

Background

- The NHS provides a range of sexual health services yet large increases in sexual health pathology have overwhelmed the capacity of secondary care health services and led to delays in accessing services
- In 2003 the Department of Health set out the requirements of a modern comprehensive sexual health service in their *Effective Commissioning of Sexual Health and HIV Services*
- The recommended standards for sexual health services, published in March 2005, support healthcare organisations to implement the National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV and to deliver the Public Service Agreement (PSA) target for sexual health

How can the Improvement Foundation help?

- The Improvement Foundation is now offering a 12-month programme of support to help improve local sexual health services by addressing the mismatch between capacity and demand
- The programme will address the need to redesign care pathways across all settings to improve access to care. This will include identification and adoption of models of good service delivery based on quality sexual health services being provided in the community, where the redesign has been clinically led with good partnership working between primary care and GUM services
- Quicker access to sexual health care and advice is essential and integrating services into a 'one-stop' model may be appropriate; this will require collaboration between all providers of sexual health services

What are the benefits of taking part in this programme?

- Improved access and responsiveness of sexual health services
- Suitable provision for the specific needs of black and ethnic minority groups
- Support in implementing services which meet the national standards and targets
- Development of multi-disciplinary teams to implement improvements
- Use of information to understand the demand, capacity and activity of the local services
- Assistance in the mapping out and analysis of current delivery of services to evaluate access and availability in order to establish gaps and unmet needs
- Redesigned services to meet the needs of patients and create streamlined care pathways in the most appropriate setting, across all providers of sexual health services
- Learning from local, national and international speakers at 3 full-day learning workshops
- Learning from examples of good practice from across the UK
- Local support throughout the programme from Improvement Foundation regional centre staff

What is the cost to join this programme?

- The cost of the 12-month improvement programme depends on numbers of PCTs and Sexual Health Services involved

Why the Improvement Foundation?

- The Improvement Foundation leads the field in service improvement work across the public sector in the UK and overseas
- Experts in quality improvement, we have an eight-year track record of demonstrating significant, sustainable impact and value for money
- We work closely with the Department of Health, the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement and several other organisations, and in partnership with frontline staff and service users to deliver large-scale improvements in services and health outcomes

