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Provided by:



# Service updates 11/05/2021

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[www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk](http://www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk)

In partnership with:



# Introduction

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# Background


- Unity Sexual Health (as part of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust) was formed in April 2017. It is a NHS led partnership of third sector and other NHS providers commissioned by Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Local Authorities and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Bristol City Council are the lead Commissioner.
- Bath and North East Somerset Council are also involved in relation to the chlamydia screening programme.
- Awarded a five year contract from April 2017-March 2022.
- In March 2021, the contract was extended for another two years, until 31/03/2024.

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# Service offer

Unity Sexual Health offer a range of sexual health services across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Empowering everybody – all ages, genders and orientations – to be informed, safe and in control of their sexual health so they can realise healthier relationships and sexual wellbeing throughout life.

Everything we offer is confidential, non-judgemental and everyone is welcome.



# Vision

“To improve sexual health outcomes and wellbeing throughout life for the people of Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.”

# Unity Sexual Health partners

- **British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)** delivers termination of pregnancy (ToP) services
- **Brook** delivers specialist sexual health services to under 20 year olds
- **MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI)** delivers ToP services
- **Terrence Higgins Trust (THT)** deliver health promotion and outreach services
- **Weston Integrated Sexual Health (WISH)** provides Level 3 sexual health services in North Somerset



# Key Performance Indicators

Unity Sexual Health reports quarterly to commissioners against a number of national and local key performance indicators (KPIs) covering a range of themes:

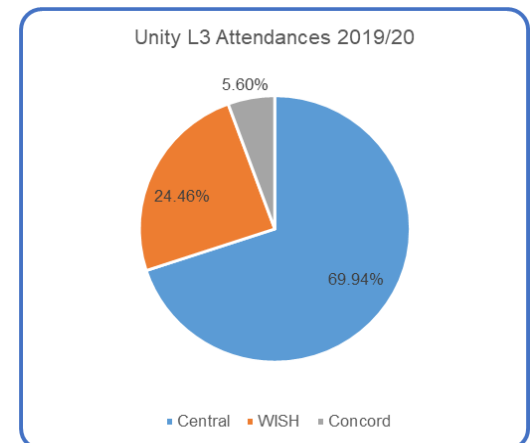
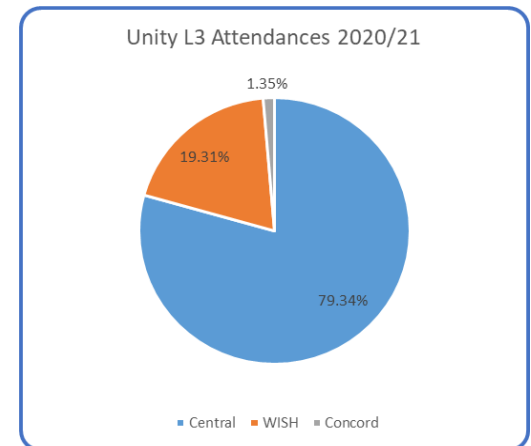
1. LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception)
2. NCSP (National Chlamydia Screening Programme)
3. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
4. ToP (Termination of Pregnancy)
5. STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections)
6. PN (Partner Notification)

In 2020/21, Unity worked with commissioners to refresh the contracted KPIs to ensure they reflected the priorities and activity of the service. We are working with Business Intelligence to build the new reporting structure.

# Specialist sexual health provision

Unity Sexual Health provide one Level 3 service for complex cases in each local authority area. Services provided include:

- Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and treatment of men who have sex with men
- Sexually Transmitted Infection testing and treatment of men with dysuria and genital discharge
- Sexually Transmitted Infections in pregnant women
- Management of gonorrhoea and syphilis



