



SEXUAL HEALTH PROVIDERS CONFERENCE 2019

Wednesday 27 March 2019, 10.00am – 2.30pm
Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX

Chairs: Dahlia Ghassan & Shaun Watson

Panel members: Helen Byrne, Senior Commissioning Manager, Substance Misuse, Sexual Health and Offenders Health Team
Shaun Watson, Clinical Nurse Specialist HIV and SHPF Chair
Ryan Delaney, SASH Team Manager
Oliver O'Donohoe, Relationships, Sex & Identity Mentor at Spectra
Dr Sara Day, Consultant Physician/Associate Specialist, HIV and Sexual Health, John Hunter Clinic

Item	Notes	Action
1	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</p> <p>Dahlia Ghassan (DG) & Shaun Watson (SW) , Chairs</p> <p>Shaun Watson and Dahlia Ghassan (Chairs) introduced themselves to attendees and welcomed the speakers taking part in the panel discussion. Shaun said that the panel discussion would be an opportunity for representatives of sexual health services to reflect on opportunities presented to services and threats faced. Panel members introduced themselves and gave an overview of what their service offers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>Ryan Delaney, SASH Team Manager SASH are a sexual health advice service who support individuals in Kensington & Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster. They offer holistic support and information to people living with HIV, Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, the LGBT community, young people, sex workers, and more.</p> <p>Oliver O'Donohoe, Relationships, Sex and Identity Mentor at Spectra Spectra are a sexual health outreach service who provide counselling and support groups from a number of different communities such as the LGBT community, HIV positive individuals and more.</p> <p>Helen Byrne, Senior Commissioning Manager, Substance Misuse, Sexual Health and Offenders Health Team Helen is a Public Health of sexual health services commissioner within Westminster and Kensington and Chelsea.</p> <p>Dr Sara Day, Consultant Physician/Associate Specialist, HIV and Sexual Health, John Hunter Clinic The John Hunter Clinic is an NHS Sexual Health clinic based next to Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. Sara also works with Sexual Health London, a new online sexual health service.</p> 	

What issues have organisations faced on a day to day basis?

Ryan – SASH have created a safety kit aimed at service users who participate in Chemsex. The kit includes condoms, clean needles, measuring syringes and other items. The kits are intended to ensure that users who intend to inject etc. are looking after themselves and doing it safely. The pilot is due to be run through Dean Street Clinic who will give feedback to SASH. Ryan stressed that the Chemsex packs were not promoting Chemsex but accepting service users will participate and ensuring that they are safe when doing so. He said the biggest issue facing SASH at the moment was that the kits were so expensive and that previous pilots had not had much take up.

Oli - Oli explained that translating bids can be a challenge and clarifying with funders what they want providers to provide can be difficult. He said that referrals to Spectra often get lost in translation and it is hard to differentiate between what the system wants to achieve and what the young person actually needs.

Helen – Helen said that working with limited budgets is a constant battle for Public Health (especially around sexual health). 2-3% has been taken off of current health grants.

Sara – Sexual Health London are faced with the challenge of being unable to follow up with clients and find out outcomes of their treatment for positive results. Sara said a challenge is the topic of contraception. SHL are keen to offer emergency contraception remotely or find a way to arrange an appointment system online.

What opportunities do organisations see for the future?

Sara – Sara hopes to see a PREP portal setup if there is a national rollout of it and better HIV pathways. Sexual Health London are hoping to have a virtual consultation that service users can access at some point in the near future. They are also looking into having sexual health services based in hostels for young people to access.

Oli – Oli said that Spectra are focusing on addressing the ‘system’ more directly. They are doing work around how the teenage brain works with trauma.

Ryan- SASH are embracing a more collaborative approach to their work. They are keen to remove the hostility particular services may have between one another.

Helen – Helen said that the key priorities and opportunities for Public Health was to look at what is needed for sexual health services in the future and build close relationships with WLCCG.

Any further questions

An attendee raised the issue of homeless individuals who are LGBTQ and don’t have an address. He wanted to know how they could access support and for services to ensure there is a more joined up approach when reaching out to vulnerable communities. Someone also mentioned that sexual health services seem to not be reaching out to people with learning disabilities and seem to not design services and marketing materials around their needs. Organisations specialising in supporting individuals with learning disabilities are often consulted but as things are being designed to be accessed more online now, signs show that the consultation results tend to not be considered. Panel members suggested this could be looked at the next conference and the Advocacy Project could present.