Over the past 12 months BASHH has been working harder than ever to demonstrate the need to maintain high-quality sexual healthcare across the United Kingdom and has also provided excellent educational events, continued its work on the BASHH guidelines and responses to consultations, and introduced a new look website.

The current financial challenges are unprecedented and make for an explosive mix given the increased demand for sexual health services, highest levels of syphilis since the 1950s and the emergence of antibiotic-resistant gonorrhoea. We have strived at every opportunity to make the case to national decision-makers for sexual health to be sufficiently prioritised and for services to be appropriately funded. There are many examples but the key work has been to:

- Publicise the damaging impact that public health cuts are having on sexual health services and patients, through close working with the King’s Fund (see [https://www.kingsfund.org.uk](https://www.kingsfund.org.uk) for sexual health outputs) and engagement with national policymakers, Parliamentarians and the media
- Include messages on public health cuts and impact using the ‘perfect storm’ analogy in all media interviews and discussions
- Expanded the social network programme including Blogging 4 BASHH and Twitter with special thanks to the new ‘twitterati’ who have worked so hard on this for BASHH
- Build on the BASHH work submitted to inform high-profile Parliamentary inquiries, including the Health Select Committee’s review into public health and the All Party Parliamentary Group on HIV & AIDS’ review of fragmentation in the sexual health system
- Support the HPV vaccination programme, following the maintenance of a quadrivalent vaccine for the girls’ programme, to working to demonstrate the feasibility of vaccinating MSM and pushing for the extension of the vaccine to all boys
- Lobby via the Clinical Advisory Group on the London Sexual Health Transformation Project for the maintenance and inclusion in the service specifications of national standards, including partner notification, as well training and education
- Maintain a list of BASHH advisors for tendering across England
- Work with the RCP on workforce and relevant matters
- Work jointly with PHE to ensure a coordinated response to the outbreak of azithromycin-resistant gonorrhoea and more recently on the PrEP Impact trial
- Strengthen relationships with many professional associations including Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), Faculty of Public Health (FPH), Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH), Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Local Government Association (LGA)
- Strengthen relationships with national bodies including the Department of Health (DoH), Crown Prosecution Service, NHS England and Public Health England (PHE)
- Strengthen relationships with third sector agencies including the Family Planning Association (FPA), HPV Action, National AIDS Trust (NAT), NAZ, Terence Higgins Trust (THT)
- Deliver quarterly scientific meetings and a wide range of training and educational events, including the STI Foundation Programme and Branch events, with once again a fantastic annual conference, which this year was in conjunction with the Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases in Ireland (SSTDI)
- Showcase the history of world-leading sexual health services in the United Kingdom in recognition of the centenary of the Public Health (Venereal Diseases) Regulations 1916 and the Venereal Disease Act 1917 to highlight the importance of ensuring that the progress we have made is not lost. Some of this work has been in partnership with The National Archives and the Terrence Higgins Trust
- Use an experienced communications partner M&F Health to enable BASHH to convey its messages in the most effective way possible

BASHH is of course you - the membership and much of the activity is delivered by BASHH members who give freely and generously of their time for the benefit of the association and the specialty. Many thanks to all of them for their energy and enthusiasm it is greatly appreciated.

BASHH will continue to work on behalf of its membership to secure the best possible sexual health outcomes.

For the next year if you have ideas that you would like BASHH to look at taking forward or if you have examples of good practice or access issues / service cuts in your service please contact any of the BASHH officers ([https://www.bashh.org/bashh-groups/board-and-trustees/elected-officers-and-representatives/](https://www.bashh.org/bashh-groups/board-and-trustees/elected-officers-and-representatives/)) via admin@bashh.org
BASHH Scientific Meetings Friday 13 October 2017  RSM, Wimpole Street, London  13.00—17.00

The subject of the late afternoon session of the next scientific meeting is medical education and the full programme will be available on the BASHH website in due course.

