form to tick a box if they are happy for results to be passed back to their GP.
8. Provide information on the use of condoms to prevent infection and to promote safer sex practices.
9. Sign-post patients to other agencies that deal with relevant health issues for this target population as appropriate for example, sexual health and/or drug and alcohol services.
10. Positively promoting the Department of Health’s quality criteria for young people friendly health services[[3]](#footnote-3) which sets out ten quality criteria that aim to help health care services reach out to young people. The quality criteria cover ten topic areas:

• accessibility

• publicity

• confidentiality and consent

• environment

• staff training, skills, attitudes and values

• joined-up working

• young people’s involvement in monitoring and evaluation of patient experience

• health issues for young people

• sexual and reproductive health services

• specialist child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)

1. Ensure all staff involved in delivering the programme have attended safeguarding training.
2. Identify a named contact within the practice to liaise with the chlamydia screening office and be responsible for completing appropriate paperwork and managing stocks of testing kits, poster and leaflets. This person must be available for training and updates from the chlamydia screening programme where appropriate.

***3.5 Treatment of Positive Chlamydia Cases***

In the event of a positive chlamydia result – the chlamydia screening office will contact the patient with the result. The patient will be offered treatment via the chlamydia screening office or local contraceptive and sexual health services.

* 1. ***Safeguarding – children and vulnerable adults***

The service will be provided in compliance with Department of Health guidance on confidential sexual health advice and treatment for young people aged less than 16 years.[[4]](#footnote-4) If a young person is not deemed to be Fraser competent, or if there are child protection concerns, safeguarding procedures should be followed. The following British Medical Association (BMA) document provides guidance about these procedures - [http://www.bma.org.uk/images/metupdate2009chapter4\_tcm41-188887.pdf](https://web.nhs.net/owa/redir.aspx?C=30f4e3664d1b4c74b2c81ee3fd5c378c&URL=http%3a%2f%2fwww.bma.org.uk%2fimages%2fmetupdate2009chapter4_tcm41-188887.pdf)

In the Fraser Guidelines, based on a House of Lords Ruling; a health professional can give advice or treatment to a person under 16 without parental consent providing they are satisfied that;

* The young person will understand the advice;
* The young person cannot be persuaded to tell his or her parents or allow the doctor to tell them that they are seeking contraceptive advice
* The young person is likely to begin or continue having unprotected sex with or without contraceptive treatment; and the young person's physical or mental health is likely to suffer unless he or she receives contraceptive advice or treatment.

Further guidance is available at

<http://www.fpa.org.uk/factsheets/under-16s-consent->confidentiality#O8Dk

The cross government guidance on child protection, Working Together to Safeguard Children, is available at <http://www.workingtogetheronline.co.uk/index.html>

All general practices should abide by the legislation on safeguarding (children and adults). This includes the safeguarding policies operated by Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children’s Board and Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Adults Board. This shall include understanding safeguarding referral procedures and referral pathways to social care.

The Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Children Board website details all local and national policy guidelines as well as links to the up to date referral form for professionals – see <http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/local> .

For vulnerable adults please visit - [www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk)

**Appendix C** gives an up-to date list of contact details for safeguarding leads in Buckinghamshire.

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) – all general practices registered to provide this service should be alert to high risk client groups. There is a CSE screening tool by the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV and Brook for use in sexual health services. A useful traffic light tool is also available at [www.brook.org.uk/trafficlights](http://www.brook.org.uk/trafficlights) and gives guidance on how to identify sexual health behaviours for those under 18 years divided in to four main age bands and gives an overview of those behaviours outside safe and healthy behaviour. Detailed information on CSE can also be found on the Bucks safeguarding website – [www.bucks-lscb.org](http://www.bucks-lscb.org)

**Confidentiality**

All service users should be made aware that their right to confidentiality and that this will be respected and maintained in line with GMC, Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) and other professional bodies’ recommendations.

***3.7 How the Chlamydia Screening Office (CSO) will support the general practice:***

* All test kits, posters, patient information leaflets will be provided to the practice by the chlamydia screening office (CSO) free of charge.
* The CSO will provide training for all practice screening staff as required.
* The CSO has a formal structure in place for the management of results, including a failsafe programme. There is a box on the chlamydia screening programme form that enables young people or GPs, (with the consent of the young person), to consent to the laboratory sending the results through to the GP practice.
* Partner notification will be handled by the CSO.
* Provide a quarterly GP newsletter providing useful screening tips and screening figures for preceding months in comparison with other practices.
* On signing up for this service specification, each practice will be provided with any required clinical guidelines and protocols which will provide further information and support.

1. **Accreditation and competencies**

If requested GP practices should provide as part of audit requirements:

* Name of the members of staff who has attended the “best practice” session and other members of staff who are delivering the service in the practice ie the dedicated contact
* Patients offered a chlamydia screening test when attending for contraceptive checks, LARC and emergency hormonal contraceptive consultations e.g. by building into existing templates (on EMIS etc).

1. **Equipment/Facilities**

All GP practices should have in place:

1. A suitable private area for consultations
2. Suitable toilet facilities for patients to complete their tests
3. A managed stock of testing kits supplied by the CSO
4. A supply of posters, patient information leaflets/cards supplied by the CSO
5. **Quality and Audit**

***6.1 Quality Indicators***

* The general practice has appropriate website cards and posters available for the client group, actively promotes its uptake and is able to discuss the contents of the material with the client, where appropriate.
* The general practice participates in an annual organised audit of service provision if requested to do so by Bucks County Council.
* The general practice co-operates with any locally agreed Council or NHS England led assessment of service user experience.
* Staff from the general practice will attend any future organised update training that may be arranged.

