

Berkshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment

Public Health Services for Berkshire 2017



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Foreword

In 2013, local authorities took on the responsibility of commissioning sexual and reproductive health services as part their new public health responsibilities. Good sexual health enables healthy relationships, planned pregnancies and prevention of disease as well as maintaining and improving population health.

In March 2013, a [Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England](#) was published by the Department of Health. This document highlighted the need for a continued focus on sexual health across the life course and highlighted four priority areas for improvement:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- HIV
- Contraception and unwanted pregnancy
- Preventing teenage pregnancy

The national [Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) (PHOF) contains three indicators specific to sexual health, highlighting the need to continue and sustain effort in the following areas:

- Chlamydia diagnostic rate in 15 – 24 year olds
- People presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection
- Under 18 conceptions

Other key sexual and reproductive health indicators can be found in Public Health England's [sexual and reproductive health profiles](#).

A comprehensive [sexual health needs assessment](#) for Berkshire was published in 2013. The 2017 needs assessment provides an update on sexual health need and service provision across Berkshire in light of recent national commentaries around the effectiveness of the current system particularly in regards to ensuring a joined-up service delivery. This needs assessment will be used to identify priority areas of need; to identify what is working well and where improvements can be made, in order to inform the commissioning of local sexual health services in Berkshire.

Executive summary

Background

Having good sexual and reproductive health is an important aspect of overall physical and emotional health and wellbeing. It is central to the development of some of the most important relationships in our lives.

Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.

For positive sexual and reproductive health to be achieved and maintained the sexual rights of individuals must be respected, protected and fulfilled. Many sexual health services and interventions are considered to be cost saving, while lack of access to services and contraception creates costs for the NHS and society.

This Health Needs Assessment was undertaken to inform commissioning decisions to enable services to meet the sexual and reproductive health needs of the diverse populations across Bracknell Forest, Reading, The Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM), Slough, West Berkshire and Wokingham and to support residents to access the information and advice they need to make informed, healthy choices around sexual and reproductive health.

This update aims to:

- gather information from a comprehensive range of sources in order to build a picture of need, supporting local authorities in Berkshire to deliver their responsibilities related to sexual and reproductive health
- understand the complex provision across the county and to map that provision against need and national benchmarks
- use the resulting needs assessment to inform and guide future commissioning and service provision to promote and improve the sexual health of people in Berkshire.

Key Outcomes

Sexually Transmitted Infections

There has been a national decreasing trend in diagnosis rates of all new Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs). This has been mirrored in the South East Region, where regional rates were significantly lower than national rates in 2016. Rates of STIs tend to be highest in the more deprived areas, among young people, men who have sex with men and some ethnic minority groups. Over recent years there has been no significant change in the rate of all new STI diagnoses in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Wokingham or RBWM, though this may be in part due to numbers been historically low. However in Slough and Reading rates are decreasing. In 2016, Reading's rates were higher than national and regional rates. They were lower than regional and national rates in all other Berkshire local authorities.

Chlamydia is the most common STI nationally with rates being considerably higher in young adults. This is reflected across Berkshire. In 2016, 64.3% of chlamydia diagnoses were in 15-24 year olds in Berkshire.

Although rates have decreased over recent years nationally, rates in the South East have remained flat. As chlamydia is often asymptomatic, there is a drive to increase the chlamydia detection rate among young people and the diagnostic rate per 1,000 15-24 year olds is included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (3.02) with an aspirational target of 2,300 chlamydia diagnoses per 100,000. Since 2012, detection rates are decreasing with a significant decrease observed in Slough and Reading. Chlamydia detection rates were significantly lower than national and regional averages in all Berkshire Local Authorities, except Reading where they remained similar.

Rates of diagnosis of syphilis and gonorrhoea are increasing in England and across the South East. The national increase in syphilis follows a 10-year trend, with 78% of diagnoses being in gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). Although there has been no significant change in the rate of syphilis seen in Berkshire, data suggests that there is an increasing trend across the six local authorities. Rates of diagnosis in all Berkshire local authorities were either the same or lower than national and regional averages in 2016.

In 2016, gonorrhoea diagnosis rates in Bracknell Forest and RBWM were comparable to regional averages and lower than national averages. A decrease in rates was observed in both of these local authorities between 2015 and 2016. Reading's rates were higher than the national and regional rates in 2016, while no significant changes were observed for the other local authorities. However, Slough's rates remain higher than the South East. Increased rates of gonorrhoea are of concern given the recent emergence of extensively antibiotic-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoea*

Men who have sex with men, younger adults and some BME communities are over-represented among new STIs compared with other groups. In Berkshire, diagnosis of STIs is more common amongst males (despite a lower rate of attendance in sexual health services) and there are observable gender differences in type of diagnosis, with more warts, syphilis and gonorrhoea diagnosed in males and more chlamydia and herpes in females. Diagnosis of STIs is highest in 20 to 34 year olds.

Gay and bisexual men and people from 'Black' and 'Other' ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in STI diagnosis figures given their relative population sizes. Although these groups are also overrepresented in the data showing first attendance for STI related care, they are proportionally less likely to receive an STI test at this first attendance.

HIV

The rate of new HIV diagnoses is decreasing nationally and across the South East, with rates in the South East lower than the national rate. Rates of new HIV diagnoses have shown no significant change in any of the Berkshire local authorities, noting that significant changes are harder to detect at a more localised level due to smaller numbers. Although not

significant, rates of diagnosis have shown a downward trend in Slough and Reading where rates have been historically high.

The prevalence of HIV reflects the number of people living with HIV per 1,000 residents. This is increasing nationally and in the South East, due to increased diagnosis rates, earlier diagnosis and transfers to care resulting in people living longer, healthier lives once diagnosed. HIV prevalence in Bracknell Forest, RBWM, West Berkshire and Wokingham is significantly below the national rate of 2.31 per 100,000. Rates in Slough and Reading are significantly higher at 3.34 per 1,000 and 3.04 per 1,000 respectively. Across the UK, the groups predominantly affected are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men and heterosexual men and women from African communities. The former accounts for the greater part of diagnosed infections in Berkshire, except for in Slough where the latter group carries the most burden.

Late diagnosis of HIV is the most important predictor of morbidity and mortality among those with HIV infection. Those diagnosed late have a ten-fold risk of death compared to those diagnosed promptly. The late HIV diagnosis rate in England for the years 2013 to 2015 was 40%. The late diagnosis rate in the South East region is higher at 44%. Rates in Berkshire are not significantly different to national and regional averages, with the exception of Bracknell Forest where rates are significantly higher (62%). Rates of late diagnosis have decreased in RBWM and Wokingham but these effects are too small to be statistically significant

Teenage conceptions

Nationally, under-18 conception rates have been falling over the last decade and this is observed in Berkshire. Under-18 conception rates in 2015 are statistically lower than the national average in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, RBWM and Wokingham, and similar to the national rate in Slough and Reading.

Abortion

When compared to national and regional figures, the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion is lower in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, RBWM, and Wokingham and in line with these averages in Reading. However, these are higher than average in Slough. The percentage of conceptions leading to abortion across the Berkshire local authorities has remained relatively stable to 2016 after an increase in figures between 2009 and 2012. The proportion of women having abortions who had had a previous abortion among women aged under 25 is in line with the England figure of 26.7% across all localities.

In 2015 the percentage of under-18 conceptions leading to abortion was not statistically different to 2005 in any of the Berkshire local authorities. Nationally and in the South East, the percentage of under 18 conceptions that lead to abortion is increasing, and this pattern is seen in Bracknell Forest and Reading and, to some extent, in Slough. Percentages in West Berkshire and RBWM have remained more stable and have shown fluctuation in Wokingham.

LARC

Long acting reversible contraceptives are the most effective methods of preventing pregnancy. In 2015, the total prescribed LARC rate per 1,000 women of reproductive age was lower than the England and South East rate in all Berkshire authorities, except for RBWM where it was similar. In Slough, the LARC prescribed rate in General Practice is 12.2 per 1,000, which is less than half the national rate. The SRH clinic prescribed rate for Slough is 20.7 per 1,000, which is significantly higher than the national figure. In the other Berkshire LAs the opposite is observed with lower rates of SRH prescribed LARC and higher rates of GP prescribed LARC.

Emergency Contraception Use

Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is provided free of charge via GP Practices and Sexual Health Clinics across England and free of charge via pharmacies for women aged 13 to 19 years in Berkshire local authorities. Older women can pay over the counter for EHC from pharmacies.

The average rate of provision of EHC provided by SRH services across the six Berkshire local authorities was 3 per 1,000, which is comparable to the average for the South East Region. Rates of provision for all age groups in Berkshire were comparable to the South East average and slightly lower than the national averages. Within Berkshire, rates of provision of EHC are highest in Reading and Slough.

Service provision

Commissioning arrangements

The sexual health services landscape is a complex one. Local authorities have the main responsibilities for commissioning comprehensive and integrated sexual health services, including contraception, STI testing and treatment and specialist services (including HIV prevention). Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) are responsible for commissioning termination, sterilisation and vasectomy services. NHS England is responsible for commissioning HIV treatment and care and additional services through GPs (including long-acting contraception). The delivery of services involves a broad range of providers, including NHS acute and community providers, GPs, pharmacies and the voluntary, community and independent sector.

Open Access Services

Local authorities are required by law to provide 'open access' sexual health services for everyone present in their area. The rationale for this is the need to control infection, prevent outbreaks and reduce unwanted pregnancies.

Current Service Model

The current model of service provision is that open access, integrated sexual and reproductive health services operate across Berkshire East (Bracknell Forest, RBWM, Slough) and Berkshire West (Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham). Both services

operate on a “hub and spoke” basis with specialist services available in Reading and Slough and non-specialist integrated services within each LA. Specific clinics for young people are offered in all areas with the exception of RBWM. The service model in the West of Berkshire also includes a nurse-led outreach service for vulnerable groups and Bracknell Forest commission a separate outreach nurse for vulnerable young women. Both specialist service locations also co-host the HIV treatment and care services commissioned by NHS England Specialised Commissioning, with some consultants jointly providing these services.

Long acting reversible contraception is commissioned by all local authorities from the majority of GP practices, enabling women to access the full range of contraception. GPs also provide user-dependent contraception methods, emergency hormonal contraception (“the morning after pill”) and simple STI testing as part of their routine services.

Free emergency hormonal contraception for young women is also available from a number of community pharmacies through a locally commissioned service from local authority public health teams.

HIV prevention is a key part of the local service offer and HIV testing is available at all clinics as well as being offered in Drug & Alcohol services and through New Entrant Screening Services for people arriving in the UK from countries with a high incidence of Tuberculosis. Internet HIV testing is also available for residents of Slough, RBWM, Wokingham and West Berkshire.

Young people across Berkshire can access chlamydia testing through the sexual and reproductive health service clinics and for those resident in West Berkshire, Wokingham and RBWM, online testing for both chlamydia and gonorrhoea is also available.

Following the previous HNA undertaken in 2013, a new pan-Berkshire website was commissioned in response to local feedback. [SafeSexBerkshire](#) offers information and advice on many aspects of sexual and reproductive health as well as full service information on all the services described above. In addition it is the “front door” for all online STI testing services that can be accessed for free by Berkshire residents.

Service Use

Berkshire residents received more than 55,000 episodes of STI-related care at services within Berkshire in 2016/17; 28,601 episodes were at the services provided by Royal Berkshire Hospitals Foundation Trust, a 4% increase on the number of episodes during 2015/16. A further 26,658 episodes were provided by Berkshire healthcare Foundation Trust, a 1% decrease on the number of episodes during 2015/16.

Sexual and reproductive health Services across the UK operate on an open-access basis, residents and visitors may use any service regardless of their area of residence or GP registration. This serves to ensure access The vast majority of Berkshire residents attending clinics for STI-related care and SRH related care (sometimes called Family Planning) attend clinics within Berkshire. There is some variation based on the local authority of patient residence with the proportions attending Berkshire clinics for STI-related care ranging from

85% for people resident in Bracknell Forest to 96% for people resident in Reading and for SRH related care from 85% for people resident in West Berkshire to 96% for people resident in Slough. It is noticeable that the highest proportion of in-area attendances occur in the localities which host the “hub” services.

The remaining attendances for Berkshire residents were at clinics outside Berkshire, largely in areas on local authority boundaries or in central London. In 2016/17 out-of area clinics most used by Berkshire residents included Frimley Park Hospital, Surrey, Dean Street Clinic (London), Tudor Centre (Hillingdon), The Great Western Hospital (Swindon) and Crown Heights (Basingstoke)

Conclusions and recommendations

Generally the majority of the residents of the Berkshire local authorities enjoy good sexual and reproductive health. Services are available in all areas however there are differences in the level of provision across the different local authority areas. Service providers have sought to offer services targeted at people with the highest risk of sexual ill-health while also ensuring that services are accessible to anyone resident in or visiting the area.

- **While good quality services are available in all areas, commissioners and providers should consider how to improve access to services for their younger residents, new entrants to the UK and people with learning or physical disabilities and other groups that may be marginalised such as LGBT* people, sex workers and migrants**

Both Reading and Slough have more people living with HIV per 1000 population than the national rate reflecting to some extent historic patterns of migration from countries with very high HIV rates combined with successful treatment of HIV which enables people to live longer healthier lives.

Numbers new HIV diagnosis in these areas are decreasing inline with the national picture Late diagnosis of HIV is higher across Berkshire although very small numbers of new diagnoses in some areas make this difficult to interpret.

- **NICE Guidance recommends that HIV testing should be offered in general practice and in Emergency Departments in areas where the diagnosed prevalence is more than 2 per 1000. There is a need to ensure that these recommendations are implemented in both Reading and Slough**

The number of teenage conceptions has reduced significantly across all Berkshire LAs over the past decade in line with national picture. Rates of all new STI diagnoses have been stable in most areas with a significant downward trend in Reading and Slough since 2012; this is reassuring however there is a risk that these decreases could be reversed without continued effort.

The rates of young people (15-24) accessing sexual and reproductive health services is variable across Berkshire; contacts by young women are significantly lower than national and regional averages in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, and Wokingham, in all areas young men are significantly less likely to access services than young women. Although rates of all new STI diagnoses across are below national and regional rates in most areas, this is not the case in Reading.

Gay and bisexual men and people from 'Black' and 'Other' ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in STI diagnosis figures given their relative population sizes. Although these groups are also overrepresented in the data showing first attendance for STI related care, they are proportionally less likely to receive an STI test at this first attendance.

- **There is a continued need to support young people to access information, advice and services, such as contraception and STI testing, so that they can make informed decisions about their sex lives and choose for themselves when to become sexually active without coercion.**
- **Mandatory inclusion of Sex and Relationships Education within the national curriculum is welcomed and there is a need for collaborative working across local authorities, schools and health providers to ensure services are offered in a cohesive way**
- **Services should seek to address inequalities in uptake of STI testing among clinic attendees, paying particular attention to those groups shown to be most at risk of STIs and HIV**

Uptake of the most effective types of contraception (long acting reversible contraception) in Berkshire is variable with total LARC uptake lower than the national rate in all areas, with the exception of RBWM where it was similar. Across Berkshire, women are more likely to access LARC from their GP, except for in Slough where the majority of LARC is accessed from the specialist clinic.

- **There is a need to ensure that women continue to have access to the full range of contraception in the setting that is most appropriate. Commissioners and providers should consider which types of contraceptive services are most effectively delivered at the specialist integrated service and which in General Practice and Community Pharmacy or other community settings**

The introduction of a Berkshire-wide sexual health website has been successfully implemented, with use of the site increasing year on year. Nationally use of online testing is increasing and this will provide a richer source of data on which to base future commissioning decisions. National data from the HIV self-sampling service indicates the service has resulted in increased uptake of HIV testing by people at increased risk of HIV who may not have tested previously. Access to online chlamydia testing and HIV self-sampling through the site has indicated that these services are welcomed and being used by local residents, however the number and type of services on offer is likely to be confusing to

navigate without a single consistent approach to commissioning and providing these services.

- **There is a need to continually review and improve the content, look and feel of the sexual health site to ensure it is meeting the needs of local people**
- **Wider access to online STI testing for residents should be considered**

Introduction

Sexual health is defined by the World Health Organisation as “a state of physical, emotional, mental and social wellbeing in relation to sexuality; it is not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”.

Having good sexual and reproductive health is an important aspect of overall physical and emotional health and wellbeing. It is central to the development of some of the most important relationships in our lives.

Sexual health requires a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence. Any person who is sexually active could be negatively affected by their sexual health decisions and may need to take precautions or access sexual health services to maintain a positive and healthy sexual life.

For positive sexual and reproductive health to be achieved and maintained the sexual rights of individuals must be respected, protected and fulfilled. Many sexual health services and interventions are considered to be cost saving, while lack of access to services and contraception creates costs for the NHS and society.

Purpose and aims

The purpose of this needs assessment is to update the previous [sexual health needs assessment](#) for Berkshire, published in 2013.

This update aims:

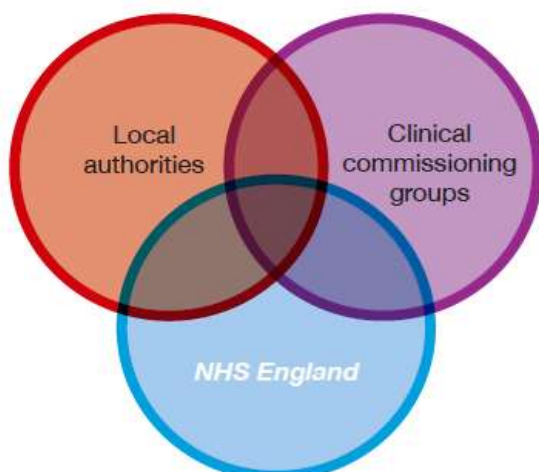
- To gather information from a comprehensive range of sources in order to build a picture of need, supporting local authorities in Berkshire to deliver their responsibilities related to sexual and reproductive health
- To understand the complex provision across the county and to map that provision against need and national benchmarks
- To use the resulting needs assessment to inform and guide future commissioning and service provision to promote and improve the sexual health of people in Berkshire.

Rationale

National commissioning context

Following publication of the [Healthy Lives, Healthy People](#) white paper and changes introduced in the [Health & Social Care Act 2012](#), local authorities took on a new public health role from April 2013. The current commissioning arrangements stipulate that there are three groups of commissioners of sexual health services, as set out by the [Department of Health](#) (DoH) (see Figure 1).

Figure 1: Commissioners of sexual health services in England



Source: *Public Health England (2015)*

Local authorities commission comprehensive sexual health services. These include:

- contraception including implants, intra-uterine contraception and all prescribing costs, but excluding contraception provided as an additional service under the GP contract;
- sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, Chlamydia screening as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) and HIV testing;
- sexual health aspects of psychosexual counselling;
- any sexual health specialist services, including young people's sexual health and teenage pregnancy services, outreach, HIV prevention and sexual health promotion services in schools, colleges and pharmacies.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) commission:

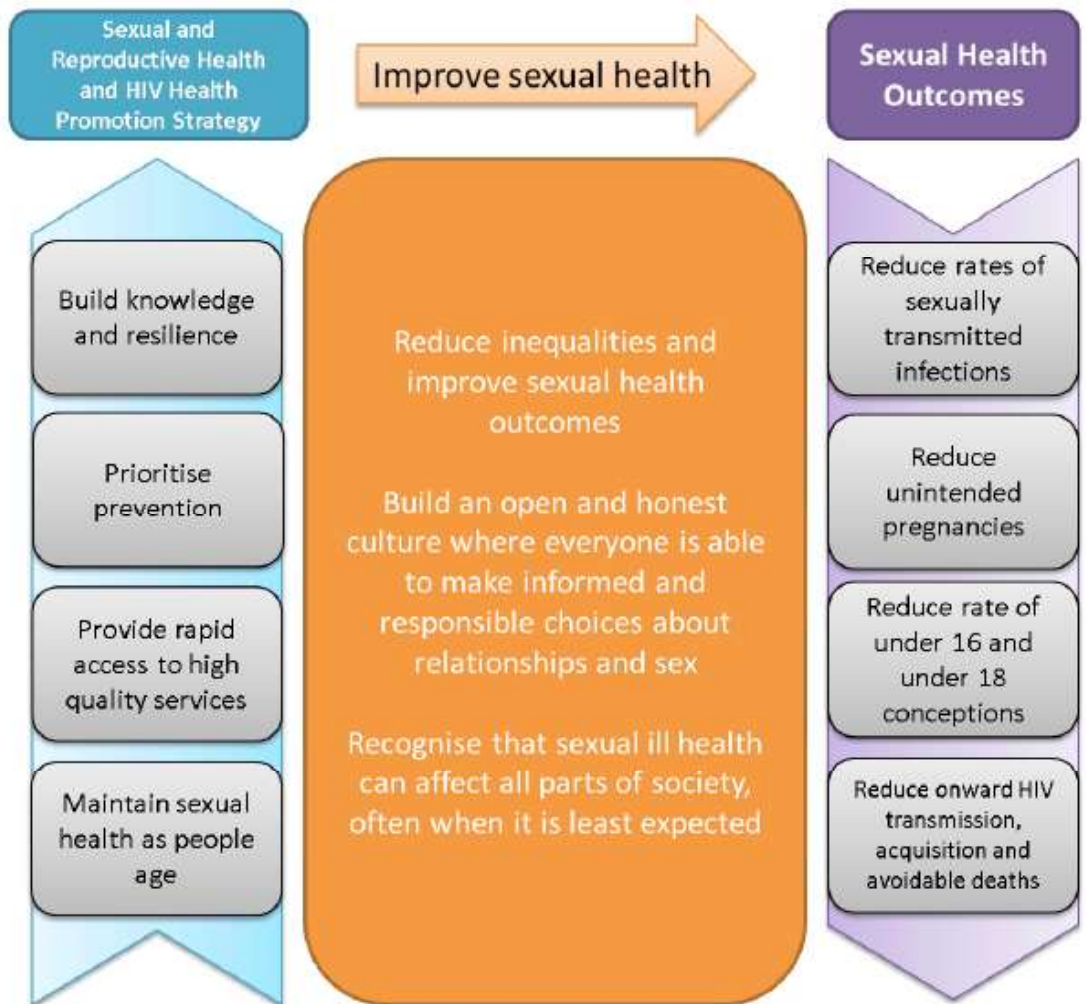
- most abortion services (but there will be a further consultation about the best commissioning arrangements in the longer term);
- vasectomy;
- non-sexual health elements of psychosexual health services;
- gynaecology, including any use of contraception for non-contraceptive purposes.

The NHS England commission:

- contraception provided as an additional service under the GP contract;
- HIV treatment and care (including drug costs for post-exposure prophylaxis after sexual exposure);
- promotion of opportunistic testing and treatment for STIs, and patient-requested testing by GPs;
- sexual health elements of prison health services;
- Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs);
- cervical screening;
- specialist foetal medicine services.

The [DoH](#) (2013) set four key objectives with associated ambitions to improve sexual health for England. These are shown in the right hand column of Figure 2. Figure 2 illustrates how the DoH's objectives and ambitions underpin [Public Health England's](#) (2015) strategic action plan for sexual and reproductive health and HIV.

Figure 2: Key objectives and ambitions to improve sexual health in England



Source: *Public Health England, 2015*

Local authorities receive an annual ring-fenced public health grant from the DoH. The core condition of this grant is that it should be used for the purposes of the public health functions of local authorities. This grant was planned to be ring-fenced from 2013 to 2016. The DoH has since announced a cut to public health funding by 2020/21. This means a 2.2% reduction to the grant for 2016/17, 2.5% for 2017/18 and 2.6% for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

In terms of local authority role and responsibility, the commissioning of sexual health services is a mandated function funded through the public health grant, under [regulation 6](#) of The Local Authorities Regulation 2013. The DoH published [guidance](#) for local authorities relating to this responsibility. PHE published [Making it Work – a guide to whole system commissioning for sexual health and HIV services](#) in 2014, this aimed to support partnership working and consideration of the wider determinants of health. The DoH also published a

suggested [service specification](#) for integrated sexual health services; this is currently being updated and due to be published in later in 2017.

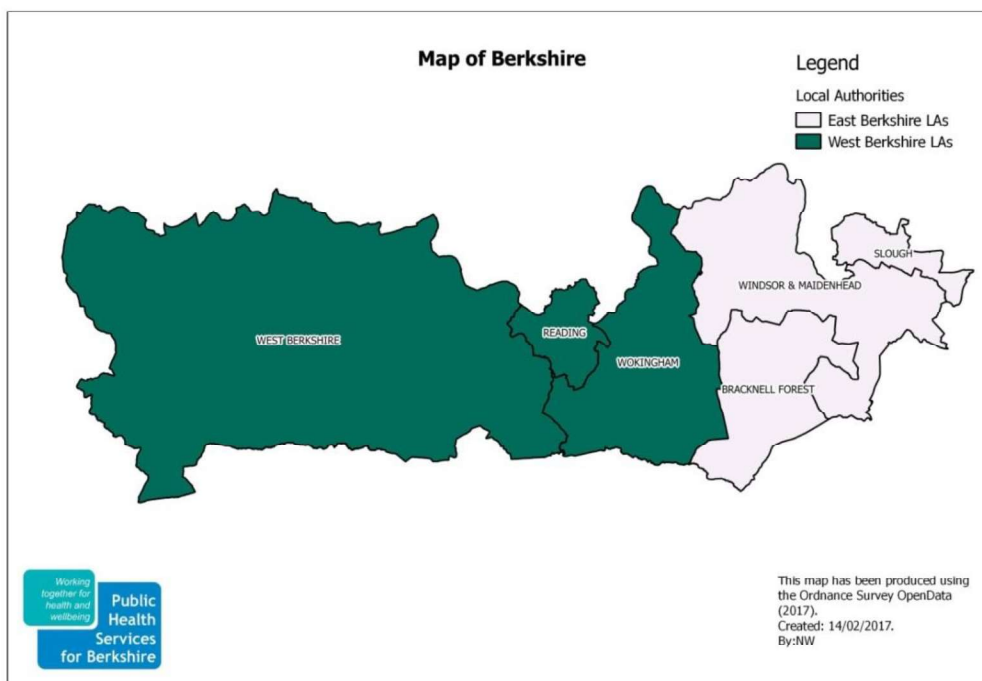
In brief, local authorities are responsible for commissioning:

- Open access sexual health services for everyone present in their area covering:
 - free sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment
 - notification of sexual partners of infected persons
 - free contraception, and reasonable access to all methods of contraception
- Some specialist sexual health services related to prevention and health promotion in various settings

Local commissioning context

There are six unitary authorities (UAs) in Berkshire, all of which commission sexual health services in line with the mandate. A sexual health needs assessment for Berkshire was published in 2013. The West of Berkshire's sexual health services went out to tender in 2013, the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH) who had previously been providing the service won the contract. The new, integrated service commissioned by the UA's in the West of Berkshire has been in place since 1st April 2014. The East of Berkshire rolled over their contract with the existing integrated sexual health provider Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (BHFT) with this contract now expiring on the 31st March 2019 (31st March 2020 in RBWM).

Figure 3: Map of Berkshire showing UA boundaries



Source: Ordnance survey, 2017

Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies in Berkshire

There are six Health and Wellbeing Board's (HWBs) in Berkshire, one for each UA. HWBs have a statutory duty to publish a Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS). The strategies explain what priorities the HWB has set in order to tackle the needs in their local population. The purpose of a JHWS is to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population and reduce inequalities in the area. Table 1 provides an overview of how sexual health is reflected in each UAs JHWS. No UA in Berkshire explicitly state sexual health in their JHWSs.

Table 1: JHWSs; reflection of sexual and reproductive health by Berkshire UA 2017

Unitary Authority	JHWS considers sexual and reproductive health as part of:
Bracknell Forest Council JHWS (2016-2020)	the 'promoting active and healthy lifestyles' priority.
Reading Borough Council JHWS (2017-2020)	the 'supporting people to make healthy lifestyle choices' priority.
Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead JHWS (2016-2020)	the 'supporting a healthy population' theme.
Slough Borough Council JHWS (2016-2020)	the 'protecting vulnerable children' and 'increasing life expectancy by focusing on inequalities' priorities.
West Berkshire Borough Council JHWS (2015-2018)	the 'health damaging behaviours' and 'tackling inequalities' priorities.
Wokingham Borough Council JHWS (2014-2017)	the 'promoting good health throughout life', 'prevention' priority.

National reports on the current sexual health care system

Since their introduction in April 2013, the implementation of the new sexual and reproductive health commissioning arrangements has been the subject of comment and concern amongst commissioners, providers, Parliament, medical colleges, and health institutions. Some of this discussion is outlined in the following section of this needs assessment.

The HIV Puzzle, [The All-Party Parliamentary Group on HIV and AIDS \(2016\)](#)

Reports on the detrimental affects that the fragmented commissioning for HIV has had on patients and providers of services. Highlights the benefits of co-commissioning HIV and other sexual and reproductive health services.

Understanding NHS financial pressures [The King's Fund \(2017\)](#)

A report on the impact of financial pressure on patient care. Investigated four different areas of the health service including Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM). GUM was found to be under particular strain with access and quality of patient care affected in ways that are difficult to detect using current metrics. Demand for services has increased with patient care suffering due to;

- budget cuts,
- rising demand,
- new commissioning arrangements, and
- workforce challenges

Sexual and Reproductive Health: Time to act, [Royal College of General Practitioners \(2017\)](#)

Raising concerns amongst members that a “perfect storm” of factors is reversing previous positive advance made in promoting sexual and reproductive health highlighting the increase in women under 40 seeking abortions and increases in syphilis and gonorrhoea diagnosis rates. Problems highlighted:

- Difficulty in GPs accessing training to give the most effective contraception
- LARC payments not covering the costs of administering them
- Fragmented commissioning pathways and fewer specialist SRH services meaning patients are not always able to access the best care for their needs

Sexual Health Reproductive Health and HIV, [Public Health England \(2017\)](#)

Findings from a survey of commissioning completed by local authorities, NHS England and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and resulting action plan.

Main findings:

- Fragmentation of commissioning
- Ensuring access to services particularly for those at greatest risk (vulnerable groups and rural areas)
- Contracting problems including cross-charging for patients attending services out-of-area
- Workforce concerns – clinical expertise in service delivery and commissioning
- Increasing demand for services
- Financial pressures due to restrictions in budgets – particular in local authorities

Actions (five main categories):

- Reduce fragmentation of commissioning and reduce contracting barriers
- Support commissioners in the delivery of effective commissioning
- Build capability in commissioning
- Provide evidence and data to support commissioning and the monitoring of outcomes
- Ensure that sexual health, reproductive health, and HIV commissioning is explicitly considered within the development of the new funding mechanisms for public health over the next three years

Epidemiology of sexual health

Populations and groups at risk

The population of Berkshire is approximately 890,590 ([Office for National Statistics, 2016](#)). While the need for good sexual health spans the population, there are some groups who are at higher risk of sexual ill-health and have a greater need for prevention and treatment services. These groups include people living in socio-economically deprived circumstances ([Public Health England, 2017](#)); people who are homeless ([Homeless Link, 2014](#)); young people (under 25); people from Black, Asian & Minority ethnic groups (BAME); people from the Gypsy, Roma, Traveller community; men who have sex with men (MSM) ([Public Health England, 2016](#)); Trans people ([National AIDS Trust, 2017](#), [Warrington Borough Council, 2014](#)) young offenders and prisoners ([Thames Valley Community Rehabilitation Company, 2015](#)); substance misusers ([BASHH, 2014](#)), particularly those engaging in chemsex; commercial sex workers (CSWs) ([Shelter, 2004](#)); and vulnerable adults e.g. adults with learning difficulties ([MENCAP, 2016](#)).

The size and distribution of some of these high risk groups in Berkshire, including young people, BAME groups and people living in socio-economically deprived circumstance, can be counted and mapped. However, the size and location of other high risk groups, including MSM, CSWs and substance misusers cannot be easily counted or mapped as there is no local comprehensive collection of information about these groups. Table 2 shows the estimated numbers for some of these groups in Berkshire.

Table 2: Population sizes and at-risk groups in Berkshire UAs

UA	Population size ¹	Aged 15-24 ¹ number (%)		% population BAME ²	Number living in the UAs most deprived LSOAs ³	Users of specialist substance misuse services over 18s ⁴	Crude estimate MSM ⁵
		Female	Male				
Bracknell Forest	118,982	6,512 (5.5)	7,080 (6.0)	17,847 (15)	5,536	271	620
Reading	161,739	12,166 (7.5)	11,716 (7.2)	56,609 (35)	6,428	613	1,016
RBWM	147,708	6,981 (4.7)	7,874 (5.3)	33,973 (23)	6,491	312	709
Slough	145,734	8,023 (5.5)	8,491 (5.8)	96,184 (66)	6,896	515	865
West Berkshire	156,020	8,059 (5.2)	8,730 (5.6)	35,885 (23)	7,090	243	712
Wokingham	160,409	7,866 (4.9)	8,648 (5.4)	25,665 (16)	7,138	166	743

¹ ONS, 2016. Population estimates by single year of age and sex for local authorities in the UK, mid-2015.

² ONS, 2011. Percentage not classified as White: English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British.

³ The number of people living in the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) calculated to be in most deprived decile of the UA as a whole. The English Indices of Deprivation 2015

⁴ Public Health England, 2016. Total number of individuals who received treatment at a specialist drug misuse service.

⁵ National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles 3, 2013. Estimate derived from survey: 2.6% of men who had sex with men.

A reliable estimate for sexual orientation is a gap in knowledge at a national level. In 2017, Public Health England estimates the size of the LGB and 'other' population (which includes trans people) in England to be 2.5% with a range of 2.5% to 5.9% ([Public Health England, 2017](#)). In October 2017, the [ONS](#) released an updated estimate which indicated a significant increase in those identifying as LGB. 2% of the population identified as LGB with the 16 to 24 year old age group most likely to identify as LGB (4.1%). More males (2.3%) than females (1.6%) identified as LGB. Table 2 include a crude estimate of MSM in each UA which has been estimated for 16-74 year old males using a figure of 2.6% based on findings from a national survey ([NATSAL, 2013](#)). This does not take into consideration any variation in the size of MSM populations in different areas and cities across the UK.

Population pyramids for Berkshire's local authorities based on the 2016 mid-year estimates can be seen in [Appendix 1: Additional charts](#). ONS population projections for selected key age groups for the years 2017 and 2027 are also shown in appendix 1.

There is a lower proportion of people age 20 to 29 living in Bracknell Forest and a higher proportion of those aged 35 to 54 when compared to the average population structure of England. There is also a lower proportion of older people aged 60 and over living in

Bracknell Forest. Projections forecast that there will be some increase in population size across all age groups in Bracknell Forest. This increase will be largest in the older age groups (45 and over).

When Reading's population structure is compared to the overall population structure for England, there is a higher proportion of people age 20 to 44 living in Reading; and a lower proportion of those aged 45 and over. In terms of predicted change in population size, we can expect an increase across all age groups and, in particular, in those aged 45 and over.

When Slough's population structure is compared to the overall population structure for England, there is a higher proportion of people age 30 to 34 living in Slough; and a lower proportion of those aged 20 to 24 and aged 50 and over. In terms of predicted change in population size, we can expect an increase across all age groups in Slough and, in particular, in those aged 45 to 74.

When West Berkshire's population structure is compared to the overall population structure for England, there is a lower proportion of people age 20 to 39 living in West Berkshire; and a higher proportion of those aged 10 to 19 and 55 to 69. In terms of predicted change in population size, we can expect an increase mainly in the older adult age groups. As can be seen from the map in Figure 3, West Berkshire covers a much larger geographical area than the other local authorities in Berkshire. Some areas within the local authority are sparsely populated and rural. People in these areas, particularly those without access to their own vehicle, who are likely to also be some of the groups most at risk of poor sexual health outcomes, will have more difficulties in accessing services.

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (RBWM) has fewer males and females aged 20 to 34 compared to England. In RBWM there is expected to be little increase in the younger adult population but there is expected to be some increase in the population aged 45 and over.

Wokingham has fewer males and females between the ages of 20-34 years when compared to England and has more 40-54 year olds. There is expected to be little increase in the younger adult population but there is expected to be some increase in the population aged 45 and over.

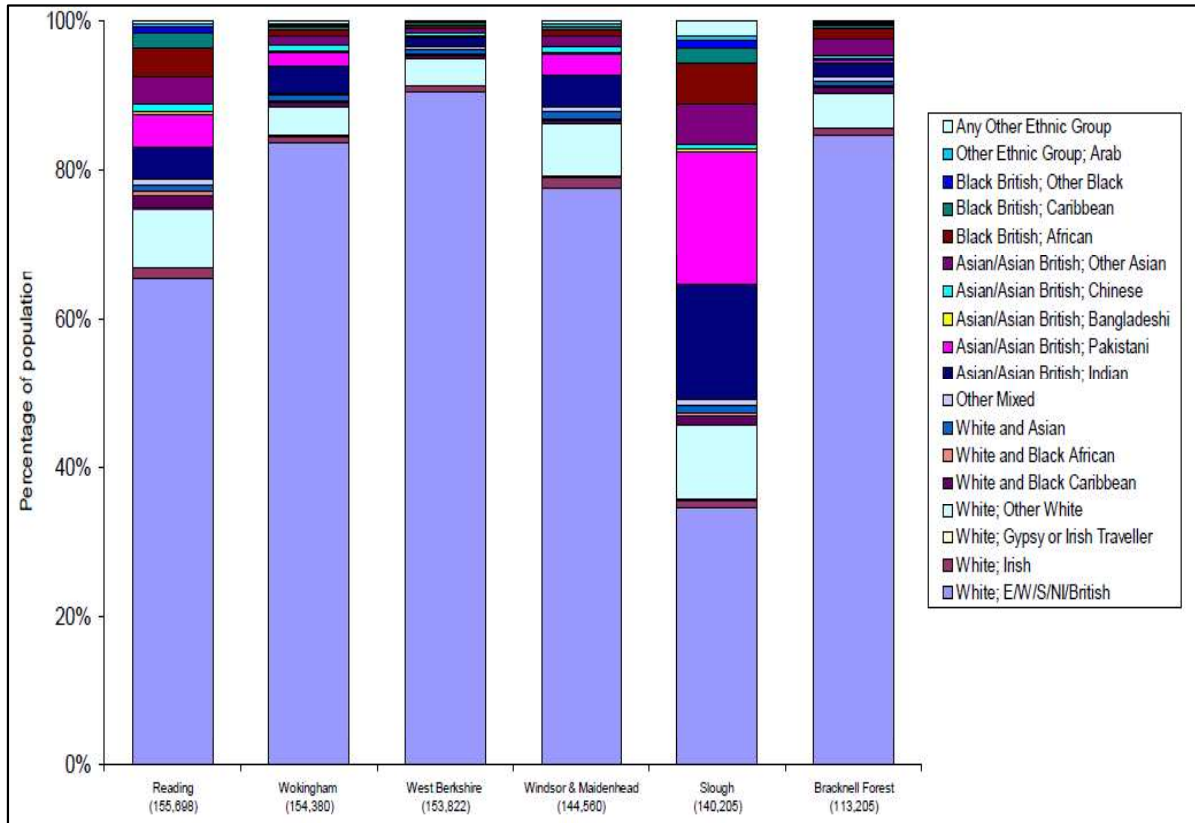
It should be borne in mind when considering population numbers that the ONS projections presented above are national projections based on demographic factors such as births, deaths, and migration into and out of an area. They do not take other factors specific to an area such as economic growth into account in their calculation. [The Berkshire \(including South Bucks\) Strategic Housing Market Assessment](#) (2016) identifies the following housing need across the Berkshire UAs from 2013 to 2036 based on predicted economic as well as predicted demographic growth;

- Bracknell forest – 635 new homes per annum
- Reading – 699 new homes per annum
- Slough – 927 new homes per annum
- West Berkshire – 665 new homes per annum

- RBWM – 712 new homes per annum
- Wokingham – 856 new homes per annum.

Figure 4 below gives a detailed breakdown of the ethnicity of people resident in the different local authorities within Berkshire (based on 2011 census data). The figure highlights the ethnic diversity across Berkshire particularly in the local authorities of Slough and Reading.

Figure 4: Population ethnicity by UA 2011



Source: ONS (2011)

There are not any more recently available estimates of population-level ethnicity available since the 2011 Census. However, in January of each year, ethnicity is recorded as part of the School Census. The table below shows how many pupils are recorded as being from BAME backgrounds in 2011 and 2017. These figures indicate that proportions of people from BAME backgrounds will have increased across all Berkshire local authorities since the census was taken in 2011.

