



A manifesto for sexual health - 2017 *'Building for the future'*

In advance of the forthcoming General Election, the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), the main specialist body for sexual health professionals in the UK, calls upon the incoming government to implement key sexual health priorities to protect and improve the sexual health of the nation.

With growing numbers of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the emergence of antibiotic-resistant sexual infection and high rates of HIV infection the need to safeguard sexual health services is more important than ever.

BASHH urges the incoming government to:

1. Prioritise sexual health as a key public health issue and safeguard funding for sexual health services, including beyond the scheduled removal of the public health ring-fence in 2019, so that services are adequately resourced to maintain rapid open access to confidential STI and HIV testing and treatment for all ages and sexes, to provide patient-centred care and to enable effective long-term planning.
2. Commit to making pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) available to all those at high risk of acquiring HIV.
3. Roll-out the provision of human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination for men who have sex with men (MSM) as quickly as possible and ultimately provide gender-neutral vaccination on the NHS for all adolescents in the UK.
4. Prioritise the response to the growing threat of antibiotic-resistant sexual infection by strengthening joint working with national agencies and health professionals to ensure best practice and co-ordinated strategic action.
5. Improve the integration of sexual health and HIV commissioning as recommended by the Health Select Committee and the All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS, so that the fragmentation seen as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 is avoided.
6. Provide national guidance on sexual health tendering for commissioners and providers that includes key quality indicators and meaningful payment mechanisms. There should be robust governance of commissioning with clear accountability for the sexual health and well-being of local populations.
7. Work with experts to deliver age-appropriate sex and relationships education (SRE) in schools and colleges, covering relationships, risk, sexuality and choices.
8. Invest in specialist sexual health training for medical, nursing and other related professionals so that specialist services in the future can continue to be appropriately and safely staffed.

BASHH looks forward to working collaboratively with the incoming government to drive forward progress and help realise these priorities.