

Greater Glasgow NHS Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday 16th December 2003

Board Paper No. 2003/75

Director of Planning and Community Care

A Sexual Health and Relationships Strategy

Recommendation:

- the Board note the strategy for consultation and agree the proposed process to respond.

A. BACKGROUND

1.1 The Scottish Executive has issued a draft National Sexual Health and Relationship Strategy for consultation following an extensive programme of work; led by a multi-organisation reference group. A number of Glasgow practitioners were involved in the reference group. The strategy document process was established in 2002 in response to a number of issues in relation to Scotland's sexual ill health, notably:

- levels of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections;
- variation in sexual health services;
- the need to address sexual health issues in a wider context.

1.2 A summary of the key points and recommendations is contained in the attached summary document which is structured into the following sections:

1. The case for a sexual health and relationships strategy, including proposals for local leadership and clear aims and objectives.
2. The importance of a broad and holistic approach to sexual health, clear targets for achievement and inter-agency working.
3. Media and mass communication as a key factor in defining sexual behaviour.
4. Promoting positive sexual health with clear strategies to identify and tackle barriers through health promotion, better information, successful sex education, linking clinical services with education and providing better services.
5. Supporting change through developing champions in the NHS and local government, and equipping staff to improve outcomes.

EMBARGOED UNTIL MEETING

B. GREATER GLASGOW POSITION

- 2.1 Greater Glasgow developed and consulted on a Sexual Health Strategy in 1997/98. That Strategy covered the full range of sexual health issues and in order to drive its implementation the Board established a Sexual Health Planning and Implementation Group, jointly with the City Council. This Group is chaired by the Director of Planning and Community Care.
- 2.2 The Group has delivered a wide range of service changes and health improvement initiatives, including the Sandyford services, standards for primary care, a programme of work with the Education Department and a teenage pregnancy co-ordinator initiative. The implementation of the Strategy has been underpinned by investment through the Board's Health Plan. At headline level we perform reasonably well against a number of the key recommendations.
- 2.3 However, the Strategy is very welcome in providing a National umbrella and direction within which further local change and development can be pursued and in its holistic focus on sexual wellbeing.

C. PROPOSED CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.1 This is an important Strategy with broad coverage of a number of health service, health improvement and social justice issues all of which will concern the NHS in Greater Glasgow. We need to generate a comprehensive response to the consultation. It is proposed that the Sexual Health Planning and Implementation Group develops and leads a process to ensure we can submit an appropriate response. The objectives of that process should include working to develop multi agency and multi interest group inputs, most particularly with Local Authorities.
- 3.2 Submissions are due to the Executive by 27th February 2004.