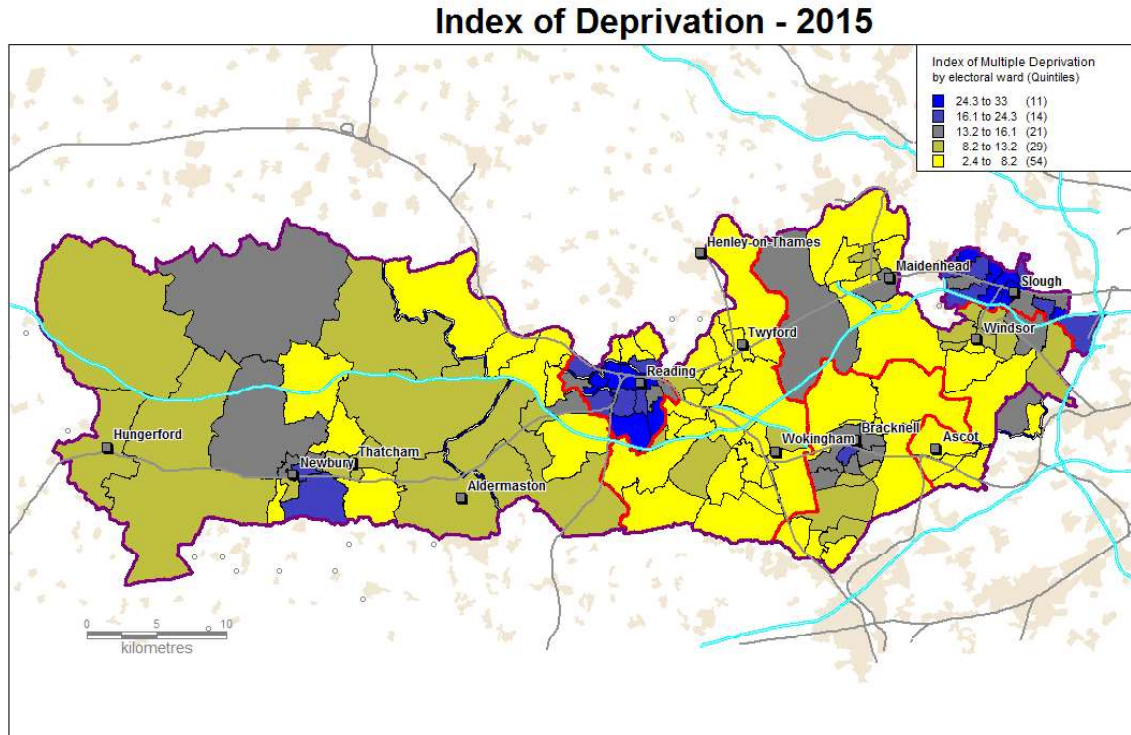
Table 3: BAME pupils

Area	BAME Pupils 2011	BAME Pupils 2017
ENGLAND	25%	31%
SOUTH EAST	18%	23%
Bracknell Forest	16%	21%
Reading	45%	54%
Slough	77%	83%
West Berkshire	13%	16%

RBWM	28%	34%
Wokingham	22%	30%

Source: *Department for Education (2011 and 2017)*

Figure 5: Map of electoral ward level Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015, Berkshire



IMD_2015.wor 05/10/2015 Sid Beauchant BHFT

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Source: *Department of Communities and Local Government (2016)*

A map of the Index of Multiple Deprivation quintiles of Electoral Wards across Berkshire is shown in Figure 7 and shows highest levels of deprivation around Reading and Slough, with pockets of deprivation in Bracknell, West Berkshire and Windsor and Maidenhead. However, within all areas of Berkshire there will be pockets of deprivation which may not necessarily be seen when looking at deprivation at this level.

Population: Key points

There are high numbers of people from some of the key groups who are at risk to poor sexual health living in Berkshire. The types of vulnerabilities are not necessarily uniform between the six local authorities.

Reading has a high proportion of residents who are aged 20 to 44 with those in younger age groups known to be particularly vulnerable to poor sexual health.

Although Bracknell Forest, and RBWM have a smaller than average young adult population whom evidence shows are more vulnerable to poor sexual health outcomes, there is also a need to ensure that there are sexual health services that are accessible and appropriate for people in 35 year and older age demographic.

Slough has a high population of those aged 30 to 34 which is a key reproductive age.

Both West Berkshire and Wokingham have a population structure that indicates potential need from two age groups; those aged 10 to 19 for whom early public health promotion messages will encourage their development of a positive and respectful approach to sexuality and sexual relationships and promote good sexual health. Additionally, as this section of the population get older, they will become a key demographic in need adequate sexual health services; there is also a need to ensure that there are sexual health services that are accessible and appropriate for people in 35 year and older age demographic.

The ethnic diversity in Slough and Reading is very significant and increasing. However, it is likely that the number of people from BAME backgrounds is higher now than 2011 Census estimates suggest with numbers been highest in younger age groups.

The highest deprivation levels in Berkshire tend to be centred in Slough and Reading but all local authorities will have pockets of relative deprivation. Overall deprivation does not show problems with access to services and we know that, due to its geography, West Berkshire will have a high number of residents who will struggle to access central services. It is likely that these people are also some of the most vulnerable.

Reading and Slough both have higher numbers of adult residents who are attending specialist substance misuse services.

The estimate of MSM used above is a crude estimate but suggests that numbers are highest in Reading followed by Slough.

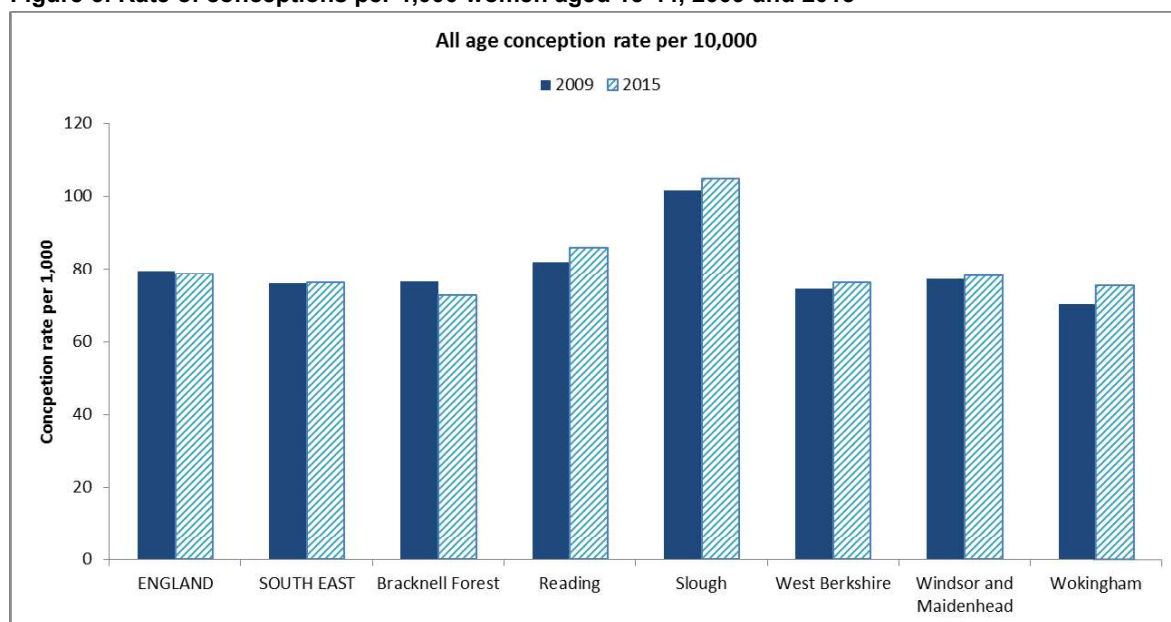
Reproductive health

Conceptions

All age conceptions

In 2015, there were 14,785 conceptions in Berkshire which is a rate of 82 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 44. The graph below compares the rate of conceptions in Berkshire UAs against the national and regional averages with data given at two time points; 2009 and 2015. Slough and Reading both have higher conception rates than the national and regional averages with rates in Slough in particular being notably higher. Rates of conception have remained fairly consistent since 2009 across all areas.

Figure 6: Rate of conceptions per 1,000 women aged 15-44, 2009 and 2015



Source: *Office for National Statistics (2017)*

Under 18 conceptions

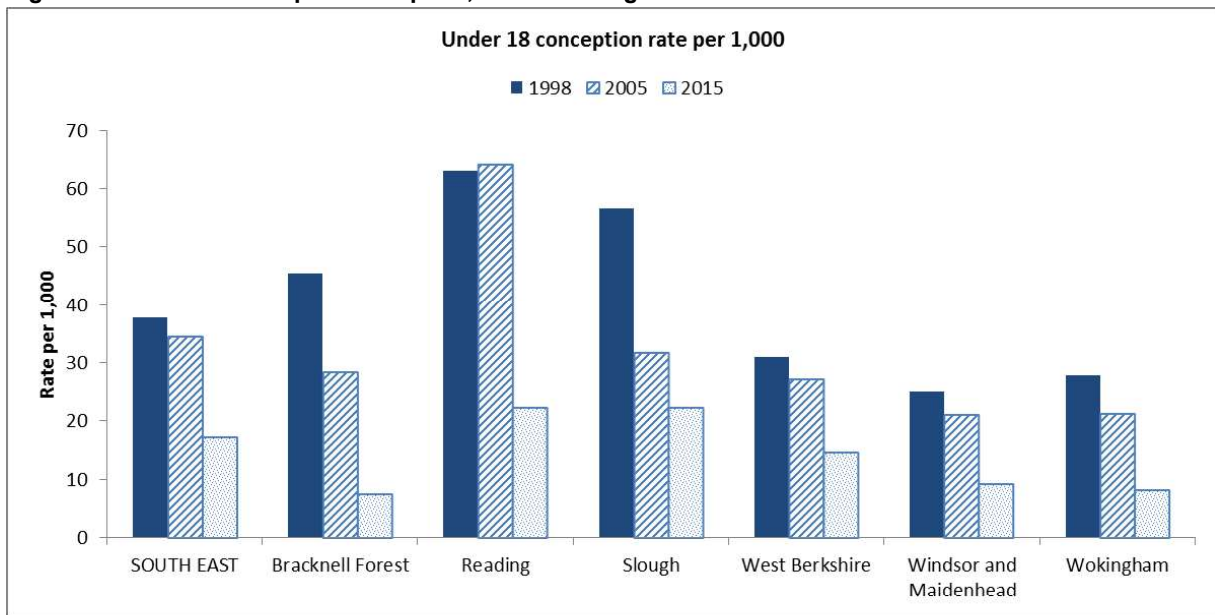
In 2015 there were 223 under 18 conceptions in Berkshire which is a rate of 13.9 per 1,000 female population aged 15 to 17. The rate 10 years ago in 2005 was 32 per 1,000 and in 1998, when statutory data collection began; the rate was 41.5 per 1,000. This mirrors a dramatic decrease in the number of under 18 conceptions which has been seen across the country. The graph below compares the under 18 conception rate in Berkshire UAs against the national and regional averages with data given at three time points; 1998, 2005 and 2015. The decline in rates between 1998 and 2015 can clearly be seen across the six Berkshire UAs. The percentage changes in rates between 1998 and 2015 for all UAs are shown below;

ENGLAND	-55%
SOUTH EAST	-55%
Bracknell Forest	-84%
Reading	-65%
Slough	-61%
West Berkshire	-53%
Windsor and Maidenhead	-64%
Wokingham	-71%

Source: *Office for National Statistics (2017)*

Currently, under 18 conception rates in 2015 as reported in the Public Health Outcomes Framework are statistically lower than the national average in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, and Wokingham; they are the same as the national average in Slough and Reading.

Figure 7: Under 18 conception rate per 1,000 women aged 15 to 17



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

Under 16 conceptions

Between 2013 and 2015 there were 113 under 16 conceptions in Berkshire, a rate of 2.4 per 1,000 females aged 13 to 15. This compares with a rate of 4.7 per 1,000 between 2008 and 2010 when there were 213 under 16 conceptions. Under 16 conceptions rates have shown a steady decline across all six Berkshire UAs.

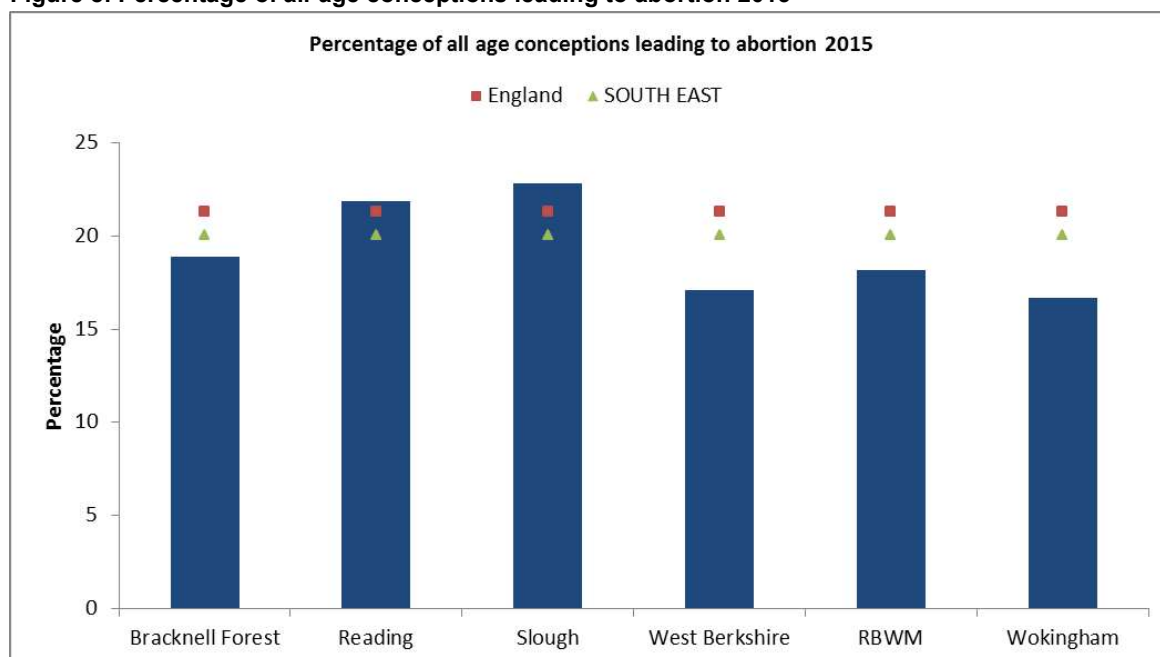
Currently, under 16 conception rates in 2015, as reported in the Public Health Outcomes Framework are not statistically different to the national average in any of the six Berkshire UAs. Figures are not reported for Windsor and Maidenhead as the single-year number of conceptions is too small to make any reliable comparisons.

Despite this decrease in teenage pregnancy rates in England, it is worth noting that the UK still has one of the highest teenage birth rates in Western Europe ([Eurostat, compiled by the Office of National Statistics](#), 2016).

Abortions

Figure 8 shows the percentage of all-age conceptions that lead to abortion. Data is for 2015 and shows that, when compared to national and regional averages, the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion is lower in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, RBWM, and Wokingham; the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion is in line with these averages in Reading but is higher than average in Slough. The percentage of conceptions leading to abortion across the Berkshire UAs has remained relatively stable over the past four years after an increase in figures between 2009 and 2012.

Figure 8: Percentage of all-age conceptions leading to abortion 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

As a rate of the female population aged 15 to 44, the abortion rate in Berkshire in 2015 was 15.8 per 1,000 compared to 17.1 per 1,000 in 2012. Rates have also remained consistent at a national level and regional level at 16 per 1,000 and 15 per 1,000 respectively. Rates of abortions per 1,000 are statistically higher than national and regional averages in Slough and Reading and are lower than national and regional averages in the other Berkshire UAs.

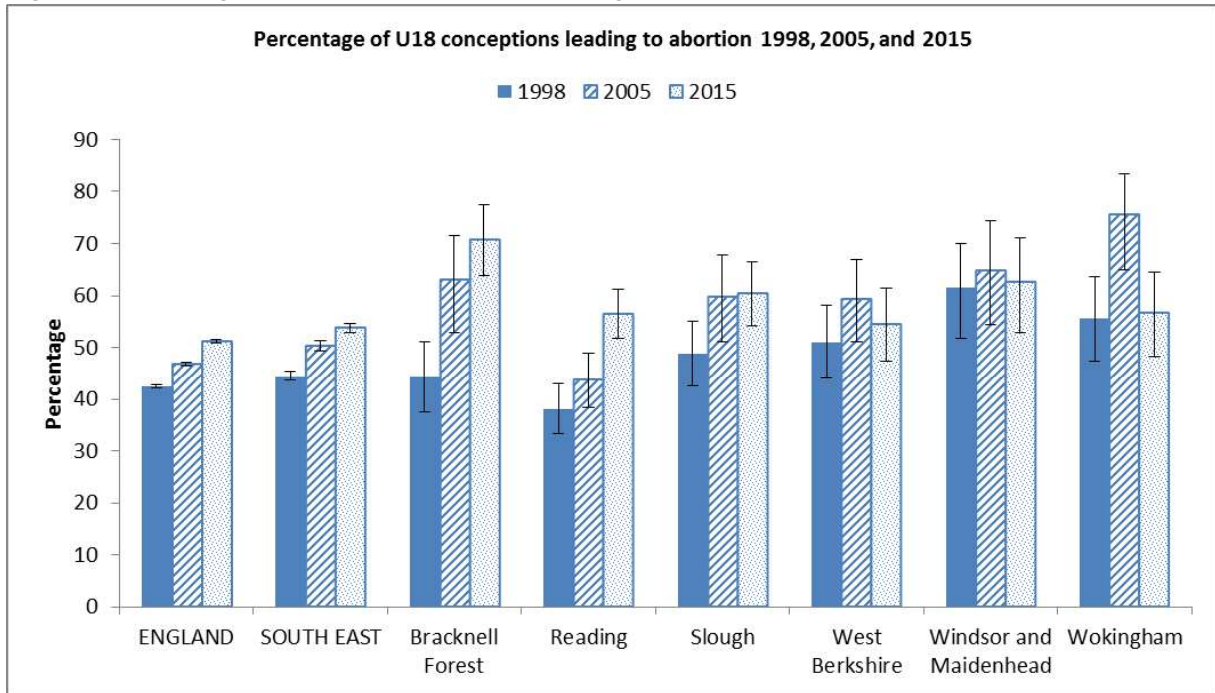
Under 18 abortions

The percentage of under 18 conceptions that lead to abortion is much higher than the figures for all ages. 60% of under 18 conceptions across Berkshire UAs led to abortion in 2015. This means that approximately 130 under 18 year olds had abortions in Berkshire during 2015.

Nationally, and in the South East Region, the percentage of under 18 conceptions that lead to abortion is increasing as can be seen in figure 9. This pattern can also be seen in Bracknell Forest and Reading and, to some extent, in Slough. Percentages in Wokingham have shown some fluctuation but returned to 1998 levels in the latest figures for 2015. Percentages in West Berkshire, and RBWM have remained more stable over time. It is important to remember that the overall number of conceptions have dropped dramatically. What this means is that, when it comes to numbers, overtime, there are fewer under 18 year old having abortions nationally and across all UAs in Berkshire. However, it suggests that the decline in unplanned pregnancies has not been as dramatic as the decline in planned pregnancies.

In 2015 the percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to abortion is not statistically higher in any of the Berkshire LAs.

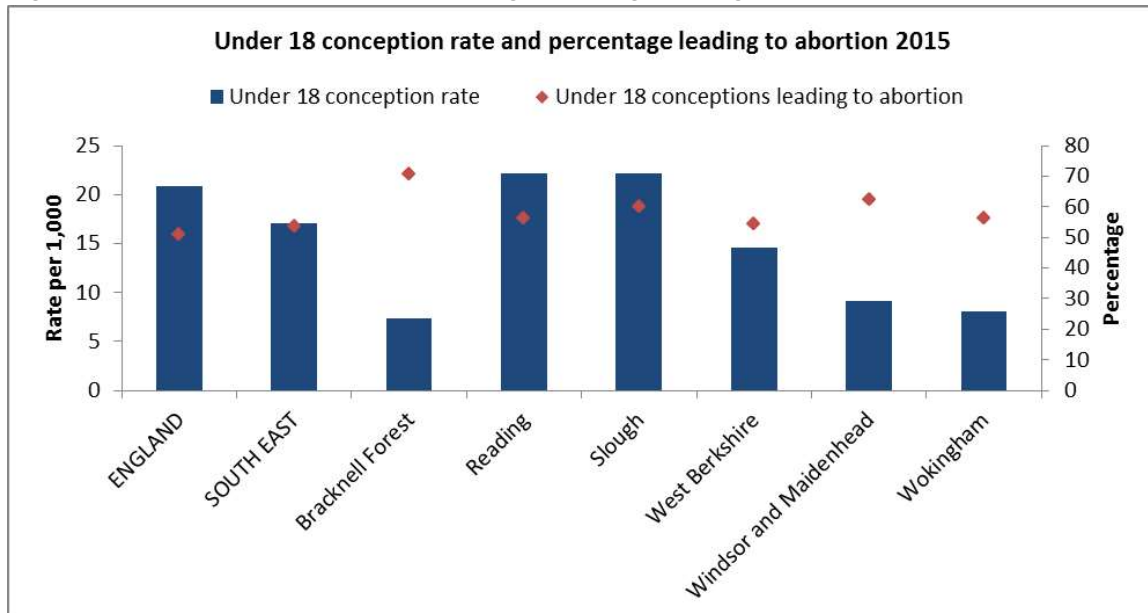
Figure 9: Percentage of under 18 conceptions leading to abortion 1998, 2005, and 2015



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

Figure 10 shows the percentage of under 18 conceptions that lead to abortion against the overall conception rate. It shows that, although conception rates vary across the Berkshire UAs, the percentages that lead to abortion are similar. The percentages of under 18 conceptions that lead to abortion are now more similar between the six Berkshire UAs than they have been historically.

Figure 10: Under 18 conception rate showing percentage leading to abortion 2015



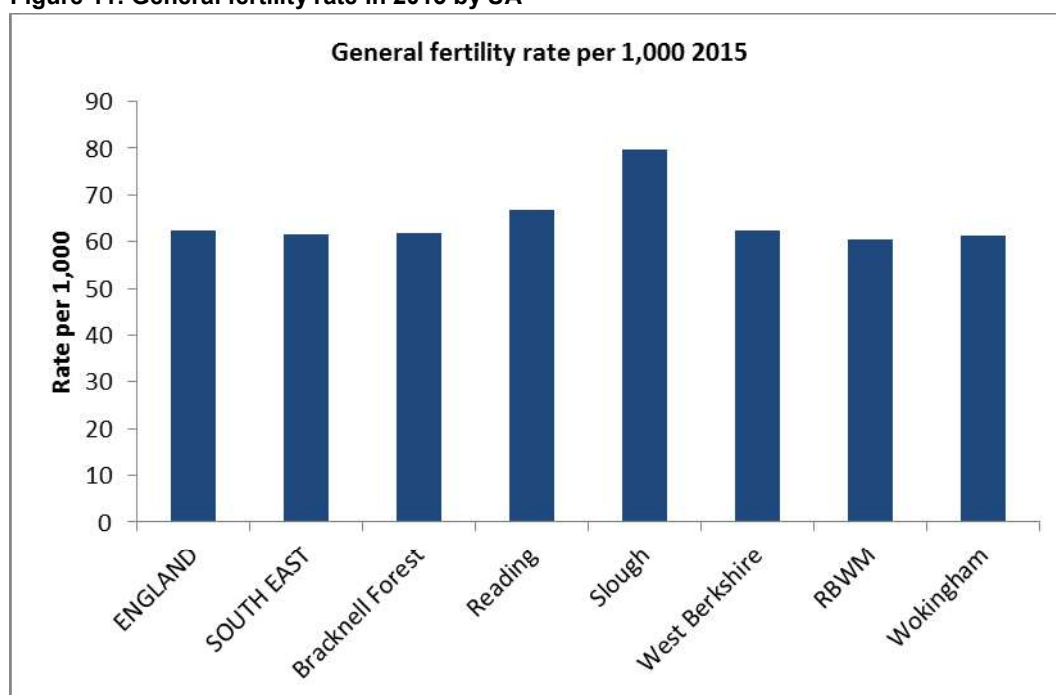
Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

The number of under 16 conceptions are now too small across all Berkshire UAs to be able to make any reliable calculations of the percentages of these that lead to abortion. However, it should be noted that the majority of under 16 conceptions do lead to abortion although the total number of conceptions are small.

Births

There were 2,059 live births to mothers resident in Berkshire in 2015. The general fertility (rate of births per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44) is shown by Berkshire UA in the chart below. Slough has the highest general fertility rate, followed by Reading with both these local authorities' general fertility rate being higher than the national average. The rate in RBWM has shown significant decrease in recent years whilst it remains constant in the other Berkshire local authorities. Women are now most likely to give birth between the ages of 30 and 34 and fewer women under 20 give birth than those in their 40s.

Figure 11: General fertility rate in 2015 by UA



Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

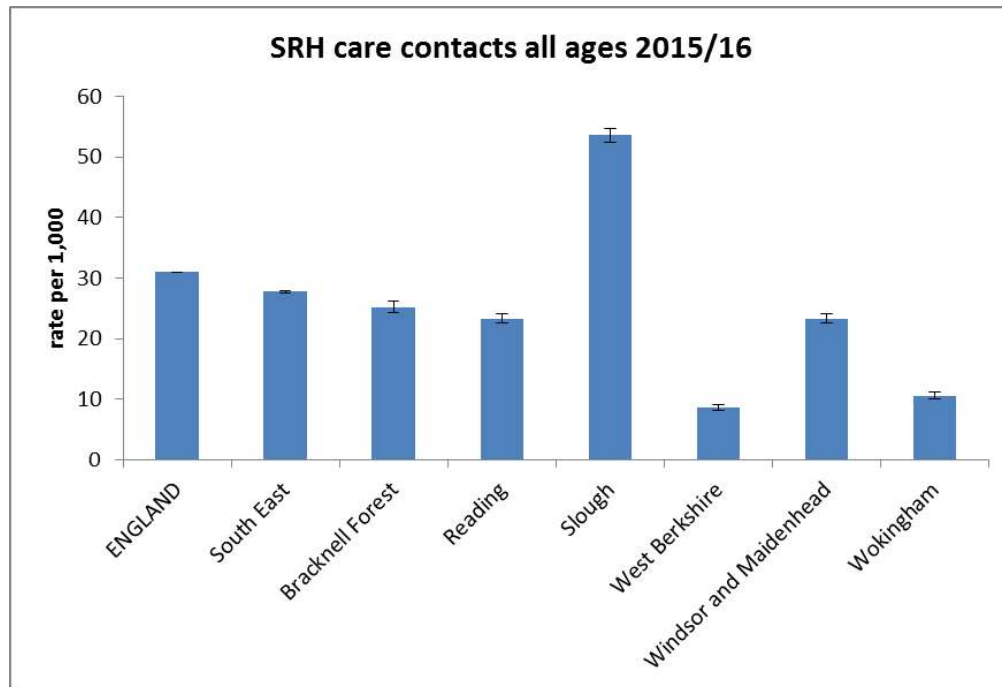
Attendance for Sexual and Reproductive Health related care

The following information, taken from the national Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset (SRHAD) refers to people resident in the Berkshire local authorities who make contact with sexual health services primarily for Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) related care. Numbers are based on the number of contacts not the number of people accessing services unless otherwise stated. This data is presented primarily as a basis of understanding need. Further data to understand the levels of services use at Berkshire SRH providers is presented later in this needs assessment under [Berkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services](#). A description of the three main national sources of sexual health service data can be found under [Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets](#).

People resident in the six Berkshire UAs made approximately 21,200 contacts with sexual health services for SRH related care in 2015/16. The vast majority of these contacts (98%)

were located in a healthcare setting. As shown in the figure below, as a rate per 1,000 population, most contacts were made by people living in Slough and fewest were made by those living in West Berkshire and Wokingham. Rates are lower than national and regional averages across all Berkshire Local Authorities with the exception of Slough where they are much higher than average.

Figure 12: Contacts with Sexual Health Services for SRH related care by Local Authority of patient residence 2015/16



Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)

The vast majority of Berkshire residents attending specialist services for SRH related care attend clinics within Berkshire. There is some slight variation based on the local authority of patient residence with the proportions of contacts made at Berkshire clinics ranging from 85% for people resident in West Berkshire to 96% for people resident in Slough (Source: Public Health England LASERS, 2016).

The figures below show the out-of-Berkshire areas where residents from each Berkshire Local Authority are most likely to go to for SRH related care along with the number of contacts made and the associated percentages of all contacts made by residents from each Local Authority (data is from 2015/16 and numbers are rounded to the nearest 5).

Bracknell Forest	Hampshire (Aldershot Centre)	50 (1.7%)
	Surrey (Camberley Health Centre)	50 (1.7%)
RBWM	Westminster (St Mary's)	40 (1.3%)
Reading	Westminster (St Mary's)	60 (1.6%)
Slough	Westminster (St Mary's)	55 (0.7%)
	Buckinghamshire (Sexual Health)	55 (0.7%)

West Berkshire	Hampshire (Crown Heights)	105 (7.7%)
	Westminster (St Mary's)	30 (2.2%)
	Oxfordshire (Churchill)	30 (2.2%)

Wokingham Westminster (St Mary's) 30 (1.7%)

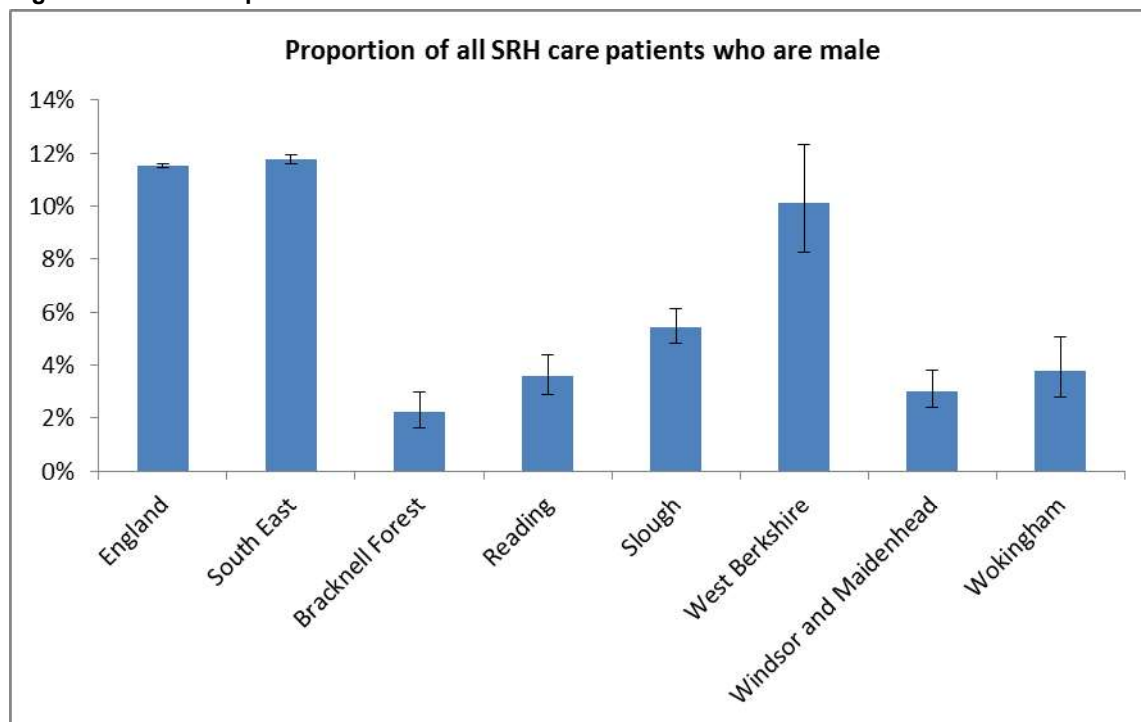
Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2017)

Gender and age of people attending clinics for SRH related care

Males are much less likely to attend sexual health clinics for SRH related than females with only 12% of people attending clinics nationally being male.

The proportions of patients receiving SRH related care who are males are significantly lower than national and regional averages across all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of West Berkshire. Total numbers of SRH patients from West Berkshire are small (85 patients are males out of a total of 840) so this needs to be interpreted with some caution. However, when looking at the providers of the services most attended by West Berkshire residents (RBH, Imperial College NHS Trust in Westminster, Solent NHS Trust in Hampshire, and Oxfordshire University Hospitals NHS Trust), both Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and Solent NHS Trust have a some of the highest proportion of male patients in the country (48% and 26% respectively) which could be driving this difference.

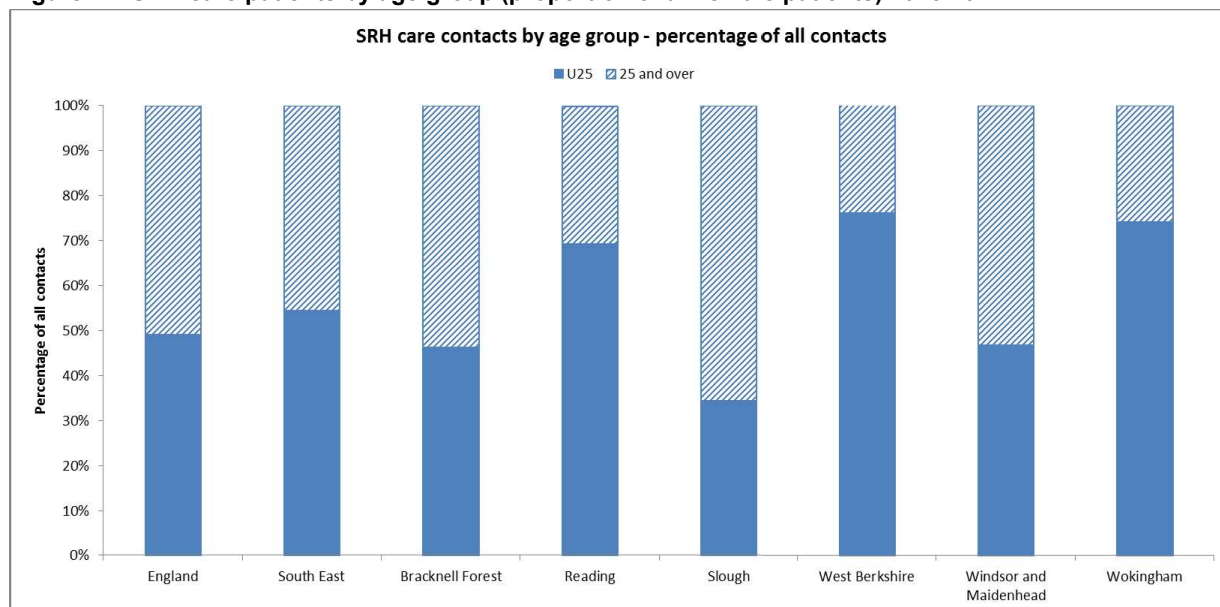
Figure 13: SRH care patients who are male 2015/16



Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)

Due to the small numbers of males attending clinics for SRH care the analysis below has been restricted to female contacts only. Figure 14 shows SRH care contacts by the age of the patient. If a person made more than one contact during 2015/16 then they are counted only once and their age at the time of the first contact is used.

Figure 14: SRH care patients by age group (proportion of all female patients) 2015/16



Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)

When looking at the age of female patients as a proportion of all female patients, there is a fairly even split between those who are aged less than 25 and those who are aged 25 and over. This pattern is consistent nationally, regionally, and across Berkshire as a whole. However, there is some variation in this at an individual Berkshire local authority level;

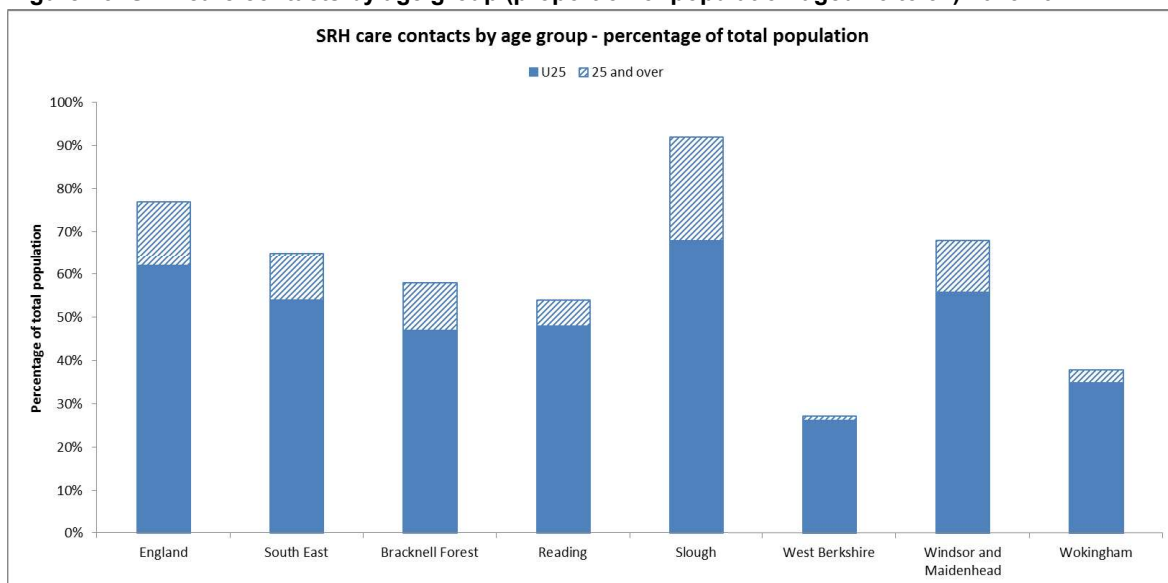
Bracknell Forest shows a similar pattern to the national and regional average with a fairly even split between people in the under 25 and 25 and over age group. RBWM also shows this pattern. However, in Slough, a greater than average proportion of patients are in the 25 and over age group. In Reading, there are a higher proportion of patients in the 24 and under age group than national and regional averages. This pattern is also seen in the other West of Berkshire local authorities (Wokingham and West Berkshire).

It is possible that a number of these differences are at least partly explained by the different local authority population structures. The chart below looks at this data as a proportion of the total female population aged 13 to 54.

When population size is taken into account, it can be seen that nationally, 60% of under 25 years olds are using services for SRH care whereas just 20% of those aged 25 and over are using services. The pattern in Bracknell Forest and RBWM remains similar to the national pattern once population structure is taken into account though a lower proportion of the population from both age groups using services for SRH related care. In Slough, a higher proportion of both age groups are using services for SRH related care with 20% of the older age group using services.