DATES of future BASHH Scientific Meetings for your diary

Friday 12 January 2018
Friday 9 March 2018
Friday 22 June 2018
Friday 28 September 2018
All at the RSM, 1 Wimpole Street, London

BASHH Subscription for 2017 - 2018

On 1st August 2017 your BASHH membership was due for renewal. We are pleased to inform you that for this year there has been no increase in the subscription rate.

For those members who have set up a Direct Debit, payment will be taken on 1st August 2017.

If you have not received a subscription reminder or have any queries, please contact BASHH at admin@bashh.org

BASHH Annual Conference

Many congratulations to Daniel Richardson and Say Quah and the BASHH team for putting on such a fantastic sell-out Annual Conference in Belfast this year with 548 attendees.

Next year's BASHH/BHIVA 4th joint conference will be held on 17-20 April 2018 in Edinburgh.

BASHH Undergraduate Prizes 2017

Congratulations to the winners of the BASHH Undergraduate prizes. Emily Chegwin of King’s College London is the winner of the Clinical essay with her project on “An audit of non-specific urethritis: Could testing for Mycoplasma genitalium have a role in recurring cases?” and Rhianna Davies of the University of Birmingham is the winner of the Research essay with “Can we put HIV to bed?: The interaction between HIV and circadian rhythms”

SAVE THE DATE— ISSTDR/IUSTI joint meeting in Vancouver 14—17 July 2019
Forthcoming call for nominations for BASHH elections

There will be a call for nominations for posts on the BASHH Board and Clinical Governance Committee in September.

Have your say and consider the role you could play in shaping the future of BASHH and the specialty. Please nominate yourself for a post, they are rewarding roles.

Key posts will be up for election this year including Chair of the Clinical Governance Committee, Chair of the Education Committee, Conference and Communication Secretary, General Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President, Health Adviser to the Board, Fellows to the Board, and branch representation on the CGC.

Please speak to the incumbent or General Secretary, Elizabeth Foley (Elizabeth.foley@solent.nhs.uk) about these roles.

Royal College of Physician’s (RCP) Medical Care document

The latest version of the Royal College of Physician’s (RCP) Medical Care has been published. Medical Care is a web based planning resource produced by RCP in partnership with UK’s medical specialty societies. The updated version includes further information on workforce and medical specialty specific job planning. Medical Care is a valuable resource for clinicians and managers working in the NHS. The resource provides support for:

- Designing services – this includes a short description of the specialty and the patient population, and a summary of the workforce needs to support service provision
- Developing physicians – which includes information on the education, training and continuing professional development, workforce and job planning for physicians
- Improving quality and medical leadership – By exploring the latest ideas on how to develop physicians and teams.

The resource can be found at www.rcpmedicalcare.org.uk. For queries please contact medical-care@rcplondon.ac.uk.

Nurse / Health Adviser group

Are you interested in the promotion and support of Nurses and Health Advisers in BASHH and the work they do in the wider UK clinic network?

Please share your thoughts and enter a scoping discussion on the possible creation of a new BASHH Nurse group and its possible agenda / remit.

Please contact Jodie via jodiehw_82@hotmail.co.uk – Board Nurse rep.

BASHH STIF Competency Group membership

The BASHH STIF Competency Group is seeking motivated and enthusiastic new members. The Group meets three times per year. We are seeking 2 new members; one to be our ‘web-master’ and the other to take a lead on a particular aspect of the STIF Competency programme.

If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact the Chair, Dr Matthew Grundy-Bowers, for more information either via email: matthew.grundybowers@nhs.net or via direct line 020 3312 2451
News

**Sexual health in prisons lead for Clinical Governance Committee**

The Chair of the BASHH CGC, Dr Alan Tang, would like expressions of interest by email from any BASHH member who is actively providing STI and HIV testing in prison settings to present prison governance issues at the quarterly committee meetings.

