



Be Informed.
Be Safe.
Be In Control.

Provided by:



Service updates 10/05/2022

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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 as it was then) 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) as they were then. 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.

Vision

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

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.



Unity Sexual Health partners

- **British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS)** delivers termination of pregnancy (ToP) services up to 17+6 weeks
- **Brook** delivers specialist sexual health services to under 20 year olds
- **MSI Reproductive Choices (MSI)** delivers ToP services up to 23+6 weeks
- **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:

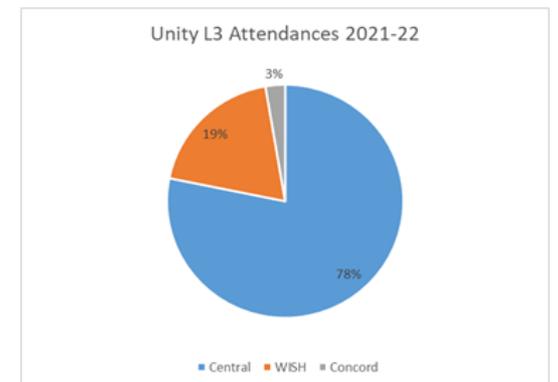
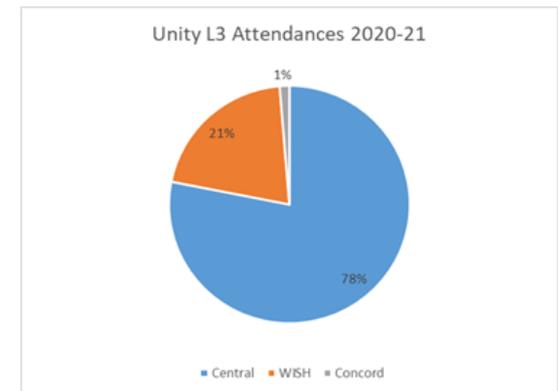
1. LARC (Long Acting Reversible Contraception)
2. NCSP (National Chlamydia Screening Programme)
3. HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
4. ToP (Termination of Pregnancy)
5. STIs (Sexually Transmitted Infections)
6. PN (Partner Notification)

In 2021-22, Unity worked with our Business Intelligence team to build a new and robust reporting infrastructure.

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

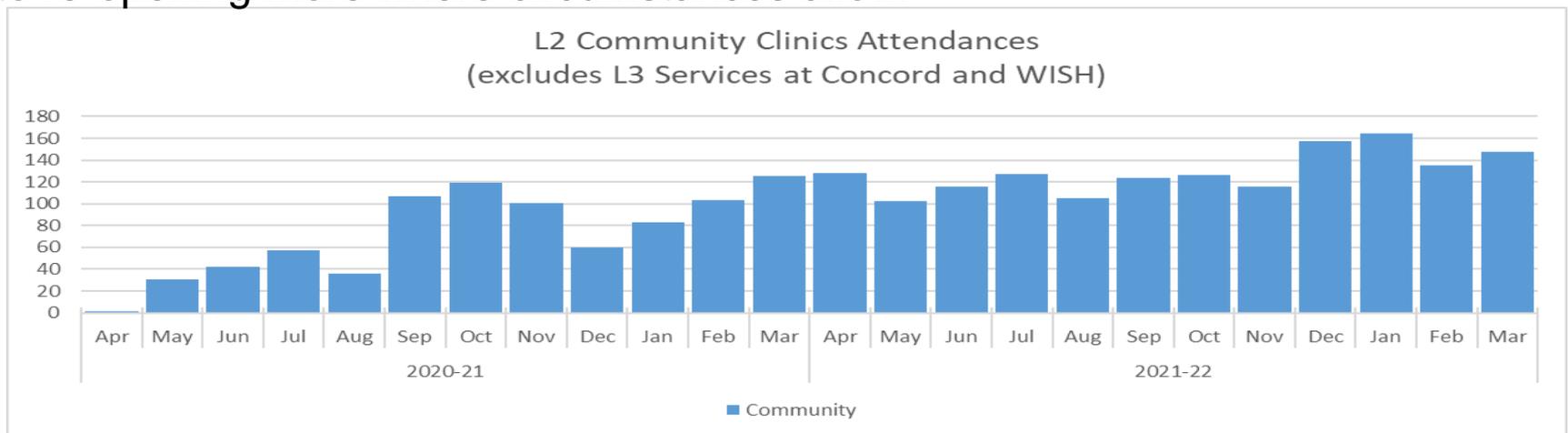


Community provision

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.

In 2021-22, Unity saw 683 more patients in community clinics than in 2020-21. This is a 78.96% increase.

We have re-opened 8 out of 13 community clinic sessions to date and are looking into re-opening more where circumstances allow.



Unity Postal Self-Test Kits

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

In October 2020, online patient accounts was launched, 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.

We post out an average of 800 kits per week.

Patient accounts can be created and self-testing kits ordered at: 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.

In February 2022, the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care announced that the existing telemedical provisions in place in England since March 2020 would be coming to an end in August 2022. In April, it was announced that this removal will not be happening, and that telemedical care will be a permanent part of the early medical abortion service.

Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurses

Unity are commissioned to provide a Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurse service (only in Bristol and South Gloucestershire), to support young pregnant women.

People are referred to the service either through Pregnancy Advisory Service (PAS) or school nurses in Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

Following contact with the Teenage Pregnancy Outreach Nurses in 2021-22:

- **84.16%** of women reported they were using regular contraception
- **67.06%** of which were using a LARC

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.

We currently have 1127 people who have been prescribed PrEP, either taking it daily or event based. There are currently approx. 127 people on the waiting list.

Collaborating with University of Bristol, Brigstowe and other partners to pilot a retail pharmacy intervention to increase access to PrEP outside of sexual health clinics.