In Reading, West Berkshire, and Wokingham, a lower proportion of the population from both age groups are using services for SRH related care with just 6% of the population aged 25 and over are using services in Reading with this figure dropping to just 3% and 1% in Wokingham and West Berkshire respectively

Figure 15: SRH care contacts by age group (proportion of population aged 13 to 54) 2015/16

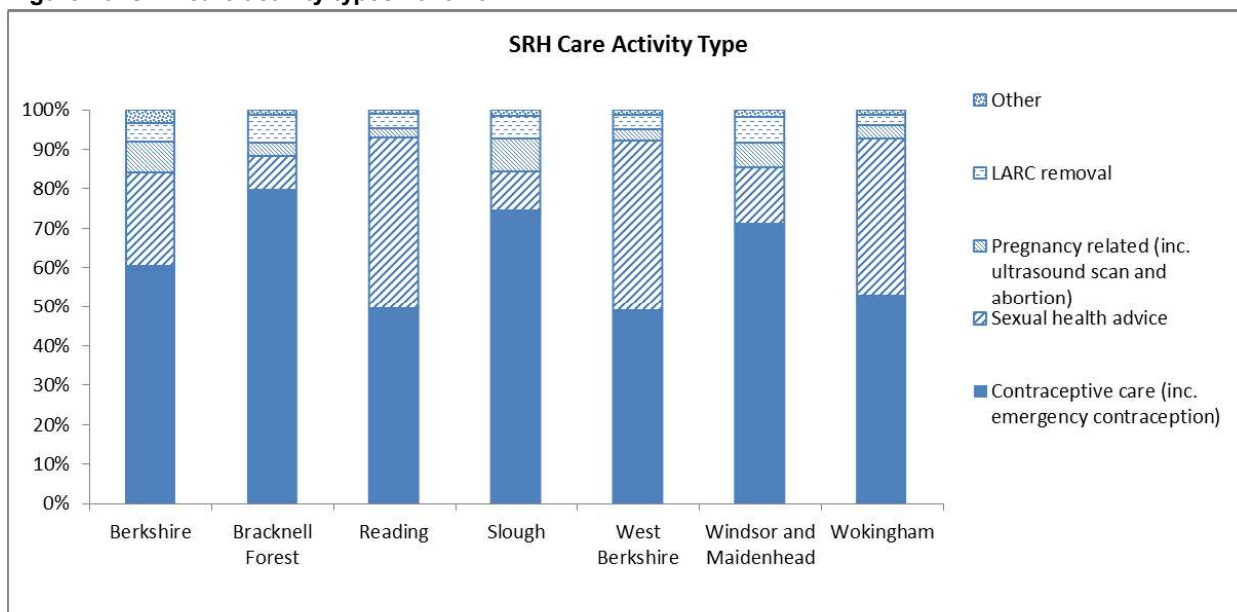


Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)

SRH clinic activity

The majority of SRH care activity is for contraceptive care including emergency contraception: 62% of SRH care activity where the patient is resident in Berkshire is for contraceptive care. 51% of activity across England and 55% across the South East is for contraceptive care. This is followed by sexual health advice: 26% of activity at SRH clinics where the patient is registered in Berkshire is for sexual health advice. 30% of activity across England and 31% of activity across the South East is for sexual health advice. One attendance may be made up of more than one activity so likely that those attending for contraception will also be coded as sexual health advice

Figure 16: SRH care activity types 2015/16



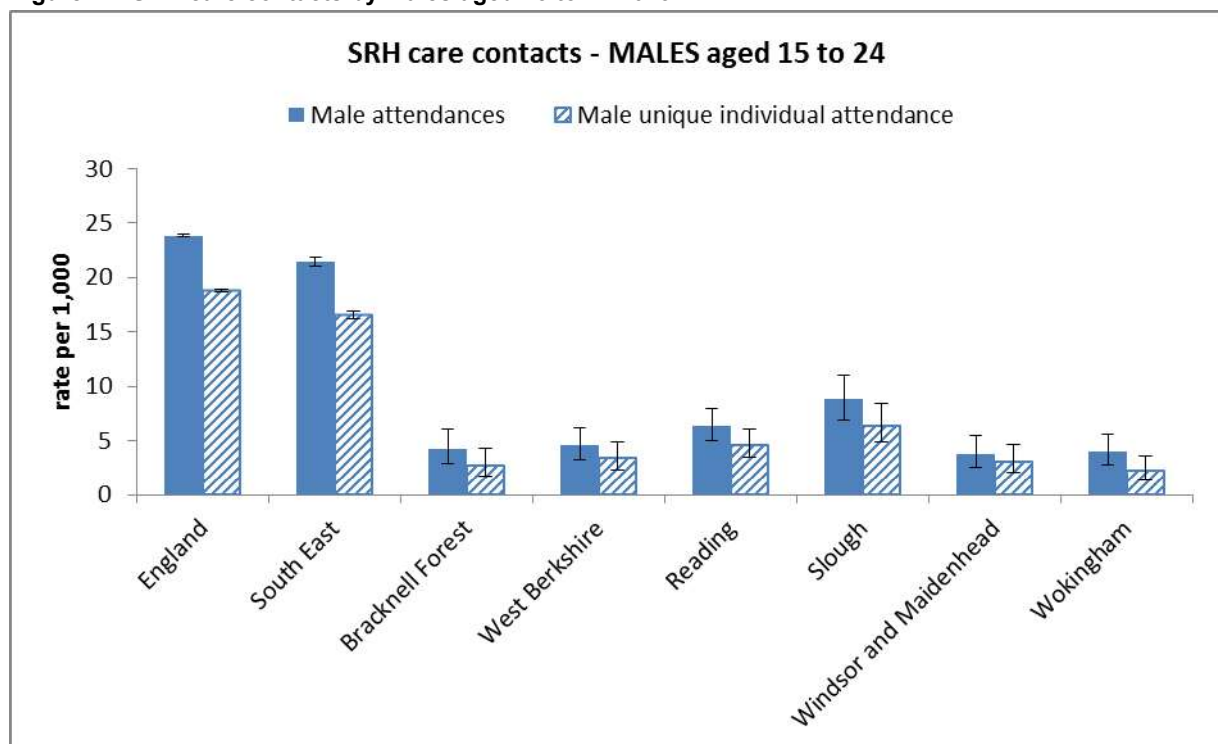
Source: NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)

Within Berkshire there is an East/West split in terms of the proportions of SRH care activity which is contraceptive care or sexual health advice with a greater proportion of contacts in the East being for contraceptive care and a greater proportion of contacts in the West being for sexual health advice.

Young people aged 15 to 24 attending sexual health services for SRH care

The data below looks specifically at young people aged 15 to 24 attending sexual health clinics for SRH related care during 2015. The data is shown for males and females separately and for total contacts and unique contact (i.e. each individual is only counted once within the data independent of how many times they attended for SRH care). The data only includes face to face contacts. 10,685 contacts for SRH care were made by young Berkshire residents during 2015 6,725 of these were unique contacts (39% of all contacts). Young females are far more likely to attend clinics than males: 97% of unique contacts made by Berkshire young people were made by females compared to 89% nationally. Females are more likely to attend clinics on more than one occasion. Males from the Berkshire Local Authorities are less likely to attend for SRH care than would be expected from National and Regional averages.

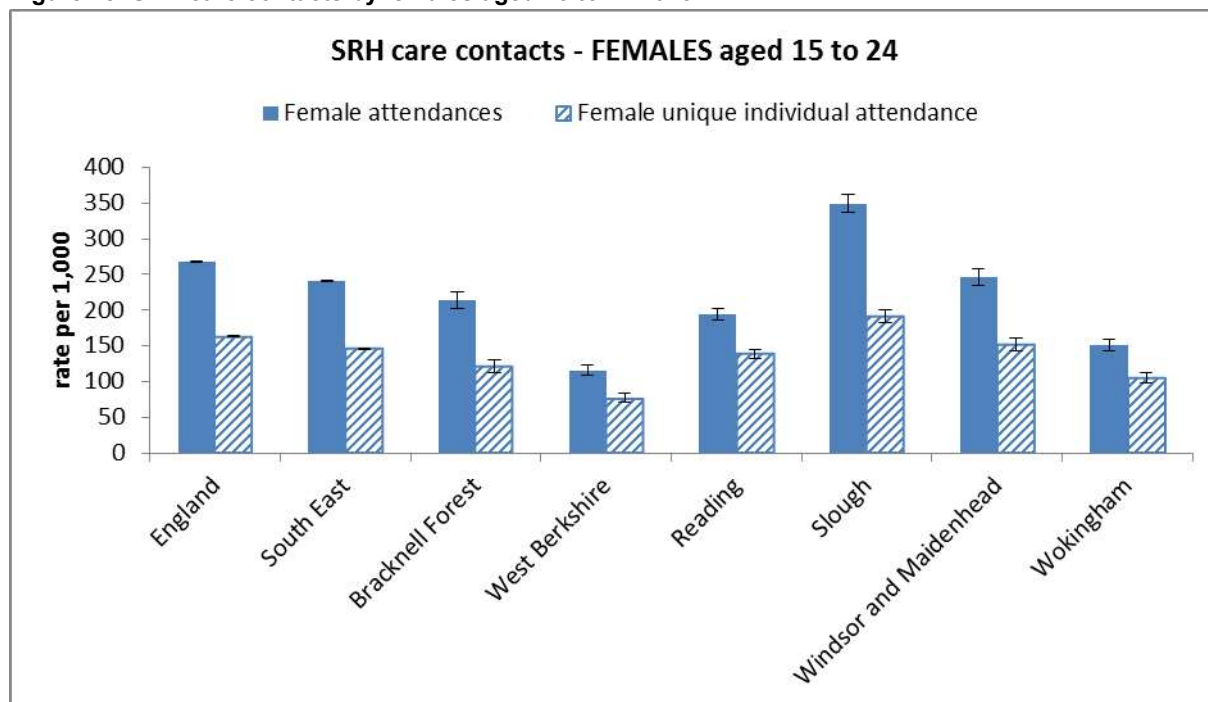
Figure 17: SRH care contacts by males aged 15 to 24 2015



Source: Public Health England analysis of SRHAD 2015 data obtained from NHS Digital under a data sharing agreement (2017)

Contacts for SRH care by females aged 15 to 24 are shown below in figure 20. Rates of contacts are significantly lower than national and regional averages in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, and Wokingham. They are close to average in RBWM and higher than average in Slough. In England, 39% of attendances are made by people who have attended the service before. In Berkshire this figure ranges from 29% in Reading to 45% in Slough highlighting that there are more repeat visits made by young women in Slough than there are nationally.

Figure 18: SRH care contacts by females aged 15 to 24 2015



Source: Public Health England analysis of SRHAD 2015 data obtained from NHS Digital under a data sharing agreement (2017)

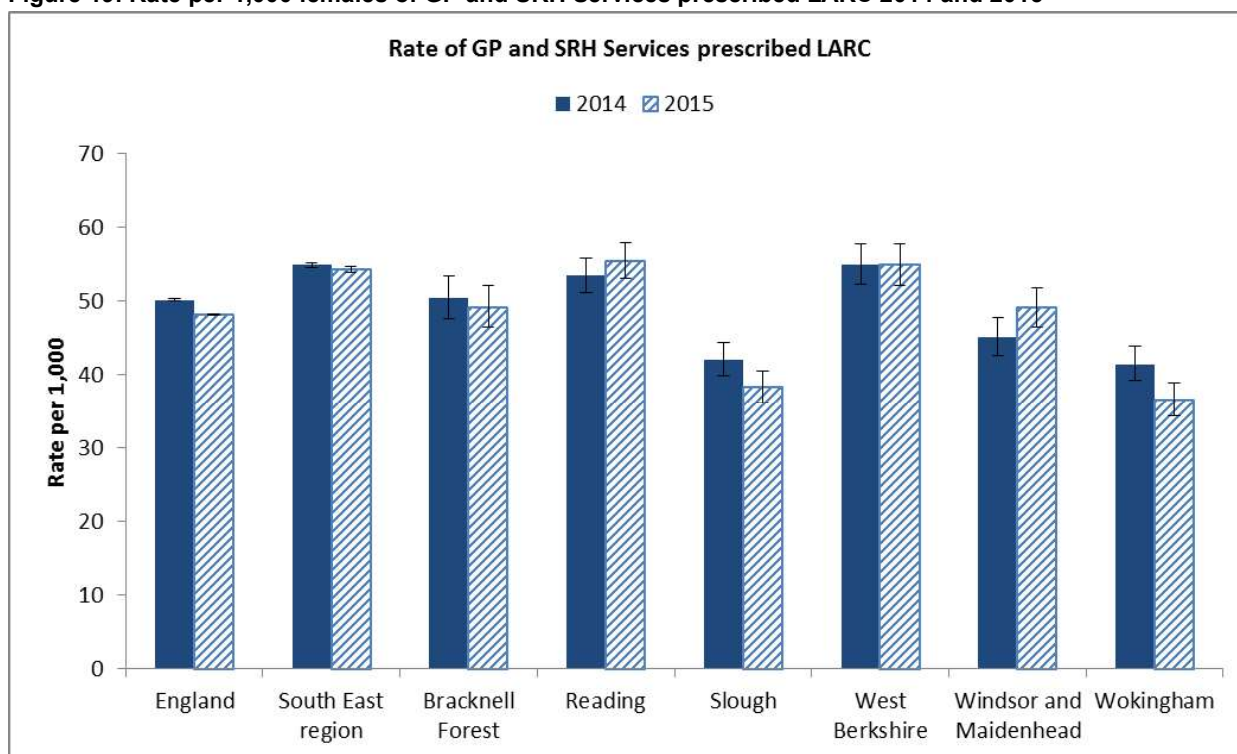
Contraception use

[The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence](#) (NICE) guidance advises long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods such as contraceptive injections, implant, the intra-uterine system (IUS), or the intrauterine device (IUD) as highly effective as they do not rely on daily compliance and as more cost effective than condoms and the pill. All currently available LARC methods are more cost effective than the combined oral contraceptive pill even at 1 year of use ([Mavranezouli, 2008](#)). Figure 20 shows the total rate of GP and Sexual and Reproductive Health Services prescribed LARC for Berkshire UAs. This data excludes injections for the following reasons:

- injections rely on timely repeat visits/administration within the year and consequently have a higher failure rate than the other LARC methods
- injections are easily given thus do not require the resources and training that other LARC methods require
- In Berkshire injections are outside local authority contracts with GP practices

Rates of LARC prescribing in Berkshire in 2015 were 46 per 1,000 females in 2015, lower than the rate of 48 per 1,000 in 2014. Rate of prescribing in Wokingham are significantly lower in 2015 than they were in 2014; rates in Slough have also dropped though this change is not statistically significant. When compared against national averages, in 2015 prescribing rates are higher than average in Reading and West Berkshire but lower in Slough and Wokingham. When compared against regional averages, in 2015 prescribing rates are lower in Bracknell Forest, Slough, RBWM, and Wokingham.

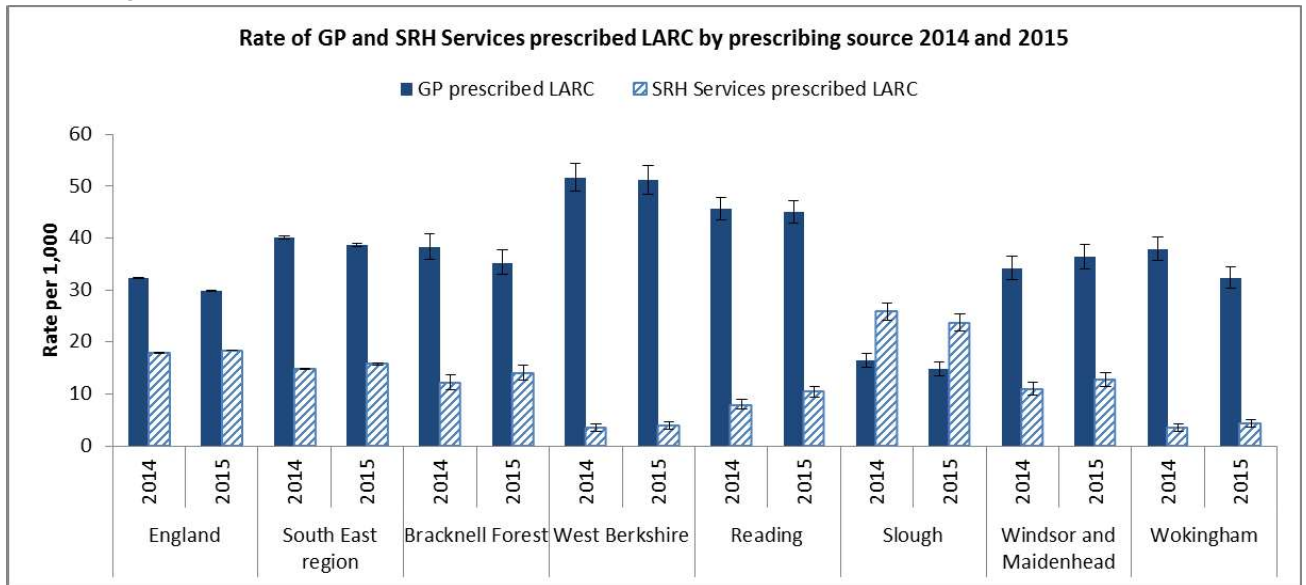
Figure 19: Rate per 1,000 females of GP and SRH Services prescribed LARC 2014 and 2015



Source: *Public Health England (2016)*

Figure 21 shows the prescribed LARC data split by GP-prescribed and SRH service-prescribed LARC for the years 2014 and 2015. The majority of LARC is prescribed by GP Practices in the majority of areas within Berkshire. The exception to this is Slough where the majority of LARC is prescribed in SRH Services. Rates of SRH services prescribed LARC are statistically lower than national and regional averages in all areas of Berkshire with the exception of Slough where they are higher. There are particularly low rates of LARC prescribed in SRH Services for residents in West Berkshire and Wokingham as would be expected given the lower attendance rates at SRH services amongst residents.

Figure 20: Rate per 1,000 females of GP and SRH Services prescribed LARC 2014 and 2015 by prescribing source



Source: *Public Health England Sexual and Reproductive Health Profiles (2016)*

[The Department of Health's Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England](#) (2013) includes a priority to ensure access to a full range of contraception to all. Therefore, although trends in the provision of LARC methods are taken as a proxy measure for wider access to contraception and should lead to a reduction in unwanted pregnancy, the intention is to encourage choice rather than to promote LARC methods at the expense of other methods ([Public Health England Sexual and Reproductive health Profiles](#)). The data in the following table looks at the contraceptive choices made by females who are in contact with SRH Services.

Table 4: Contraception choices at Sexual and Reproductive Health Services 2015

Area	Over 25s choose LARC excluding injections			Under 25s choose LARC excluding injections			Women choose hormonal short-acting contraceptives ¹			Women choose injections at SRH Services			Women choose user-dependent methods		
	%	Compared to England	Compared to South East Region	%	Compared to England	Compared to South East Region	%	Compared to England	Compared to South East Region	%	Compared to England	Compared to South East Region	%	Compared to England	Compared to South East Region
Bracknell Forest	38.1	Same	Same	23.3	Higher	Higher	41.6	Lower	Lower	10.2	Same	Higher	58.7	Lower	Lower
West Berkshire	40.4	Same	Same	14.2	Lower	Lower	54.5	Higher	Higher	12.7	Higher	Higher	67.1	Higher	Same
Reading	42.3	Higher	Higher	16.0	Lower	Lower	47.5	Same	Lower	13.8	Higher	Higher	62.4	Same	Lower
Slough	32.4	Lower	Lower	20.6	Same	Same	41.2	Lower	Lower	5.5	Lower	Lower	66.2	Higher	Same
RBWM	33.1	Same	Same	20.7	Same	Same	46.5	Same	Lower	6.0	Lower	Lower	66.9	Higher	Same
Wokingham	35.7	Same	Same	13.1	Lower	Lower	53.8	Higher	Higher	12.6	Higher	Higher	69.2	Higher	Higher

Source: *Public Health England (2016)*

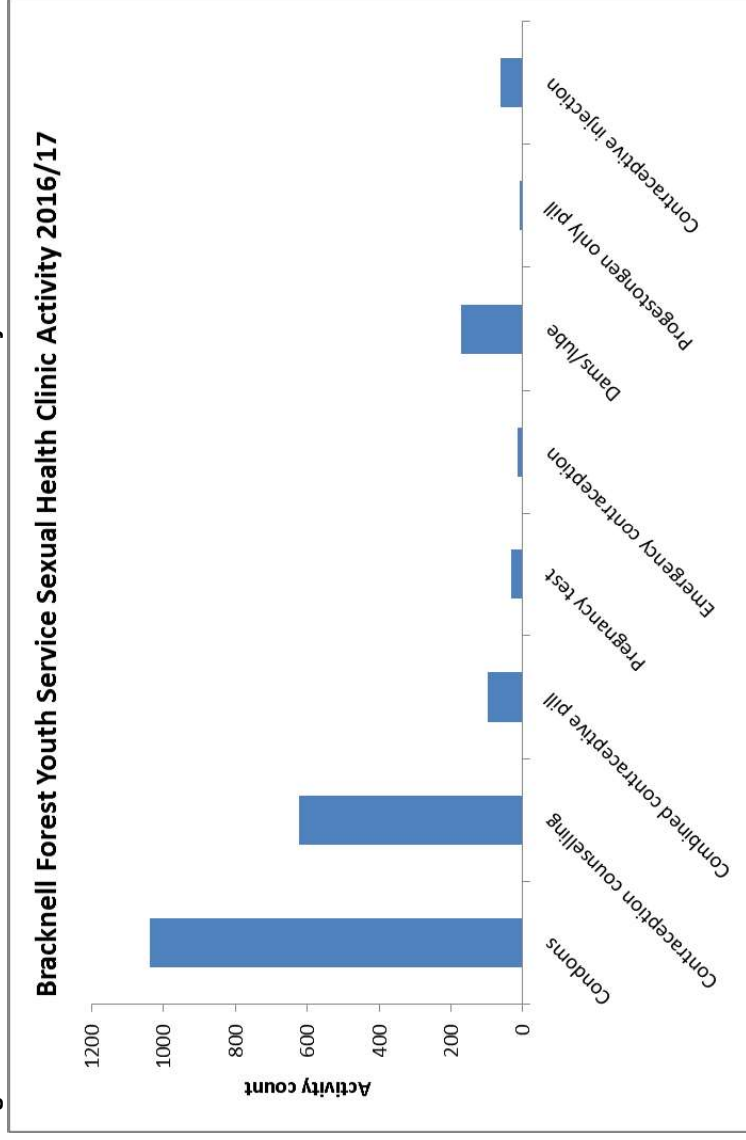
The majority of females from Berkshire UAs attending SRH Services are choosing user-dependent methods of contraception with females from West Berkshire, Slough, RBWM, and Wokingham being more likely to choose these methods than the national average. A greater proportion of over 25s from Reading and a greater proportion of under 25s from Bracknell Forest are choosing LARC when compared to national and regional averages. Women from West Berkshire, Reading, and Wokingham are more likely to choose hormonal short-acting contraceptives or injections at SRH Services than women are national and regionally.

¹ Contraceptive pill (combined or progesterone only), contraceptive patch and vaginal ring

Further information on GP prescribed contraception can be found below under [Bracknell Forest](#) Youth Services provide 8 sexual health drop-in clinics which cover the main secondary schools, and Bracknell and Wokingham College. These provide information and advice regarding sexual health and distribute condoms and do pregnancy testing. An anonymous text messaging service is also provided which young people can access 24 hours a day. There is also a youth service web page which young people can visit for updates and information.

During 2016/17 4,070 young people attended Bracknell Forest Youth Service clinics with an equal split between male and female attendees. The chart below shows the types of activities provided by the clinics over the year. The most common activity was condom distribution followed by contraception counselling. Each visit may result in more than one activity so there will be an element of double-counting in the data below.

Figure 48: Bracknell Forest Youth Service Sexual Health Clinic Activity 2016/17



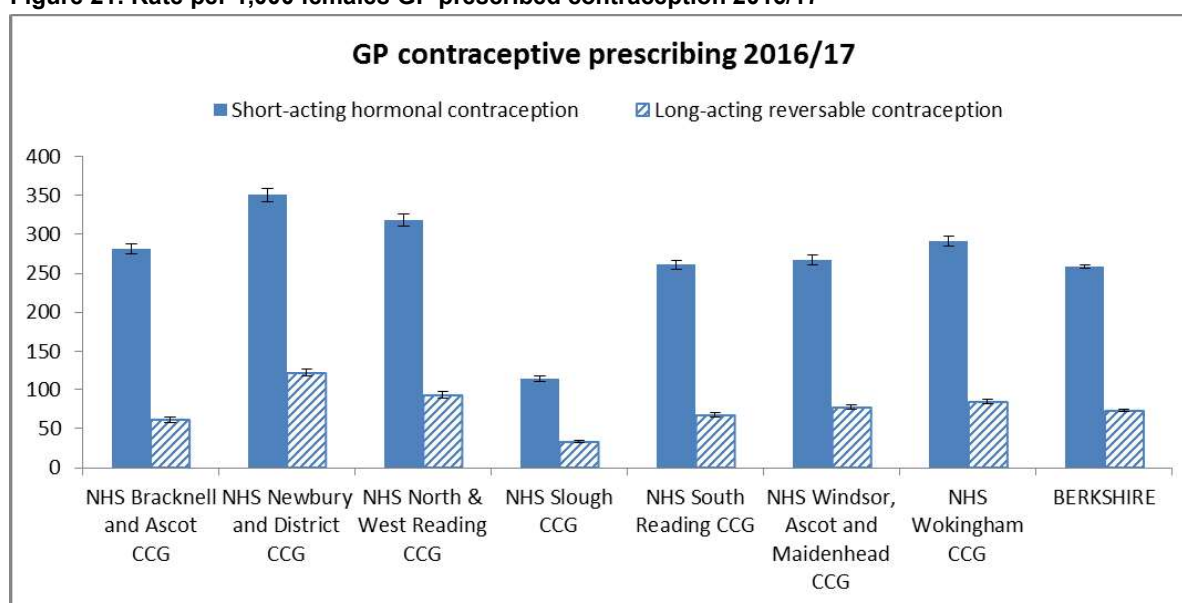
Source: Bracknell Forest Council Youth Services (2017)

Further information on EHC can be found below under

[Emergency Hormonal Contraception](#).

The following data looks the contraceptive prescribing in GP Practices in Berkshire by CCG. Data is for 2016/17 and shows prescribing by type of contraception: LARC (including injections) and short acting hormonal contraception (contraceptive pills and patches). The total quantity of injections and short acting hormonal contraception prescribed in the year has been divided by the number of times they would be given/taken in a year to give an estimate by number of users (e.g. the injection is divided by 4.3 as it is given every 12 weeks). Rates are per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44.

Figure 21: Rate per 1,000 females GP prescribed contraception 2016/17



Source: NHS Digital GP Practice prescribing data (accessed 2017)

The majority of contraception prescribed by GPs in Berkshire is short-acting (78% of all prescriptions). This figure varies between CCG from 82% in Bracknell and Ascot CCG to 74% in Newbury and District CCG. Overall rates of prescribing are 332 per 1,000 in Berkshire ranging from 147 per 1,000 in Slough CCG to 473 per 1,000 in Newbury and District CCG.

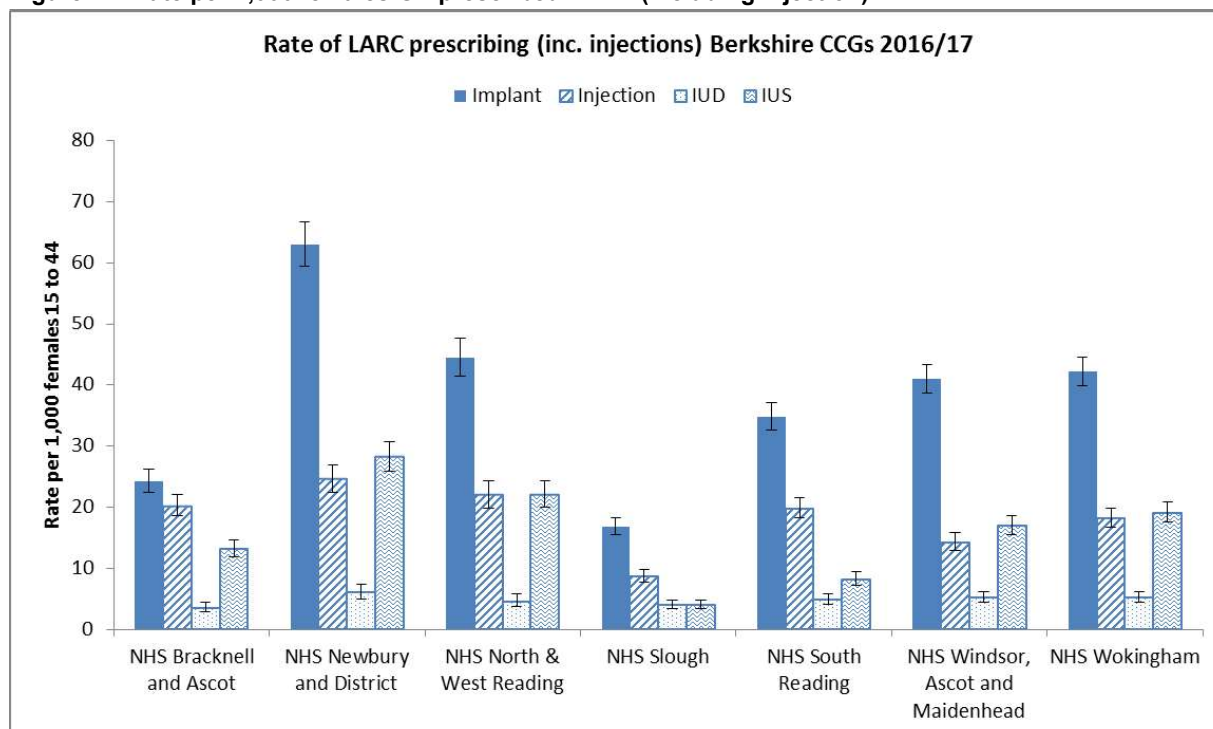
Rates of prescribing of LARC in Berkshire are 72 per 1,000 ranging from 33 per 1,000 in Slough CCG to 121 per 1,000 in Newbury and District CCG. Rates of prescribing of short-acting hormonal contraception are 258 per 1,000 in Berkshire ranging from 113 per 1,000 in Slough CCG to 350 per 1,000 in Newbury and District CCG. The Berkshire average rate of prescribing is skewed by low prescribing in Slough CCG, meaning that, as a general rule, the other six CCGs are above the Berkshire average for prescribing of both types of contraception. The main exception to this is lower than average rates of LARC prescribing in Bracknell and Ascot CCG.

The data below looks further at the types of GP prescribed LARC in Berkshire.

Total GP LARC prescribing is highest in Newbury and District CCG and this is the case for all individual contraception types with rates of prescribing of the contraceptive implant being particularly high (62 per 1,000). Rates of GP LARC prescribing in Slough CCG are notably low across all contraceptive types (33 per 1,000 as a total).

Rates of prescribing of the contraceptive implant and IUS are lower in Bracknell and Ascot CCG than would be expected based on the Berkshire average. There are higher than the Berkshire average rates of prescribing of the contraceptive implant and IUS in North and West Reading CCG, Windsor, Ascot, and Maidenhead CCG, and Wokingham CCG.

Figure 22: Rate per 1,000 females GP prescribed LARC (including injection)



Source: NHS Digital GP Practice prescribing data (accessed 2017)

Reproductive health: Key points

Summary

- Slough and Reading's higher than average birth rates and large population of reproductive age indicate a higher than average need for sexual and reproductive health care
 - The trend towards females giving birth at older ages highlights the importance for women to continue to use contraception until after the menopause
- A dramatic decrease in teenage pregnancy highlights the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy as an exemplary sexual health promotion programme and a caution against subsequent complacency in this area in order to keep rates of unplanned pregnancy low
 - The increasing proportion of under 18 conceptions leading to abortion in some areas suggests that there are some groups of young women who are remaining vulnerable to unplanned pregnancy
- The all-age abortion rate is higher than the national average in Reading
 - Repeat abortions in under 25 year olds are higher than national average although this is not a statistically significant difference
- Contacts with SRH services are lower than national average in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of Slough where they are a lot higher, this is difficult to

interpret as contacts that young people have with STI-related services at integrated service providers are not included in this data, see below..

- There is low provision of contraception, particularly LARC in GP Practices in Slough
- Slough Garden Clinic is in close proximity to the town which could in part offer an explanation for this
- Some integrated service models may record certain contraceptive activity only as part of the GUM data set (see [Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets](#)) and not in the SHRAD data set
-
- The numbers and rates of males attending for SRH related care are very low and lower than national average in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of West Berkshire, this is to some extent expected as a higher proportion of visits to SRH services are by women seeking contraceptive care, as above STI-related services at integrated service providers are not included in this data.
 - Provision of condoms to young men outside of SRH services could reduce the numbers attending SRH services
 - Some service models may not attract males
 - Some integrated service models may record certain contraceptive activity only as part of the GUM data set (see [Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets](#)) and not in the SHRAD data set
- Number of Berkshire residents attending out of area for SRH related care are low
 - Highest in West Berkshire
 - Geography means that closest town centres may be in other Counties and people may use clinics close to place of work
- Slough attendees at services for SRH related care as a proportion of population are higher than national averages for both the under 25 and 25 and over age groups
 - Lower than national averages in all other local authorities
 - Lowest in West Berkshire and Wokingham
 - Proportion of attendees in the 25 and over age group are particularly low in the West
 - Royal Berkshire Hospital are not commissioned to provide LARC to this age group
- East/West split in terms of the proportions of SRH care activity which is contraceptive care or sexual health advice with a greater proportion of contacts in the East being for contraceptive care and a greater proportion of contacts in the West being for sexual health advice
 - May be due to recording differences as more than one activity can be recorded for each contact
 - May be due to contacts made by young people attending Healthpoints in the West of Berkshire being included in the SRH data
- Higher than national average total LARC prescribing both in SRH services and GP is observed in Reading and West Berks; lower than national average in Wokingham and Slough (and decreasing since previous year). Lower than regional average in Bracknell and RBWM
 - Majority of LARC prescribing is within GP practices with the exception of Slough where it is from SRH services

- Contraception prescribing in Slough CCG GP practices is a lot lower than the Berkshire average for both LARC and short-acting hormonal contraception

Sexually transmitted infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) represent an important public health problem. STIs are passed from one person to another through unprotected sex or genital contact ([NHS Choices](#), 2015). People can be tested for STIs at sexual health services (SHSs) which include both specialist (level 3) and non-specialist (level 1 & 2) SHSs. Specialist SHSs refers to genitourinary medicine (GUM) and integrated GUM/sexual and reproductive health (SRH) clinics. Non-specialist SHSs refers to SRH services, young people's services, online sexual health services, termination of pregnancy services, pharmacies, outreach, general practice, and other community-based settings.

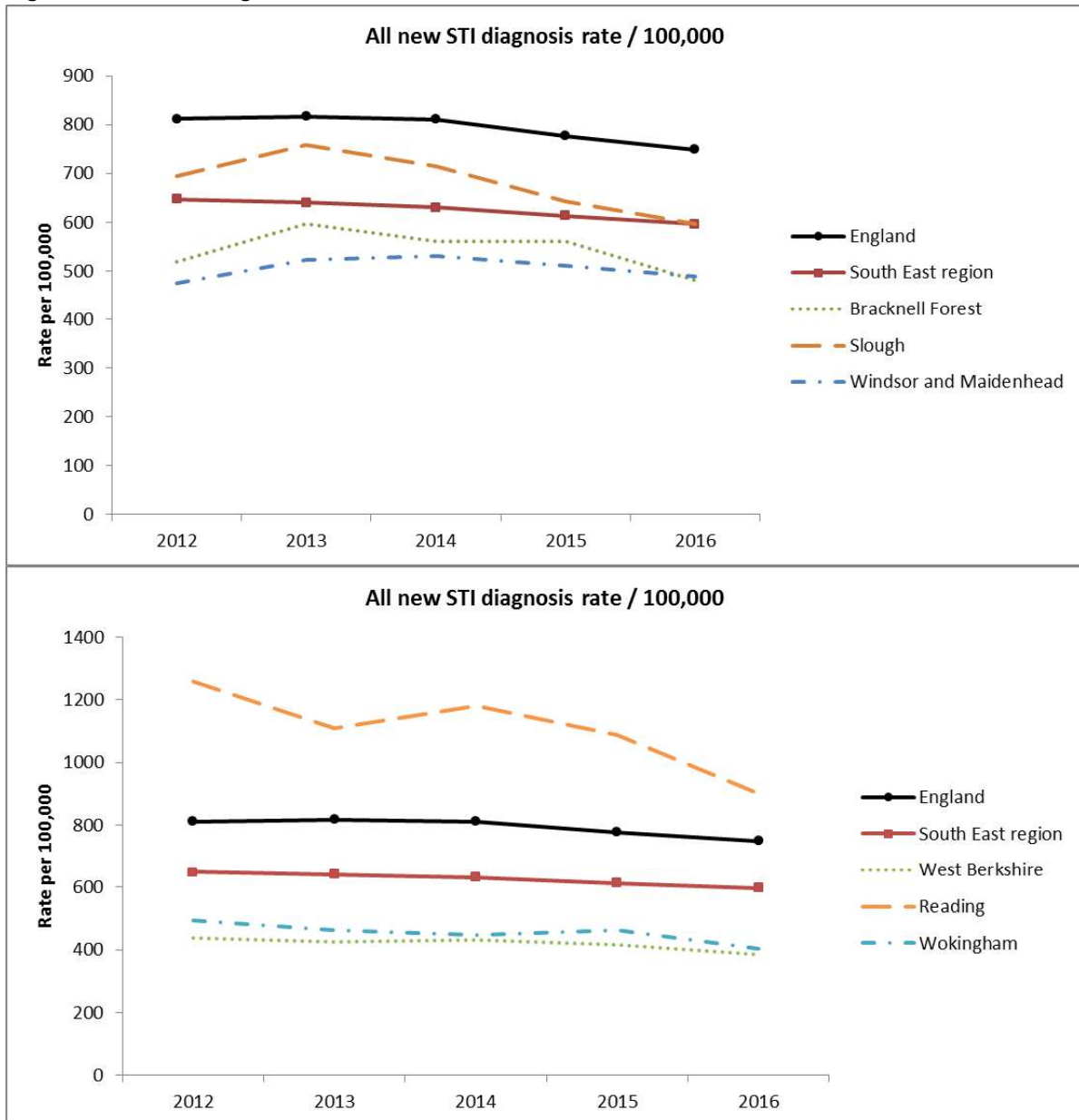
All new STI diagnoses²

There has been a national decreasing trend in diagnosis rates of all new STIs which has been mirrored in the South East Region where regional rates were significantly lower than national rates in 2016 (597 compared to 750 per 100,000). Whereas rates in Reading, and Slough are decreasing, there has been no significant change in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, Wokingham and RBWM though this may be in part due to numbers been historically low. In 2016 rates were higher in Reading (901 per 100,000) than national and regional rates. They were lower than regional and national rates in all other Berkshire local authorities.

Rates of new diagnoses of STIs *excluding chlamydia in people aged less than 25* are also decreasing nationally and in the South East Region. Again, regional rates are significantly lower than national rates (647 compared to 795 per 100,000). Rates across the Berkshire local authorities are significantly lower than regional and national averages with the exception of Reading at 945 per 100,000 and Slough at (723 per 100,000). This indicator is used because the provision and uptake of chlamydia screening services for young people varies across the country, meaning that inter-area comparisons excluding these diagnoses are more reliable.

² In 2015, the new STI diagnoses group was expanded to include new codes that were not previously reported via GUMCADv2. The new codes include: Mycoplasma genitalium (C16); Shigella: flexneri, sonnei and unspecified (SG1, SG2, SG3)

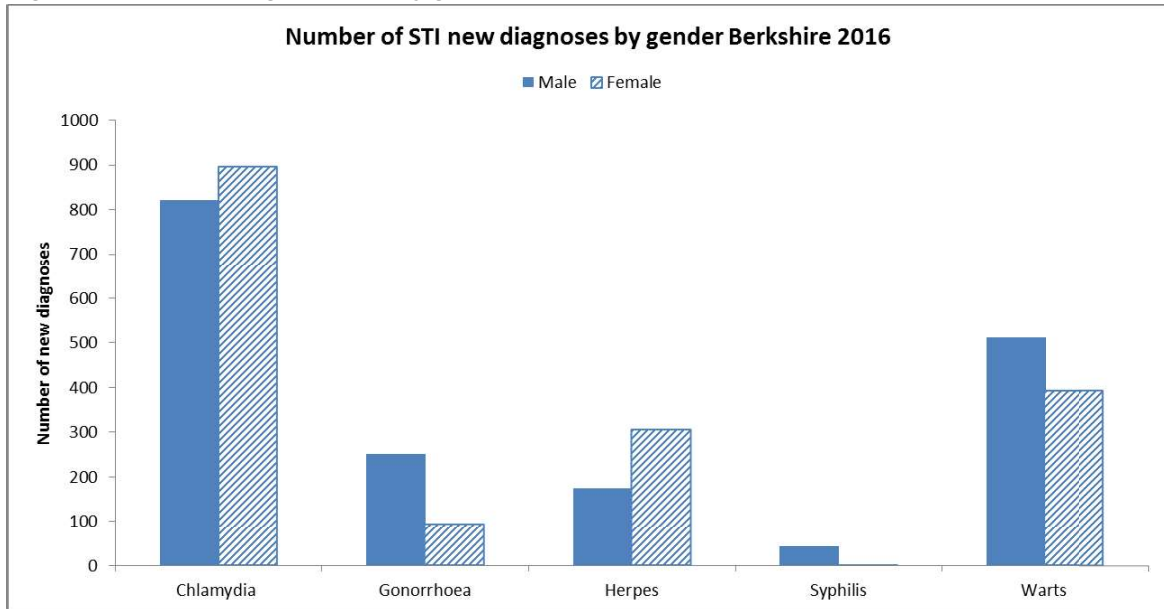
Figure 23: New STI diagnosis rate



Source: Public Health England (2017)

Figure 24 below shows the number of new STI diagnoses in 2016 for all of Berkshire by type of STI and gender. There are slightly more diagnoses of STIs amongst males than females even though females are more likely to attend services for STI related care (see below under 'Attendance for STI related care'). Gender differences can be seen across all diagnoses. There are more diagnoses of gonorrhoea, genital warts and syphilis amongst males and more diagnoses of chlamydia and herpes amongst females.

