

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

04 January 2016 / PR 6267

COUNCIL CONSULTS ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Local people have been invited to give their views on proposed changes to public health services in Bexley. The proposals affect all public health services and staff managed by the London Borough of Bexley.

You can take part by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/healthpriorities> and completing the survey online between 4 January and 5 February 2016. Paper copies of the survey are available in libraries and from the Civic Offices, Bexleyheath. Free internet access is available at all Bexley libraries.

The Council is reviewing the public health services that were transferred from the NHS in 2013 as a result of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. The review is considering the impact of recent Government reductions in public health grant, the Council's budget pressures and predicted population changes.

"The proposals on which we are seeking people's views aim to focus the work of the Public Health Team on the services set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012," explained lead Cabinet member Cllr Peter Craske. "Our aim is address the important public health issues that impact on our residents' lives with the significantly reduced resources now available to us".

Current providers of services and the voluntary sector will be encourage to contribute to the review, to help explore different ways of delivering services and information.

The proposals include reviews of –

- Contracts providing support to HIV patients, south-east London sexual health work, the Health Trainer Service and Royal Society for Public Health training.
- Public Health advice to the NHS and public health analytics to support key strategies and planning.
- The sexual health transformation programme, including collaborative commissioning for genitourinary medicine, the integrated sexual health tariff, London Sexual Health Transformation Project, pan-London HIV prevention, virtual online STI testing, young people's sexual health services and the return of sexual health services to the NHS.
- Substance misuse services
- Children's community services, including health visiting and school nursing.
- Lifestyles services, including NHS Health checks, children and young people's mental health, obesity and smoking cessation.

Some of this work, particularly where it involves service redesign, will be developed further over the coming months. Further consultation and discussion with interested local organisations will take place once clear and specific proposals are identified.

'ENDS'

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