

OpenClinic[®]

Sexual Health Service Update Stoke-on-Trent & North Staffordshire Sexual Health Services Spring 2022

Services update

Sexual health clinics are still continuing to run an appointment only service and are still offering a telephone consultation first. Restoration is continuing in line with government and MPFT guidance.

All service users are advised to call the team on **0300 7900 165** in the first instance, for advice on how to access the service they require. This may be a clinic appointment, a self-testing kit which can be ordered online, or a telephone consultation.

If you are signposting service users to call sexual health, please advise them that services are in high demand, and phone lines may be busy. You can also direct them to our [website](#).



Services over Easter

Sexual health services will be closed on bank holidays over Easter; Good Friday (15th April) and Easter Monday (18th April). This includes phone lines and our clinical services.

Normal service will resume on Easter Saturday (16th April).

If you're signposting someone to pharmacies for emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) over Easter, please advise them to call the pharmacy in advance to ensure the pharmacy is open and the correct person is available to dispense the EHC.

All the latest service information can be found on our website, www.openclinic.org.uk



PrEP availability

PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis) is a drug which is taken by HIV-negative people before and after sex, which reduces the risk of them becoming infected with HIV.

We have been promoting availability of PrEP from our sexual health services via our social media channels so please like and share.

PrEP is available for free from our sexual health clinics, to people who meet the required criteria.

If a service user or patient asks about the availability of PrEP, please ask them to call our sexual health service on **0300 7900 165** to discuss PrEP, and for an assessment of the suitability of PrEP.



Order your free poster to advertise the C-Card

The C-Card scheme gives young people aged 13-24 quick and easy access to free condoms.

We regularly promote the C-card through all our communications channels and would be grateful if you can display our poster at your venue to keep promoting within your setting.

If you would like a copy of this poster please email our marketing and comms team: SexualHealthComms@mpft.nhs.uk

If you have any questions about the C-Card, or would like to enquire about becoming a registration or distribution point, please use the email above with CDS in the subject title.



LGBT+ groups continuing to run as online groups

LGBT Stoke's two social and support groups, Galaxy Youth and Gaylife Men's Groups are continuing to run as online groups. **There is a reduced frequency to the Galaxy Youth Group due to staffing shortages, but they are still running so keep an eye on our social media pages to find out when the upcoming groups are being held.**

Galaxy Youth Group is for LGBT+ young people aged 13-18, and now runs on Saturdays.

Gaylife Men's Group, is for anyone aged 18+ who identifies as a gay or bisexual man, now runs on Wednesday evenings.

The groups are run by LGBT Stoke, part of the Sexual Health Prevention Team in Stoke-on-Trent, so anyone who attends the groups will also have the opportunity to ask the team any questions they may have about sexual health and healthy relationships.

More information about the groups, including how people can register for the groups, can be found at www.lgbtstoke.co.uk.



What's available on the Open Clinic Website?

All the latest sexual health service information can be found on our website, www.openclinic.org.uk.

This includes:

- **Clinic information**
- **C-Card information and list of venues**
- **Contraception overview with informative videos**
- **STIs overview with help and advice**
- **Links to order free STI testing kits online (ages 16+) from SH:24**
- **Resources**
- **Training**
- **And much more!**

Please feel free to include a link to our website on your website, so service users can easily access sexual health service information.



C-Card Reminder

Please return paperwork on a monthly basis to our C-Card administrator:
SexualHealthOrders@mpft.nhs.uk

To place an order for more resources, please email us on
SexualHealthOrders@mpft.nhs.uk

(There may be a longer delay than usual with orders due to reduce in office-based working)

 Open Clinic NHS  @openclinicnhs  @OpenClinicNHS

Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire Sexual Health Services
0300 7900 165 | openclinic.org.uk

For more information on anything within this newsletter, or if you'd like to see anything included, please email
SexualHealthComms@mpft.nhs.uk