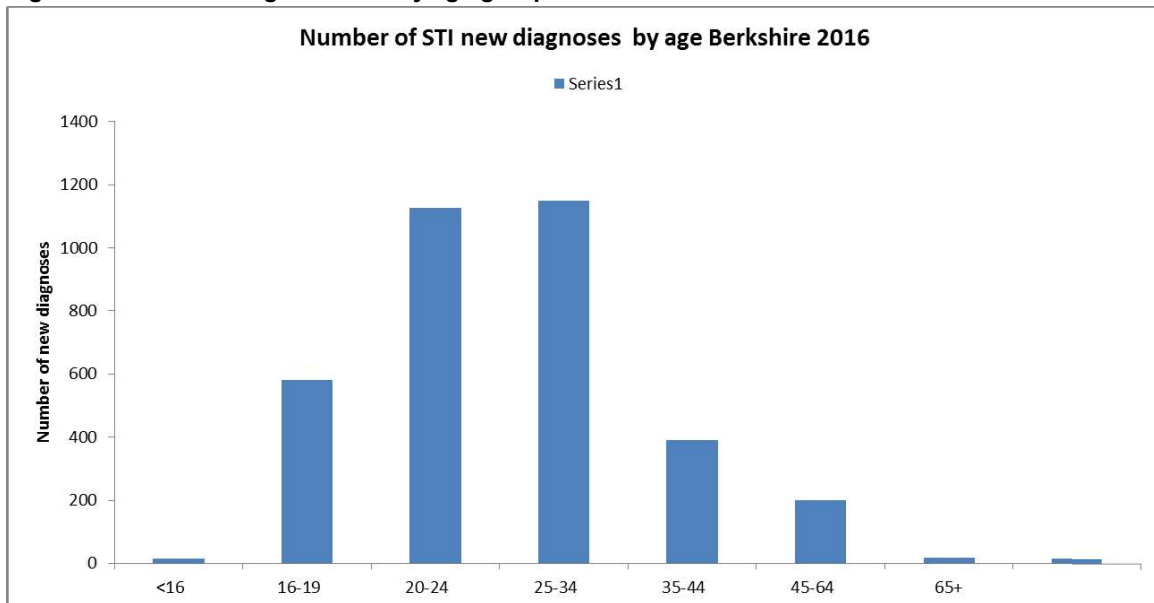
Figure 24: New STI diagnosis rate by gender



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

When new STI diagnoses data is broken down by age group, it can be seen that STI diagnoses are highest in younger age groups and peak in the 25 to 34 year old age group.

Figure 25: New STI diagnosis rate by age group

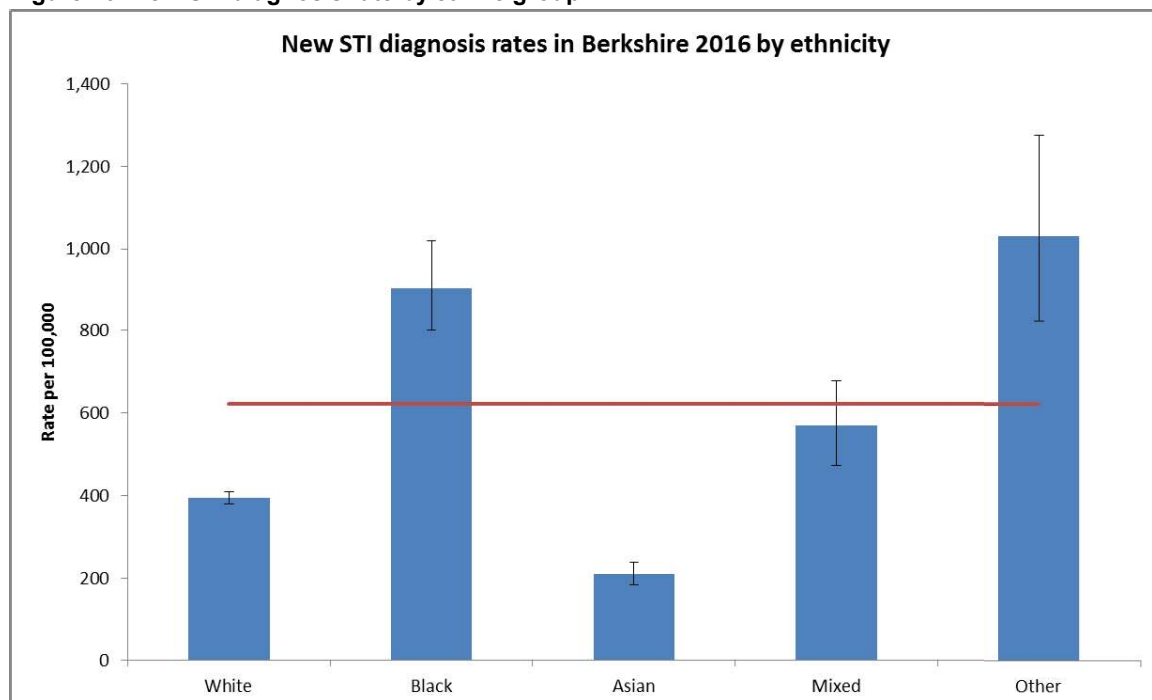


Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

From [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) survey data, we have some indication that 93.7% of the population identify as heterosexual; 1.1% identify as gay or lesbian, 0.6% identify as bisexual; 0.4% identify as 'other'; and 4.1% state that they do not know or did not wish to respond. Although these figures based on a sampled survey will have limitations and are likely to vary from one local authority to another, we can make some comparisons against STI diagnosis data to identify patterns. 89% of people with a newly diagnosed STI in Berkshire in 2016 identify as heterosexual indicating that there are slightly fewer STI diagnoses amongst this group than would be expected. 10% of people with a newly diagnosed STI in Berkshire identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual indicating that this group is over represented in the STI data. This is mainly driven by higher diagnosis rates amongst Gay and Bisexual men, LGB women make up a very small portion of the diagnoses of new STIs. This observation is in line with national data which suggests that diagnoses of STIs among gay and bisexual men is higher than that of the general population ([Public Health England, 2016](#))

Rates of new STI diagnoses by ethnicity in Berkshire are shown below. The STI data refers to diagnoses in 2016. The most recent ethnicity data comes from the 2011 national Census so is already dated but remains the best estimation we have available as a means of making a comparison with STI diagnosis numbers. The red line on the chart indicates the average rate of diagnosis for all ethnic groups. It can be seen that there are more newly diagnosed STIs amongst people from Black or Other ethnic groups than would be expected given the ethnicity of the overall population; there are fewer new diagnoses amongst people from White and Asian ethnic groups than would be expected given the relative size of this population group. Again, this observation is in line with the national picture ([Public Health England, 2016](#))

Figure 26: New STI diagnosis rate by ethnic group



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

STI re-infection rates are a good demonstration of high risk groups as re-infection is a marker of persistent risky behaviour. Nationally, an estimated 7.1% of women and 9.8% of men presenting with a new STI at a specialist sexual health clinic between 2011 and 2015 became re-infected with a new STI within 12 months. Re-infection rates for people resident in Berkshire local authorities are given below. Data is for 2015;

Bracknell Forest –	6.0% of women and 7.9% of men
West Berkshire –	4.2% of women and 7.1% of men
Reading –	8.7% of women and 9.8% of men
Slough –	8.2% of women and 8.7% of men
RBWM –	4.2% of women and 6.7% of men
Wokingham –	6.2% of women and 8.6% of men

Young people are more likely to become re-infected with STIs. Re-infection rates for young people aged 15 to 19 are resident in Berkshire local authorities are given below. Data is for 2015;

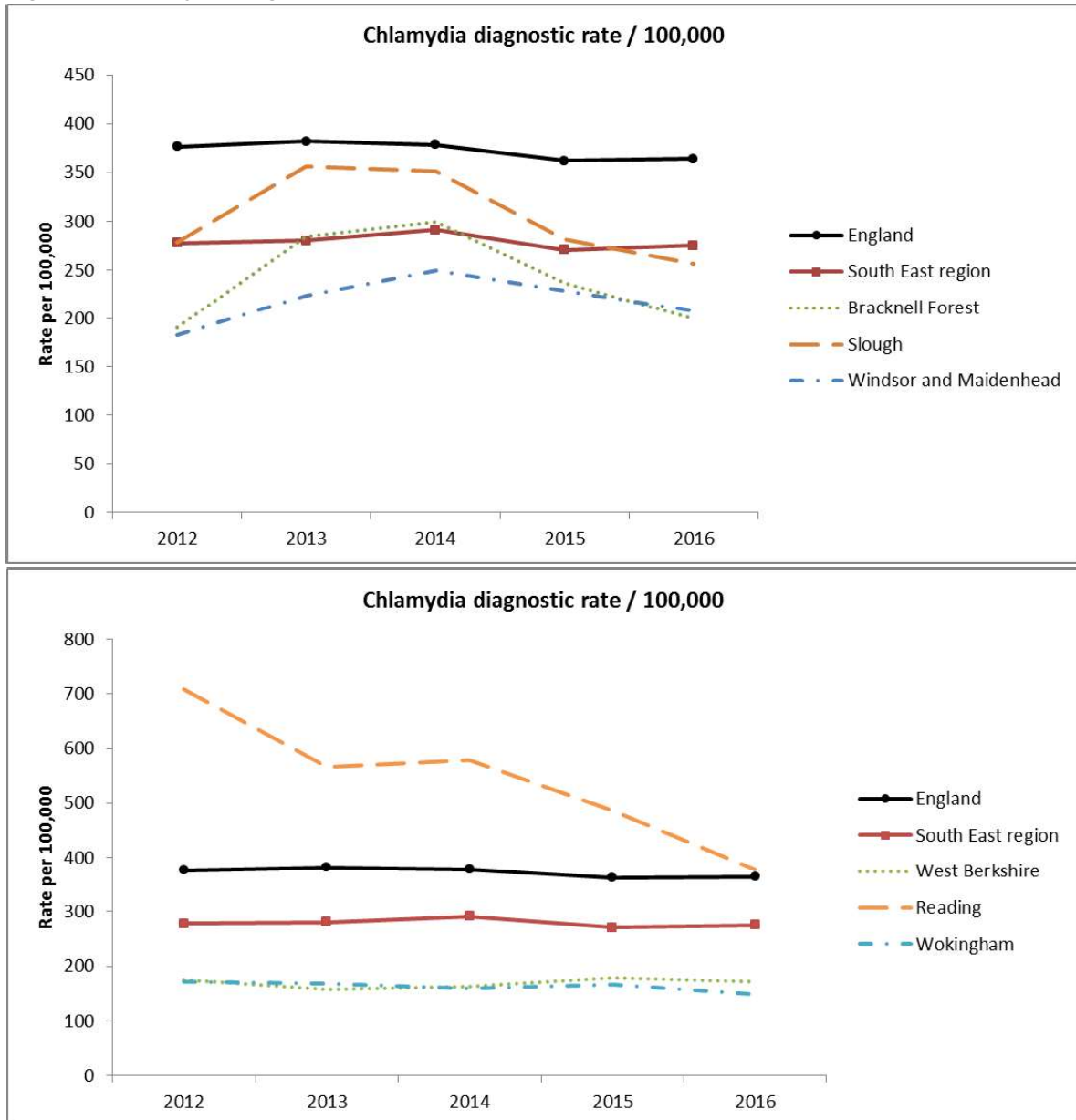
Bracknell Forest –	8.6% of women and 7.4% of men
West Berkshire –	6.2% of women and 14.5% of men
Reading –	14.3% of women and 15.7% of men
Slough –	11.8% of women and 7.7% of men
RBWM –	7.0% of women and 6.2% of men
Wokingham –	8.2% of women and 9.7% of men

(Source: Public Health England LASERS)

Chlamydia

Chlamydia caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*, remains the most commonly diagnosed STI in England and rates are considerably higher in young adults ([Public Health England](#), 2016). The all-age chlamydia diagnosis rate in England in 2016 was 364 per 100,000 which is a decrease compared to recent years. Rates in the South East Region are significantly lower at 275 per 100,000 but have not shown the same decline. Rates of diagnosis in the Berkshire local authorities are lower than national and regional averages with the exception of Reading where they are higher than the regional average (378 per 100,000). However, rates are decreasing in Reading over recent years.

Figure 27: Chlamydia diagnosis rate (ALL AGE)



Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

Nationally, Chlamydia diagnoses are more common in people aged less than 25. In Berkshire in 2016, 64.3% of chlamydia diagnoses were in this age group.

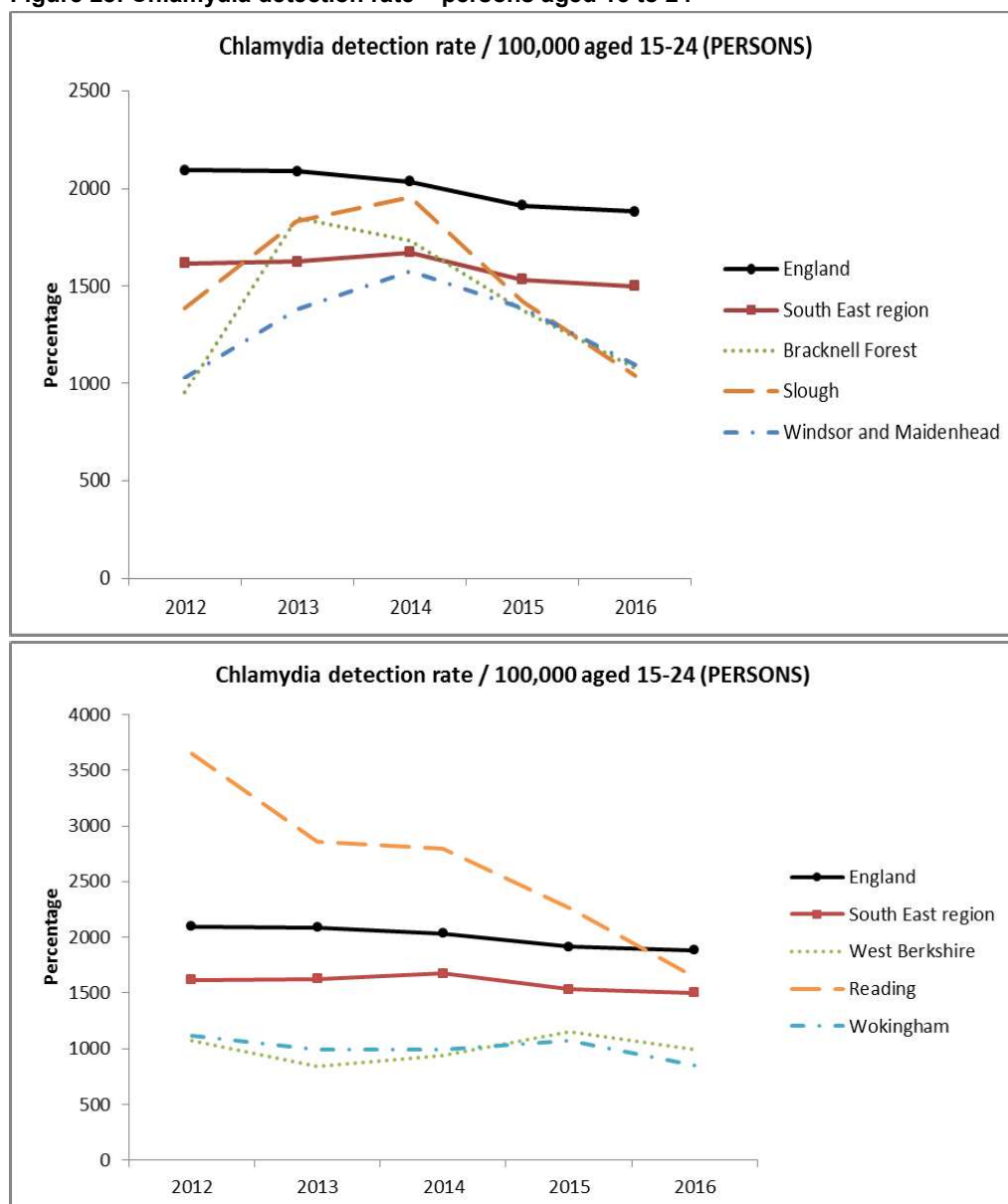
Amongst this younger age group, females are more likely than males to have a diagnosis of chlamydia (64% of positive tests in Berkshire during 2016). This gender difference is much less marked in the 20 to 24 year old age group compared to the 15 to 19 year old age group: 57% of positive tests are amongst females in the 20-24 year old age group compared to 75% in the 15 to 19 year old age group (Source: Public Health England CTAD data, 2016).

The chlamydia diagnostic rate is the number of diagnoses per 100,000 people aged 15-24 and is a marker of the coverage and uptake of chlamydia screening in this age group. The National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) was set up in 2010 with the aim of reducing the prevalence and transmission of chlamydia among young people through testing

and treatment of asymptomatic young people aged 15-24 and their sexual contacts. Data on chlamydia testing is submitted by testing laboratories through the Chlamydia Testing Activity Dataset (CTAD).

This indicator is included in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF indicator 3.02). Nationally there is an aspirational target of 2,300 chlamydia diagnoses per 100,000 15-24 year. This is set based on estimates of the number of cases that need to be diagnosed and treated to reduce transmission. In England the chlamydia diagnostic rate fell from 2,095 per 100,000 in 2012 to 1,882 per 100,000 in 2016. The detection rate in the South East is significantly lower at 1,500 per 100,000 and is also decreasing. Detection rates in the six Berkshire local authorities (figure 45) are significantly lower than national and regional averages with the exception of Reading where they are the same as regional averages. Detection rates are decreasing in all Berkshire local authorities with this been a significant decrease in Reading and in Slough.

Figure 28: Chlamydia detection rate – persons aged 15 to 24



Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

The rate of chlamydia diagnosed amongst people aged 25 and over has increased nationally and in the South East Region and in 2016 were 188 and 133 per 100,000 respectively. There has been no significant change seen in the Berkshire local authorities. However, it is important to note that significant changes are harder to detect at a more localised level due to smaller numbers. Rates are lower than national and regional averages with the exception of Slough (215 per 100,000) and Reading (200 per 100,000) where they are higher than the regional average and comparable to the national average.

HIV

The rate of new diagnosis of HIV amongst those aged 15 and over is decreasing nationally and across the South East to 12 per 100,000 and 7 per 100,000 In 2016 (Public Health England, 2017). Rates of diagnosis in the South East are significantly lower than the national rate. Rates of new HIV diagnoses have shown no significant change in Berkshire local authorities. However, it is important to note that significant changes are harder to detect at a more localised level due to smaller numbers. Although not significant, rates of diagnosis have shown a downward trend in Slough and Reading where rates have been historically high. Rates of new HIV diagnosis are the same or lower than national and regional averages across all Berkshire local authorities apart from in Slough where they are higher than the rate in the South East (14.5 per 100,000).

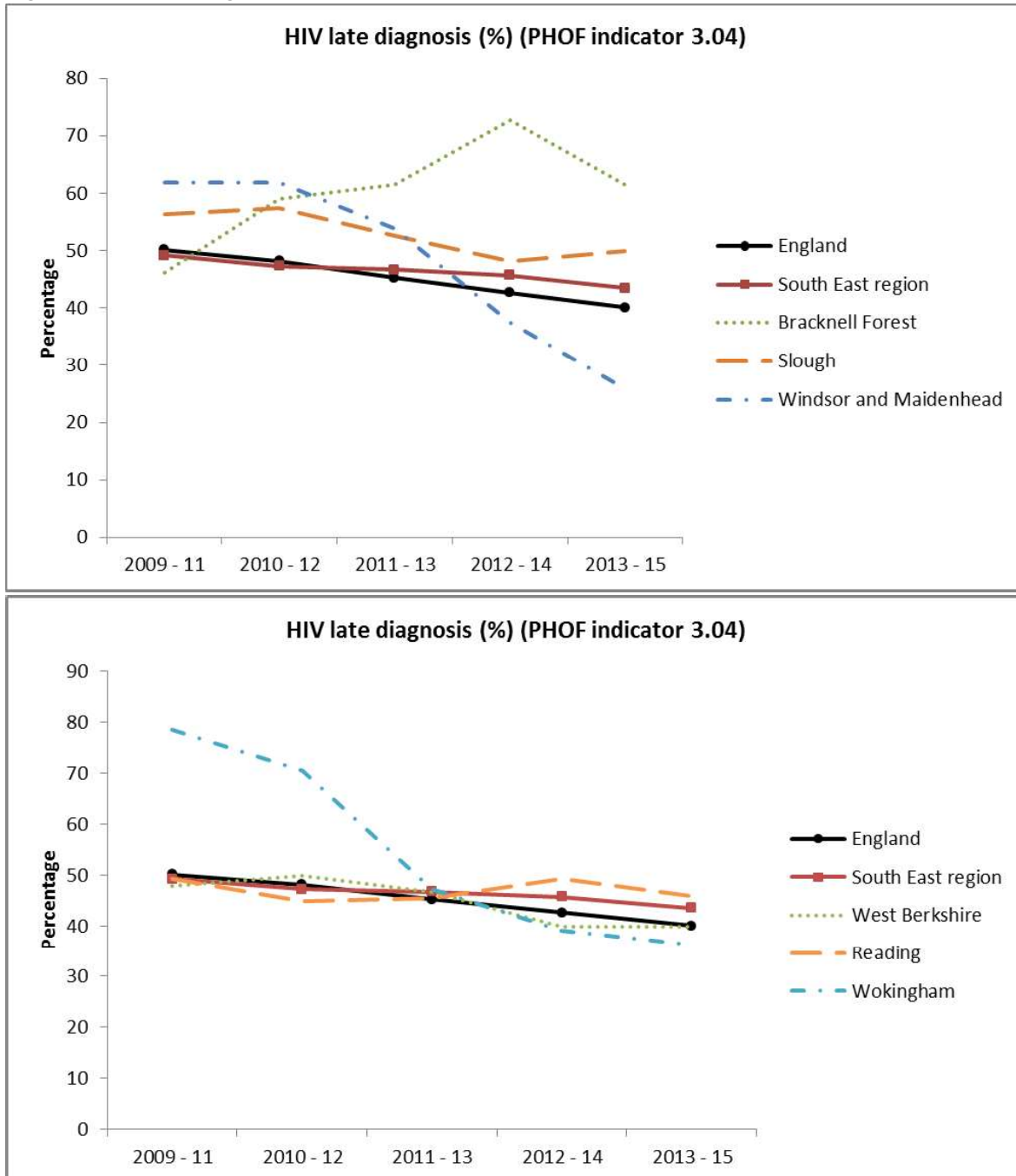
Diagnosed prevalence refers to the total number of people who are receiving NHS care for diagnosed HIV as a rate of the total population. The rate of HIV diagnosed prevalence in people aged 15 to 59 is increasing nationally and across the South East region and was 2.26 per 1,000 in England and 1.76 per 1,000 in the South East in 2015. No significant change has been seen in Berkshire. Rates are the same or lower than national and regional averages in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of Reading and Slough where they are higher at 3.04 and 3.45 per 1,000 respectively.

HIV Late diagnosis

Late diagnosis of HIV is the most important predictor of morbidity and mortality among those with HIV infection. Those diagnosed late have a ten-fold risk of death compared to those diagnosed promptly. Late diagnosis is defined as the percentage of people aged 15 or above newly diagnosed with HIV with a CD4 count of less than 30 cells per mm³.

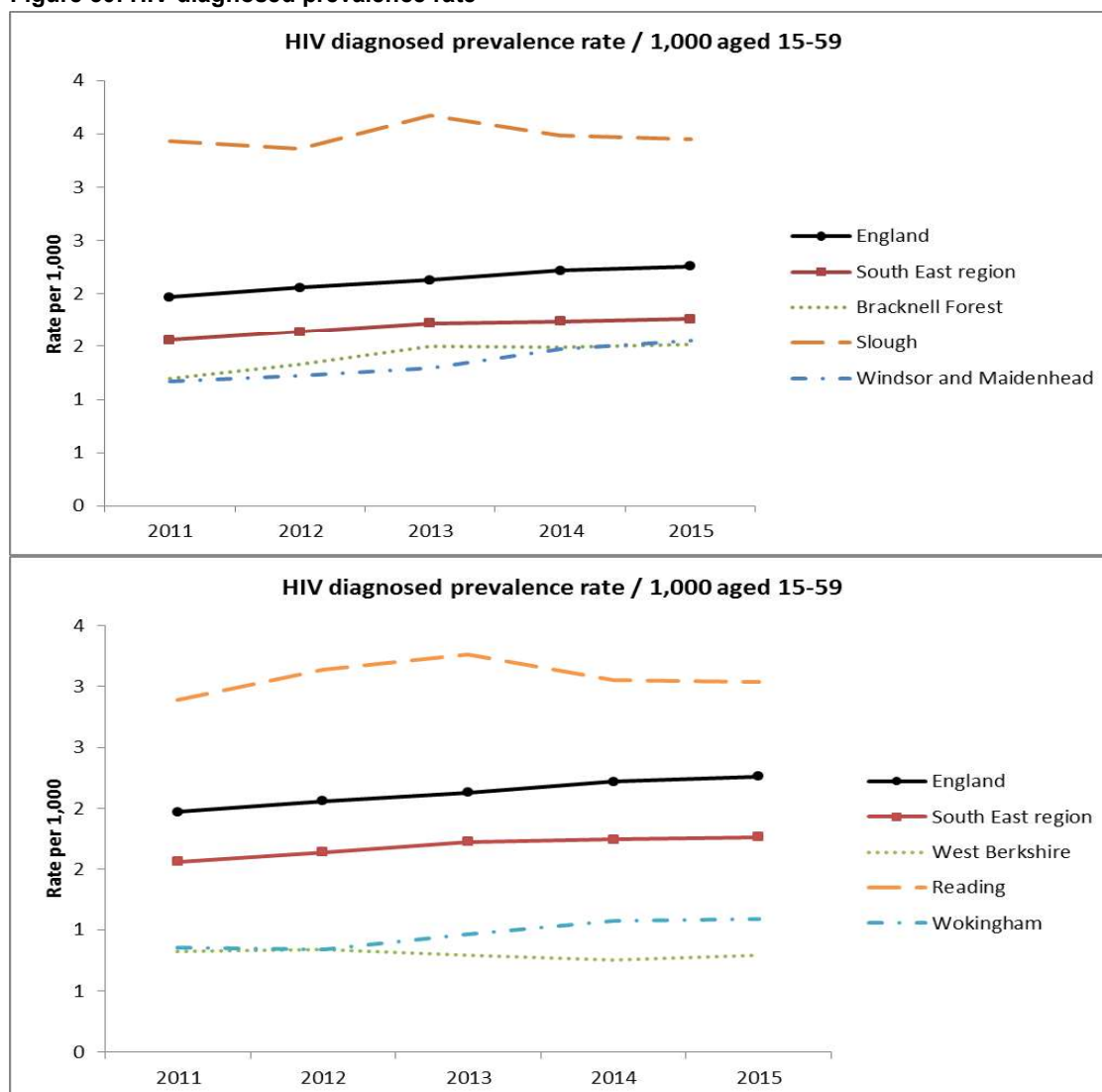
The late HIV diagnosis rate in England for the years 2013 to 2015 was 40%. The late diagnosis rate in the South East region is higher at 44%. Rates in Berkshire are not significantly different to national and regional averages with the exception of Bracknell Forest where rates are significantly higher (62%). Rates of late diagnosis have decreased in RBWM and Wokingham but these effects are too small to be statistically significant.

Figure 29: HIV late diagnosis



Source: Public Health England (2017)

Figure 30: HIV diagnosed prevalence rate



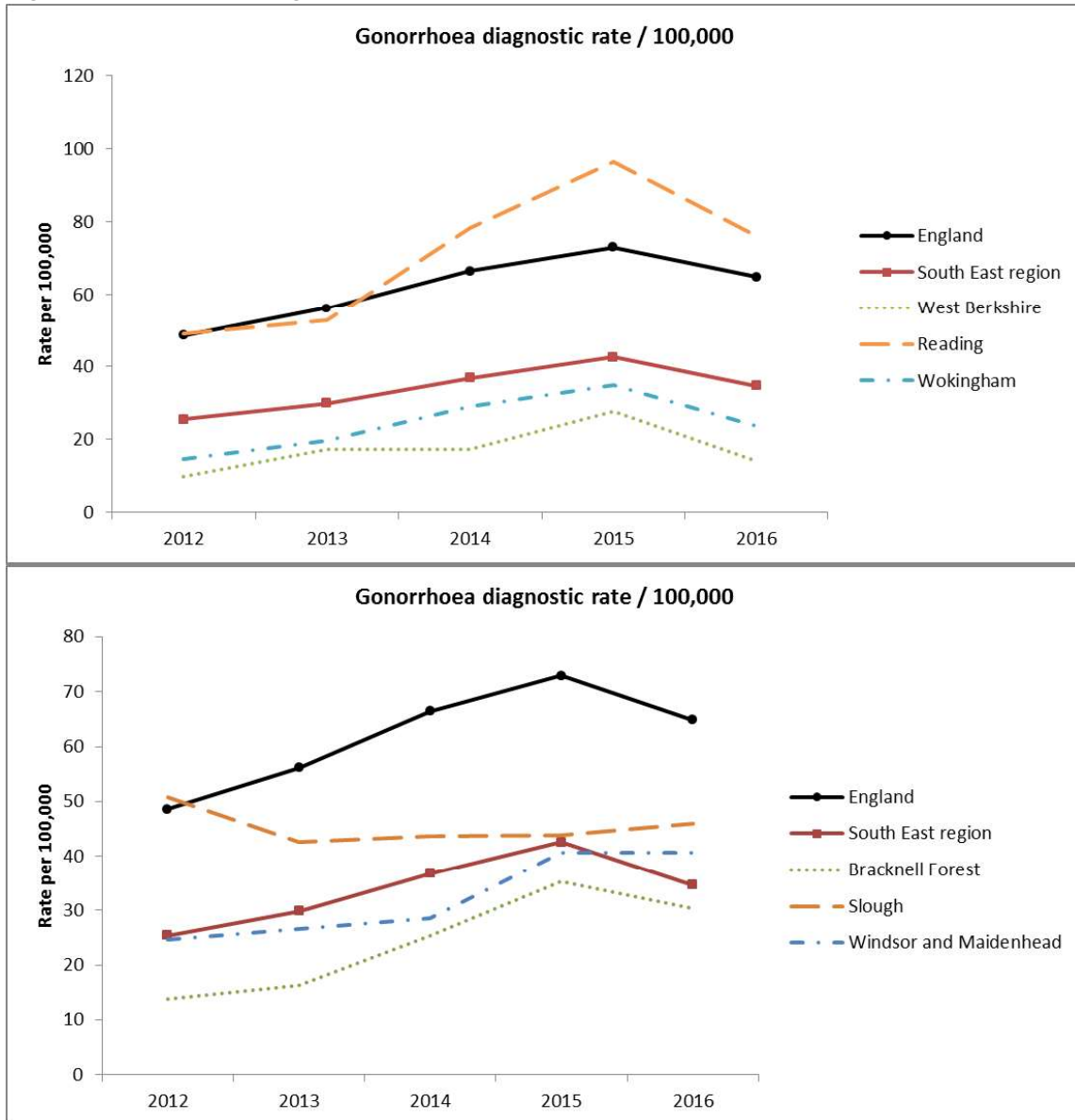
Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

Other acute STIs

Rates of diagnosis of gonorrhoea in England and across the South East are increasing though they are significantly lower in the South East compared to England (35 compared to 65 per 100,000). Rates are also significantly increasing in Bracknell Forest, RBWM, and Reading over recent years. However, rates in these areas did drop between 2015 and 2016.

Diagnosis rates in Bracknell Forest (30 per 100,000) and RBWM (41 per 100,000) during 2016 were comparable to regional averages and lower than national averages. Rates in Reading (76 per 100,000) during 2016 were higher than the national and regional average. There is no significant change in the other three Berkshire local authorities though rates are remaining significantly higher than the South East average in Slough (46 per 100,000).

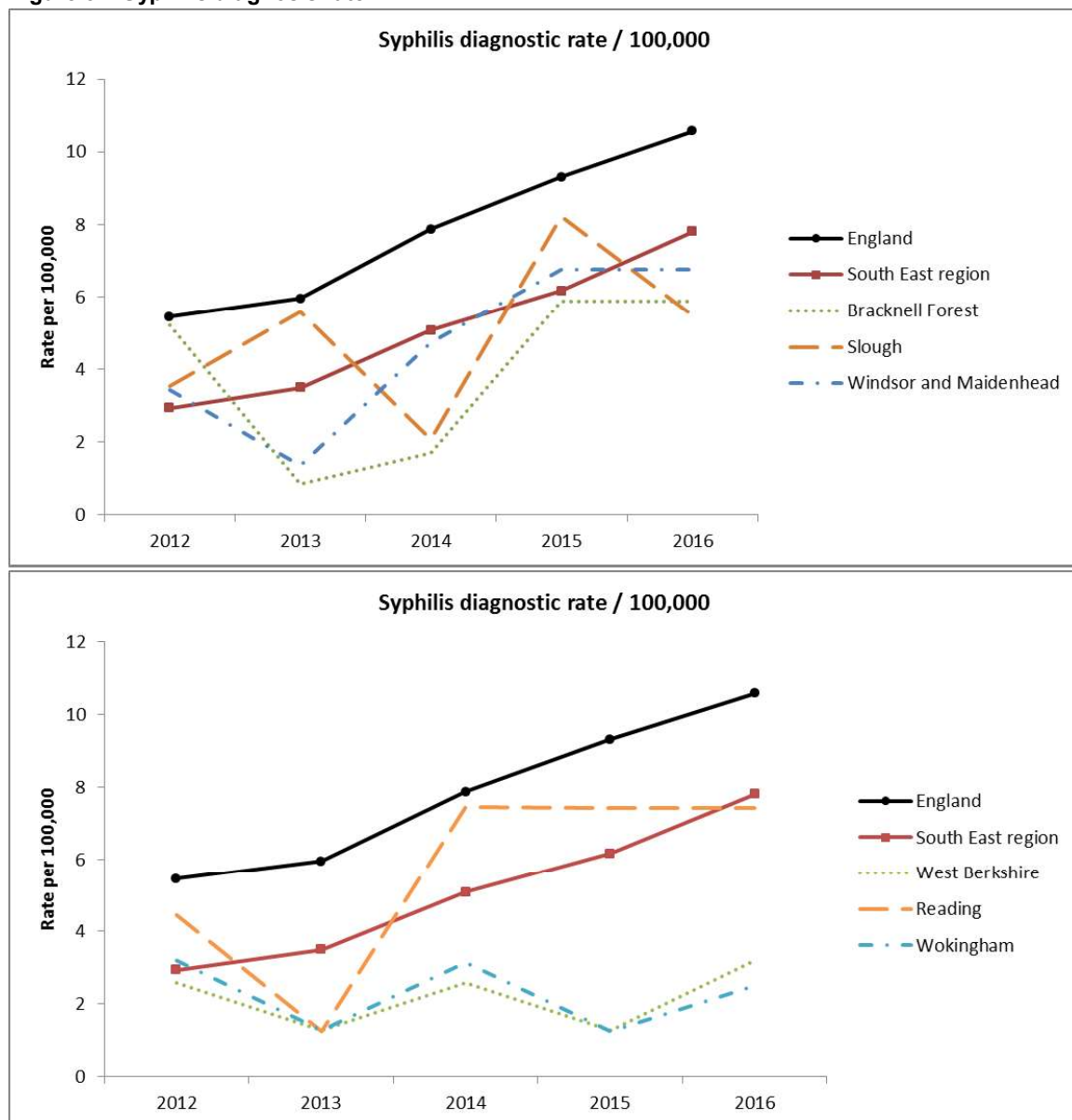
Figure 31: Gonorrhoea diagnosis rate



Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

Rates of diagnosis of syphilis are also increasing in England and across the South East. Again, rates are significantly lower in the South East (8 per 100,000) than in England (11 per 100,000). There has been no significant change seen in the Berkshire local authorities. However, significant change is hard to detect at a local level due to the small numbers involved and the charts below would suggest that there is an increasing trend seen in Reading and across the three local authorities in the East of Berkshire. Rates of diagnosis in all Berkshire local authorities were either the same or lower than national and regional averages in 2016.

Figure 32: Syphilis diagnosis rate



Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

The diagnosis rate of genital warts is decreasing nationally and across the South East and was 113 and 10 per 100,000 respectively during 2016. Rates of diagnosis are significantly lower in the South East than they are nationally. A significant change has not yet been detected in the Berkshire local authorities with the exception of West Berkshire where they have significantly decreased and are lower than the national and regional averages at 80 per 100,000. Rates of diagnosis are lower or the same than national and regional averages in all other Berkshire local authorities apart from Reading where they are significantly higher at 151 per 100,000.

The diagnosis rate of genital herpes is also decreasing nationally. There is no significant change to rates in the South East where they are significantly lower than national rates at 52 per 100,000. A significant change has not yet been detected in the Berkshire local

authorities and rates are lower or the same as national and regional averages with the exception of in Reading where they are higher at 81 per 100,000.

Attendance for STI related care

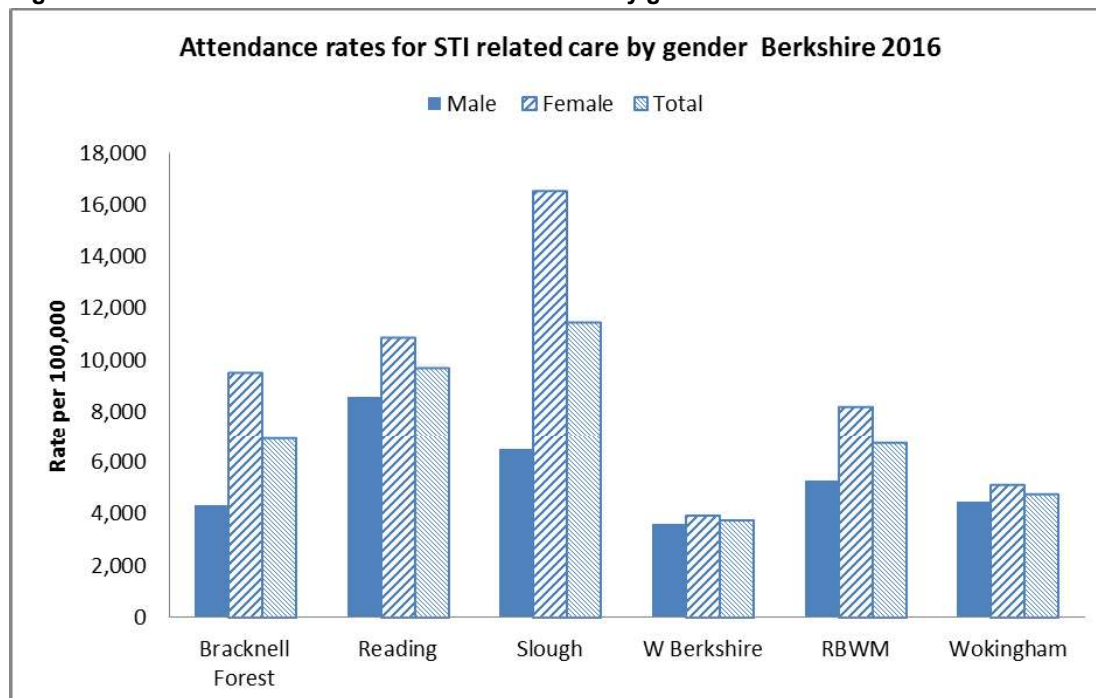
The following information refers to people resident in the Berkshire local authorities who are accessing sexual health services primarily for STI related care. The data refers to first attendances and does not count any follow-up appointments. This data is presented primarily as a basis of understanding need. Further data to understand the levels of services use at Berkshire STI related care providers is presented later in the report under [Berkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services](#). A description of the three main national sources of sexual health service data can be found under [Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets](#).

First attendances

Increasing attendances at sexual health services for STI related care is one of the most important steps in trying to tackle the spreads of STIs. Attendance for STI related care is collected by Public Health England as part of the [GUM Clinic Activity Dataset \(GUMCAD\)](#). The collection includes data from all commissioned Level 3 and Level 2 sexual health services where the attendance involved an STI diagnosis and related care.

There were 42,881 first attendances during 2016 at sexual health services for STI related care where the patient was resident in a Berkshire local authority. 61% of these attendances were made by female patients. The attendance rate by local authority and patient gender is shown below.