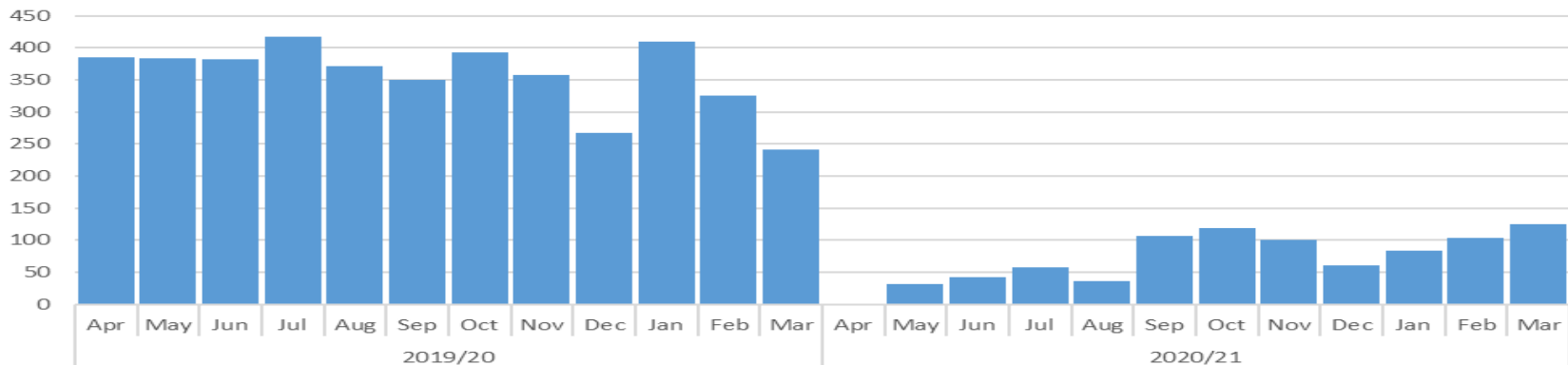


# Community provision

Unity community clinics meet routine sexual health needs and are held in the evening. They are a popular choice for young people and those who have work and family commitments during the day.

At the start of the pandemic, the Unity community clinics were closed. We have opened two and are looking into re-opening more where circumstances allow. In 2020/21, Unity saw 3,419 (395.26%) less patients in community clinics than in 2019/20.

L2 Community Clinics Attendances  
(excludes L3 services at Concord and WISH)



# Unity Postal Self-Test Kits

Unity Sexual Health provides STI testing by freepost for all patients living in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

In October 2020, launched online patient accounts allowing postal self-test kits to be ordered and the information links to our electronic patient record. Previously the ordering of and adding results to the patient record involved two separate systems.

Patient accounts can be created and kits ordered at: [www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk](http://www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk)



# Termination of pregnancy services

Termination of Pregnancy services are provided by:

- British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)
- Marie Stopes Reproductive Choices (MSI)
- Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS)

Hosted by MSI, the Central Booking line (**0345 872 5435**) provides a single point of contact for an appointment to discuss options.

During the pandemic, all services adapted to introduce telemedicine and pills by post to ensure that women could access abortion safely and reduce unnecessary face to face contact.

We have continued to see an increase in medical termination of pregnancies compared to surgical terminations, owing to the introduction of home use misoprostol. Face to face appointments and surgical procedures have remained available to patients throughout 2020/21.

# Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurses

The South West region has a low teenage pregnancy rate, 13.3 per 1000 women in 2018, down from 14.9 per 1000 from 2017.\*

Unity are commissioned to provide a Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurse service (only in Bristol and South Gloucestershire), to support young pregnant women. Following contact with the Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurses in 2020/21:

- 58.33% of women reported they were using a regular contraception
- 76.19% of which were using a LARC

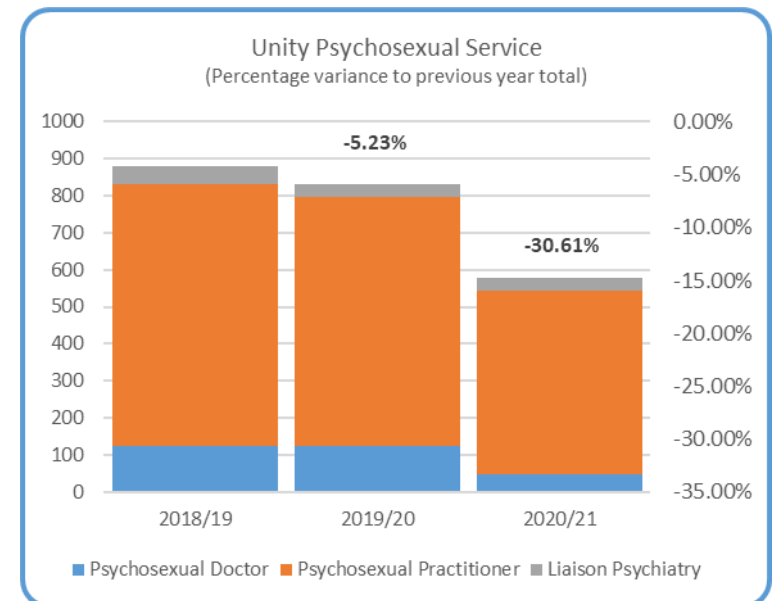
\*2018 is the latest available ONS data

# Psychosexual service

Many people have problems with sex at some point in their lives. We provide a psychosexual clinic at Unity which requires a GP referral to access the service.

