

Welcome to our latest quarterly newsletter, this issue features information on:

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 - **NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME:** Ryecroft Walk-in Clinic Now All Ages
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- **HIV Peer Support Service in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire**
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Changes to Online Service Provider

We have recently changed the provider of our STI testing kits that people can order online from SH:24 to SH.UK (Please note: Shropshire services are already provided by SH.UK so will be unchanged).



SH.UK kits will test for the same infections, are sent in plain packaging and are free to order and post back. The links to order have been updated on our website, so please continue to signpost people to www.openclinic.org.uk for STI testing kits, and other sexual health services.

If you have any old SH:24 kits at your venue, please discard these.

Clinic Updates

MEIR: Now Appointment-only Clinic

Our clinic at Meir Primary Care Centre which runs on a Friday has now changed from a walk-in clinic to an appointment-only clinic.



NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME: Ryecroft Walk-in Clinic Now All Ages

Our walk-in clinic at Ryecroft Health Centre in Newcastle-under-Lyme is now available to all ages for both the morning and afternoon sessions. Priority will be given to under 18s.



STAFFORD: Referral-only Coil Clinic Ending

The previous referral-only coil clinic in Stafford (which would see coil patients for non-contraception reasons) is no longer running. We will no longer be able to see anyone for an IUD/IUS unless it is for contraceptive purposes.



TELFORD: Clinic Closed - Reopens 31st March

Our Bishton Court clinic in Telford is currently closed for essential building maintenance and will re-open on 31st March. Please advise people to access services at [other clinics](#) or see ways they can [access services without visiting a clinic](#).



Easter Opening Hours

Our clinics and phone lines will be closed on the Bank Holidays over Easter (Good Friday, 3rd April & Easter Monday, 6th April). We will also be closed on Saturday 4th April.



We have a "[Help Out Of Hours](#)" page on our website which signposts people to relevant services for when we are closed.

Updated UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use

The UK Medical Eligibility Criteria for Contraceptive Use (UKMEC) offers guidance to providers of contraception regarding who can use contraceptive methods safely.



The guidance has recently been updated by the College of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (CoSRH).

Take a look at this [here](#) or find it on www.cosrh.org.

HIV Peer Support Service in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire

[Project 93](#) can connect people living with HIV in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire with a trained peer mentor, Kelly.



In her role, Kelly works closely with our sexual health services and UHNM, providing a range of support to local people living with HIV, including a one-to-one space to talk, help filling in housing applications and PIP forms, and accompanying people to appointments.



We have a video of Kelly speaking about her role on the HIV Treatment and Care page of on our website: www.openclinic.org.uk/hiv

You can read more about Project 93 and the HIV support services they offer on their website: www.p93.org

Reminder: Services We Do Not Offer

We offer a range of sexual health and contraception services within our clinics, but there are a number of related services we do not offer. These include:

- **Cervical screening**
- **Contraception for non-contraceptive reasons** (e.g. contraceptive pill or coil/IUS for the purposes of controlling bleeding or solely for HRT)
- **Fertility testing**
- **Gender services**
- **Genital/general dermatology, including skin tags and (non-genital) scabies**
- **Menopause services and/or HRT**
- **Printouts of STI testing results** (although results are available to view online via a Personal Health Record account)
- **Sterilisation and vasectomy services**
- **Termination (abortion) services**
- **Travel or occupational vaccinations**

We have a page on our website with this information, which tells people where to go for the service that they need: "[Services We Don't Offer](#)".

C-Card Training for Professionals

The C-Card programme is a condom distribution scheme, aiming to increase access to free condoms in the community. This service is available to people aged 13 and over.



We offer free training to a range of local venues and professionals, to be able to register people for C-Cards, and/or distribute C-Card packs. We can train all of professionals, such as pharmacists, receptionists, youth workers and other community facing roles.

The training session is around 1-2 hours for venues wishing to become a registration point, and 30 minutes for venues who would like to be a distribution point. The training can be done face-to-face or online (via Microsoft Teams).

There are many benefits to becoming a C-Card registration or distribution venue, including:

- Opportunity to engage with local young people
- Promote positive sexual health in the community
- Close links to sexual health service

If you would like to become a C-Card registration or distribution venue, please contact your local team on one of the email addresses in the pink box below.

C-Card Reminder

C-Card paperwork must be returned by the 5th of the month, to one of the following email addresses:

Stoke-on-Trent and North Staffordshire: SexualHealthOrders@mpft.nhs.uk

South Staffordshire: SexualHealthPrevention@mpft.nhs.uk

Shropshire: SexualHealth.Shropshire@mpft.nhs.uk

Telford: Telford.Prevention@mpft.nhs.uk

There is no longer an upper age limit to C-Card; it is available to people aged 13+ in all areas.