Figure 33: First attendance rates for STI related care by gender



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD (accessed 2017)*

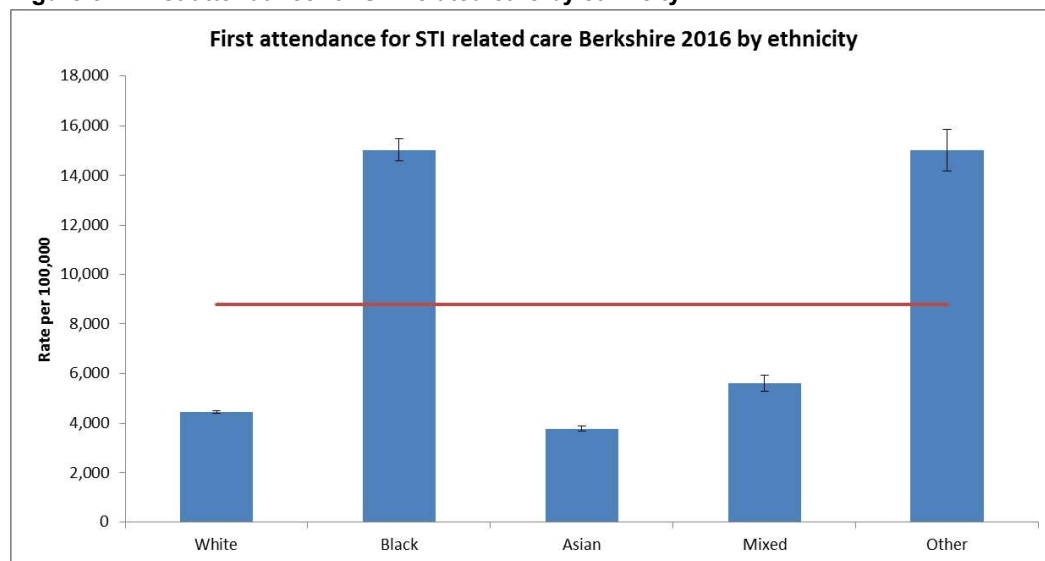
Attendance rates for STI related care are highest in Slough (11,427 per 100,000), Reading (9,700 per 100,000) and Bracknell Forest (6,924 per 100,000). The particularly high

attendance rate by Slough residents is mirrored in the SRH clinic attendance data and LARC prescribing data discussed previously in this report. Although females across all local authorities are more likely to attend clinics than males, the difference is particularly marked in Slough (71% of all first attendances) and Bracknell Forest (69% of all first attendances).

Further gender differences in attendance can be seen when the data is broken down by age group. Young adult males aged less than 35 and particularly in the youngest age group (aged 16 to 19) are much less likely to access STI related care than young adult females.

From [Office for National Statistics](#) (ONS) survey data, we have some indication that 93.7% of the population identify as heterosexual; 1.1% identify as gay or lesbian, 0.6% identify as bisexual; 0.4% identify as 'other'; and 4.1% state that they do not know or refused to respond. Although these figures based on a sampled survey will have limitations and are likely to vary from one local authority to another, we can make some comparisons against STI data to identify patterns. 88% of people making a first attendance for STI related care in Berkshire in 2016 identify as heterosexual indicating that there are slightly fewer attendances amongst this group than would be expected. 9% of people making a first attendance for STI related care identify as Lesbian, Gay or Bisexual indicating that this group is over represented in the STI data. This is mainly driven by higher attendance amongst Gay and Bisexual men (21%) with LGB women making up a very small portion of attendances (0.8%).

Figure 34: First attendance for STI related care by ethnicity

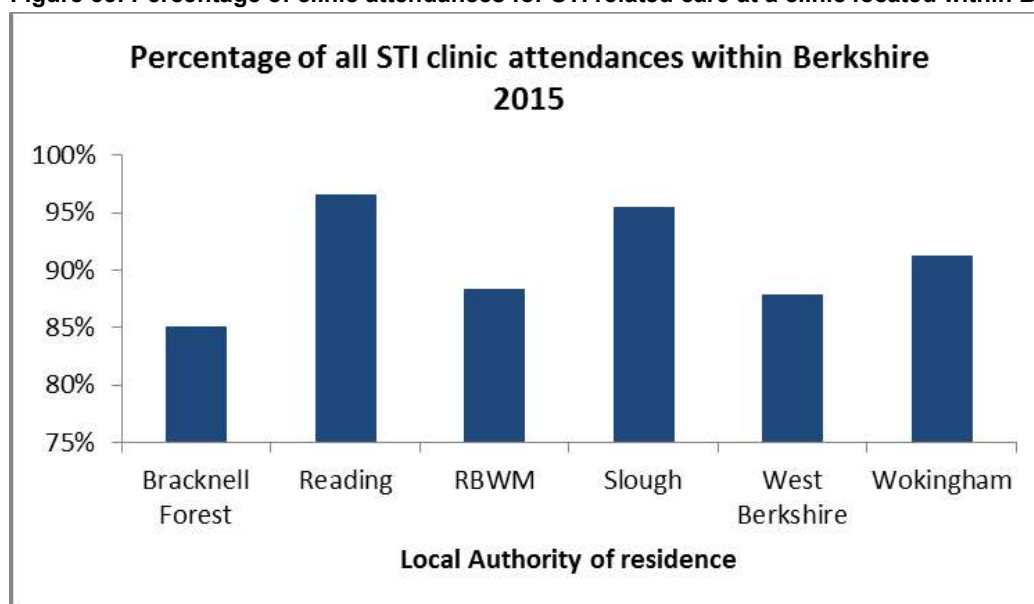


Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

Rates of first attendances by ethnicity in Berkshire are shown above. The most recent ethnicity data comes from the 2011 national Census so is already dated but remains the best estimation we have available as a means of making a comparison with attendance numbers. The red line on the chart indicates the average rate of attendances for all ethnic groups. It can be seen that there are more attendances amongst people from Black or Other ethnic groups than would be expected given the ethnicity of the overall population; there are fewer new attendances amongst people from White, Mixed, and Asian ethnic groups than would be expected. This pattern is reflected in the rates of new STI diagnosis.

The vast majority of Berkshire residents attending clinics for STI related care attend clinics within Berkshire though proportions are lower than for Berkshire residents attending clinics for SRH care. There is some variation based on the local authority of patient residence with the proportions attending Berkshire clinics ranging from 85% for people resident in Bracknell Forest to 96% for people resident in Reading.

Figure 35: Percentage of clinic attendances for STI related care at a clinic located within Berkshire



Source: *Public Health England LASERs (2016)*

Out of area attendance for STI-related care

The figures below show the out-of-Berkshire areas which residents from each Berkshire Local Authority are most likely to go to for STI related care (data from 2016);

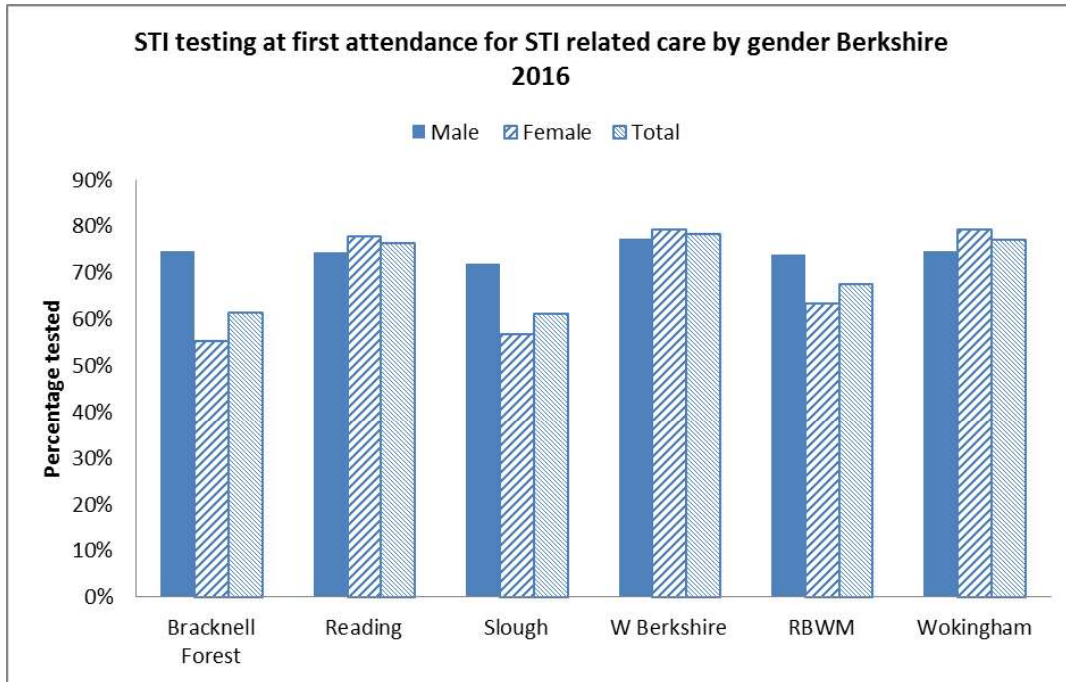
Bracknell Forest	Surrey Heath (Frimley Park)	11%
RBWM	Westminster (Dean Street)	2.1%
Reading	Westminster (Dean Street)	0.8%
Slough	Hillingdon (Tudor Centre)	1.1%
West Berkshire	Swindon (The Great Western)	4.1%
	Basingstoke (Crown Heights)	3.1%
Wokingham	Surrey Heath (Frimley Park)	2.0%

Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD (accessed 2017)*

Sexual health screens at first attendances

70% of Berkshire residents attending clinics for STI related care are tested for an STI. Males are slightly more likely to be tested than females (74% versus 69%). This gender difference in testing is driven by data for those living in the East of Berkshire with females from the East of Berkshire less likely to be tested than those from the West of Berkshire (58% versus 79%). A gender difference does not appear in the data for people resident in the West of Berkshire.

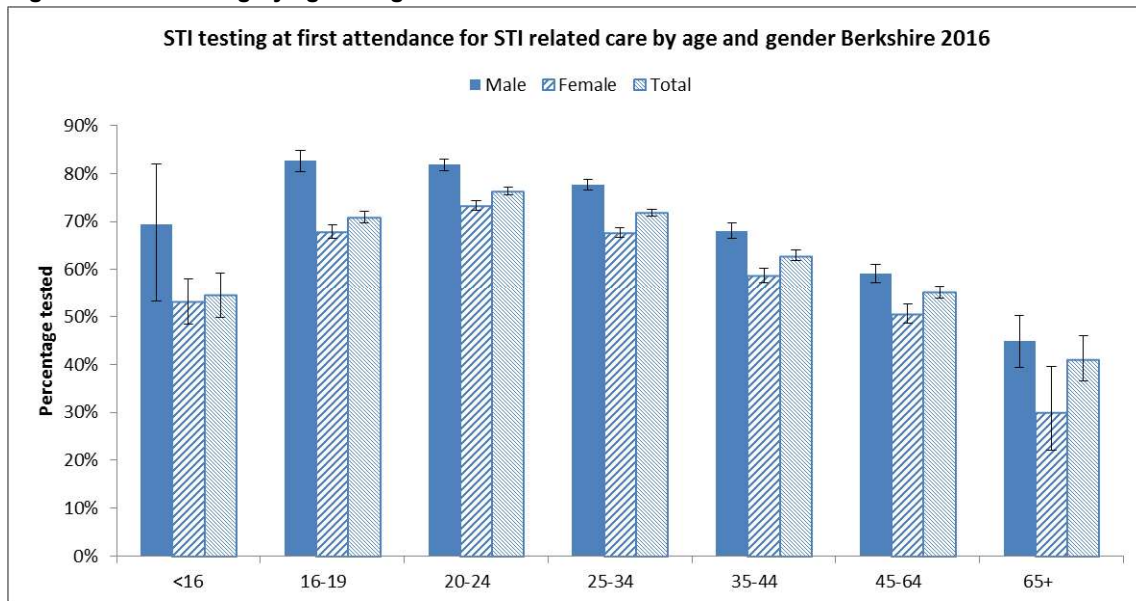
Figure 36: STI testing by gender



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

Figure 34, below, would suggest that the gender difference in testing is in part driven by the younger age groups with females in these groups the least likely to be tested. Take-up of STI tests increase by age peaking in the 20 to 24 year age band at 76% before dropping off again with just over 40% of people aged 65 and over being screened.

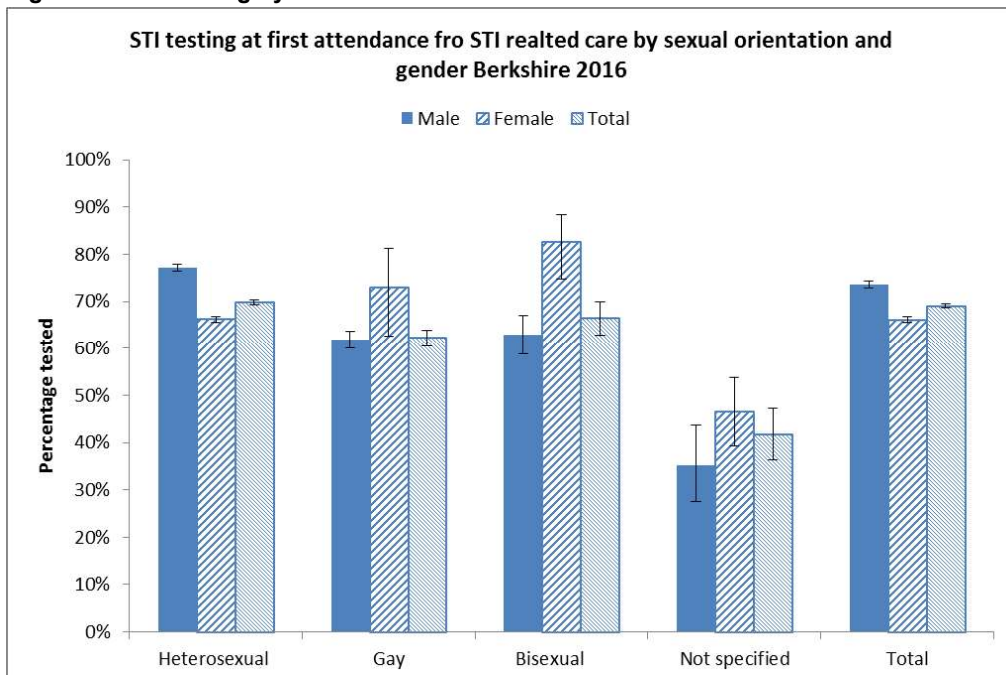
Figure 37: STI testing by age and gender



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

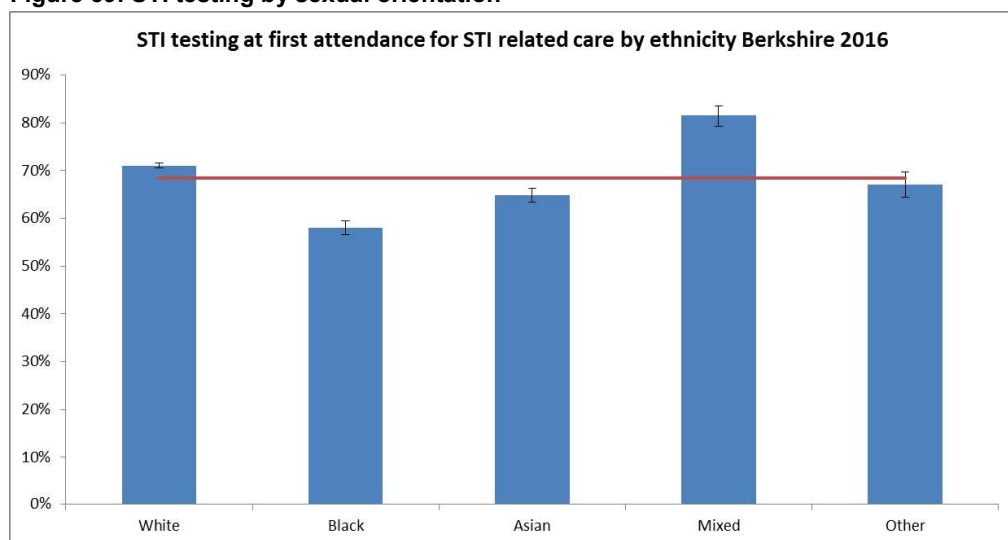
People identifying as heterosexual are more likely to be tested for an STI than those identifying as Gay, Bi-sexual, or who do not specify with rates of uptake highest in heterosexual males. Males across all other groups are less likely to be tested for STIs than females. This gender difference is most marked between males and females identifying as bi-sexual. Lowest uptake is amongst those who do not specify a sexual orientation with 41% of people in this group taking a test. Despite being under-represented in the attendance figures there is a proportional high uptake of testing amongst gay and bi-sexual women.

Figure 38: STI testing by sexual orientation



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

Figure 39: STI testing by sexual orientation



Source: *Public Health England GUMCAD* (accessed 2017)

Despite being under-represented in the attendance figures, people from Mixed ethnic backgrounds are more likely to take up an STI test (81%). People from White ethnic backgrounds are also more likely to take up a test than the average (69%). People from Black ethnic backgrounds are significantly less likely to take up an STI test (58%) despite been overrepresented in the attendance figures.

STI: Key points

Summary

- National decrease in new STI diagnoses is mirrored in Reading, Slough, and Wokingham
 - A significant change will be harder to detect in the other Berkshire authorities due to historically low numbers
- Diagnosis rates of all new STIs are higher than national and regional averages in Reading potentially driven by higher rates of genital warts and herpes
 - The rate of all new STIS excluding chlamydia among people aged <25 is higher in Reading and Slough than in other parts of Berkshire
- New HIV diagnosis rates are higher in Slough than South East. There is a non-significant downward trend in Reading and Slough
- As the new HIV diagnosis rates are decreasing, the HIV prevalence rates are increasing showing that people are living longer with the condition, this indicates improvements in healthcare
- Gonorrhoea diagnosis rates are higher than the South East rate in Reading and Slough with an increasing trend in recent years in Reading, Bracknell and RBWM
 - a drop-off in this increase was observed between 2015 and 2016
 - High gonorrhoea transmission rates are concerning as the global threat of antibiotic resistance grows. Ensuring treatment resistant strains of gonorrhoea do not persist and spread remains a public health priority. In early 2013 the Gonorrhoea Resistance Action Plan (GRASP) for England and Wales was launched by Public Health England to help tackle this threat.

[\(Sexually Transmitted Disease, PHE 2015\)](#) [\(GRASP 2013, PHE\)](#). This has become more prevalent in the last few years with now 48 confirmed UK cases of high level azithromycin resistant gonorrhoea as of February 2016.

- Syphilis diagnosis rates are increasing nationally and although no significant increase is observed in any Berkshire local authority, there is a non-significant increasing trend in Reading and in the three East LAs
- Genital wart diagnosis decreasing nationally
 - This reduction is potentially due to the introduction of the quadravalent HPV vaccine given to school year 8 and 9 females.
 - Significant decrease seen in West Berkshire
 - Diagnosis of genital warts remains higher than the national and regional average in Reading, in line with other STIs.
- Herpes diagnosis rates are also higher than average in Reading
- Diagnosis of STIs is more common amongst males (despite a lower rate of attendance in sexual health services) and there are observable gender differences in type of diagnosis
 - More warts, syphilis and gonorrhoea in males
 - More chlamydia and herpes in females
- Diagnosis of all new STIs is highest in 20 to 34 year olds
- Gay and bi-sexual men (men who have sex with men) and people from 'Black' and 'Other' ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in STI diagnosis figures given their relative population sizes
 - Although these groups are also overrepresented in the data showing first attendance for STI related care they are proportionally less likely to receive an STI test at this first attendance
- Re-infection rates are highest amongst young people
- Attendance rates for STI-related care in Berkshire are highest in Reading and Slough
 - Lowest in West Berkshire and Wokingham
 - Main hubs are located in Reading and Slough
- Testing rates at first attendances for STI related care are highest in the 20 to 24 year old age band
- Testing rate amongst females as a proportion of all first attendances for local authorities in the East of Berkshire is lower than is seen in the West of Berkshire
 - This is possibly due to how non-STI related care attendance data is been recorded and submitted to national data collections with these been counted in the STI related care attendance figures. This will artificially lower the subsequent proportions of attendances who receive a test
- People are more likely to go out of area for STI-related care than for SRH-related care
 - Bracknell residents were most likely to go out of Berkshire in 2016;
 - 11% going to Frimley Park in Surrey
 - 2.1% of RBWM residents go to Dean Street in Westminster
 - 0.8% of Reading residents go to Dean Street in Westminster
 - 1.1% of Slough residents go to the Tudor Centre in Hillingdon
 - 4.1% of West Berkshire residents go to the Great Western in Swindon
 - 3.1% go to Crown Heights in Basingstoke
 - 2% of Wokingham residents go to Frimley Park in Surrey

Other aspects of sexual and reproductive health

Chemsex

Chemsex is a term for the use of drugs before or during planned sexual activity to sustain, enhance, disinhibit or facilitate the experience. There are surveys which suggest that, when compared to the adult population as a whole, MSM are more likely to drink alcohol and use drugs to problematic levels and the emergence of chemsex poses additional hazards to the individuals involved and public health. However, it is important to remember that most MSM do not use drugs; not all MSM who use drugs use them in a sexual setting; and not all MSM who use drugs in a sexual setting do so in a problematic way ([Public Health England, 2015](#)).

[Thames Valley Positive Support](#) (TVPS) offer HIV prevention services to at risk communities as well as to offer support and advocacy to those affected by HIV. The service had noticed an increase in the number of MSM using chems. A resulting focus group and mapping exercise showed that there is a very active chems scene in Berkshire with a greater number of MSM affected than was initially anticipated. This insight formed the basis for TVPS's chems support service "[Afterparty](#)".

Sexual violence

In the year ending March 2016, the Crime Survey for England and Wales estimated that 2.0% of adults had experienced sexual assault (including attempts) in the last 12 months. Since the year ending March 2014 there have been small, but not statistically significant, increases year on year.

Women are over 5 times as likely as men to have experienced sexual assault (including attempts) since the age of 16 (19.9% of women compared to 3.6% of men); the majority of these were incidents of indecent exposure or unwanted sexual touching (18.6% compared with 3.3%), women also experienced more incidents of rape or assault by penetration (including attempts) than men since the age of 16 (6.0% compared with 0.5%).

There were 106,098 police recorded sexual offences in the year ending March 2016, an increase of 20% compared with the previous year. This continues an upward trend since the year ending March 2012, which appears to be driven by improved recording processes and a greater proportion of victims willing to report such crimes to the police. The latest figure is the highest since the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) in April 2002.

Females were victims in 53% of violence against the person offences and 90% of rape offences recorded by the police. Over a third (35%) of violence against the person offences against females were suspected to be committed by an intimate partner, compared with 10% of violent offences against males. Young adults accounted for the highest proportion of victims of police recorded violence against the person offences, with 14% of victims aged 20 to 24. This declined with age, with less than 1% of violence against the person offences experienced by those aged 80 or over. The majority of sexual offences recorded by the police (78%) involved a victim aged under 30. Just under a third (30%) of rape offences against females were suspected to be committed by an intimate partner, compared with 5%

of rape offences against males. Of violence against the person offences recorded by the police, 16% were identified as alcohol-related, as were 9% of sexual offences.

Local Data from the Thames Valley Police indicate there were 4,263 sexual offences in 2015/16, a percentage increase of 21.40% from 2014/15. The Berkshire local police areas had an aggregated total of 1,352 sexual offences finally recorded in 2015/16. All local police areas within Berkshire experienced a percentage increase in sexual offences since 2014/15.

Table 5: Thames Valley police recorded sexual offences 2015/16

Police Areas	Offences	Finally Recorded			Crimes Per 1000 Population / Household	Outcomes	
		2015/16	2014/15	%Change		2015/16	2014/15
Thames Valley Area	Sexual Offences	4263	3512	21.40%	1.82	812	859
	Rape	1479	1077	37.70%	0.63	201	234
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	2784	2435	14.30%	1.19	611	625
Berkshire (aggregated figures)	Sexual Offences	1352	1183			273	293
	Rape	482	368			68	79
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	870	815			205	214
Bracknell & Wokingham	Sexual Offences	221	178	24.20%	1.87	52	33
	Rape	67	58	15.50%	0.57	9	7
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	154	120	28.30%	1.3	43	26
Reading	Sexual Offences	415	346	19.90%	2.58	72	95
	Rape	140	109	28.40%	0.87	24	26
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	275	237	16.00%	1.71	48	69
Slough	Sexual Offences	310	280	10.70%	2.14	56	70
	Rape	138	106	30.20%	0.95	14	19
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	172	174	-1.10%	1.19	42	51
RBWM	Sexual Offences	182	178	2.20%	1.23	36	42
	Rape	64	46	39.10%	0.43	12	14
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	118	132	-10.60%	0.8	24	28
West Berkshire	Sexual Offences	224	201	11.40%	1.44	57	53
	Rape	73	49	49.00%	0.47	9	13
	Non-Rape Sexual Offences	151	152	-0.70%	0.97	48	40

Source: Thames Valley Police (2016)

Child sexual exploitation

Official statistics on how many sexually exploited children have been identified by the authorities are not currently available. Evidence submitted to the Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups (2012) indicated that over 16,500 children and young people in England were at high risk of CSE in 2010/11. 2,409 children were confirmed as

victims over this period, although this was recognised as an under-estimation of the true number of victims.

The Inquiry's findings showed that victims of CSE were both male and female, and a range of ages, ethnicities and sexualities. Of the 2,409 victims identified:

- ages ranged between 4 and 19 years old, with a peak age of 15
- majority were girls
- higher rate of victimisation of children from black and minority ethnic (BME) groups. 28% of all victims identified were from a BME group, which is an over-representation of England's population
- 155 victims were also identified as being perpetrators of CSE.

The Inquiry explained that the characteristics common to all victims were "their powerlessness and vulnerability", rather than a particular demographic. However, while it is acknowledged that "children from loving and secure home can be abused...those for whom there are no protective measures in place are at greatest risk".

No publicly accessible data on prevalence or distribution of CSE is available at a local authority level.

Sexual dysfunction

It is estimated that 1 in 10 men have some problem having sex due to erectile dysfunction, ejaculation problems, and/or a loss of sex drive. Erectile dysfunction is a particularly common condition and is most common amongst older men with half of men between the ages of 40 and 70 estimated to have it to some degree ([NHS Choices, 2016](#)).

Many women will also have problems with sex at some stage in their lives with around one third of younger and middle-age women affected and half of older women affected. Problems include orgasm problems, pain during sex, and/or loss of sex drive ([NHS Choices, 2016](#)).

Loss of sex drive is a common problem that affects many men and women at some point in their lives. It can be due to a variety of causes including relationship problems; alcohol and drug use; pregnancy and childbirth; stress, anxiety and depression; and underlying medical problems ([NHS Choices, 2017](#)).

Treatment for sexual dysfunction is wide-ranging and aims to tackle the underlying cause of the dysfunction. Treatments include psycho-sexual therapy, Hormone Replacement Therapy, and Viagra.

No local data on the prevalence or distribution of sexual dysfunction is available.

Sexual health services

Sexual Health Services provide information, advice and support on a range of sexual health issues, such as STIs, contraception, relationships and unplanned pregnancy. Sexual Health Services can be divided into three levels:

- Level 1 Sexual Health Service
- Level 2 Sexual Health Service
- Level 3 Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) Service

The term “integrated sexual health service” is used to describe a service that provides sexual and reproductive health and GUM services to patients in an integrated way, often within a single attendance. This service model requires that the majority of staff are dual trained.

The table below summarises the services provided at across these three levels.

Table 6: Thames Valley police recorded sexual offences 2015/16

Services provided	1 (Non-GUM)	2 (Non-GUM)	3 (GUM)
Sexual history taking and risk assessment	✓	✓	✓
Signposting to appropriate sexual health services	✓	✓	✓
Chlamydia screening (opportunistic screening in sexually active asymptomatic males and females under the age of 25)	✓	✓	✓
STI testing and treatment of <i>asymptomatic</i> infections (except treatment for gonorrhoea and syphilis) in women and men (except MSM)	✓	✓	✓
Partner notification of STIs or onward referral for partner notification	✓	✓	✓
HIV testing (including pre-test discussion and giving results)	✓	✓	✓
Sexual health promotion (provision of verbal and written sexual health promotion information)	✓	✓	✓
Condom distribution	✓	✓	✓
Assessment and referral for psychosexual problems	✓	✓	✓
STI testing and treatment of <i>symptomatic</i> but uncomplicated infections (including gonorrhoea) in women and men (except MSM)	x	✓	✓
STI testing and treatment of MSM	x	x	✓
STI testing and treatment of men with dysuria and genital discharge	x	x	✓
STI testing and treatment of STIs at extra-genital sites	x	x	✓
STIs with complications	x	x	✓
STIs in pregnant women	x	x	✓
Gonorrhoea cultures and treatment of gonorrhoea	x	x	✓
Recurrent conditions	x	x	✓

Services provided	1 (Non-GUM)	2 (Non-GUM)	3 (GUM)
Recurrent or recalcitrant STIs and related conditions	x	x	✓
Management of syphilis and blood borne viruses	x	x	✓
Tropical STIs	x	x	✓
Specialist HIV treatment and care	x	x	✓
Provision and follow up of HIV post exposure prophylaxis (PEP)	x	x	✓
STI service co-ordination across a sexual health network	x	x	✓

Source: *Public Health England*

A description of the three main national sources of sexual health service data can be found under [Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets](#).

Across Berkshire there are a range of services, addressing different aspects of sexual health including specialist (level 3) services, a variety of contraception provision (e.g. young person clinics, GPs, pharmacies) as well as specialist sexual assault referral centres, termination of pregnancy services and outreach work.

The table below summarises the Sexual Health Services located in each of the six local authority areas. Please see [Appendix 3: Berkshire sexual health service details](#) for a full list of services.

Table 7: Berkshire sexual health service locations

X	Located within local authority
O	Accessible in neighbouring local authority

Service type	Commissioner	Provider	Slough	Bracknell Forest	RBWM	Reading	Wokingham	West Berkshire
Level 3 integrated STI (GUM)/SRH clinic	Local authority	BHFT (East) RBH (West)	X	X	X	X	X	X
Young people's STI/SRH services	Local authority	BHFT (East) RBH (West)	X	X	O	X	X	X
Specialist nurses	CCG/Local authority	RBH (midwife) RBH (sexual health specialist outreach nurse)* BHFT (HV) BHFT (specialist nurse)		X		X	X	X
School nursing services	Local authority	Local Authority	X	X	X	X	X	X
Youth services	Local authority	Bracknell Forest Council Time to Talk (West Berkshire) ARC counselling, Tyxford Youth Club and Pavilion Youth Club (Wokingham)		X			X	X
GP prescribed LARC (excluding injections)	Local authority	GPs	X	X	X	X	X	X
GP prescribed contraceptive injection and oral contraception	NHS England	GPs	X	X	X	X	X	X
Free condoms scheme for young people	Local authority	Local Authority		X		X	X	X
Pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraception	Local authority	Pharmacies	X	X	X	X	X	X

Service type	Commissioner	Provider	Slough	Bracknell Forest	RBWM	Reading	Wokingham	West Berkshire
Chlamydia and gonorrhoea Online Testing	Local authority	Source Bioscience			X		X	X
HIV Online Testing	Local authority	Preventx	X		X		X	
HIV prevention & support	Local authority / external grant funding /charitable donations	Thames Valley Positive Support**	X	O	O	X	O	O
Termination of Pregnancy Services	CCG	BPAS	X	O	O	X	O	O
Sexual Assault Referral Centre	NHS England	Health and Justice	X	O	O	O	O	O
Safe Sex Berkshire website	Local authority	NHS Berkshire Webteam	X	X	X	X	X	X

*Three outreach nurses for men, vulnerable women and young women work across the West of Berkshire area as part of the integrated sexual health service provision

** Thames Valley Positive Support is a charitable organisation providing services across Berkshire. Funding is provided by Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, and RBWM as well as through external grants

Berkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services

In Berkshire level 3 STI and level 2 SRH services are provided as an integrated service by two service providers: Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust (RBH) in the West of Berkshire and Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) in the East of Berkshire. The services are both characterised by a 'hub-and-spoke' models. Hub services are available in Reading (The Florey Clinic) and Slough (The Garden Clinic at Upton Hospital). In both Slough and Reading the hubs are located in close proximity, with close working relationships, with other services related to sexual health. Both hubs provide HIV treatment and care. In Slough the hub is on the same physical site as the Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Slough Walk-in Centre and Termination of Pregnancy Clinic.

All are welcome to attend clinics at both services. In addition, the Florey provides dedicated clinics for LGBT and MSM and the Garden Clinic in Slough provides a men-only clinic.

Each of the two hubs provides 'spoke' level 3/2 SRH services in the neighbouring localities. In the West, level 3 services provided by the RBH operate in West Berkshire Community Hospital (West Berkshire) and Wokingham Community Hospital (Wokingham). Level 2 services operate at Whitley Health and Social Services (Reading).

In the East, level 3 services provided by BHFT operate at The Garden Clinic: St Marks Hospital (RBWM) and The Garden Clinic: Skimped Hill (Bracknell Forest).

Dedicated young people's clinics are run in both the East and West of Berkshire. Details can be found below under [Chlamydia testing](#)

For several years, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) was delivered across Berkshire and aimed to screen sexually-active young people aged under 25 for chlamydia in order to offer treatment to infected people, reducing the likelihood of them infecting others or to go on to develop further symptoms. Despite having invested in the programme for a number of years, Reading was the only local authority in Berkshire to have achieved the national recommended level of 2,300 screens per 100,000 people aged 15-24 years, the level needed to reduce transmission. In 2016 Reading also dropped below the national recommended level. The NCSP was decommissioned in Berkshire from 31st March 2016.

Data on chlamydia testing amongst 15 to 24 year olds in England is collected by Public Health England through the Chlamydia Testing Activity Dataset (CTAD) for non-specialist sexual health services and GUMCAD for specialist sexual health services.

The proportion of people aged 15 to 24 who screened for chlamydia in England in 2016 was 21%; the proportion in the South East was 19% and this is significantly lower than the England figure. Coverage in England and the South East is decreasing. Coverage is significantly lower than the national average in all of the six Berkshire local authorities. It is also lower than the South East average in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of Reading where it is the same. Coverage is increasing over time in West Berkshire, RBWM, and Wokingham. It is decreasing in Reading and there has been no significant change in Bracknell Forest and Slough.

There were a total of 15,783 chlamydia tests taken by people aged 15 to 24 in Berkshire in 2016. 10,588 (72% of these were taken by females). More tests were taken by 20 to 24 year olds (67%) than 15 to 19 year olds.

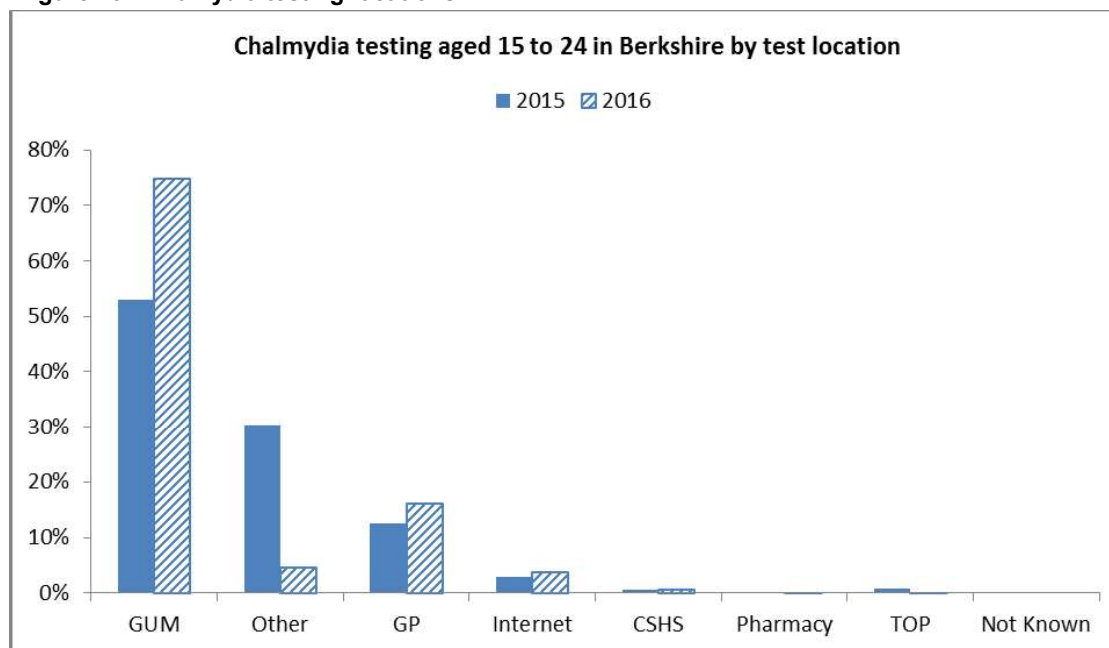
Table 23: Chlamydia tests in Berkshire by age and gender 2016

		15-19	20-24	Total	% 15-19	% 20-24
Tests	Male	1,085	3,274	4,359	24.9	75.1
	Female	4,110	7,314	11,424	36.0	64.0
	Total	5,195	10,588	15,783	32.9	67.1

Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

The majority (>50%) of chlamydia tests taken across Berkshire are taken in sexual health clinics. This is followed by tests taken in GP practices then ‘other’ settings. The clear reduction from 2015 to 2016 in the number of tests classified as ‘Other’ is due to the discontinuation of the community based aspect of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in Berkshire in April 2016 together with the disaggregation of internet-screening from other in the CTAD data set in 2015/16. Internet-based tests made up 4% of all tests in 2016.

Figure 45: Chlamydia testing locations



Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

1,181 of the 15,783 tests taken by young people in Berkshire in 2016 were positive. This is a positivity rate of 7.5%. There is a higher rate of positivity amongst males (9.7%) than females (6.6%) and amongst 15 to 19 year olds (8.5%) than 20 to 24 year olds (7%).

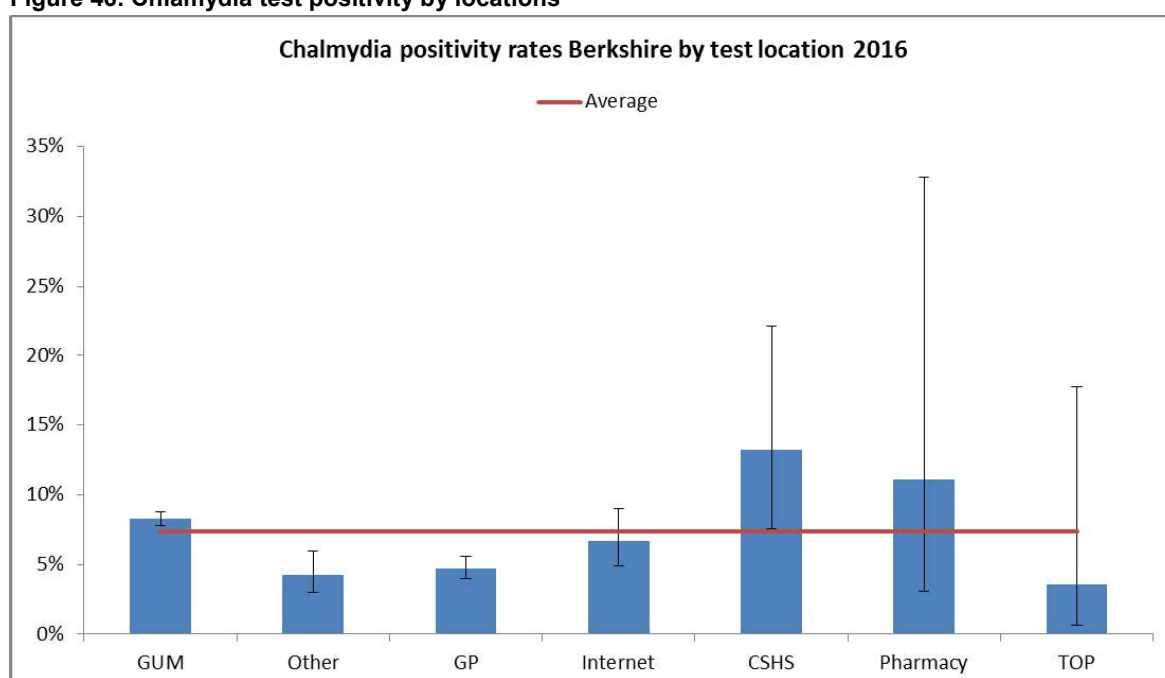
Table 24: Chlamydia test positivity in Berkshire by age and gender 2016

	15-19	20-24	15-24
Male	10.1	9.6	9.7
Female	8.1	5.8	6.6
Persons	8.5	7.0	7.5

Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

Positivity rates are higher than average in GUM and in Community and Sexual Health Services (CSHS). Interestingly, despite the lower proportion of test taken via the internet, positivity rates are comparable to those in GUM settings suggesting that the internet is a successful medium of reaching groups who are at a higher risk of positivity.

