

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health, Blackpool Council
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up People
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	18 October 2023

## BLACKPOOL SEXUAL HEALTH STRATEGY 2023-2026

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To seek approval from the Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board for the Blackpool Sexual Health Strategy for the time period 2023-2026.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To approve the Blackpool Sexual Health Strategy 2023-2026 attached at Appendix 3a with effect until 31 December 2026.

### 3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The provision of sexual health services is statutory and local authorities are mandated to commission open access sexual health services.

This strategy responds to a local needs assessment and stakeholder consultation in order to develop inclusive interventions which meet the needs of our residents.

This strategy sets out plans to respond to local needs, such as high rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and HIV, and to improve the reproductive health of our population.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

### 4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

4.1 There are no other options available that will meet the requirements of this strategy.

## **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is both:

- 'The economy: Maximising growth and opportunity across Blackpool'
- 'Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience'

## **6.0 Background information**

### **6.1 What is being proposed?**

The document proposes a new sexual health strategy for Blackpool, for the time period 2023-2026. The scope of the strategy is to cover all aspects of the local sexual health system, for the wider population, beyond simply the provision of sexual health services.

The priority areas and the objectives within the strategy have been developed based upon relevant national context, local data, an evaluation of the previous strategy and consultation with stakeholders. An action plan has been developed to address the objectives within the strategy. This action plan is stakeholder-led: stakeholders have developed and committed to the various actions so as to achieve the objectives identified within the strategy.

The sexual health strategy has been approved by the Blackpool Council Public Health Senior Management Team, by the Blackpool Council Corporate Leadership Team and by the Blackpool Council Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee.

### **6.2 Why is the strategy necessary?**

Sexual health is a broad area, covering wide-ranging and complex issues. Services delivered by local authority, primary care, third sector and community-based organisations form an essential part of the local sexual health system.

To improve the sexual health of the population of Blackpool, a coordinated, multi-agency approach needs to be adopted. A strategy is necessary to identify the priority areas of improvement for Blackpool specifically, to identify specific and measurable objectives that should be achieved and to propose a coordinated action plan to achieve these.

### **6.3 How will the strategy be implemented and monitored?**

A stakeholder-led action plan has been developed to address the objectives stated within the sexual health strategy. All stakeholders to whom actions have been allocated have agreed to their actions and to the estimated target completion dates.

A system has been set up by the Public Health team to monitor the status of each action (e.g. not yet started, in progress, completed).

Implementation of the strategy will be managed via a multi-agency Sexual Health Strategy Group. This will be led by the lead commissioner for Sexual Health within the Public Health Team, and will consist of stakeholders from a range of internal teams and external organisations based within Blackpool. The Sexual Health Strategy Group will meet regularly (approximately 2 – 3 times per year) and will review progress made in relation to the strategy. Progress will be reviewed through the following:

- Assessment of progress made in relation to quantitative indicators identified within each priority area of the strategy (this will be undertaken on an annual basis only).
- Review of the status of each action within the action plan.
- Overall assessment of the direction of progress in relation to each priority area.

In addition to the Sexual Health Strategy Group, oversight of the strategy will be undertaken by the different Boards identified within the governance section of the strategy document.

6.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 3a: Draft refresh of Blackpool Sexual Health Strategy 2023 – 2026

Appendix 3b: Current version of Blackpool Sexual Health Strategy 2023 – 2026 Action Plan

Appendix 3c: Equality Analysis Record Form – Sexual Health Strategy 2023 – 2026

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 Funded within monies already available to all key partners through their own budgets.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 The risks of not producing a new sexual health strategy for Blackpool are:

- There will be a lack of a coordinated, multi-agency approach to address the needs of the Blackpool population with regards to sexual health.

- Stakeholder organisations will work less collaboratively, with the risk of work to improve sexual health being duplicated or missed.
- Progress in terms of improvement in sexual health will not be monitored.
- Groups of the population who face greater challenges in accessing sexual health services will continue to do so

## **11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people**

11.1 The strategy has been informed by a local sexual health needs assessment, including groups where the burden of sexual ill health is recognised to be greater, such as people experiencing poverty, young people, asylum seekers and the LGBTQI community. Consideration of reducing health inequalities is a theme which underpins all elements of the strategy. In addition, priority area 5 is focused on reducing inequalities experienced by specific groups of the population.

Priority area 4 focuses on young people, with the aim of providing young people with the skills, support and services that they need to achieve optimal sexual health. Our Children and Care Leavers are also specifically considered within the strategy, most notably within priority area 5, under the objective 'Ensure that local services meet the sexual health needs of Our Children and Care Leavers'.

An Equality Analysis has been undertaken for the strategy attached at Appendix 3c, and has been reviewed by the Head of Equality and Diversity at Blackpool Council.

## **12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

## **13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 As outlined above.

## **14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England (published 2013):  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/142592/9287-2900714-TSO-SexualHealthPolicyNW\\_ACCESSIBLE.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/142592/9287-2900714-TSO-SexualHealthPolicyNW_ACCESSIBLE.pdf)

Women's Health Strategy for England (published 2022):  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/womens-health-strategy-for-england/womens-health-strategy-for-england>

Towards Zero: the HIV Action Plan for England - 2022 to 2025:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/towards-zero-the-hiv-action-plan-for-england-2022-to-2025>

National guide to commissioning for sexual health, reproductive health and HIV (published

2014): <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/commissioning-sexual-health-reproductive-health-and-hiv-services>