

Making Every Contact Count

Ask "Sexual health is part of our health. Is it ok to briefly talk about this?"

Advice Sexual health services are provided by axess, GPs & pharmacies

Act Signpost to [Axess Sexual Health](#) for more information & local services

Questions to consider - Have I ...

- Considered the sexual health needs of my client group
- Reflected on the impact of my own views & opinions on sexual health
- Attended/ booked onto any axess sexual health education & training
- Provided axess sexual health information & guidance
- Considered potential safeguarding concerns for all

Scan the QR code or visit www.axess.clinic



[Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles](#)

axess sexual health is a free sexual health service for Warrington, Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool & Cheshire East.

General clinics are inclusive to everybody including young people 19 & under.

axess 4 u is our sexual health clinic for young people (aged 19 & under). This clinic is a walk-in, meaning you don't need an appointment to be seen by our healthcare staff.

Online booking the website has an online booking tool which allows you to register for an appointment at axess.

1. axess sexual health

2. Why sexual health matters

Sexual health is an important area of Public Health

It encompasses: the prevention of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), the prevention of unintended pregnancies, minimising risk-taking behaviours & their health consequences, whilst promoting positive sexual relationships & sexual wellbeing.

Policy documents include:

A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England 2013

Women's Health Strategy 2022

HIV Action Plan monitoring & evaluation 2023

Working together to safeguard children 2023 & the Care Act 2014

Statutory guidance Relationships & sex education & health education 2021

Inequalities in sexual health

There are strong links between deprivation & STIs, teenage conceptions & abortions. Groups more likely to be affected by sexual health inequalities include: women & girls, men who have sex with men (MSM), teenagers, young adults & black & minority ethnic groups (BAME). HIV infection in the UK disproportionately affects MSM & Black African communities. Some groups at higher risk of poor sexual health face stigma & discrimination, which can influence their ability to access services.

Working together to increase access to sexual health services for these groups & communities is vital to reducing health inequalities.



7 minute briefing

7. Further information

6. Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)

Sexual health is a significant part of health and wellbeing

Being able to have conversations about sexual health is important to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) including HIV & promote the uptake of STI screening & treatment.

STIs are infections spread by unprotected sex or sexual contact.

Anyone can get an STI & many people do not have symptoms, so it is important to have regular testing. Condoms can help prevent STIs from passing from one person to another.

Early detection & treatment reduces the spread of infection & can minimise the impact of serious long term health complications.

Early access to HIV treatment significantly reduces the risk of HIV transmission to an uninfected person.

5. Contraception & LARC

Contraceptive information & services are fundamental to the health & human rights of individuals.

To help the prevention of unintended pregnancies and the reduction in teenage pregnancies it is important for professionals to have a clear overview of contraceptive choices available & to feel confident to introduce & discuss contraception (including emergency contraception).

Long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) are extremely reliable methods of contraception to prevent a pregnancy. Once inserted there is no need to remember to take contraception every day. **LARC** methods include the implant, injection, hormonal coil (IUS) & non hormonal coil (IUD).

Condoms - are the only method of contraception that can protect against both unintended pregnancy & some sexually transmitted infections.

4. axess service provision

At axess sexual health the services we offer include:

- Emergency contraception
- Contraception & pregnancy testing
- STI testing
- Coil fittings
- Implant fittings
- Cervical screening
- Online Booking www.axess.clinic
- Education & training for professionals (see website)
- Butterfly (trans & non-binary folk sexual health service)
- axess 4 u (young person's sexual health service)
- Psychosex (sexual problems service)
- Outreach clinical service
- HIV services & PrEP (Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis)
- Free condoms/ condoms by post/ condom distribution

Telephone axess sexual health on **0300 323 1300** & select your nearest clinic location

GP's & pharmacies provide some sexual health services. Please see axess website for details of services in your area