Figure 46: Chlamydia test positivity by locations



Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

Three UAs went to tender to pilot internet based testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea for under 25's as a result of the decommissioning for the NCSP in Berkshire. The service is available in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham Borough Council and West Berkshire Council. The contract is one year (1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017) plus one year (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018); all three UA's have agreed to extend the pilot for the second year.

During 2016/17 a total of 1,213 tests were ordered through the service with 774 (66%) of these returned for analysis. 7% of tests were positive. Fewer tests were requested from young people living in RBWM (27%) compared to the other two local authorities (37% and 36%). The service reached 63% of the target population coverage; 57% of the target number of tests returned by the user for analysis; and 50% of the target positivity rate.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception

Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is provided free of charge via GP Practices and Sexual Health Clinics across England and free of charge via pharmacies for women aged 13 to 19 (some LAs have extended access to women up to the age of 24) years in Berkshire local authorities. Older women can pay over the counter for EHC from pharmacies.

The average rate of provision of EHC provided by SRH services across the six Berkshire UAs was 3 per 1,000 which is comparable to the average for the South East Region. Rates of provision for all age groups in Berkshire were comparable to the South East average and slightly lower than the national averages. Within Berkshire, rates of provision of EHC are highest in Reading and Slough.

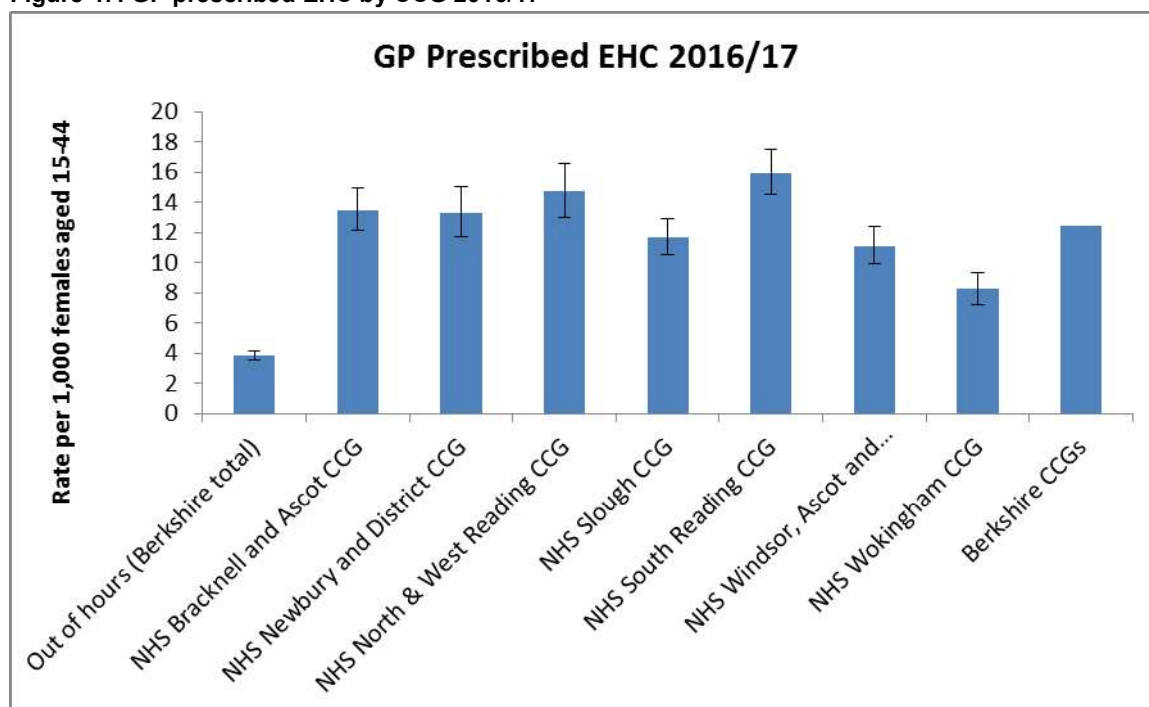
Table 25: Emergency contraceptives provided by Sexual and Reproductive Health Services 2015/16

	Emergency contraceptives provided (thousands)			Women provided emergency contraceptives per 1000 population		
	Total (all ages)	Under 16	16 and over	Total (13 to 54)	13 to 15	16 to 54
Total	104.5	6.8	97.7	6	7	6
South East	9.8	0.6	9.2	4	4	4
Bracknell Forest	0.1	0.0	0.1	2	3	1
Reading	0.3	0.0	0.3	6	5	6
Slough	0.3	0.0	0.3	6	2	6
West Berkshire	0.1	-	0.1	1	-	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.1	-	0.1	2	-	2
Wokingham	0.1	0.0	0.1	2	5	2

Source: *NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)*

GPs across Berkshire prescribed EHC on 2,968 occasions during 2016/17. This is a rate of 16 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44. Rates of prescriptions of EHC are highest in South Reading CCG (16 per 1,000) and lowest in Wokingham CCG (8.2 per 1,000).

Figure 47: GP prescribed EHC by CCG 2016/17



Source: NHS Digital GP Practice prescribing data (accessed 2017)

EHC prescriptions in Berkshire Pharmacies should be recorded on the 'PharmOutcomes' system. Pharmacies across Berkshire recorded 861 prescriptions of EHC during 2016/17 compared to 517 in 2015/16. Prescribing recording varies across Local Authority with no prescriptions recorded in Bracknell Forest during 2016/17 and less than 5 in Slough; there were fewer than 20 prescriptions recorded in RBWM; 153 in Reading; 165 in West Berkshire and 523 in Wokingham. Over 50% of prescriptions are to females who had previously used EHC. Over 50% were required due to unprotected sex, ~30% due to a failed condom, and ~10% due to a missed contraceptive pill. The majority of prescriptions are for females aged 25 to 34. (Source: Pharmoutcomes, Accessed 2017).

Young People's Services.

Royal Berkshire Hospital

The following data is taken from the contract monitoring returns provided by the RBH to the Shared Public Health Team. The raw data shows patient-level episodes of care information for Berkshire residents attending the Integrated Sexual Health Service provided by the RBH. Data includes first and follow-up appointments and data both relating to both SRH and STI care. Therefore, it is a step towards enabling a more complete view of the integrated service than is given when looking at nationally available reports. However, details around services provided during SRH related care are not currently included in the data. It should be noted that the analysis below has not gone through the same data cleansing as the SRHAD/GUMCAD data used in Public Health England reports and should be taken only as a measure of service use rather than as a base for epidemiological analysis.

Care should be taken when interpreting calculations for local authorities where total numbers of episodes are low (local authorities in the East of Berkshire).

The table below shows the total number of Sexual Health and HIV episodes of care³ at the RBH in 2015/16 and 2016/17 by local authority of patient residence. SRH episodes are those where the speciality has been coded as 'Family Planning' (non-consultant led). STI episodes are those where the speciality has been coded as 'Genito-urinary Medicine' (consultant led). Episodes which are seen under the SRH speciality but which related to STI related care (i.e. would be included in the GUMCAD date return) can be seen in the third column of data.

There were a total of 28,601 episodes of sexual health and HIV care at the RBH during 2016/17 where the patient was resident in Berkshire. This is a 4% increase on the number of episodes during 2015/16.

As a total for all Berkshire residents attending the RBH service, 73% of episodes of care during 2016/17 were for SRH related care (ranging from 71% for Reading and West Berkshire residents to 85% for RBWM residents).

Table 8: RBH sexual health and HIV episodes of care

	Local Authority	Episodes of care	SRH episodes	STI episodes	
				Speciality: SRH	Speciality: GUM
2015/16	Bracknell Forest	1,743	270	20	1,453
	Reading	14,836	4,111	170	10,555
	Slough	110	24	1	85
	West Berkshire	4,559	1,159	58	3,342
	RBWM	405	56	1	348
	Wokingham	5,865	1,447	50	4,368
	Berkshire Total	27,518	7,067	300	20,151
2016/17	Bracknell Forest	2,101	366	6	1,729
	Reading	15,119	4,318	47	10,754
	Slough	109	24		85
	West Berkshire	4,795	1,371	11	3,413
	RBWM	473	71		402
	Wokingham	6,004	1,538	19	4,447
	Berkshire Total	28,601	7,688	83	20,830

Source: *Royal Berkshire Hospital*

The table below splits these episodes of care by first and follow-up appointments. The majority of episodes for SRH care relate to follow-up appointments whereas the majority of episodes of STI care relate to first-appointments. For every first SRH episode in 2016/17,

³ A Sexual Health and HIV Episode is an episode of care, under one Health Care Provider, comprising of one or more attendances, where a consultant has overall responsibility for the patient who attends for screening, diagnosis and management of sexually transmissible infections and related conditions. The patient may be seen by other care professional, during the same care episode, who are working on behalf of the consultant. The episode starts on the date the patient first sees or is in contact with a care professional in respect of a referral request from either a health care provider or a self-referral. The episode ends when either the patient is formally discharged or has not had face to face contact with the service for at least six months.

there were on average 2.8 follow-up episodes. For every first STI episode, there were on average 0.2 follow-up episodes.

Table 9: RBH sexual health and HIV episodes of care – first to follow-up ratio

		SRH episodes			STI episodes		
		First	Follow-up	FFU Ratio	First	Follow-up	FFU Ratio
2015/16	Bracknell Forest	96	174	1.8	1,124	328	0.3
	Reading	1,171	2,940	2.5	8,139	2,475	0.3
	Slough	5	19	3.8	73	13	0.2
	West Berkshire	451	708	1.6	2,537	738	0.3
	RBWM	20	36	1.8	288	52	0.2
	Wokingham	393	1,054	2.7	3,348	1,024	0.3
	Berkshire Total	2,136	4,931	2.3	15,509	4,630	0.3
2016/17	Bracknell Forest	138	228	1.7	1,257	203	0.2
	Reading	1,031	3,287	3.2	7,310	1,608	0.2
	Slough	13	11	0.8	59	12	0.2
	West Berkshire	376	995	2.6	2,318	510	0.2
	RBWM	28	43	1.5	283	30	0.1
	Wokingham	426	1,112	2.6	2,977	633	0.2
	Berkshire Total	2,012	5,676	2.8	14,204	2,996	0.2

Source: *Royal Berkshire Hospital*

Data from STI related care is further analysed by diagnosis/condition/disease and services provided. Each episode of care may have multiple diagnoses/conditions/diseases and/or services attached to it. Each diagnosis/condition/disease and service is counted in the analysis below. Only diagnoses/conditions/diseases and services with an associated [Sexual Health and HIV Activity Property Type \(SHHAPT\) code](#) are counted. During 2015/16, 312 STI related episodes of care had no corresponding diagnoses/conditions/diseases or services attached. During 2016/17, this figure drops to just 17. Over the two year time period, a further 2,712 codes were included in the data which were not valid SHHAPT codes.

The provider should ensure that diagnosis/condition/disease and service codes only occur once per patient episode with the exception of those codes for HIV which will be counted every time an associated attendance occurs. In addition, the following codes can be used every time an attendance occurs and this should be noted when looking at the analysis of services provided:

- SRH – Attendance for SRH related care only
- SW – Patient is a sex worker
- Z – Patient is a prisoner

Table 10: RBH STI episodes of care – total diagnoses/services

		Diagnosis/ condition or disease at first attendance	Services provided at first attendance *	Services provided at follow-up attendances *	Average diagnoses per episode of care	Average number of services provide per episode of care
2015/16	Bracknell Forest	469	1,958	816	0.3	1.3
	Reading	3,322	14,051	6,185	0.3	1.3
	Slough	22	141	33	0.3	1.6
	West Berkshire	1,022	4,260	1,839	0.3	1.3
	RBWM	108	515	166	0.3	1.5
	Wokingham	1,307	5,612	2,431	0.3	1.3
	Berkshire Total	6,250	26,537	11,470	0.3	1.3
2016/17	Bracknell Forest	536	2,655	652	0.3	1.5
	Reading	2,886	15,418	4,808	0.3	1.4
	Slough	26	146	37	0.3	1.7
	West Berkshire	938	4,828	1,542	0.3	1.4
	RBWM	117	628	85	0.3	1.6
	Wokingham	1,228	6,191	1,821	0.3	1.4
	Berkshire Total	5,731	29,866	8,945	0.3	1.4

Source: *Royal Berkshire Hospital*

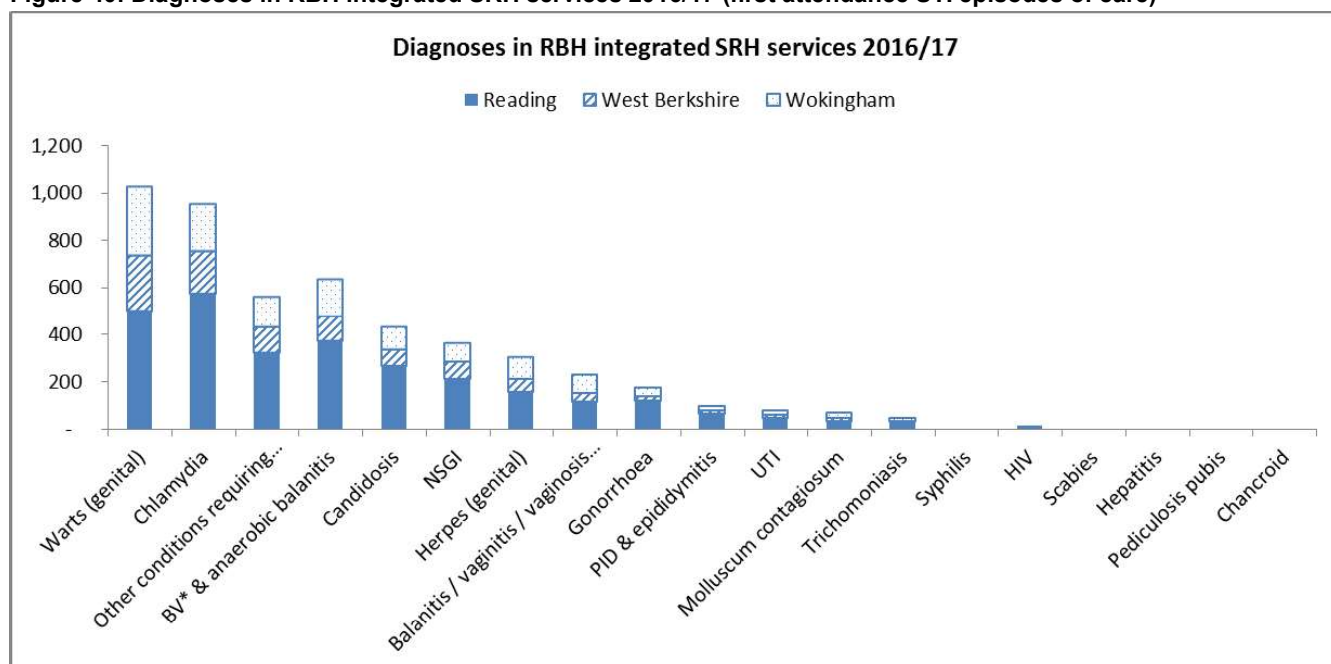
* Includes tests that have been offered but refused and where a HIV test is not appropriate; Excludes code D3: No service and/or no treatment required where the code is the only code appearing across the whole episode of care

A total of 38,811 services related to STI care were provided during 2016/17. This is an average of 1.4 services per episode of care and is a percentage increase of 2% from 2015/16. This is made up of an increase in the number of services provided at first appointments and a decrease in the number of services provided at follow-up appointments. A total of 5,731 records of diagnoses/disease/conditions were made during first appointments during 2016/17. This is 0.3 per episode of care and is a percentage decrease of 8% from the number of diagnoses made in 2015/16.

The following data shows the diagnoses given during first STI episodes of care at the RBH during 2015/16 and 2016/17. Data for the Local Authorities in the East of Berkshire have been excluded due to small numbers. **Please note: this data will not tally with published Public Health England data as they apply different rules and data cleansing to the raw GUMCAD data.** Cell counts of less than 5 and related totals have been suppressed.

The most common diagnosis is for genital warts (20% of all diagnoses in 2016/17). This is followed by chlamydia (16% of all diagnoses in 2016/17). Patients from Reading account for 57% of all diagnoses in Berkshire West during 2016/17. There is some decrease in numbers of diagnoses between 2015/16 and 2016/17 for all conditions with the exception of chlamydia (increasing) and gonorrhoea (static).

Figure 40: Diagnoses in RBH integrated SRH services 2016/17 (first attendance STI episodes of care)



Source: *Royal Berkshire Hospital*

The data below shows services provided at both first and follow-up STI episodes of care for the RBH. It shows a general increase in the numbers of services provided between 2015/16 and 2016/17 with a 2% percentage increase overall. This increase is seen to be driven by the numbers of services provided at first episodes compared to at follow-up episodes (a 13% increase compared to a 22% decrease).

For first episodes, there has been some increase in all services provided and a decrease in the numbers coded as 'HIV test – not appropriate'.

For follow-up episodes, there has been some decrease across all services provided between 2015/16 and 2016/17 with the exception of Partner Notification.

Table 12: RBH STI episodes of care – services provided (first attendance STI episodes of care)

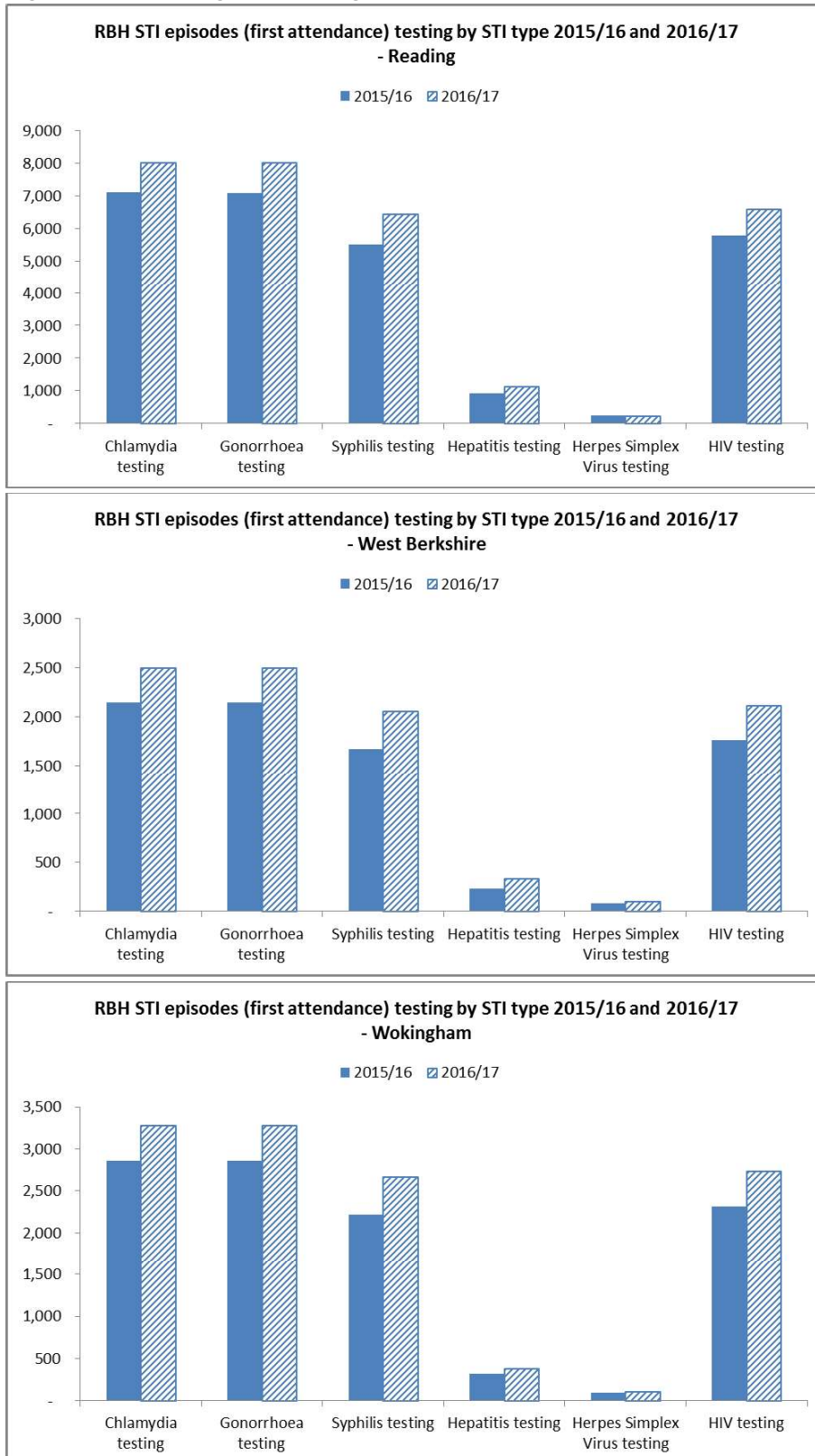
	READING			WEST BERKSHIRE			WOKINGHAM			BERKSHIRE WEST		
	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total
Service provided	8,567	9,596	18,163	2,552	3,007	5,559	3,376	3,871	7,247	14,495	16,474	30,969
STI testing	1,492	1,508	3,000	470	478	948	652	680	1,332	2,614	2,666	5,280
Testing - HIV - HIV test offered & refused	1,547	1,495	3,042	399	404	803	574	576	1,150	2,520	2,475	4,995
Testing - STIs - Microscopy	1,062	1,045	2,107	381	317	698	407	369	776	1,850	1,731	3,581
Testing - HIV - HIV test not appropriate	598	799	1,387	191	239	430	267	298	565	1,056	1,326	2,382
3 site testing	428	529	957	141	170	311	166	210	376	735	909	1,644
Partner notification	225	285	510	97	169	266	123	152	275	445	606	1,051
PEPSE - Post exposure prophylaxis sexual exposure	36	50	86	11	8	19	9	14	23	56	72	128
Hepatitis B vaccination	35	35	70	5	8	13	11	7	18	51	50	101
No service and/or no treatment required	47	13	60	<5	<5	8	<5	<5	21	-	-	89
Hepatitis B immune	7	15	22	<5	<5	9	<5	<5	7	-	53	53
Testing - STIs - Rapid testing (same day results)	7	15	22	<5	<5	9	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Contraception	7	15	22	<5	<5	9	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Testing - STIs - STI tests not required	7	7	14	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Patient type - Sex worker												
HPV vaccination												
Cervical cytology done												
TOTAL	14,051	15,418	29,469	4,260	4,828	9,088	5,612	6,191	11,803	23,923	26,437	50,360

Table 13: RBH STI episodes of care – services provided (follow-up attendance STI episodes of care)

	READING			WEST BERKSHIRE			WOKINGHAM			BERKSHIRE WEST		
	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total	2015/16	2016/17	Grand Total
Service provided	3,136	2,521	5,657	861	791	1,652	1,139	876	2,015	5,136	4,188	9,324
STI testing	925	529	1,454	315	165	480	419	261	680	1,659	955	2,614
Testing - HIV - HIV test offered & refused	581	436	1,017	183	115	298	249	170	419	1,013	721	1,734
Testing - HIV - HIV test not appropriate	451	398	849	178	235	413	251	182	433	880	815	1,695
Hepatitis B vaccination	560	393	953	124	90	214	165	122	287	849	605	1,454
Testing - STIs - Microscopy	300	250	550	99	72	171	133	95	228	532	417	949
3 site testing	127	184	311	48	44	92	48	89	137	223	317	540
Partner notification	76	59	135	24	16	40	18	20	38	118	95	213
PEPSE - Post exposure prophylaxis sexual exposure	12	10	22	<5	<5	7	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Hepatitis B immune	<5	7	<5	<5	<5	5	7	<5	7	-	-	-
Contraception												
Testing - STIs - STI tests not required		12	12	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
Testing - STIs - Rapid testing (same day results)		9	9	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
No service and/or no treatment required	8		8	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	8	-	8
Patient type - Sex worker	<5		<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	-	-	-
HPV vaccination												
Cervical cytology done												
TOTAL	6,185	4,808	10,993	1,839	1,542	3,381	2,431	1,821	4,252	10,455	8,171	18,626

Source: Royal Berkshire Hospital

Figure 41: STI testing in RBH integrated SRH services 2016/17 (first attendance STI episodes of care)



Source: *Royal Berkshire Hospital*

When testing activity at first attendance is grouped by STI type, as is shown in the three charts above separately for Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham residents, this shows an increase in testing for all conditions between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Breakdowns around the types of activity for SRH-only episodes are not provided in the data received directly from the RBH. High-level details of this element of the integrated service can be found in the published SRHAD reports from NHS digital. Analysis of this data can be found previously in this report under [Attendance for Sexual and Reproductive Health related care](#). If SRHAD codes were to be included along with GUMCAD codes in the RBH contract monitoring report then this would allow for more detailed local analysis of this data and a fully complete view of the activity within the integrated service.

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

The following data is taken from the contract monitoring returns provided by BHFT to the Shared Public Health Team. Data includes first and follow-up appointments and data relating to both SRH and STI care. Therefore, it is a step towards enabling a more complete view of the integrated service than is given when looking at nationally available reports. However, details around diagnoses and services provided for STI related care are not currently given and data is not given at individual episode level which does mean that there are some limitations to the analysis we are able to perform on the data. It should be noted that the analysis below has not gone through the same data cleansing as the SRHAD/GUMCAD data used in Public Health England reports and should be taken only as a measure of service use rather than as a base for epidemiological analysis.

Care should be taken when interpreting calculations for local authorities where total numbers of episodes are low (local authorities in the West of Berkshire).

The table below shows the total number of Sexual Health and HIV episodes of care⁴ at BHFT services during the calendar years 2015 and 2016 by local authority of patient residence and the number of first and follow-up episodes.

There were a total of 26,658 episodes of sexual health and HIV care provided by BHFT during 2016/17 where the patient was resident in Berkshire. This is a 1% decrease on the number of episodes during 2015/16. The majority of episodes are first-appointments. For every first episode in 2016, there were 0.4 follow-up episodes.

⁴ A Sexual Health and HIV Episode is an episode of care, under one Health Care Provider, comprising of one or more attendances, where a consultant has overall responsibility for the patient who attends for screening, diagnosis and management of sexually transmissible infections and related conditions. The patient may be seen by other care professional, during the same care episode, who are working on behalf of the consultant. The episode starts on the date the patient first sees or is in contact with a care professional in respect of a referral request from either a health care provider or a self-referral. The episode ends when either the patient is formally discharged or has not had face to face contact with the service for at least six months.

Table 14: BHFT sexual health and HIV episodes of care

	Local Authority	Episodes of care	First	Follow-up	FFU Ratio
2015/16	Bracknell Forest	4,558	3,233	1,325	0.4
	Reading	128	71	57	0.8
	Slough	14,569	10,551	4,018	0.4
	West Berkshire	75	28	47	1.7
	RBWM	7,042	4,967	2,074	0.4
	Wokingham	444	317	127	0.4
	Berkshire Total	26,816	19,167	7,648	0.4
2016/17	Bracknell Forest	4,935	3,379	1,556	0.5
	Reading	112	71	41	0.6
	Slough	14,305	10,110	4,195	0.4
	West Berkshire	41	25	16	0.6
	RBWM	6,782	4,665	2,116	0.5
	Wokingham	483	334	149	0.4
	Berkshire Total	26,658	18,584	8,073	0.4

Source: *Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust*

There was a total of 51,067 services provided by BHFT integrated sexual health services during 2016. This is a 1% decrease on the previous year's number of services. This small decrease is driven by a decrease in SRH related services (a 12% decrease). 76% of services provided were STI related. However, a high proportion of services during STI related episodes of care are coded as contraception. It is not currently clear from the data which other services were provided alongside contraception.

Table 15: BHFT sexual health and HIV episodes of care – total services

	Local Authority	STI services*	SRH services	TOTAL
2015/16	Bracknell Forest	6525	2640	9165
	Reading	150	40	190
	Slough	20733	7753	28486
	West Berkshire	86	9	95
	RBWM	9800	3146	12946
	Wokingham	662	256	918
	Berkshire Total	37956	13844	51800
2016/17	Bracknell Forest	7580	2768	10348
	Reading	126	24	150
	Slough	20866	6400	27266
	West Berkshire	50	7	57
	RBWM	9490	2736	12226
	Wokingham	755	265	1020
	Berkshire Total	38867	12200	51067

Source: *Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust*

*Includes contraception provided during an STI consultation; Excludes diagnoses

The following data relates to the main method of contraception used by those attending for SRH interventions. Data is recorded for all patients who receive a new method of

contraception for the first time or after a time lapse of one month or greater following the consultation; where the patient receives care by attending the service with respect to their current main method of contraception; or where the patient is changing from one main method to another following the consultation. The field is left blank if there is no contraception activity.

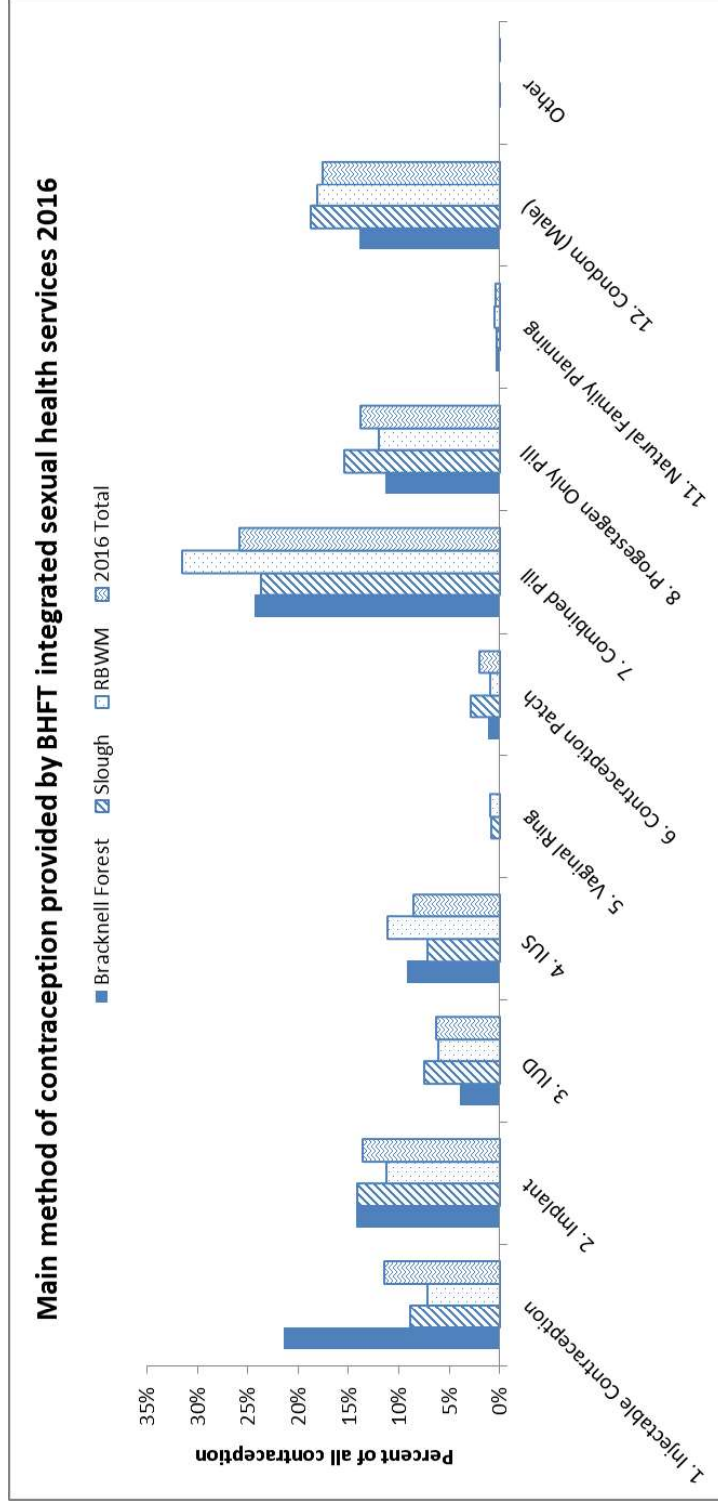
Data for the Local Authorities in the West of Berkshire have been excluded due to small numbers.

The most population method of contraception provided during 2016 was the combined pill (26% of all reported main methods of contraception). The male condom was the second most popular method (18%). All LARC methods taken together (implant, IUD, and IUS) accounted for 29% of main methods. The methods used are generally similar across the three East of Berkshire local authorities. The main differences are the higher use of injectable contraception in Bracknell Forest (21% versus and average of 12%) and higher use of the combined pill in RBWM (32% versus an average of 26%).

The main changes in contraception provision between 2015 and 2016 can be seen in the decrease in provision of the male condom which shows a 35% decrease and, to a much lesser extent, the provision of the combined pill (9% decrease).

Table 16: BHFT SRH episodes – main method of contraception

Row Labels	1. Injectable Contraception	2. Implant	3. IUD	4. IUS	6. Vaginal Ring	Contraception Patch	7. Combined Pill	8. Progestagen Only Pill	11. Natural Family Planning	12. Condom (Male)	Other	NULL	Grand Total
Bracknell Forest	455	411	90	233	9	48	627	294	16	334	<5	106	2,625
Slough	506	828	525	463	57	167	1,619	882	33	2,137	<5	496	7,717
RBWM	283	364	136	264	15	31	894	364	11	556	<5	180	3,101
2015 Total	1,244	1,603	751	960	81	246	3,140	1,540	60	3,027	9	782	13,443
Bracknell Forest	567	378	104	244	<5	31	644	300	11	367	<5	118	2,768
Slough	530	847	448	428	50	174	1,419	924	19	1,120	8	433	6,400
RBWM	185	291	158	289	25	24	813	311	14	468	<5	154	2,736
2016 Total	1,282	1,516	710	961	-	229	2,876	1,535	44	1,955	14	705	11,904
Grand Total	2,526	3,119	1,461	1,921	158	475	6,016	3,075	104	4,982	23	1,487	25,347



Source: Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

Categories of diagnoses of people attending BHFT sexual health services are given below. Categories have been defined by the provider of the service. Data is for diagnoses at both first and follow-up appointments. Data for the Local Authorities in the West of Berkshire have been excluded due to small numbers.

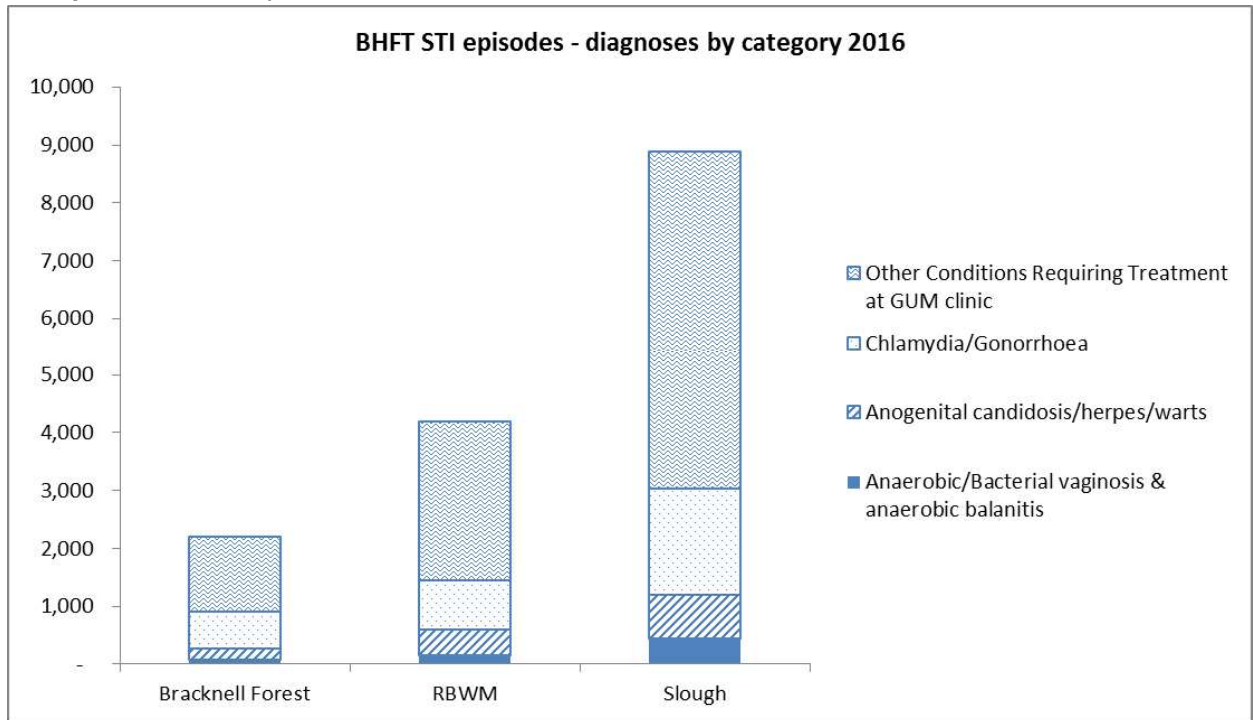
Table 17: BHFT STI episodes of care – diagnoses/conditions/diseases (first and follow-up attendance STI episodes of care)

Diagnosis/condition	Bracknell Forest				RBWM				
	Count		Percent of area total		Count		Percent of area total		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
Anaerobic/Bacterial vaginosis & anaerobic balanitis	80	71	151	3%	127	141	268	3%	3%
Anogenital candidosis/herpes/warts	225	194	419	10%	469	446	915	10%	11%
Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea	714	642	1,356	33%	1,191	853	2,044	25%	20%
Other Conditions Requiring Treatment at GUM clinic	1,163	1,291	2,454	53%	2,938	2,740	5,678	62%	66%
TOTAL	2,182	2,198	4,380	100%	4,725	4,180	8,905	100%	100%
	Slough				BERKSHIRE EAST				
	Count		Percent of area total		Count		Percent of area total		
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	
Anaerobic/Bacterial vaginosis & anaerobic balanitis	429	435	864	5%	636	647	1,283	4%	4%
Anogenital candidosis/herpes/warts	856	749	1,605	9%	1,550	1,389	2,939	10%	9%
Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea	2,239	1,833	4,072	24%	4,144	3,328	7,472	26%	24%
Other Conditions Requiring Treatment at GUM clinic	5,804	5,865	11,669	62%	9,905	9,896	19,801	61%	65%
TOTAL	9,328	8,882	18,210	100%	16,235	15,260	31,495	100%	100%

Source: *Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust*

The most common diagnosis category is 'other conditions requiring treatment' (65%) of diagnoses in 2016 across Berkshire East. This is followed by 'Chlamydia/Gonorrhoea' at 22%. The majority of diagnoses are for people resident in Slough local authority (58% of all diagnoses in 2016).

Figure 42: Diagnoses in BHFT integrated SRH services 2016 (first and follow-up attendance STI episodes of care)



Source: *Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust*

Categories of services provided to people attending BHFT sexual health services are given below. Categories have been defined by the provider of the service. Data is for services provided at both first and follow-up appointments. Data for the Local Authorities in the West of Berkshire have been excluded due to small numbers.