The role will involve liaison with members who work in prisons and writing of quarterly reports on any service provision, quality or safety issues. The lead may attend in person or request the Chair or Secretary of the CGC to move their report in absentia. A spreadsheet of members who provide STI and/or HIV services will be passed on to the lead along with a summary of past projects with the Health and Justice Clinical Reference Group, Public Health England BBV Testing Pilot, Commission on Sex in prisons and other projects.

If you are interested in this role, please email admin@bashh.org and include Sexual Health in Prisons lead in the subject of the email.

**BASHHH Adolescent Special Interest Group**

Thank you to all who attended the recent safeguarding supervision workshop at BASHH/SSSTDI conference in Belfast. A model of safeguarding supervision was explored through case discussion, as well as the role of supervision from a psychological perspective.

We hope the stimulating discussion which followed was helpful in highlighting the lack of consistency of safeguarding supervision practice for sexual health services. We welcome your comments and would be interested to hear from BASHH members about safeguarding supervision in their settings, with a view to putting together a guidance document.

Please contact Sophie Herbert (ASIG secretary) on sophieherbert@nhs.net.

**Seeking clinics interested in adopting POCTs**

St George’s University of London (SGUL) is seeking clinics interested in adopting a CE-marked chlamydia/gonorrhoea 30-minute point-of-care test (POCT), as part of a collaboration between SGUL, Aquarius Population Health and Atlas Genetics Ltd.

Clinics taking part will participate in: clinical studies to assess POCT performance and impact on patient management; patient pathway mapping and micro-costing to assess cost-effectiveness; in-depth interviews to investigate key facilitators for adoption. Support includes: a number of free tests and platforms, access to expert advisory committee (e.g. for business case development), study team support. Please contact Emma Harding-Esch (eharding@sgul.ac.uk) and Sebastian Fuller (sfuller@sgul.ac.uk) if interested.

**Job vacancy in Sydney**

Full time permanent staff specialist in Sexual Health Medicine position at Sydney Local Heath District. Please contact A/Prof Catherine O’Connor, Director of Sexual Health Sydney Local Heath District for further information catherine.oconnor@sswahs.nsw.gov.au

This is a great opportunity for an enthusiastic GU Physician and there are not a lot of unemployed GU doctors in Australia!
Update from HIV CRG—Stakeholder messages

1. Immediate ART Policy

2. Two sub-groups established with MDT & regional representation
   a. Drugs sub-group: oversight of tendering, horizon scanning, prescribing generics, national/regional prescribing guidance, new & update of existing NHSE drug policies.
   b. HIV CRG Data sub-group: tariff development, data source mapping and utilisation, patient reported outcome and experience measures & quality dashboard development.

3. Improving Value ARV scheme
   Year 1 completed and despite operational issues around drugs supply, communication and engagement, outcomes are successful. The scheme will continue for another year with each region responsible for implementation.

4. Peer support working group
   Working group planned to review provision of peer support services.

5. Kings Fund report
   The CRG will be advising on NHSE responses to the report.

6. Quality outcomes for specialised services
   Providers can access their outcome data compared to average/range for other providers here: https://www.ssqd.england.nhs.uk/login. Access is approved by the gatekeeper for each Trust. Lead clinicians for HIV services are encouraged to register.

HIV Prevention England Newsletter

Please use this link to read the latest newsletter from HPE

General Practice Awards 2017

The General Practice Awards are taking place on 30th November, which celebrates excellence across primary care and there is a range of categories which may be of interest to BASHH — especially the Clinical Team of the Year — Sexual Health—please click here for further information.

Mentoring Skills for Sexual Health / HIV Physicians

The BASHH/ BHIVA Mentoring Group are running a one-day workshop in central London on Friday 8th December to equip doctors working in sexual health and HIV with the knowledge and skills to take on a mentoring role to other doctors. It will also be a useful update for doctors already in mentoring roles wishing to refresh their knowledge and skills.