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.

This service is commissioned separately from our main sexual health contract.

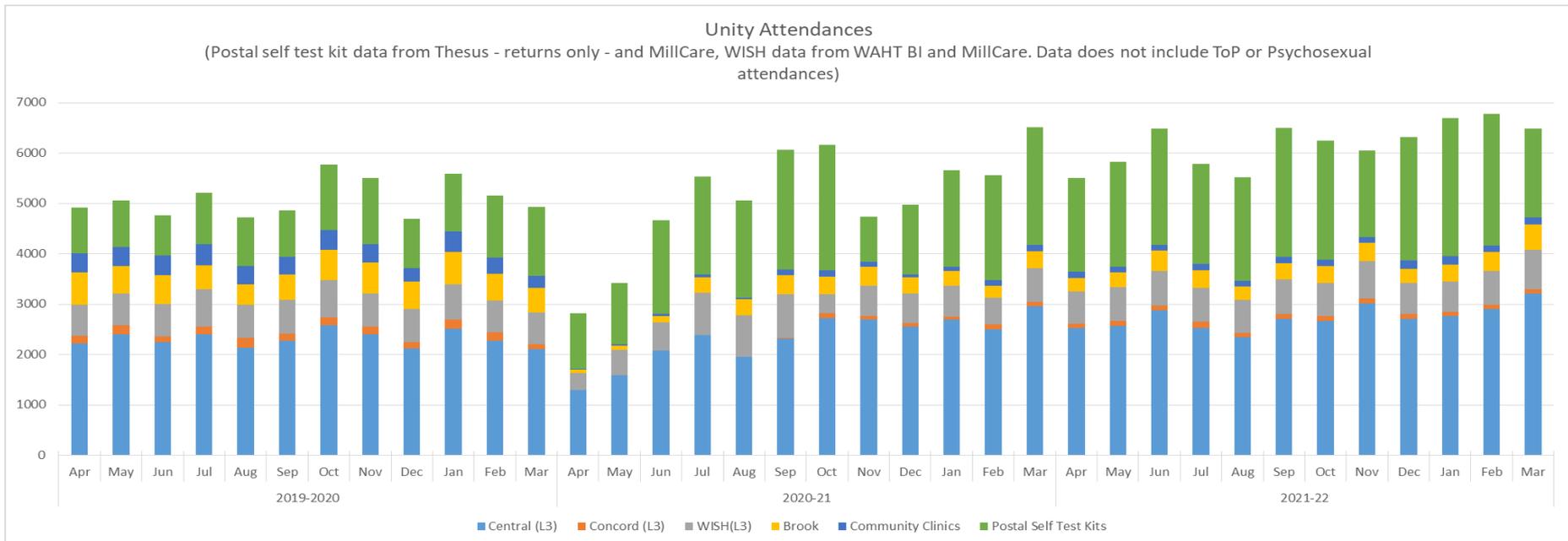
We are receiving an unprecedented number of referrals. The wait is currently eight to ten months.

To refer a patient to this service, please write a letter and include a summary of all medical conditions, medication, treatments tried and relevant test results and email to: **ubh-tr.unitypsychosexual@nhs.net**

In 2022-23, we are creating a single point of access for the psychosexual service.

Attendance

For Unity Central, Concord, WISH, community clinics and postal self-test kits there were 70,108 attendances* in 2021-22. This is a 20.93% (12133 attendances) increase from 2020-21.



*62,053 of these attendances were at Unity Central, Unity Concord, Unity Community and returned Unity Postal Self-Test Kits (does not include 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

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 sharing power with the community at every step of the process.

Technology

- We have a '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.
- Reduces unnecessary use of antibiotics and improves antibiotic stewardship by targeting specific infections.



The Hologic Panther 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 2021-22, there were 494 safeguarding cases.
- These are cases where there is enough of a potential risk involved to require further investigation.
- Themes for adults and children included: domestic violence, sexual assault, mental health, sexual exploitation, learning disabilities and trafficking.
- In 2021-22, there were 117 safeguarding referrals made.



Key challenges in 2021-22

- Delivering a service during a pandemic
- A shortage of Hologic Aptima NAATs tests meant the online account service had to be suspended again, for a month from March 2022.
- Waiting list for LARC is approx. 12 weeks.

LARC referrals

- Any patient in BNSSG requesting IUD/IUS or implant fitting who is aged 20 or over will need to be referred by their GP.
- Patients aged <20 years can self-refer or attend Unity Young People's clinics.
- Vulnerable patients aged >20 years can be discussed on a case-by-case basis.
- More information can be found on our website:
<https://www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk/for-professionals/clinical-services-refer/>

Key achievements in 2021-22

- Continued to deliver and adapt our service during the pandemic.
- Planning for post pandemic service delivery and retaining pandemic changes
- Prepared for the changes to the national Chlamydia Screening Programme, from 1 April 2022.
- Participated in Bristol Open Doors 2021.
- Created the 'Be here' programme.

Plans for 2022-23

- Continue with Common Ambition project
- Continue with system wide chlamydia and gonorrhoea notification and treatment service
- Review our triage system to ensure all patients are booked into appropriate appointment slots.
- Collaborating with University of Bristol, Brigstowe and others to pilot a retail pharmacy intervention to increase access to PrEP
- Improve data quality and reporting

Contact details and information

- Website: <https://www.unitysexualhealth.co.uk>
- 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
- North Somerset LARC referrals: wishclinic@nhs.net
- Psychosexual referrals: ubh-tr.unitypsychosexual@nhs.net
- Any other referrals: ubh-tr.unitycentral@nhs.net
- Pregnancy Advisory Service: **0345 8725435**

Any questions?