In 2020/21, the service moved to video clinics (where appropriate) as a way of maintaining the service. There is also the option of telephone appointments.

The waiting list is currently six to nine months which is longer than usual but it is improving.



# Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP)

From 1 October 2020, we implemented the rollout of a NHS funded PrEP service. Previously, PrEP has only been available in England as part of clinical trials.

It is available through Unity Sexual Health at Central Health Clinic, Brook, WISH and Concord Medical Centre.

In 2021/22 we are planning to develop our PrEP service further and improve uptake.

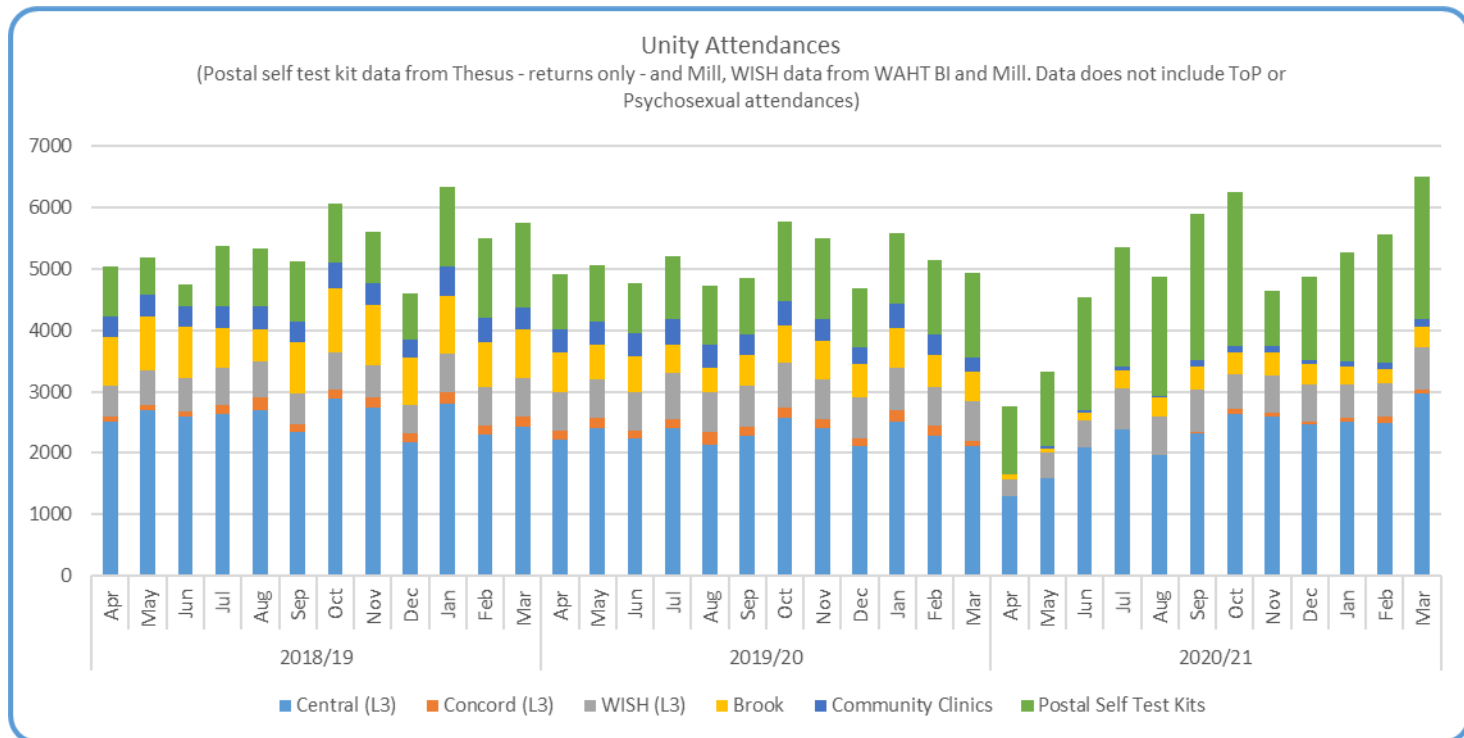
As of February 2021, 100 people have started on PrEP and 175 continuing on PrEP. There are currently 49 people on the waiting list.

