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For further information contact:

John Boswell / Dr John Logan

NHS Lanarkshire

14 Beckford Street


Hamilton

ML3 0TA

E-mail: john.boswell@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

or john.logan@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Tel: 01698 281313



**Lanarkshire
Sexual Health
Strategy & Action Plan
Executive Summary**

Lanarkshire Sexual Health Strategy & Action Plan Executive Summary

The sexual health strategy for Lanarkshire has been developed alongside the national strategy and action plan for improving sexual health in Scotland, *Respect and Responsibility* (2005). This has been in the context of a rise in sexually transmitted infections locally and nationally. Teenage and unintended pregnancy rates continue to rise with the Scottish teenage conception rates among the highest in Western Europe.

The Lanarkshire Sexual Health Strategy takes a life-long, holistic approach to promoting sexual health. NHS Lanarkshire in partnership with North and South Lanarkshire Councils, Voluntary organisations and Faith groups are working towards having services that are all relevant, accessible, acceptable and available to all the population at the appropriate level. This will be regardless of race/ethnicity, age, gender, disability, sexual orientation and faith/religion. The values and priorities that underpin the strategy have at their centre the concept of dignity, respect, equity, confidentiality, informed choice inclusiveness, a non-judgemental approach and that of challenging stigma and prejudice.

Lanarkshire Sexual Health Strategy is focused on:

- 1 Integrating sexual health into holistic health promotion.
- 2 Promoting positive sexual health and relationships.
- 3 Educating on range/experience of sexual health in context of life skills.
- 4 Preventing sexual ill-health, both general and specific.
- 5 Diagnosing, treating and managing sexual ill-health.

The Scottish Executive's white paper "*Improving Health in Scotland... The Challenge*" (2003) provides a framework for prioritising health improvement initiatives by identifying four key areas for action. These are: early years, teenage transition, workplace and community. These have formed the basis of the Lanarkshire sexual health action plan.

We aim to improve the sexual health of the Lanarkshire population by maximizing resources and improving the integration and co-ordination of services. There are a number of key personnel involved, including staff from Genitourinary Medicine, Family Planning, Primary Care, Public Health and Health Promotion, as well as staff from Housing, Social Work, Education and the Voluntary sector.

The strategy and action plan map out the developments that are to be taken forward over the next two years. A commitment to deliver the action plan and continued, strong partnership working will make a difference to the sexual health of the people of Lanarkshire.

The full strategy and action plan are available electronically on the Lanarkshire Sexual Health website:

www.lanarkshiresexualhealth.org