

# CONSENSUS/VISION STATEMENT

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## ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC HEALTH & BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR SEXUAL HEALTH AND HIV

### Introduction

This statement expresses our shared understanding and commitment to 'what good looks like' for sexual health and the services<sup>1</sup> which support better sexual health.

It is intended to provide a framework for local discussions on how this vision becomes a reality. Local working relationships between providers and with commissioners are vital for the delivery of good system wide outcomes.

### Outcomes

- Good sexual health is an important part of our general health and wellbeing.
- Good sexual health is not just the absence of disease - feeling good about yourself, being in an equitable relationship, being in control and being safe are all vital.
- The commissioning and delivery of services should focus on delivering better sexual health outcomes across a breadth of settings, scope of service provision and interventional approaches.
- Outcomes for sexual health services should cover the following domains:
  - Effectiveness
  - Safety
  - Individual experience of care
- Monitoring these outcomes is dependent on having effective clinical and quality governance arrangements in place.

### Person centred

- Individuals will have different needs and it is important that the commissioning and delivery of services caters for these needs.
- Sexual health needs will vary by age, gender, disability, faith or religious belief (including humanists, atheists etc) and sexual orientation and ethnic community.
- Access to services should be equitable so that individual needs can be met in an appropriate and timely way; this includes consideration of cultural issues and physical, learning or mental health disabilities.
- Residents and service users should be at the centre of co-designing services and be part of continuous feedback to and from service providers.

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<sup>1</sup> Sexual health covers the provision of advice and services around sexual relationships, sexually transmitted infections (STIs) (including HIV), contraception and abortion.

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### Health creation

- Sexual health programmes and services should not just be about treating illness but about building resilience and preventing future harm by public education and health promotion.
- Services need to be stable, sustainable and visible so that they are available when needed and are able to build trusting relationships with service users to deliver behavioural change.

### Training

- Training of healthcare professionals to develop specialist expertise is vital to ensure the provision of complex care and to enable wider sexual health training for other disciplines including primary care.

### Workforce

- A motivated, trained and flexible workforce is fundamental to delivering better sexual health.
- Continuous service improvement needs to be supported through active service improvement, research, training, teaching, learning and education, workforce development and the dissemination of good practice.

— 12 July 2016 —