Project idea to increase HIV testing and PrEP access in higher prevalence general practices in BNSSG. More details will follow in 2021.



# Attendance

For Unity Central and community clinics, there were 48,928 attendances\* in 2020/21. This is a 2.65% (1,332 patient) decrease from 2019/20.



\*48,928 attendances at Unity Central, Unity Concord, Unity Community and returned Unity Postal Self-Test Kits. Does not include Unity WISH, Brook, ToP or Psychosex attendances.

# Prevention

- The Unity Health Promotion Sub Group meet quarterly to oversee all health promotion activities, promoting sexual health and wellbeing in the general population. The group work together to analyse local surveillance data to guide Unity's strategy for targeted health promotion of local and emerging sexual health issues.
- Unity provide dedicated community based services for young people under 25 years old with partner Brook providing a service for young people under 20 years old.
- The C-Card scheme provides an accessible way for 13-19 year olds in Bristol to access free condoms through secondary schools, youth support services, GP practices and Pharmacies.
- THT provide a condoms by post service across BNSSG: [www.tht.org.uk/our-services/phone-and-post/order-free-condoms-post/bnssg-condoms](http://www.tht.org.uk/our-services/phone-and-post/order-free-condoms-post/bnssg-condoms)



# Fast Track Cities

- World AIDS Day 2019 event on 30/11/2019, Mayor Marvin Rees signed an official declaration to make Bristol a 'Fast Track City'.
- Aims to achieve the target of zero HIV transmissions by 2030.
- Dr Lindsey Harryman is leading on work stream 1 (increasing HIV testing). This work stream will focus on improving testing, treatment and care across Bristol. The work stream will demonstrate how it can improve HIV testing in line with NICE guidelines for high prevalence areas, particularly around increasing testing in primary care and improving testing for 'hard to reach' groups to reduce the likelihood of HIV late diagnosis.



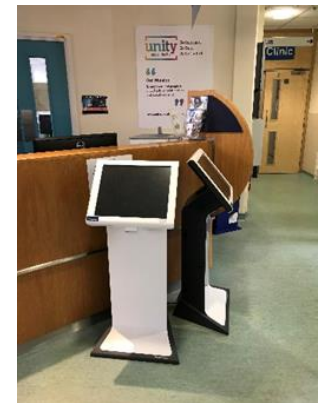
FAST-TRACK  
**CITIES**

# Common Ambition Bristol

- Common Ambition Bristol is one of five research projects funded by The Health Foundation and the only one involving sexual health.
- The project is led by Brigstowe, a Bristol based HIV charity in partnership with the African Voices Forum (an umbrella organisation for sixteen community organisations for people of African and Caribbean heritage).
- The other partners are Unity, Bristol City Council and University of Bristol.
- This project aims to improve HIV and sexual health awareness in people of African and Caribbean heritage and eradicate HIV stigma in this population in Bristol.
- Three years to design, deliver and evaluate interventions using co-production methodology for the project partners to share power with the community at every step of the process.

# Technology

- Introduction of 'rapid result pathway' using 'Panther', a testing machine situated in the Central Health Clinic where previously all samples were sent to Public Health England (PHE) at Southmead Hospital. The Panther machine tests for chlamydia and gonorrhoea and the results are available in four hours as opposed to waiting two to three weeks.
- Introduction of self-check in kiosks improving patient experience after concerns were raised via feedback about privacy in the reception area.



The Hologic Panther and self check in kiosks at Unity Central

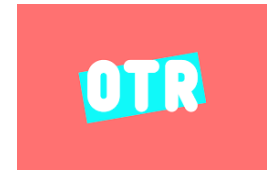
# Training and capacity building

- Training for Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) qualifications in Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) provision and Diploma of the FSRH training (DFSRH).
- Monthly update meetings for qualified LARC fitters including colleagues from general practice (GP).
- Regularly host medical and nursing students on rotation.
- Unity Central is also the main base in Severn Deanery for Specialty Trainees in Community Sexual & Reproductive Health and Genitourinary Medicine.
- Unity Young Person (UYP) training programme for professionals working with and supporting young people to have healthy and safe sexual relationships.