Table 18: BHFT STI episodes of care – services provided (first and follow-up attendance STI episodes of care)

Diagnosis/condition	Bracknell Forest				RBWM			
	Count		Percent of area total		Count		Percent of area total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Contraception	2,843	3,612	44%	48%	3,521	7,260	36%	39%
Full sexual health screen including HIV test	1,242	1,576	19%	21%	2,690	5,525	27%	30%
HIV test inappropriate	677	1,409	10%	19%	1,317	3,276	13%	21%
HIV test offered and refused	738	561	11%	7%	601	1,032	6%	5%
Other episodes not requiring treatment	866	239	13%	3%	1,376	1,642	14%	3%
Hep A/B/C Test & Meds	112	148	2%	2%	229	454	2%	2%
Counselling/Advice	47	35	1%	0%	66	101	1%	0%
TOTAL	6,525	7,580	100%	100%	9,800	19,290	100%	100%
	Slough				BERKSHIRE EAST			
	Count		Percent of area total		Count		Percent of area total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
Contraception	8,132	9,753	39%	47%	14,496	17,104	39%	45%
Full sexual health screen including HIV test	4,669	5,047	23%	24%	8,601	9,458	23%	25%
HIV test inappropriate	3,396	4,036	16%	19%	5,390	7,404	15%	20%
Other episodes not requiring treatment	2,731	488	13%	2%	4,070	1,480	11%	4%
HIV test offered and refused	1,198	940	6%	5%	3,440	4,885	9%	4%
Hep A/B/C Test & Meds	501	553	2%	3%	842	926	2%	2%
Counselling/Advice	106	49	1%	0%	219	119	1%	0%
TOTAL	20,733	20,866	100%	100%	37,058	37,936	100%	100%

Source: Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust

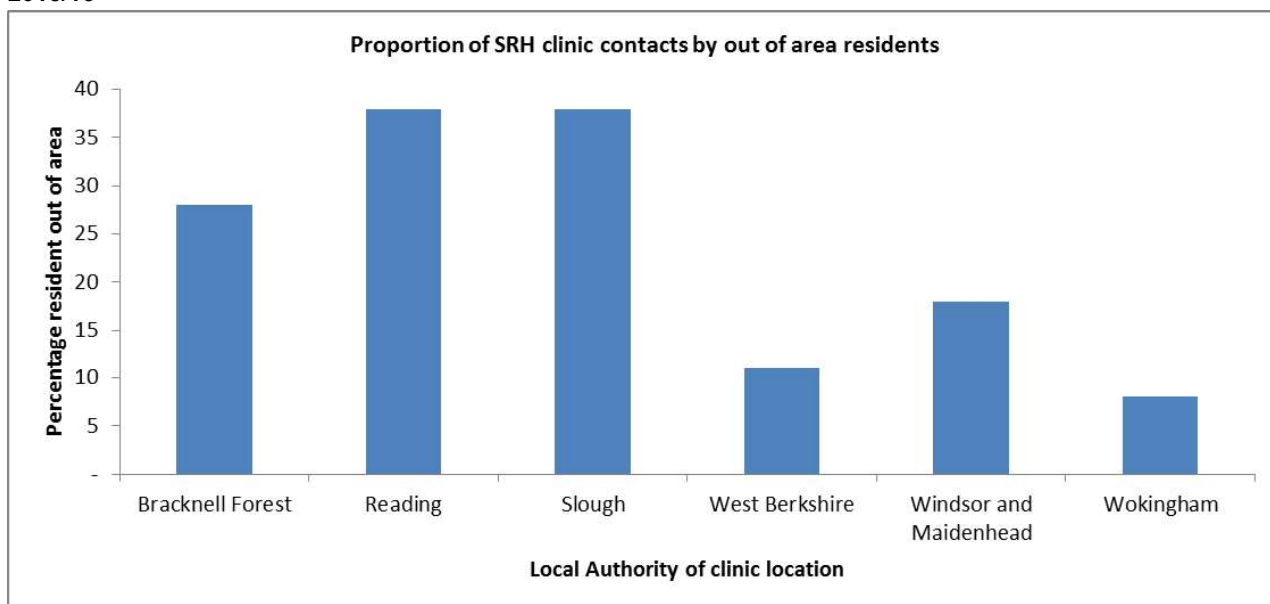
The most common service provided is contraception (45% of all services provided to East of Berkshire residents during 2016). This is followed by full sexual health screens including HIV tests at 25%. Residents of Slough received the most services during 2016 (55% of the total number of services).

Out of area contacts at Berkshire Integrated Sexual Health Services

People can access sexual health services in any area they choose. The analysis above looked at the number of Berkshire residents accessing Berkshire services. The analysis below is taken from SRHAD/GUMCAD reports and shows the number of contacts at the two Berkshire integrated sexual health service providers which came from out of area.

A total of 22,200 SRH contacts were made with the two Integrated sexual health providers in Berkshire during 2015/16 (6,700 with the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and 15,500 with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust). Figure 42 below shows the proportion of contacts which are made by people who are resident outside of the local authority in which the clinic is located. These proportions are highest in Reading, Slough, and Bracknell Forest which is what would be expected based on the proximity to a large town centre and the fact that people will commute regularly to these locations for work.

Figure 43: Contacts made at SRH clinics by those resident outside of local authority of clinic location 2015/16



Source: *NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)*

In the figure above, a patient is counted as ‘out of area’ if they are resident in a Berkshire Local Authority different to that in which the clinic is located (e.g. a person living in Bracknell who attends a clinic in Slough would be counted as an ‘out of area’ contact). The table below shows the number of contacts at Berkshire SRH providers by the Local Authority of patient residence and includes a count of those who are resident outside of Berkshire (‘Other LA’). 2,140 contacts at these providers were made by people resident in a Local Authority outside of Berkshire. The Garden Clinic has the highest proportion of contacts made by people who are resident outside of Berkshire (13%) followed by the Royal Berkshire Hospital (8%).

Table 19: Contacts at Berkshire Sexual and Reproductive Health Services by Local Authority of patient residence 2015/16

Location of clinic	Clinic name	Total	Bracknell	Reading	Slough	West Berkshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Wokingham	Other LA	Unknown
Bracknell Forest	Skipped Hill Health Centre	2,975	2,130	10	280	-	230	185	115*	10
Reading	Royal Berkshire Hospital	390	5	205	-	55	5	70	30	5
Reading	The Whitley Health & Services Centre	325	-	300	-	5	-	15	-	-
Reading	Sexual Health Department	5,100	75	3,005	15	615	45	835	375**	110
Slough	The Garden Clinic - P8A	11,655	530	25	7,195	5	2,190	80	1,530***	70
West Berkshire	West Berkshire Community Hospital	475	-	20	-	420	-	-	30	-
RBWM	St Marks Hospital	865	20	-	60	-	700	15	60	5
Wokingham	Wokingham Hospital	235	10	5	-	-	-	200	-	15
Wokingham	Woodley Centre Surgery	160	-	10	-	-	-	145	-	-

Source: *NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)*

* Majority from Surrey, Bucks, and Hampshire

** Majority from Oxfordshire or 'Unknown'

*** Majority from Bucks, Surrey, and Hillingdon

Table 20: Contacts at Berkshire STI clinic Services by Local Authority of patient residence 2016

STI clinic provider	Total	Bracknell	Reading	Slough	West Berkshire	Windsor and Maidenhead	Wokingham	Other LA	Not Known
BHFT	30,522	4,930	107	13,341	40	6,675	496	4,681*	252
RBH	30,814	1,133	14,789	120	4,603	439	5,831	3,822**	77

Source: *GUMCAD (Accessed 2017)*

* Majority from South Bucks, Hillingdon and Wycombe

** Majority from South Oxfordshire, 'UK (not England and Wales)', and Basingstoke and Deane

61,366 STI care contacts were made with the two providers in Berkshire during 2016 (30,814 with the Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust and 30,522 with Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust). 8,832 (14%) of these were made by patients resident outside of Berkshire. Out-of-Berkshire residents are more likely to attend Berkshire East clinics than Berkshire West (16% attending BHFT services versus 13% attending RBH services) (Source: *GUMCAD* (Accessed 2017)).

All STI (excluding chlamydia <25) testing

The data below looks at STI testing for Berkshire residents across all Level 3 and 2 sexual health services independent of the testing location. This figure excludes testing for chlamydia in under 25 year olds as this is targeted separately by the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). Data is sourced from GUMCAD and CTAD (for chlamydia tests amongst those aged 25 and over). Diagnosis codes as well as testing codes are used in the analysis as it is assumed that, for those with a new diagnosis coded but no test coded, that there must have been a corresponding test. The rate of STI testing across all sexual health services has been increasing nationally, regionally, and across all Berkshire local authorities as can be seen in the table below. Testing rates in the South East (14,626 per 100,000) are significantly lower than the rate nationally (16,722 per 100,000). Rates of testing in Reading and Slough are higher than national and regional averages. They are lower than national averages in the other four Berkshire local authorities. Compared to the South East, rates of testing are the same in Bracknell Forest, lower in West Berkshire and Wokingham, and higher in RBWM.

Although testing is increasing the percentage of these tests that are positive is decreasing nationally, regionally, and across Berkshire. The percentage of tests that are positive is lower in the South East (4.4%) than nationally (4.8%). The percentages of tests that are positive are lower than national and regional averages across all six Berkshire local authorities as can be seen in the table below.

Table 21: STI testing rates 2016

Indicator Name	Area Name	Time period	Recent Trend	Value	Compared to England value or percentiles	Compared to South East
STI testing rate (exc. chlamydia aged <25) / 100,000	England	2016	Increasing and getting better	16,722	Not compared	Not compared
	South East	2016	Increasing and getting better	14,626	Worse	Not compared
	Bracknell Forest	2016	Increasing and getting better	14,889	Worse	Same
	West Berkshire	2016	Increasing and getting better	11,280	Worse	Worse
	Reading	2016	Increasing and getting better	24,510	Better	Better
	Slough	2016	Increasing and getting better	23,683	Better	Better
	RBWM	2016	Increasing and getting better	16,427	Worse	Better
	Wokingham	2016	Increasing and getting better	12,906	Worse	Worse
	STI testing positivity (exc. chlamydia aged <25) %	England	2016	Decreasing and getting worse	4.8	Not compared
South East		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	4.4	Worse	Not compared
Bracknell Forest		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.5	Worse	Worse
West Berkshire		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.8	Worse	Worse
Reading		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.9	Worse	Worse
Slough		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.1	Worse	Worse
RBWM		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.6	Worse	Worse
Wokingham		2016	Decreasing and getting worse	3.8	Worse	Worse

Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

HIV testing

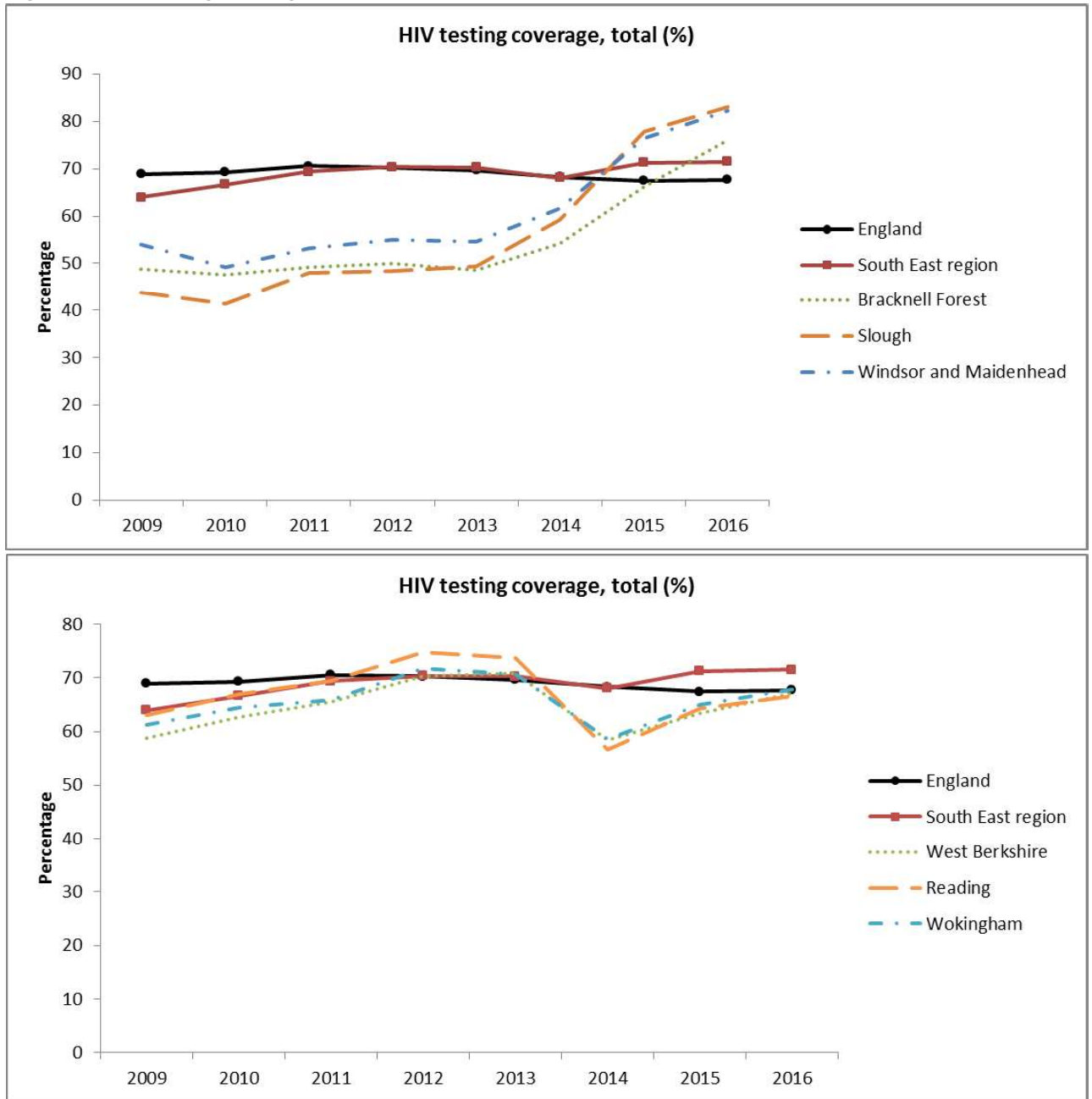
HIV test coverage shows the proportion of eligible new attendees at specialist level 3 sexual health services (who are not HIV positive, for whom a test was not appropriate, or for whom the attendance was related to Sexual and Reproductive care only) in whom a HIV test was accepted.

HIV test coverage in England was 68% in 2016 and is decreasing over recent years. Coverage is significantly higher in the South East at 72% and is increasing.

In Bracknell Forest, Slough, and RBWM coverage is increasing and is currently higher than national and regional averages.

Coverage in West Berkshire (67%) and Wokingham (67%) is decreasing though this decrease has slowed since 2014; coverage in these local authorities is lower than the regional average. Coverage in Reading (66%) is lower than both national and regional averages and is decreasing though this decrease has slowed since 2014.

Figure 44: HIV testing coverage



Source: Public Health England (2017)

Table 22: HIV testing coverage 2016

Indicator Name	Area Name	Time period	Value	Recent Trend	Compared to England value or percentiles	Compared to South East
HIV testing coverage, MSM (%)	England	2016	88.8	Increasing and getting better	Not compared	Not compared
	South East region	2016	88.9	Increasing and getting better	Same	Not compared
	Bracknell Forest	2016	91.2	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	West Berkshire	2016	92.7	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	Reading	2016	90.9	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	Slough	2016	92.8	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	RBWM	2016	89.7	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	Wokingham	2016	92.1	No significant change	Same	Same
	HIV testing coverage, women (%)	England	2016	59.5	Decreasing and getting worse	Not compared
South East region		2016	65.3	Decreasing and getting worse	Better	Not compared
Bracknell Forest		2016	71.5	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
West Berkshire		2016	58.2	Decreasing and getting worse	Same	Worse
Reading		2016	57.2	Decreasing and getting worse	Worse	Worse
Slough		2016	79.5	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
RBWM		2016	78.4	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
Wokingham		2016	59.0	Decreasing and getting worse	Same	Worse
HIV testing coverage, men (%)		England	2016	79.2	Increasing and getting better	Not compared
	South East region	2016	80.8	Increasing and getting better	Better	Not compared
	Bracknell Forest	2016	83.7	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
	West Berkshire	2016	79.9	Increasing and getting better	Same	Same
	Reading	2016	82.4	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
	Slough	2016	89.9	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
	RBWM	2016	87.7	Increasing and getting better	Better	Better
	Wokingham	2016	81.4	Increasing and getting better	Better	Same

Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

The table above shows HIV test coverage for men who have sex with men (MSM), females, and males separately. Testing of MSM is increasing nationally, regionally and across all six Berkshire local authorities with the exception of Wokingham where there has been no significant change. Testing coverage is the same as national and regional coverage across all six Berkshire local authorities. Coverage for women is decreasing nationally and regionally and is decreasing in the West of Berkshire local authorities and is lower than national and regional averages in Reading. It is increasing in the East of Berkshire local authorities. Coverage of testing for men is increasing nationally, regionally, and across all six Berkshire local authorities. It is higher than national averages in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of West Berkshire where it is the same.

Online HIV testing

Slough, Wokingham, and RBWM commission a HIV self-sampling service whereby HIV testing kits can be ordered online free of charge via the test.hiv website. The test kits are sent in a small and discreet package which is then returned by the user via freepost once they have collected a sample. Test results are returned via the users preferred method and specimens and results can be tracked via an online tracking system.

364 kits were requested during 2016/17 of which 201 (55%) were returned. The average age of those requesting a test was 29. No tests were reactive; 15 tests were invalid.

Chlamydia testing

For several years, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) was delivered across Berkshire and aimed to screen sexually-active young people aged under 25 for chlamydia in order to offer treatment to infected people, reducing the likelihood of them infecting others or to go on to develop further symptoms. Despite having invested in the programme for a number of years, Reading was the only local authority in Berkshire to have achieved the national recommended level of 2,300 screens per 100,000 people aged 15-24 years, the level needed to reduce transmission. In 2016 Reading also dropped below the national recommended level. The NCSP was decommissioned in Berkshire from 31st March 2016.

Data on chlamydia testing amongst 15 to 24 year olds in England is collected by Public Health England through the Chlamydia Testing Activity Dataset (CTAD) for non-specialist sexual health services and GUMCAD for specialist sexual health services.

The proportion of people aged 15 to 24 who screened for chlamydia in England in 2016 was 21%; the proportion in the South East was 19% and this is significantly lower than the England figure. Coverage in England and the South East is decreasing. Coverage is significantly lower than the national average in all of the six Berkshire local authorities. It is also lower than the South East average in all Berkshire local authorities with the exception of Reading where it is the same. Coverage is increasing over time in West Berkshire, RBWM, and Wokingham. It is decreasing in Reading and there has been no significant change in Bracknell Forest and Slough.

There were a total of 15,783 chlamydia tests taken by people aged 15 to 24 in Berkshire in 2016. 10,588 (72% of these were taken by females). More tests were taken by 20 to 24 year olds (67%) than 15 to 19 year olds.

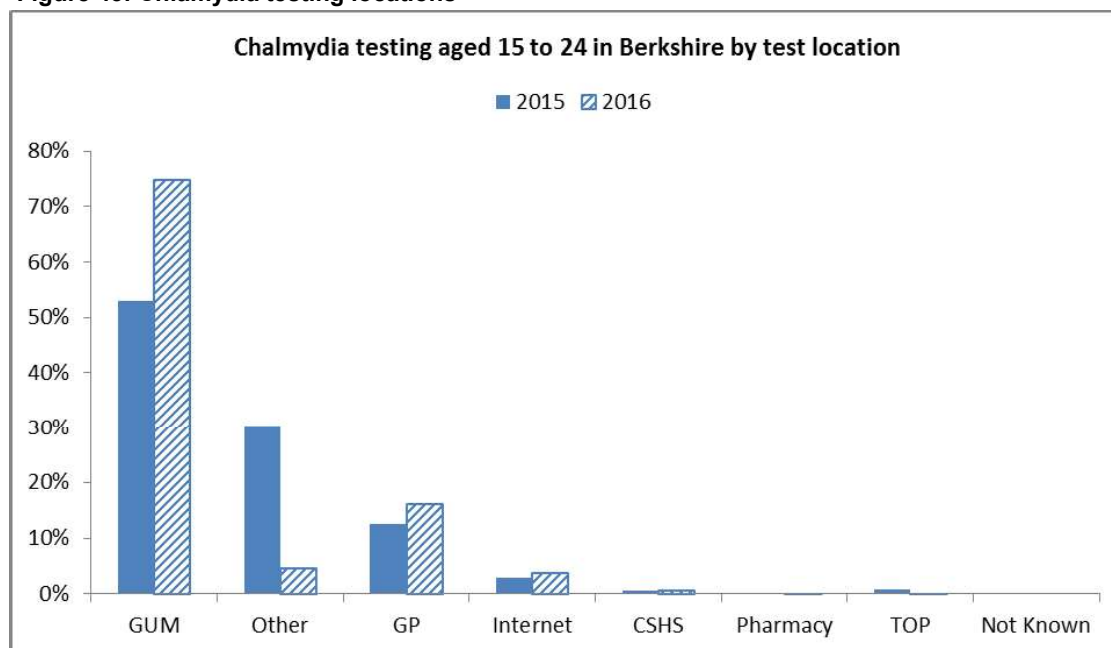
Table 23: Chlamydia tests in Berkshire by age and gender 2016

		15-19	20-24	Total	% 15-19	% 20-24
Tests	Male	1,085	3,274	4,359	24.9	75.1
	Female	4,110	7,314	11,424	36.0	64.0
	Total	5,195	10,588	15,783	32.9	67.1

Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

The majority (>50%) of chlamydia tests taken across Berkshire are taken in sexual health clinics. This is followed by tests taken in GP practices then ‘other’ settings. The clear reduction from 2015 to 2016 in the number of tests classified as ‘Other’ is due to the discontinuation of the community based aspect of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme in Berkshire in April 2016 together with the disaggregation of internet-screening from other in the CTAD data set in 2015/16. Internet-based tests made up 4% of all tests in 2016.

Figure 45: Chlamydia testing locations



Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

1,181 of the 15,783 tests taken by young people in Berkshire in 2016 were positive. This is a positivity rate of 7.5%. There is a higher rate of positivity amongst males (9.7%) than females (6.6%) and amongst 15 to 19 year olds (8.5%) than 20 to 24 year olds (7%).

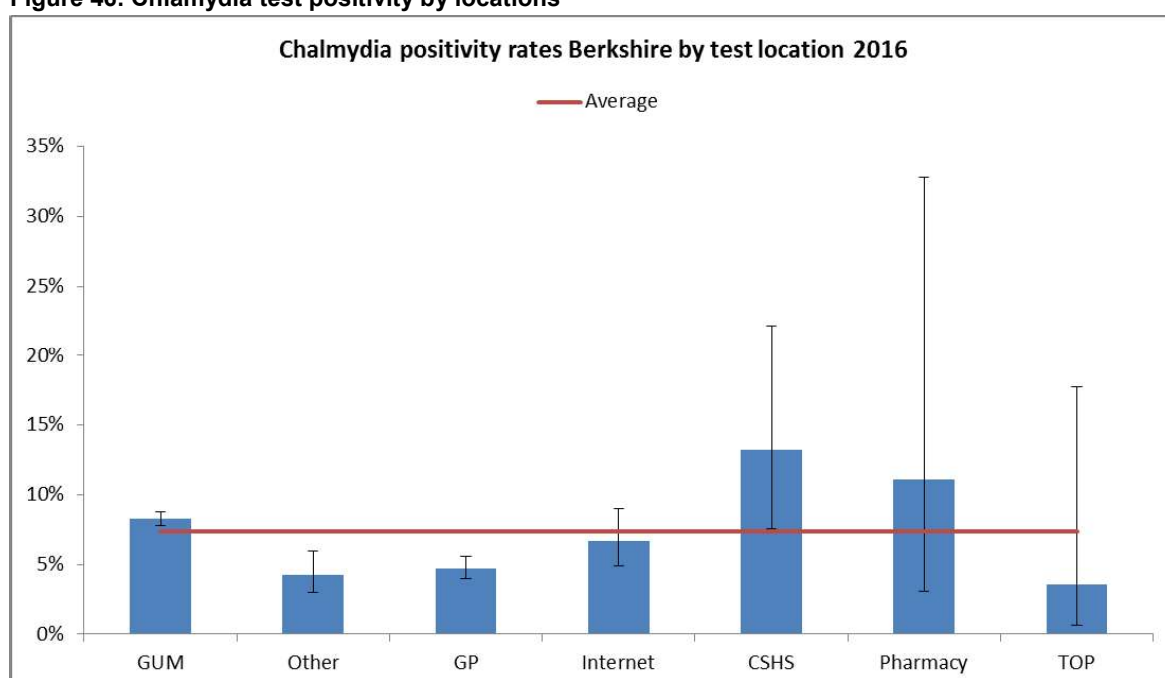
Table 24: Chlamydia test positivity in Berkshire by age and gender 2016

	15-19	20-24	15-24
Male	10.1	9.6	9.7
Female	8.1	5.8	6.6
Persons	8.5	7.0	7.5

Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

Positivity rates are higher than average in GUM and in Community and Sexual Health Services (CSHS). Interestingly, despite the lower proportion of test taken via the internet, positivity rates are comparable to those in GUM settings suggesting that the internet is a successful medium of reaching groups who are at a higher risk of positivity.

Figure 46: Chlamydia test positivity by locations



Source: *Public Health England CTAD (accessed 2017)*

Three UAs went to tender to pilot internet based testing for chlamydia and gonorrhoea for under 25's as a result of the decommissioning for the NCSP in Berkshire. The service is available in the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham Borough Council and West Berkshire Council. The contract is one year (1st April 2016 – 31st March 2017) plus one year (1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018); all three UA's have agreed to extend the pilot for the second year.

During 2016/17 a total of 1,213 tests were ordered through the service with 774 (66%) of these returned for analysis. 7% of tests were positive. Fewer tests were requested from young people living in RBWM (27%) compared to the other two local authorities (37% and 36%). The service reached 63% of the target population coverage; 57% of the target number of tests returned by the user for analysis; and 50% of the target positivity rate.

Emergency Hormonal Contraception

Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) is provided free of charge via GP Practices and Sexual Health Clinics across England and free of charge via pharmacies for women aged 13 to 19 (some LAs have extended access to women up to the age of 24) years in Berkshire local authorities. Older women can pay over the counter for EHC from pharmacies.

The average rate of provision of EHC provided by SRH services across the six Berkshire UAs was 3 per 1,000 which is comparable to the average for the South East Region. Rates of provision for all age groups in Berkshire were comparable to the South East average and slightly lower than the national averages. Within Berkshire, rates of provision of EHC are highest in Reading and Slough.

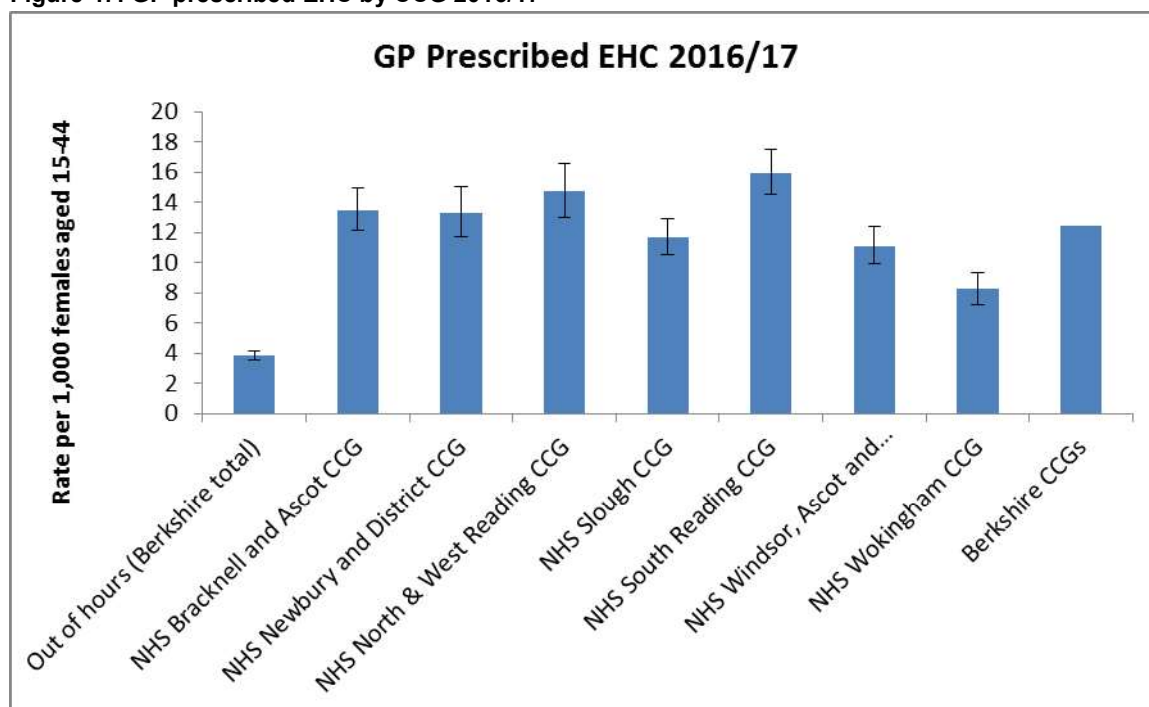
Table 25: Emergency contraceptives provided by Sexual and Reproductive Health Services 2015/16

	Emergency contraceptives provided (thousands)			Women provided emergency contraceptives per 1000 population		
	Total (all ages)	Under 16	16 and over	Total (13 to 54)	13 to 15	16 to 54
Total	104.5	6.8	97.7	6	7	6
South East	9.8	0.6	9.2	4	4	4
Bracknell Forest	0.1	0.0	0.1	2	3	1
Reading	0.3	0.0	0.3	6	5	6
Slough	0.3	0.0	0.3	6	2	6
West Berkshire	0.1	-	0.1	1	-	1
Windsor and Maidenhead	0.1	-	0.1	2	-	2
Wokingham	0.1	0.0	0.1	2	5	2

Source: *NHS Digital SRHAD (2016)*

GPs across Berkshire prescribed EHC on 2,968 occasions during 2016/17. This is a rate of 16 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 44. Rates of prescriptions of EHC are highest in South Reading CCG (16 per 1,000) and lowest in Wokingham CCG (8.2 per 1,000).

Figure 47: GP prescribed EHC by CCG 2016/17



Source: NHS Digital GP Practice prescribing data (accessed 2017)

EHC prescriptions in Berkshire Pharmacies should be recorded on the 'PharmOutcomes' system. Pharmacies across Berkshire recorded 861 prescriptions of EHC during 2016/17 compared to 517 in 2015/16. Prescribing recording varies across Local Authority with no prescriptions recorded in Bracknell Forest during 2016/17 and less than 5 in Slough; there were fewer than 20 prescriptions recorded in RBWM; 153 in Reading; 165 in West Berkshire and 523 in Wokingham. Over 50% of prescriptions are to females who had previously used EHC. Over 50% were required due to unprotected sex, ~30% due to a failed condom, and ~10% due to a missed contraceptive pill. The majority of prescriptions are for females aged 25 to 34. (Source: Pharmoutcomes, Accessed 2017).

Young People's Services

STI/SRH services

Both the RBH and BHFT provide clinics within their integrated sexual health services which are specifically for younger people. These are summarised below:

West of Berkshire (Healthpoints):

Reading – Reading Adviza (Contraception only)
 Reading - Prospect Park School (term time)
 Reading - Reading College (term time)
 Reading - Whitley Health and Social Services Centre
 Reading - JMA Academy (term time)

Wokingham – Woodley Centre Surgery
 Wokingham – Wokingham Community Hospital
 West Berkshire - Newbury College

At the time of writing, the service located at reading Adviza was being reviewed as it was not well attended.

East of Berkshire (Speakeasy):

Bracknell - Garden Clinic
Slough - Garden Clinic

Resident-based analysis of young persons SRH related care at sexual health services can be seen above under [Young people aged 15 to 24 attending sexual health services for SRH care](#).

This covers attendance at any sexual health service and not those dedicated to young people. Local provider data shows us that there were 566 episodes of care at Healthpoints provided by RBH in 2016 (there were 715 episodes in 2015). The most popular clinics are those at Wokingham Hospital (179 episodes in 2016); Woodley Centre Surgery (109 episodes in 2016); and Newbury College (129 episodes in 2016).

A breakdown of data that shows attendance by clinic type is not currently available to show the number of young people attending the Speakeasy clinics.

Specialist nursing

In the West of Berkshire there are two specialist outreach nurses who provide antenatal and postnatal education for under 18 year olds and vulnerable women of all ages respectively. The aim of these services is to increase uptake of LARC and reduce unwanted pregnancy in both groups. Additionally, there is a male outreach nurse who provides sexual and reproductive health advice, STI testing and support to men, particularly those considered vulnerable or at increased risk of sexual ill health.

Bracknell Forest commission a 3-day-a-week specialist outreach nurse who works with vulnerable young women, providing support to access to sexual and reproductive health services with the aim of increasing uptake of LARC and reducing unwanted pregnancy.

School services

School nurses work across all six Berkshire local authority delivering elements of the Healthy Child Programme in order to support positive sexual health.

West Berkshire local authority offer a service where pupils can text their school nurse in confidence for advice around a range of issues including sexual health.

Youth services

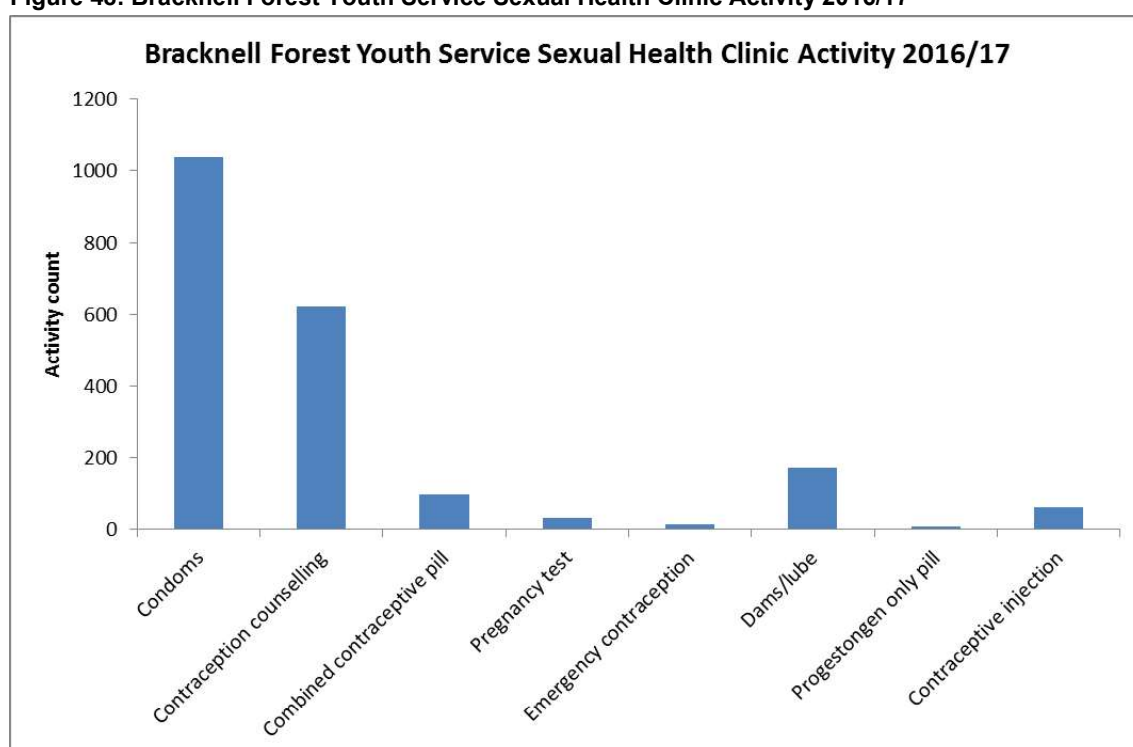
Youth services which provide an element of sexual health advice in Berkshire are listed below:

Bracknell Forest – Youthline counselling services
Bracknell Forest – Bracknell Forest Youth Services
Reading – Reading Youth Services
West Berkshire – West Berkshire Youth Counselling
Wokingham – ARC Youth Counselling; targeted youth workers
Slough – targeted youth workers

Bracknell Forest Youth Services provide 8 sexual health drop-in clinics which cover the main secondary schools, and Bracknell and Wokingham College. These provide information and advice regarding sexual health and distribute condoms and do pregnancy testing. An anonymous text messaging service is also provided which young people can access 24 hours a day. There is also a youth service web page which young people can visit for updates and information.

During 2016/17 4,070 young people attended Bracknell Forest Youth Service clinics with an equal split between male and female attendees. The chart below shows the types of activities provided by the clinics over the year. The most common activity was condom distribution followed by contraception counselling. Each visit may result in more than one activity so there will be an element of double-counting in the data below.

Figure 48: Bracknell Forest Youth Service Sexual Health Clinic Activity 2016/17



Source: *Bracknell Forest Council Youth Services (2017)*

Condom distribution

The C-Card scheme is a free service offering condoms and sexual health information to young people aged 13 - 19 living in Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire.

At the time of writing the Wokingham scheme runs only through the Youth Offending Service, offering condom to some of the most vulnerable young people. During 2016/17, 17 young people accessed the scheme: this number may be higher but some young people cannot be counted as they forgot to bring their card when collecting contraception. A total of 198 condoms were distributed in Wokingham through the scheme.

In Reading, between March and October 2016, there were a total of 629 condoms distributed to young people through the scheme.

Thames Valley Positive Support

Thames Valley Positive Support (TVPS) is a registered sexual health charity predominately supporting people affected by HIV throughout Berkshire. Reading, West Berkshire, Wokingham, and RBWM provide funds to TVPS to offer HIV prevention services to at risk communities as well as to offer support and advocacy to those affected by HIV. They see approximately 25 people per month. The numbers of people supported by local authority varies with more people supported in Reading and Slough as would be expected from the higher HIV rates in these authorities. Drop-in sessions are provided in Reading and Slough to target these higher areas of need.

Afterparty is a service run by TVPS and offers advice and support to anyone affected by or involved in chemsex, living in Berkshire. Afterparty provides face-to-face support to an average of 28 men at a time. The number of contacts supported online is far greater and the service now has a dedicated day each week in which they manage these contacts due to the level of demand.

Termination of Pregnancy

Termination of Pregnancy services (TOPs) are provided by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service (BPAS). Figures on the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion can be seen above under Reproductive health. There were 2,899 abortions carried out of Berkshire residents in 2015 which is a rate of 16 per 1,000 women aged 15 to 44. This rate is comparable to the National (16%) and Regional (15%) averages.

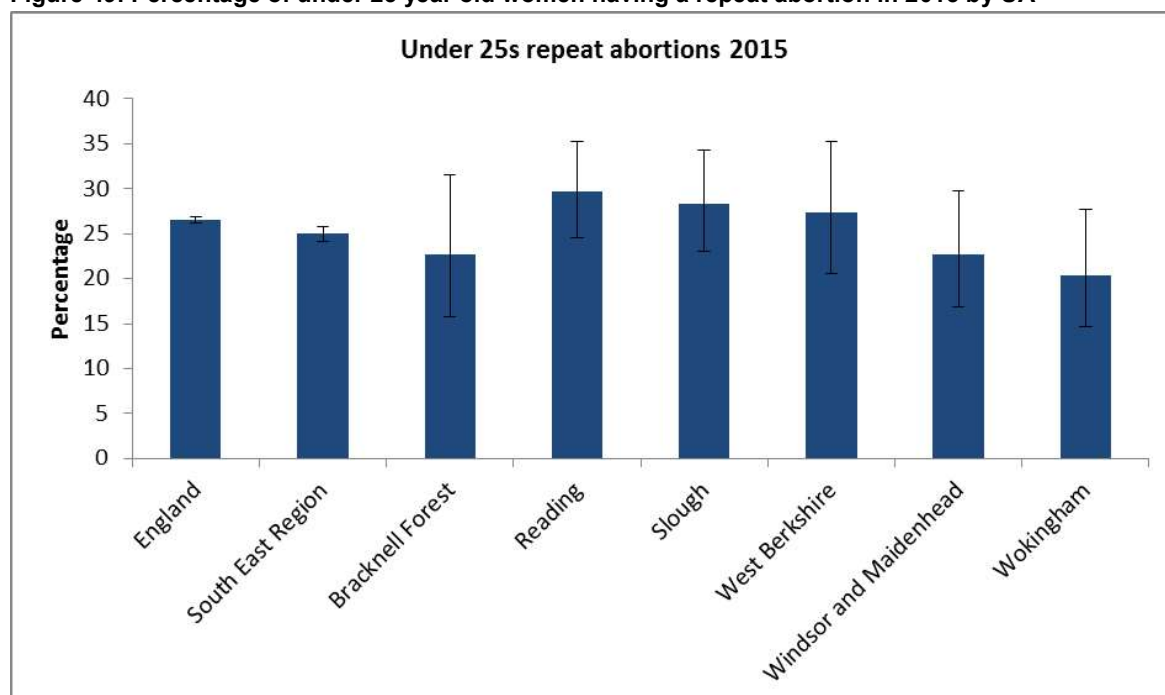
Abortions under 10 weeks

The earlier abortions are performed the lower the risk of complications for the pregnant woman. Prompt access to abortion earlier in pregnancy (under 10 weeks) is also cost-effective and an indicator of service quality. 83% of abortions in Berkshire during 2015 were performed at under 10 weeks gestation. This is comparable to the national average of 80%. Figures have been around this level in Berkshire over the past four years whilst there has been a marginal increase at a national level (from 77.5% in 2012 to 80.3% in 2015). Source: Public Health England (2017)

Repeat abortions

Repeat abortions in under 25 year old women is used as an indicator of access to good quality contraception services and advice as well as problems with individual use of contraceptive method. Of all abortions in under 25 year old women in Berkshire in 2015, 25.2% had previously had an abortion, this is comparable to the England figure (26.5%). The chart below shows the variation in the percentage of abortions that are repeat abortions between the Berkshire UAs. Percentages appear to be higher in Reading, Slough and West Berkshire. However, the confidence intervals show us that numbers are too small to draw any reliable conclusions from this.

