

Tees Valley Public Health Shared Service (TVPHSS)  
Redheugh House  
Thornaby Place  
Thornaby  
Stockton-on-Tees  
TS17 6SG

Tel: (01642) 745183

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Dear Linda

### **Young People's Engagement – Sexual Health Services**

Thank you for the report on your recent engagement with young people in Redcar & Cleveland with regard to sexual health services together with recommendations.

It is a very insightful report and very much mirrors the findings in the recent Teeswide public and stakeholder consultation undertaken by NWA Social and Market Research Ltd with regards to levels of awareness, accessibility, confidentiality, attitude and stigma.

The 3 recommendations below which are highlighted within the Healthwatch report, are key priorities for future service provision and will be included within the service specification that will form part of a suite of documents that will go out to tender for a new service.

- 1) Ensure that there is equal provision of services in all areas of Redcar & Cleveland; that there is a range of ways to access services and that they are delivered in an appropriate setting.
- 2) Ensure that a robust awareness strategy is developed that increases awareness of services and reduces the stigma attached to using them.
- 3) Ensure that staff have the right skills, values and competencies to deal with a varied and changing population.

We are keen to address the issue of access to services especially for residents located in more rural localities and to have services located in the most appropriate locations to make access to services easier. We will also be identifying that the new service provider fully resources the marketing and promotion of sexual health services. In addition, we expect the new service provider to continue to develop and support a highly trained sexual health workforce.

Regarding some of the specific concerns documented within the report around concerns at Redcar & Cleveland College, I shall pick this up directly with the service provider via the monthly contract review meetings and explore opportunities to address those privacy issues raised.

The TVPHSS think the report is a very useful one and have shared it with the other Tees local authority sexual health leads as we feel that the young people's views of Redcar will not be dissimilar to other localities.

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JA Booth".

Jacky Booth  
Public Health Contracts Manager  
Tees Valley Public Health Shared Service  
(Working on behalf of Hartlepool, Stockton, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland, Darlington Local Authorities)