# Safeguarding

- Unity Sexual Health has a safeguarding team (consisting of a Consultant and a Safeguarding Nurse) based at Unity Central and named representatives in all partners.
- In 2020/21, we worked with over 500 individuals who presented with safeguarding concerns.
- These are cases where there is enough of a potential risk involved to require further investigation.
- Themes for adults included: domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, being more vulnerable because the young adult is a care leaver, learning difficulties and drugs or alcohol use.
- Themes for children included: mental health, high risk sexual behaviour or at risk of exploitation, sexual assault and transgender issues.



# Key challenges in 2020/21

- Delivering a service during a pandemic
- A shortage of Hologic Aptima NAATs tests meant the online account service had to be suspended for a month.
- Unity are getting increased numbers of:
  - routine referrals for LARC from practices that would usually fit them.
  - referrals for non sexual health conditions e.g. urological, gynaecology and skin complaints, due to the open access nature of our service.
- As a result, we have much longer waiting lists and are managing service capacity by prioritising complex and difficult cases.
- Waiting list for LARC is approx. 12 weeks.

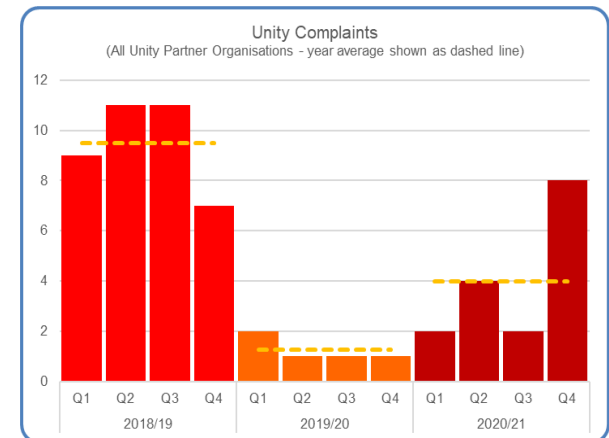
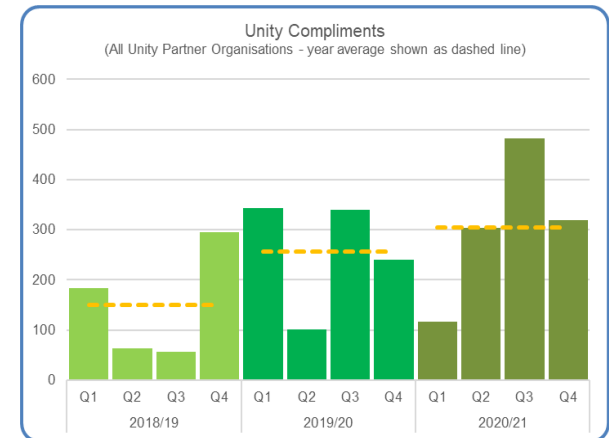
# Key achievements in 2020/21

- Continued to adapt our service as the COVID-19 pandemic progressed to include the use of digital technology such as video clinics to improve service delivery.
- Implemented the option for home use misoprostol for service users requesting a medical termination of pregnancy.
- Delivered an online account facility where patients can order their test kits online. This work will develop further to eventually allow patients to book some appointments online.
- On 1 April 2020, integrated with Weston Area Health Trust to become University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust.
- Implemented the national plan for the routine commissioning of PrEP.

# Compliments and complaints

We receive a number of compliments and complaints each year.

- Compliments continue to outweigh complaints
- 2020/21 saw an 18.68% (48) increase in the average number of compliments compared to 2019/20.
- There were 16 complaints received in 2020/21, 11 more than in 2019/20.
- This is an increase of 120%. Many of the complaints related to waiting times and appointment availability.





# Plans for 2021/22

- Improve data quality and reporting
- Common Ambition project
- PrEP project involving primary care
- Implement project involving primary care chlamydia results
- E-referrals system

# Sources of information

- **Unity Sexual Health website**  
<https://www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk/>
- **Remedy**  
<https://remedy.bnssgccg.nhs.uk/>

# Contact details

- For urgent clinical advice: **0117 3426913**
- Facility to leave a message: **0117 3426933 or 3426944**
- Main telephone number: **0117 3426900**
- LARC referrals: **[ubh-tr.larc referrals@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.larc referrals@nhs.net)**
- Psychosexual referrals: **[ubh-tr.unity psychosexual@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.unity psychosexual@nhs.net)**
- Any other referrals: **[ubh-tr.unity central@nhs.net](mailto:ubh-tr.unity central@nhs.net)**
- Pregnancy Advisory Service: **0345 8725435**

# Any questions?