There will be an opportunity to explore the roles of both mentors and mentees and to discuss ideas and models that you will be able to put into immediate practice.

The cost is £95 for BASHH / BHIVA members and £120 for non-members. Please book via the BASHH website or contact Dr Emma Fox on emma.fox2@nhs.net for further information.
**Events & Training**

**STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshops**

The next STIF Competency Train the Trainer workshops take place on:

- 30th November 2017, Birmingham
- 9th March 2018, London

This half day practical workshop is recommended for GUM medical and nurse consultants, SAS doctors and clinical nurse specialists involved in training and assessing doctors and nurses within their own departments. It provides guidance about running the STIF Competency training and assessment programmes and how to use the assessment tools. Attendance at the workshop is a requirement for STIF Competency Trainer registration.

To register for either workshop please [click here](#).

**ABC of Sexual Dysfunction Study Day—Thursday 19th October 2017 at 20 Cavendish Square, London W1G 0RN (Royal College of Nursing)**

We are pleased to inform you that the Sexual Dysfunction Special Interest Group of BASHH are running another ABC of Sexual Dysfunction study day. This popular educational meeting offers an introduction to the latest information on the assessment and management of common sexual problems but is also useful to update and refresh current practice. Educational content is relevant to doctors, nurses, health advisers, psychologists, sex and relationship therapists and other professionals with an interest in this dynamic field.

Programme: A provisional programme is available to view; please [click here](#).

Registration: Online registration is now open and you can register by [clicking here](#).

Due to the popularity of this meeting, please consider early registration.

**Society of Sexual Health Advisers Conference 2017 Cardiff—Saturday 23rd September 2017**

The Society of Sexual Health Advisers (SSHA) are delighted to announce this year’s conference will be held in Cardiff on Saturday the 23rd of September 2017.

Topics being covered will be PrEP UK picture and provision/Clinical Dilemmas, Criminalisation update, CSE, Sexual Health Advising in today’s new world, Sexual Health Needs of Muslim Women, Syphilis update and Sexual Health and Wellbeing and the Trans Community.

SSHA are also keen to hear from practitioners who would like to present details of their work/projects at the conference.

Further details including cost can be found at [http://ssha.info/ssha-conference-2017/](http://ssha.info/ssha-conference-2017/)

**20th BASHH Annual Conference—SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health—8th to 9th September 2017 at Keele University—Call for Papers**

Registration for the Annual BASHH SAS Conference for SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health is still open. The conference is on Friday 8th and Saturday 9th September at Keele University. The conference has an exciting programme and is exceptionally good value, with accommodation at Keele University for one night and conference dinner included in the registration fee. We look forward to seeing you there. Conference programme, on line registration and oral submission information is all available on the BASHH [website](#).

**Hold the date: GENDER AND SEXUAL MINORITIES (GSM) SIG Biennial Conference Day**

The GSM-SIG Presents: MSM from Seven to Seventy: School, Spirituality, and Sex

ONE DAY CONFERENCE, on Friday 3rd November 2017
Aston University Conference Centre, Conference Room 1, Aston St, Birmingham, B4 7ET
More Events & Training

**BASHH STI/HIV Module Course**

This course covers the in depth knowledge of STIs, HIV and their management. The remaining modules for this year are on HIV and other viral infections. It is highly recommended for those who intend to sit the Diploma in GU Medicine and Diploma in HIV Medicine exams but also appropriate for other senior healthcare practitioners within the MDT who look after and prescribe for their own cohort of HIV patients. It is modular enabling applicants to attend some or all of the modules.

The dates for the HIV and other viral infections Modules in 2017 are:
November 6-10 (Module 3/4 – HIV and other viral infections)

Please email Dr Ngozi Dufty on ngozi.dufty@nhs.net for details

**Physician Leadership and Management Skills Workshop – A Co-learning Event for Consultants and Senior Trainees at the Kings Fund, presented by the St Stephens AIDS Trust**

Following on from the highly lauded Eagles and Kestrels programs, St Stephens AIDS Trust are delighted to present a follow-on course in medical leadership for senior trainees and consultants. The course is delivered in association with the Kings Fund, and supported by an unrestricted educational grant from ViiV.

