

**Report to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing**  
**Report submitted by: Director of Public Health**  
**Date: 10 December 2013**

**Part I**

Electoral Divisions affected:  
All

## **Sexual Health Services Cross Charging Tariff and Requirements**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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### **Executive Summary**

This report seeks approval of cross charging criteria to ensure that Lancashire County Council is responsible for invoices relating to only Lancashire residents who have attended a sexual health service outside Lancashire.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the provisions of Standing Order No 25 have been complied with.

### **Recommendation**

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing is asked to approve the cross charging tariff and criteria for Sexual Health Services as set out at Appendix 'A'.

## **Background and Advice**

As from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013, local authorities are responsible for the commissioning of sexual health services and mandated to provide open access arrangements for its population. This means that Lancashire County Council will be required to pay for the attendance of all its residents, irrespective of where in the country they attend. The mechanism for this is through a system of re-charge using a Genitourinary Medicine Tariff.

The Department of Health published a [cross charging document](#) in August 2013 outlining the key principles to assist commissioners and providers develop fair payment systems. The Secretary of State recommendation, states; *'Our strong recommendation is that the best way to address this in the medium term is through re-charging of costs back to the areas where the individual is resident'*.

Historically, due to the 'NHS Trusts and Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) Directions 2000', providers did not release any backing data

for these attendances on the basis of ensuring patient confidentiality. Therefore, NHS Guidance advised that PCTs should accept them on trust. The data being requested does not breach the regulations as the information is not patient identifiable, but will ensure that LCC only pay for its own residents.

As local authorities are responsible for the commissioning of sexual health services and mandated to provide open access arrangements for its population, this report seeks approval of the cross charging criteria to ensure that Lancashire County Council are responsible for invoices relating to Lancashire residents that have attended a sexual health service outside Lancashire.

## **Consultations**

Consultations have taken place with members of the English Sexual Health and HIV Commissioners Group, which includes a number of sexual health commissioner's from local authorities across England. The consensus is that the Department of Health guidance should be followed. The Local Government Association (LGA) is also supportive of the approach to fulfil the mandate for sexual health. Local authorities will request backing data to include at least 4 digits of the postcode to ensure validity and to also avoid duplication of payment for the same resident.

## **Implications:**

### **Risk management**

Failure to comply with DoH guidance on cross charging arrangements could result in local authorities paying for residents outside their authority. A further risk is over charging for treatment services above the nationally agreed tariff. In addition, it supports a clear audit trail for out of area charges.

## **Financial:**

The Public Health ring fenced grant includes the allocation for all Local Authority residents' attendances, irrespective of where they attend. This decision will ensure that Lancashire County Council are only responsible for Lancashire residents attending sexual health services which are outside Lancashire and that the payment will not exceed the nationally agreed tariff.

## **Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 List of Background Papers**

<b>Paper</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contact/Directorate/Tel</b>
<a href="#"><u>Secretary of State Recommendation</u></a>	17 October 2012	Christine Tetlow / ASHW Directorate / Ext 39850
<a href="#"><u>Sexual health FAQ's LGA</u></a>	15 February 2013	Christine Tetlow / ASHW Directorate / Ext 39850
<a href="#"><u>Commissioning Sexual Health</u></a>	March 2013	Christine Tetlow / ASHW

[Services and Interventions,  
Best Practice Guidance for  
Local Authorities \(March 2013\)](#)

Directorate / Ext 39850

[Sexual Health Key Principles,  
DoH, 2013](#) August 2013

Christine Tetlow / ASHW  
Directorate / Ext 39850

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.