

Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Paper:	Women's Health 'Hub'
Author (including organisation):	Alexandra Humphrey, Senior Clinical Effectiveness Manager, BNSSG Integrated Care Board Dr Joanna Copping, Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Bristol City Council
Date of Board meeting:	Thursday 14 th December
Purpose:	Oversight and assurance

1. Executive Summary

Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) Integrated Care System has £595,000 one-off funding to develop and establish a women's health 'hub' in line with national guidance. Dr Joanna Copping (Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Bristol City Council) and Dr Joanne Medhurst (Chief Medical Officer, BNSSG Integrated Care Board) are joint Senior Responsible Officers.

We have reviewed local quantitative and qualitative data and are engaging with a wide range of stakeholders to shape how a 'hub' should look for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

2. Purpose of the Paper

The purpose of this paper is to inform the Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board of the approach we intend to take in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire to develop and implement a Women's Health 'Hub'.

3. Background, evidence base, and what needs to happen

The [Women's Health Strategy for England](#) sets out a 10-year ambition (2022-2032) for boosting the health and wellbeing of women and girls. A top priority in the Strategy is the development and expansion of 'women's health hubs', which intend to "bring together healthcare professionals and existing services to provide integrated women's health services in the community", focusing on improving access to care and reducing health inequalities. There is one-off funding of £595,000 for each Integrated Care System to develop a 'hub', to be spent by 31st March 2025. The funding is held by the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (BNSSG ICB).

There is a broad scope for how a 'hub' is set up and it doesn't need to be a physical space. This is to allow each area to make it work best for the population and to capitalise on existing provision and ways of working. The core services within the scope of a 'hub' are:

- Menstrual problem assessment and treatment
- Menopause assessment and treatment
- Contraceptive counselling and provision of full range of methods
- Preconception care (work to define this is under development at national level)
- Breast pain assessment and care
- Pessary fitting and removal
- Cervical screening
- Sexually-transmitted infection (STI) screening and treatment
- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) screening

In order to make an evidence-based decision on what our 'hub' should entail, we have reviewed and synthesised existing quantitative and qualitative data to understand the current needs, outcomes and experiences of women in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. This includes the [Bristol Women's Health Needs Assessment](#) and the [Bristol Healthwatch Report on Menopause](#). Please refer to the appendix for further information.

4. Community/stakeholder engagement

We are engaging with a wide range of stakeholders within BNSSG to shape our 'hub'. On 7th December 2023 we are holding a workshop for over 50 people with representation from the Integrated Care Board, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils, maternity, obstetrics, gynaecology, mental health services, general practice, sexual and reproductive health services, community pharmacy, Sirona, Healthwatch and Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations. We are working with Healthwatch to establish a Patient and Public Reference Group to shape and refine the development and implementation of our 'hub'.

The 'output' from the workshop will be taken to the newly established BNSSG Women's Health Steering Group, which will agree the outline approach to our 'hub'. More detailed planning will then be undertaken through a new Working Group, working closely with the Patient and Public Reference Group.

5. Recommendations

We recommend that the Board endorses the approach to setting up a Women's Health 'Hub' in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

6. City Benefits

Women make up over half the population of Bristol. An effective 'hub' will improve access to women's health services and experiences of care, improve health outcomes for women and help address health inequalities. The need to address health inequalities is a key focus of this work. Our workshop on 7th December includes dedicated time to explore where the need is greatest and how we could build upon existing services to better tackle inequalities in health.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

The funding for the Women's Health hub is held by the BNSSG Integrated Care Board. Dr Joanne Medhurst (ICB Chief Medical Officer) is the budget holder and is chair of the BNSSG Women's Health Steering Group.

8. Appendices

Please see attached a full briefing paper on our approach to developing and implementing a women's health 'hub'.