Two parallel workshops will run, in addition to co-learning sessions and social events for both groups throughout the program. With speakers from a convened faculty plus the Kings Fund, topics will include research and innovation, NHS structures, commissioning, tendering and competition, and physician leadership.

The course is free to attend but subject to selective entry, and places are limited. The venue is the Kings Fund, Cavendish Square, London. Accommodation is provided for those living outside London and travel expenses will be covered. The trainee program is aimed at ST5/6 doctors, and will run from 22nd - 23rd November 2017. The consultant program will run from 23rd – 24th November 2017, and will be suitable for consultants at any career stage who are now entering into leadership roles. For a copy of the program and an application form, please email linda.connor@ssat.org.uk before 1st October 2017.

**7th BASHH Genital Dermatology Course on 20 October 2017 at The Wesley Euston Hotel & Conference Venue, 81-103 Euston Street, Kings Cross, London NW1 2EZ (next to Euston Station)**

For details & registration online visit the BASHH website.
For general queries contact: Admin@BASHH.org
For specific queries please contact:
Dr P N Sashidharan: Parameswaran.Sashidharan@homerton.nhs.uk
Or Dr Christine Bates: Christine.Bates@rlbuht.nhs.uk

**Annual Update: Continuing Education in Sexual Health & Reproductive Health**

The course covers both sexually transmitted infections (STI) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and is intended to provide in depth knowledge of STIs and their management.

It will help to improve knowledge and management to current national standards.

The course is highly recommended for those who intend to sit the Diploma in Genito-Urinary Medicine and Diploma in HIV Medicine exams.

It is a modular course. You can apply to attend some or all of the modules. Taking place 6th – 10th November 2017:

Module 3: Viral Infections other than HIV
Module 4: HIV Infections

Venue: Avonmouth House, 6 Avonmouth Street, London, SE1 6NX
Please see the here for further information.
DIARY DATES

Joint BHIVA/BASHH One-day Course for the Diploma in HIV Medicine
Monday 4 September 2017, South Wing Lecture Theatre, St Thomas' Hospital, London

20th BASHH Annual Conference for SAS Doctors Working in Sexual Health—8-9 September at Keele University

Challenges in HIV on 13 September in London

Research Methods Course— 18th – 21st September 2017 in London

Society of Sexual Health Advisers Conference 2017—Saturday 23rd September 2017 in Cardiff

BASHH Scientific meeting—13 October – Royal Society of Medicine, London

4th Trans Health Matters Conference by cliniQ—17 October 2017 in London

ABC of Sexual Dysfunction Study Day—Thursday 19th October 2017 in London

7th BASHH Genital Dermatology Course, London—20 October in London

GENDER AND SEXUAL MINORITIES (GSM) SIG Biennial Conference Day—3 November in Birmingham

Professional Certificate in Strategic Health Planning 6—10 November in London

Physician Leadership and Management Skills Workshop 22-23 November at Kings Fund, London

The Royal Marsden Gynaecology Cancer Study Day — 22 November 2017 in London


STIF Competency Train the Trainer on 30 November in Birmingham

Mentoring Skills for Sexual Health / HIV Physicians workshop— 8 December in London

BASHH Scientific meeting—12 January 2018 in London

BASHH/FSRH Joint meeting – 19 January 2018 in London

STIF Competency Train the Trainer on 9 March in London

BASHH/BHIVA 2018—17-20 April in Edinburgh

RCP Annual Conference, Innovation in Medicine 2018 on Monday 25 – Tuesday 26 June 2018 at ExCel London

The deadlines for newsletters in 2017, please make a note in your calendar to ensure that news items are received promptly

27 September 2017

29 November 2017