**6.2 Audit**

Buckinghamshire County Council reserves the right to request evidence or information that the contractor is providing the service in a way that is safe, convenient and in accord with the requirements of this specification. The contractor is required to comply with all reasonable requests for evidence or information.

Performance monitoring of this service specification may be undertaken at any time by the County Council.

1. **Termination Notice**

In order for either party to terminate this agreement there will be a three month notice period.

1. **Payment**

Payments will be made quarterly following the chlamydia screening office alerting Buckinghamshire County Council as to the number of screens and number of positive screens completed per GP practice.

The tariff for payment is set out below:

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| **Nos to be screened** | **Payment (£)** |
| The % of the target population to be screened in each practice is set each year against the practice list and monitored for public health performance purposes. The % will be between 17%, 25% and 35% of the eligible patients aged 15 – 24 years screened. | £6 per completed test returned and confirmed by the local chlamydia screening office and pathology laboratory |
| Additional £4 per positive confirmed by the chlamydia screening office and pathology laboratory |

**9 Contacts**

For issues related to commissioning of this service please contact:

Public Health Team

Bucks County Council

County Hall

Walton Street

Aylesbury

HP20 1UA

or email via [phcontracts@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:phcontracts@buckscc.gov.uk)

For payment issues for screening, please contact the Contract Support Officer at the above address, via [phcontracts@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:phcontracts@buckscc.gov.uk) or by telephoning 01296 383382 or 01296 – 387139 (direct dial).

For general information on the chlamydia screening programme, supplies of test kits, screens returned for your GP practice please contact the Chlamydia Screening Office at Brookside Clinic, Station Way, Aylesbury HP20 2SQ or via telephone 01296 - 566518 until 31st March 2016. The new Provider details will be provided to all practices in early 2016.

For any general enquiries related to the GMS contract or primary care please contact the Area Team in NHS England on 01865 335800.

**Appendices**

**Appendix A:** Buckinghamshire Chlamydia Screening Pathway until 31st March 2016

**Appendix B:** Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Contacts

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**Buckinghamshire Safeguarding Contacts**<http://www.bucks-lscb.org.uk/local> and [www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshirepartnership.gov.uk)

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| **Advice and Support for Primary Care** | | | | | |
| Safeguarding Lead &  Designated Nurse Child Protection | Tania Atcheson  Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCGs | 01296 585916  07768 023100 | | | [tania.atcheson@nhs.net](mailto:tania.atcheson@nhs.net) |
| Safeguarding Manager &  Safeguarding Adults Lead | Vikki Gray  Aylesbury Vale and Chiltern CCGs | 01296 585915  07909 887852 | | | [Victoria.gray3@nhs.net](mailto:Victoria.gray3@nhs.net) |
| Designated Doctor  Child Protection | Dr Lesley Ray  Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 01494 426701 | | | [Lesley.Ray@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:Lesley.Ray@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk) |
| Designated Doctor  Children in Care | Dr Pam Griffiths  Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 01296 566052 | | | [Pam.Griffiths@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:Pam.Griffiths@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk) |
| Designated Nurse Children in Care | Cherry Gregory,  Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 01296 566019 | | | [Cherry.Gregory@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:Cherry.Gregory@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk) |
| Lead Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children | Melanie Hayward, Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust | 01296 566078 | | | [Melanie.Haywood@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](mailto:Melanie.Haywood@buckshealthcare.nhs.uk) |
| **Safeguarding Referrals** | | | | | |
| Children’s Social Care, Bucks County Council | First Response Team | 08454600001  OR  01296 383962 | | [secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk](mailto:secure-cypfirstresponse@buckscc.gcsx.gov.uk)  If you think a child or young person under the age of 18 years is being abused or neglected, please inform Buckinghamshire County Council’s First Response Team or the Police. | |
| Adult Social Care, Bucks County Council | Safeguarding Adults Team  Careline | 01296 383204  OR  0800 137915 | | [safeguardingadults@buckscc.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadults@buckscc.gov.uk) | |
| Social Care  Adults & Children | Out of Hours | 0800  9997677 | |  | |
| Thames Valley Police | Non-emergency enquiries | 101 | |  | |
| **Sexual Exploitation** | | | | | |
| Kingfisher Team for Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)  (covers the Thames Valley) |  | 01865 335276 |  | | |
| Women’s Aid  Domestic Abuse Support | Aylesbury  High Wycombe | 01296 436827  OR  01494 461367 |  | | |
| Rape Crisis | Aylesbury  High Wycombe | 01296 392468  OR  01494 462222 |  | | |

**Updated October 2015**

1. <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/research/health_wellbeing_board.page> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. All resource materials, kits and forms will be provided to general practices by the Chlamydia Screening Office at Brookside Clinic in Aylesbury, part of Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust until 31st March 2016. A new service provider will be in place from 1st April 2016 and details will be sent to GP practices in early 2016. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. You’re Welcome – Quality criteria for young people friendly health services DoH, 2011*Briefing for the NHS: Proposed Public Health Outcomes for Chlamydia Control*. Health Protection Agency 2011.

   https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-criteria-for-young-people-friendly-health-services [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. *Best Practice Guidance for Doctors and Other Health Professionals on the Provision of Advice and Treatment to Young People Under 16 on Contraception, Sexual and Reproductive Health*. 29 July 2004.http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\_consum\_dh/groups/dh\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh\_4086914.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-4)