Figure 49: Percentage of under 25 year old women having a repeat abortion in 2015 by UA



Source: *Public Health England (2017)*

Sexual Assault Referral Centres

Solace Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) based at Upton Hospital in Slough provides support for people living in the Thames Valley who have been raped or sexually assaulted. Services are available for children, young people, and adults and are provided whether the police are involved or not. The Solace Centre is able to;

- Perform a forensic examination by a specialist forensic doctor
- Provide crisis support and arrange follow-up appointments
- Provide telephone advice
- Provide independent advocacy and support with practical matters
- Introduce other support services, for example Rape Crisis and Victim Support

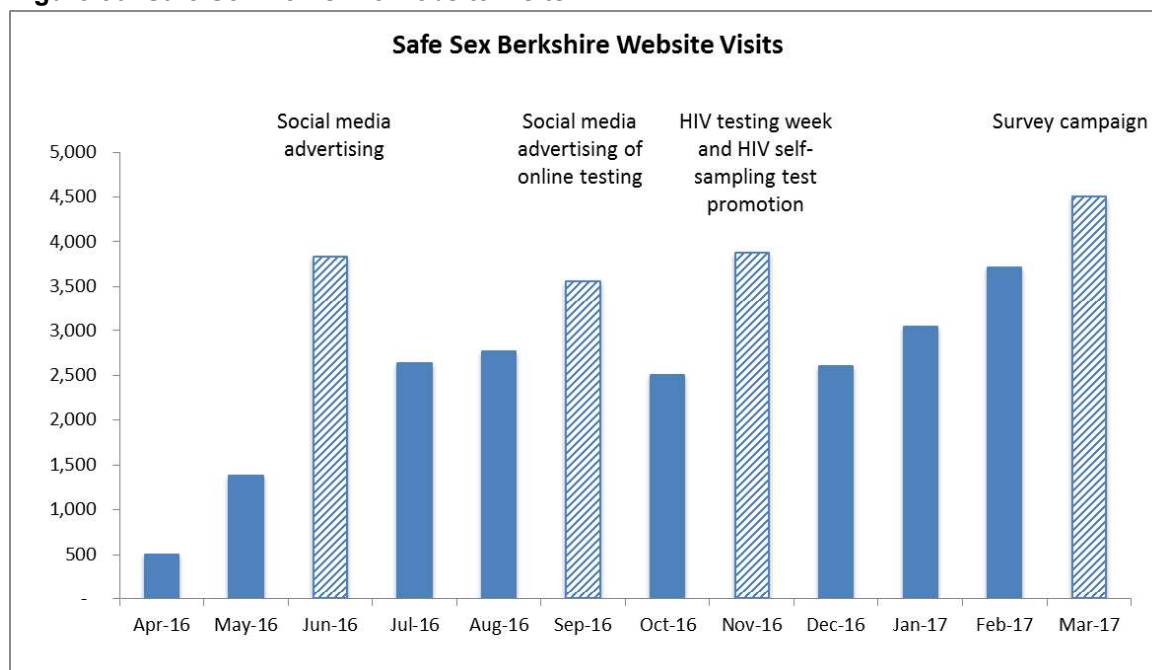
Trust House is a charitable organisation based in Reading offering specialist support services for people affected by rape and sexual abuse in Berkshire. This support consists of a confidential helpline; a one-to-one counselling service for adults and support groups; and play therapy and counselling for children and young people. They also offer training for individuals, professionals, and organisations working in the sexual violence sector.

Safe Sex Berkshire website

A key recommendation coming from the previous Berkshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment was for a central, web-based information resource on sexual health services across Berkshire. In response to this, the [Safe Sex Berkshire website](#) was launched in April 2016 and was promoted using a phased approach. Phase 1 ran between 2nd and 23rd June to raise awareness of the website amongst Berkshire residents aged 18-35 with advertising via Facebook and Instagram. There was also a resource pack available for each council and partners and they were encouraged to advertise the site on their own social media. Phase 2 advertising ran across Facebook and Instagram from 15th to 29th September to coincide with Sexual Health Week 2016. This targeted people aged 16 to 24 in Wokingham, RBWM, and

West Berkshire. The website received further promotion between the 18th November and 1st December as part for National HIV testing week and the 'It starts with me' campaign. The aim was to raise awareness of the importance or HIV testing in Berkshire and encourage update of online testing via the Safe Sex Berkshire website. More promotional activity occurred between 24th February and 7th March 2017 when the website User Survey was promoted.

Figure 50: Safe Sex Berkshire website visits

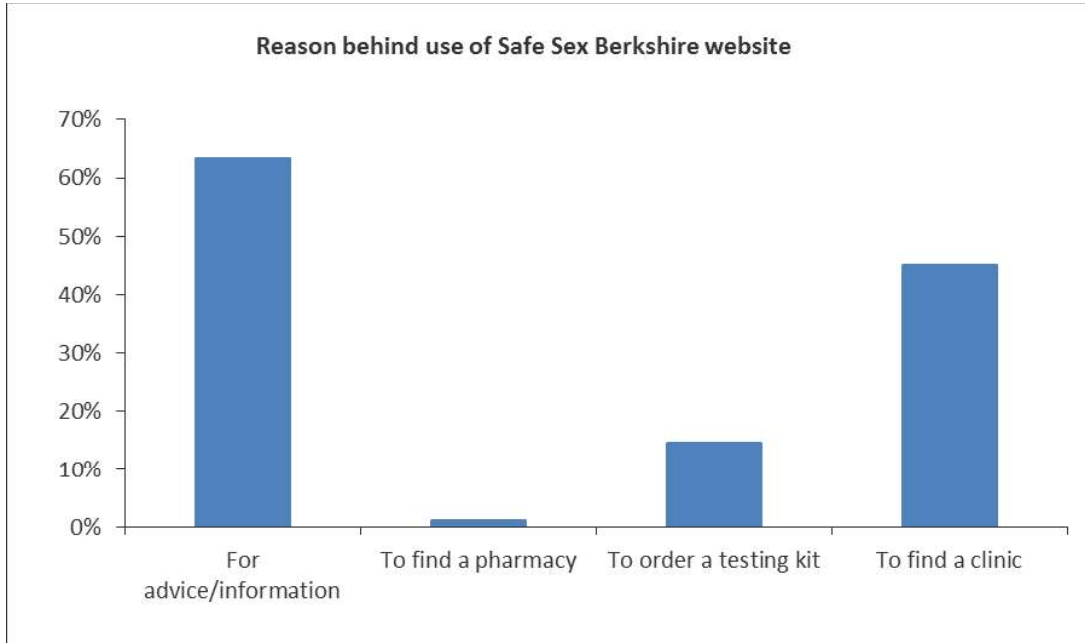


Source: *Google Analytics* (Accessed: 2017)

There were a total of 34,861 visits to the website in 2016/17 with a monthly average of 2,905 visits to the site. The number of visits to the site was 4,501 in March 2017. The figure above shows clearly the peaks in use around promotional dates and the overall increasing linear trend in the number of users. 80% of those who access the site do so from mobile devices so work is currently underway to improve the look and feel of the site for those using these media.

A user survey of the website ran for five weeks from 14th February 2017 to 20th March 2017 and was promoted via a Facebook/Instagram campaign between 24th February 2017 and March 7th 2017. 96 people responded to the survey. Response rates for individual items varied. 81% of these were a new user of the site (96 responses). 41% of users were aged between 15 and 24 and 27% were aged between 15 and 34 (59 responses); 71% identified as females and 24% as male (59 responses); 78% were White (58 responses). The majority of users (89.5%) were using the site for personal reasons (95 responses).

Figure 51: Safe Sex Berkshire website user’s survey – reason for using the site (95 responses)

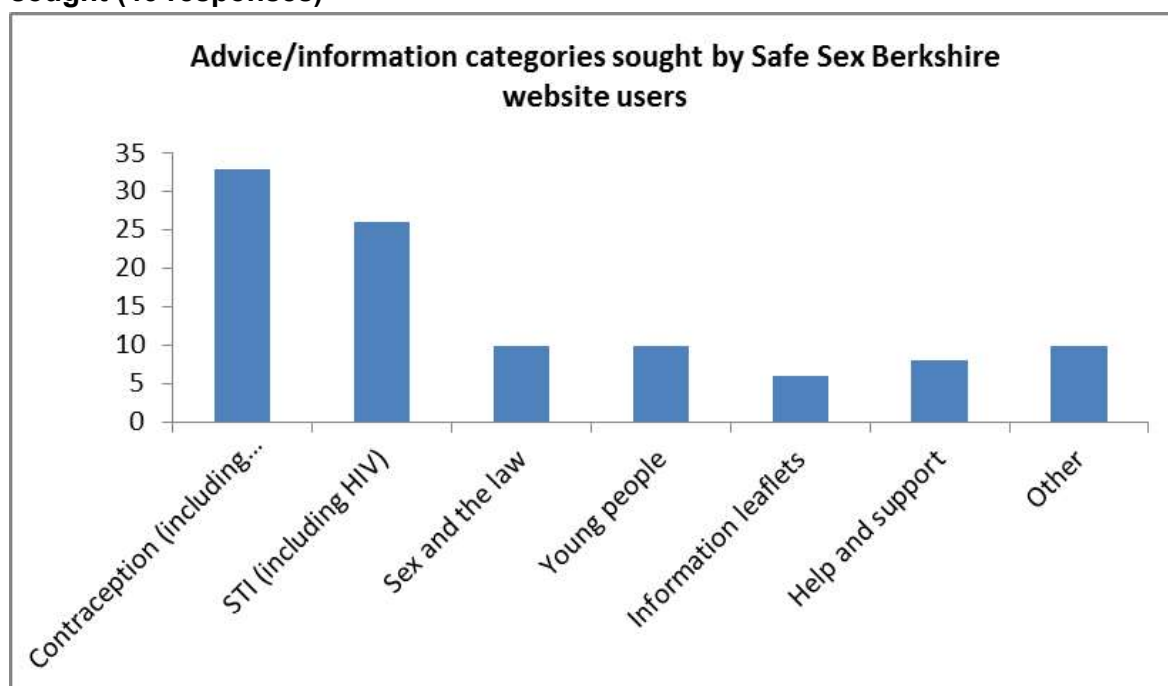


Source: *Safe Sex Berkshire User Survey (2017)*

The majority of users were visiting the site for advice/information or to find a clinic (82 responses). Users were able to choose multiple items for this question.

Users visiting the site for advice/information were asked what this was regarding with users able to choose multiple items for this question. 46 users responded to this question. Responses have been grouped by category in order to create the chart below. The majority of advice/information was around contraception followed by STIs.

Figure 52: Safe Sex Berkshire website user’s survey – type of advice/information sought (46 responses)



Source: *Safe Sex Berkshire User Survey (2017)*

78.5% of users found the information that they were looking for (65 responses). The website was rated on average 7 out of 10 for ease of finding information (62 responses). It was rated 6.8 out of 10 for visual appeal (57 responses). It scored 7.7 out of 10 for likelihood that users would recommend the website to someone else (46 responses). In terms of suggestions for improving the website, 55% felt that video content would be useful; 14% felt that audio clips would help; 61% would like to see interactive content (44 responses).

Campaigns

Safe Sex Berkshire – HIV testing week campaign 18th November to 1st December 2016

The Safe Sex Berkshire HIV testing week campaign used [National HIV Testing Week](#) and the [‘It Start’s with Me’](#) campaign to raise awareness of the importance of HIV testing in Berkshire and to encourage the uptake of online testing via the Safe Sex Berkshire website to key Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) and MSM audiences.

The table below shows the visits to the Safe Sex Berkshire HIV testing page generated via the various targeted strands of the campaign.

Table 26: Safe Sex Berkshire HIV testing week campaign site visits generated

Media used	Target group	Clicks to Safe Sex Berkshire HIV testing page
Grindr	MSM	83 clicks
Homepage web banner and news article on the Student's Union pages	University Students	24 clicks
Facebook, Instagram, and Audience network paid advertising	BAME	544 clicks
	MSM	931 clicks
	BAME and MSM	322 clicks

Each of the six Berkshire Local Authority's social media also promoted the campaign and it was featured in local press releases in Slough and Wokingham. During the campaign pages views to order a HIV test kit online increased by 2,826% and page views of the Safe Sex Berkshire website increased by 247%.

Sexual health services: Key points

Summary

Royal Berkshire Hospitals NHS Trust (Florey Clinic and satellite sites) data

- There has been an increase in people from Reading attending integrated sexual health services provided by RBHFT between 2015/16 and 2016/17
 - The majority of attendances are first attendances
 - 71% were for STI-related care
- The total number of diagnoses made in RBHFT clinics amongst Berkshire residents has decreased between 2015/16 and 2016/17
 - This pattern can be seen across all diagnoses with the exception of chlamydia for which diagnoses have increased
 - Chlamydia testing and diagnosis in sexual health services may have increased following the de-commissioning of the NCSP as testing is no longer available via this programme
 - 57% of diagnoses are for patients from Reading
- Chlamydia is the most common diagnosis followed by genital warts
- There has been a decrease in the number of services provided at follow-up attendance accompanied by an increase in the number of services provided at first attendances
 - The decrease in services provided at follow-up appointments can be seen for all types of activity with the exception of partner notification which has increased
 - The increase in services provided at first appointments can be seen for all types of activity
 - STI testing has increased across all STI types
 - This is likely to indicate an increase in the efficiency of the service with more services being provided at first attendance reducing the need for follow-up

appointments and/or be reflective of the decrease in STI diagnoses at first appointments reducing the need for treatment and follow-up

- Increase in testing for all STIs was observed between 2015/16 and 2016/17
- There is a need for further detail to be provided with the RBHFT contact monitoring reports around SRH related care activity types in order to have a complete picture of the integrated service

Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust (Garden Clinic sites) data

- There was a very slight decrease in attendances by Berkshire residents attending integrated sexual health services provided by BHFT between 2015 and 2016
 - The majority of appointments are first appointments
 - 76% of interventions were for STI-related care
 - A high proportion of the services provided during these interventions were coded as 'contraception'
 - Slough residents make up 53% of all episodes of care
- The most popular main method of contraception recorded at SRH related episodes is the combined pill followed by the male condom
 - A decrease in the number of main contraceptive methods being recorded between 2015 and 2016 was driven by decrease in male condom being recorded as a main method
 - LARC accounted for 29% of main contraceptive methods recorded
 - Data shows a higher use of injectable contraception in Bracknell Forest residents and higher use of combined pill in RBWM residents than average across the East of Berkshire
- There is a need for further detail to be provided with the BHFT contract monitoring reports around STI related care services and diagnoses in order to achieve a complete picture of the integrated service
 - The large proportion of services coded as contraception under STI interventions needs further investigation to understand if this is being provided in one episode alongside other STI related interventions or whether these interventions should be coded as SRH related care

OUT OF AREA - use of non-local services by Berkshire-residents

- West Berkshire and RBWM have the largest proportion of attendances by local residents for STI related care outside their own area – see Attendance for STI related care section

OUT OF AREA - use of Berkshire services by non-residents

- Just over 10,000 contacts at Berkshire SH services were made by people resident outside of Berkshire in 2016
 - The majority (approx. 80%) of OOA contacts at Berkshire services are for STI related care
 - More OOA attendances were recorded in East of Berkshire services than in services in the West of Berkshire
 - The majority of OOA contacts at East of Berkshire services came from Surrey, Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, and Hillingdon residents

- The majority of OOA contacts at West of Berkshire services come from Oxfordshire and Hampshire residents

STI TESTING

- STI testing (excluding <25 chlamydia) increasing for all Berkshire local authorities
 - Testing rates are higher than national and regional averages in Slough and Reading
 - Testing rates are lower than national and regional averages in West Berkshire and Wokingham
 - Testing rates are lower than national averages in Bracknell Forest, and RBWM
- The percentage of tests that are positive is decreasing across all local authorities and is lower than national and regional averages
- HIV testing coverage in sexual health services is increasing in the East of Berkshire LAs and is higher than national and regional averages
 - This increase in HIV testing is seen in males and females and in MSM
- HIV testing coverage in sexual health services in the West of Berkshire LAs is decreasing
 - Coverage in Reading is lower than both national and regional averages
 - Coverage in West Berkshire and Wokingham is lower than regional averages
 - This decrease seems to be driven by testing in females
 - It is increasing for MSM and males and coverage is better than national averages for males
 - Understanding positivity in these groups will help to understand if
- Late HIV diagnosis higher in Bracknell Forest
 - Non-significant decline in late diagnosis in RBWM and Wokingham
- Chlamydia testing in young people age 15 to 24 is lower than national and regional averages in all Berkshire local authorities
 - Females and those aged 20 to 24 are most likely to be tested
 - Driven by uptake in SRH services
 - Over 50% of tests are taken in sexual health services
 - This has increased since the discontinuation of the NCSP
 - Positivity rates are higher amongst males and those aged 15 to 19
 - Opposite pattern to that amongst test uptake
 - Positivity rates highest in GUM, CSHS, and internet
- Chlamydia detection rates are lower than national and regional averages in Slough, RBWM, Bracknell, West Berkshire, and Wokingham
 - They are lower than the regional average in Reading
- Chlamydia detection rates are decreasing across all Berkshire local authorities with a significant decrease in Reading and Slough
 - Increase in testing and decrease in positivity suggests this is decrease in detection is due to testing not successfully identifying those who have a chlamydia infection

- The online chlamydia and gonorrhoea testing service for Wokingham, RBWM and West Berkshire reached 63% of its target population coverage during 2016/17
 - 66% of tests ordered online were returned for analysis
 - 7% positivity rate is comparable to the average across all testing settings

EHC

- EHC prescribing is highest in GP Practices followed by pharmacies and lowest in SRH services
 - Pharmacy EHC recording coverage on the 'PharmOutcomes' system varied between LA
- Rates of EHC prescribing in SRH services compares to the regional averages in all Berkshire LAs across all age groups
 - Provision is highest in Reading and Slough
 - However, Slough CCG GP prescribing is low
- Rates of prescribing in GP practices is higher than the Berkshire average in South Reading CCG and lower than average in Wokingham and WAM CCGs

SEXUAL HEALTH WEBSITE (Safe Sex Berkshire)

- Use of SafeSexBerkshire increased over 2016/17 from its launch in April with use peaking around the time of promotional activity
- 80% of those who access the site do so from mobile devices so work is currently underway to improve the look and feel of the site for those using these media
- Users survey
 - Majority of respondents were aged 15 to 24; female and white – there is a need to increase use by males and BAME people
 - The majority of respondents reported visiting the site for advice around contraception and STIs
 - Feedback was generally positive
 - Over half of those who responded felt that video clips and interactive content would improve the site

Conclusions and recommendations

Generally the majority of the residents of the Berkshire local authorities enjoy good sexual and reproductive health. Services are available in all areas however there are differences in the level of provision across the different local authority areas. Service providers have sought to offer services targeted at people with the highest risk of sexual ill-health while also ensuring that services are accessible to anyone resident in or visiting the area.

- **While good quality services are available in all areas, commissioners and providers should consider how to improve access to services for their younger residents, new entrants to the UK and people with learning or physical disabilities and other groups that may be marginalised such as LGBT* people, sex workers and migrants**

Both Reading and Slough have more people living with HIV per 1000 population than the national rate reflecting to some extent historic patterns of migration from countries with very high HIV rates combined with successful treatment of HIV which enables people to live longer healthier lives.

Numbers of new HIV diagnoses in these areas are decreasing, in line with the national picture. Late diagnosis of HIV is higher across Berkshire, although very small numbers of new diagnoses in some areas make this difficult to interpret.

- **NICE Guidance recommends that HIV testing should be offered in general practice and in Emergency Departments in areas where the diagnosed prevalence is more than 2 per 1,000. There is a need to ensure that these recommendations are implemented in both Reading and Slough**

The number of teenage conceptions has reduced significantly across all Berkshire local authorities over the past decade, in line with national picture. Rates of all new STI diagnoses have been stable in most areas, with a significant downward trend in Reading and Slough since 2012. This is reassuring; however there is a risk that this decrease could be reversed without continued effort.

The rates of young people (15-24) accessing sexual and reproductive health services are variable across Berkshire. Contacts by young women are significantly lower than national and regional averages in Bracknell Forest, West Berkshire, and Wokingham, and in all areas young men are significantly less likely to access services than young women. Although rates of all new STI diagnoses are below national and regional rates in most areas, this is not the case in Reading.

Gay and bisexual men and people from 'Black' and 'Other' ethnic backgrounds are overrepresented in STI diagnosis figures given their relative population sizes. Although these groups are also overrepresented in the data showing first attendance for STI related care, they are proportionally less likely to receive an STI test at this first attendance.

- **There is a continued need to support young people to access information, advice and services such as contraception and STI testing so that they can make informed decisions about their sex lives and choose for themselves when to become sexually active without coercion.**
- **Mandatory inclusion of Sex and Relationships Education within the national curriculum is welcomed and there is a need for collaborative working across local authorities, schools and health providers to ensure services are offered in a cohesive way**
- **Services should seek to address inequalities in uptake of STI testing among clinic attendees, paying particular attention to those groups shown to be most at risk of STIs and HIV**

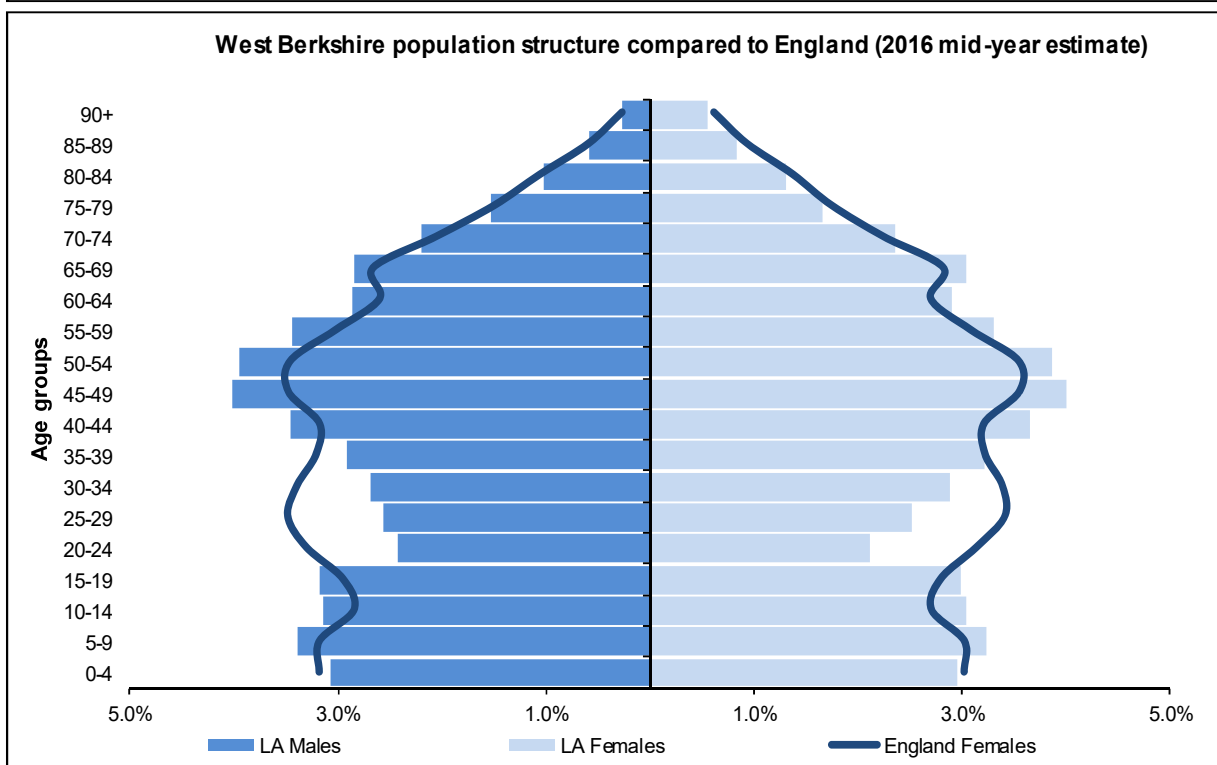
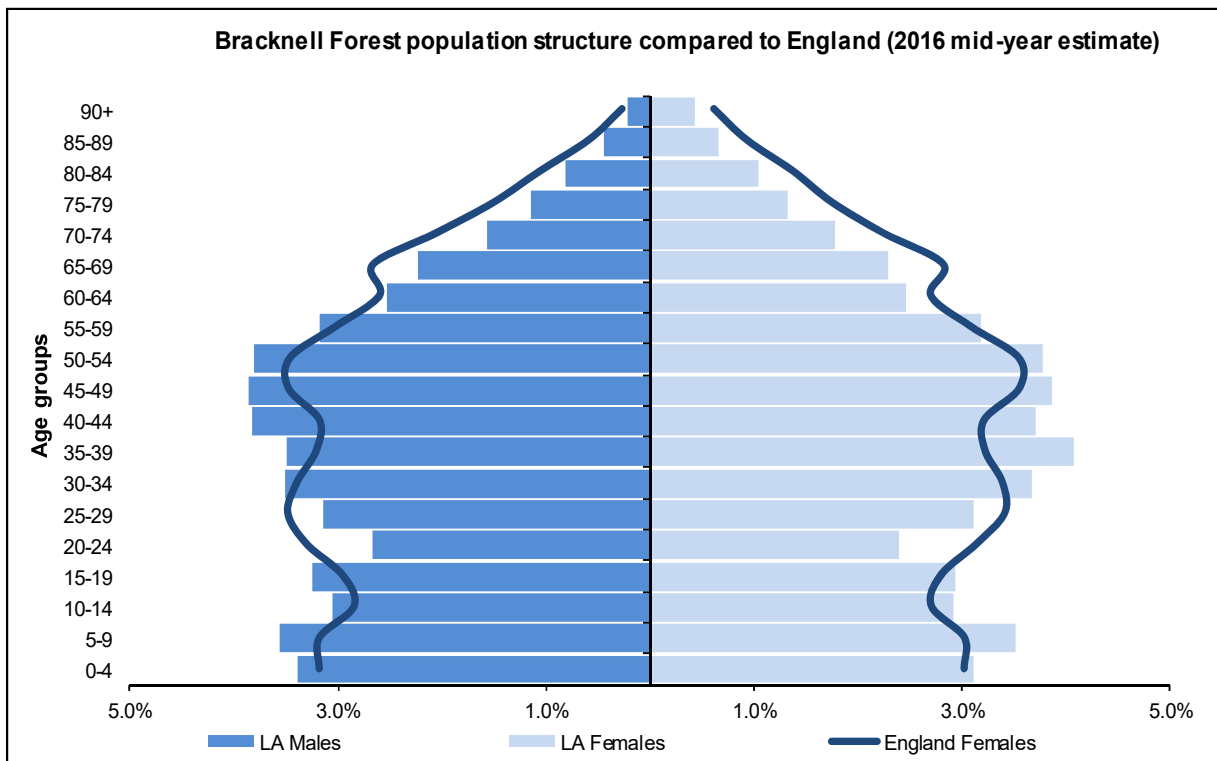
Uptake of the most effective types of contraception (long acting reversible contraception) in Berkshire is variable, with total LARC uptake lower than the national rate in in all areas with the exception of RBWM where it was similar. Across Berkshire, women are more likely to access LARC from their GP but the opposite is true in Slough where the majority of LARC is accessed from the specialist clinic.

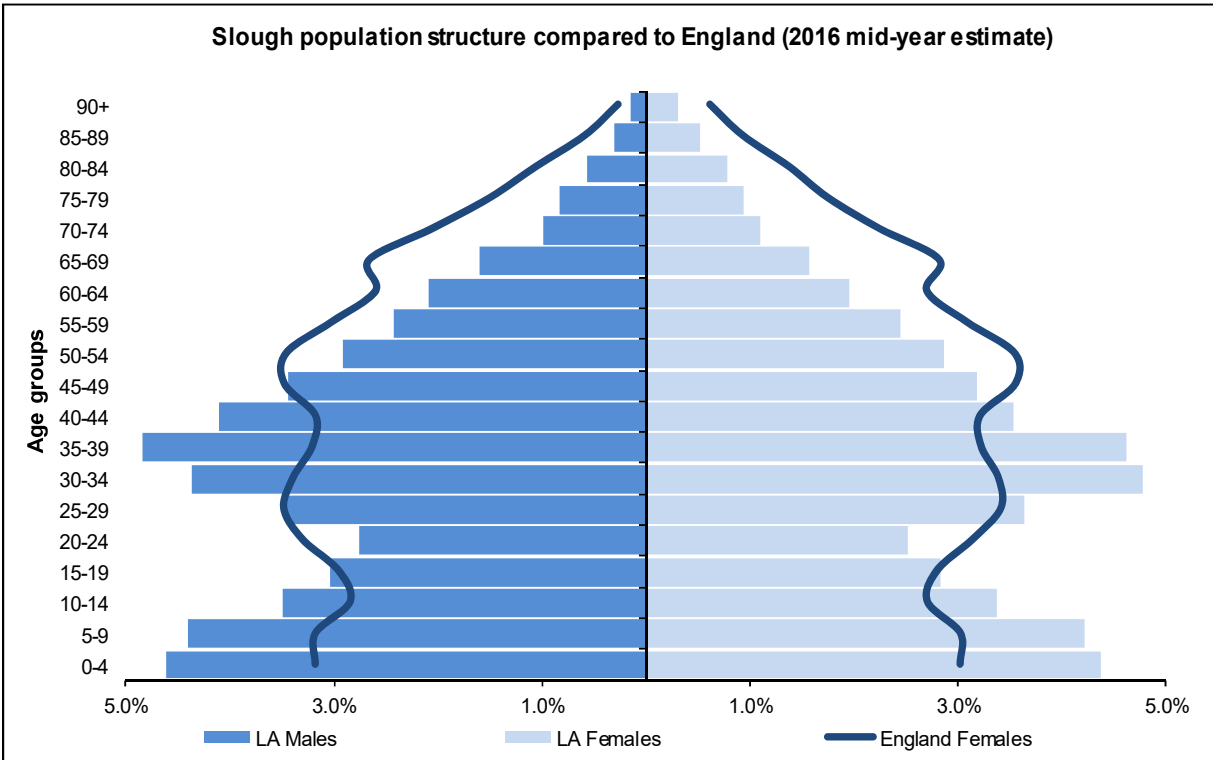
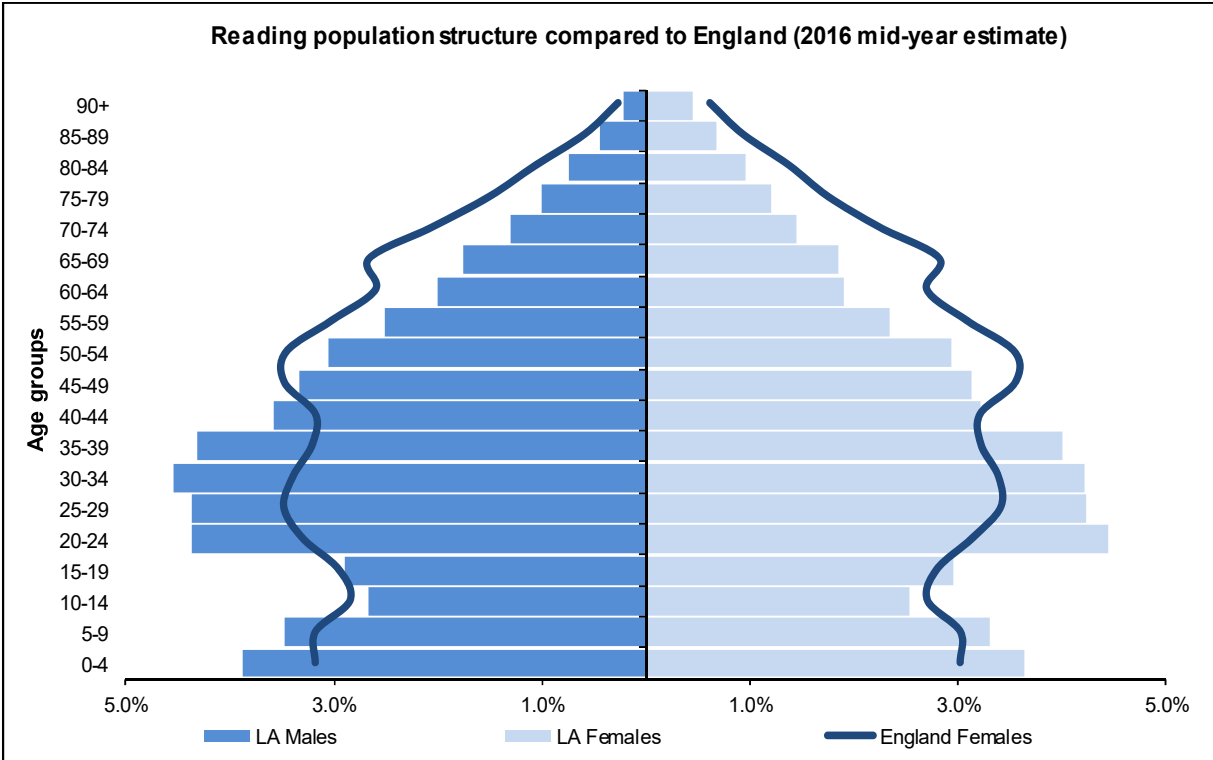
- **There is a need to ensure that women continue to have access to the full range of contraception in the setting that is most appropriate. Commissioners and providers should consider which types of contraceptive services are most effectively delivered at the specialist integrated service and which in General Practice and Community Pharmacy or other community settings**

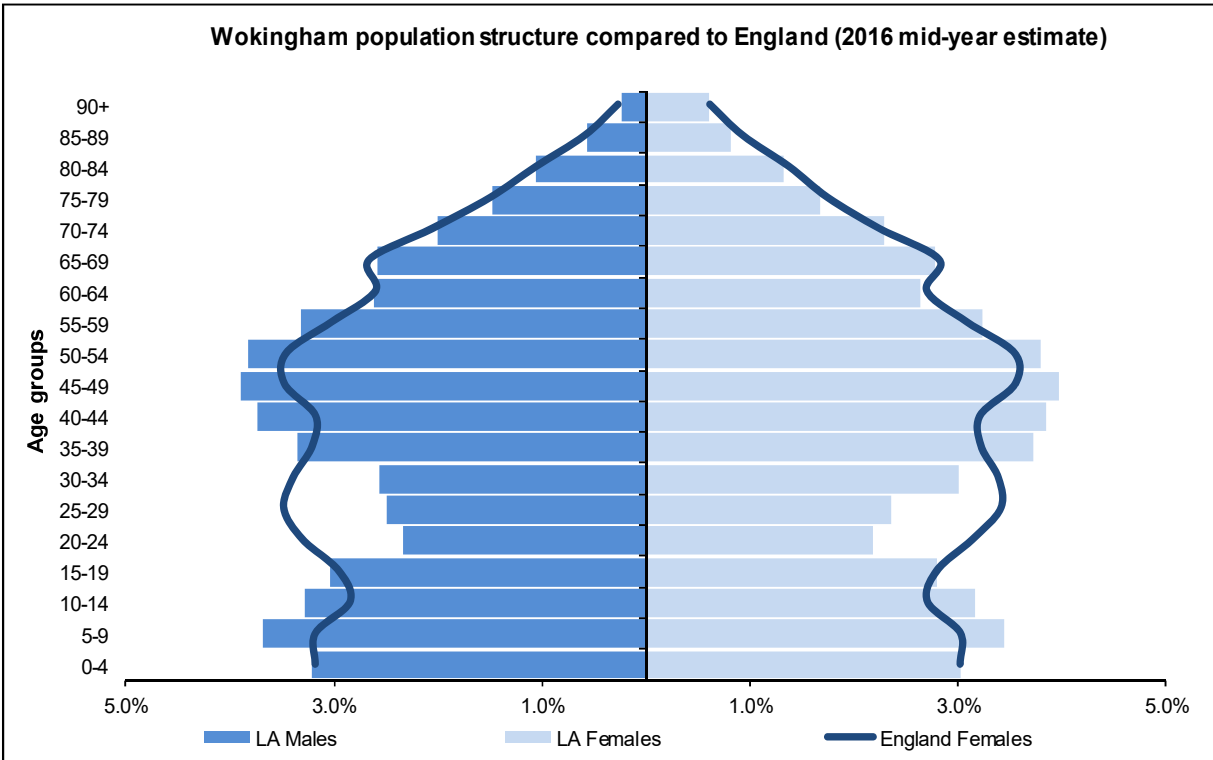
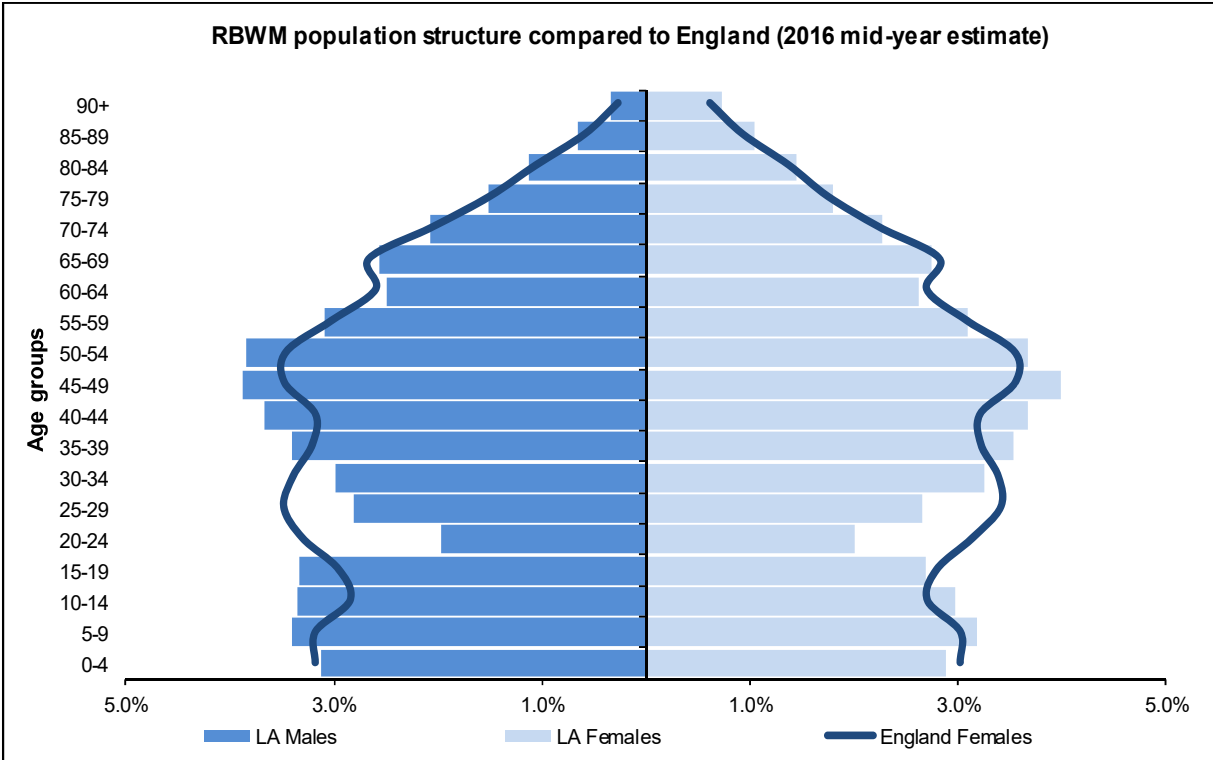
The introduction of a Berkshire-wide sexual health website has been successfully implemented, with use of the site increasing year on year. Nationally use of online testing is increasing and this will provide a richer source of data on which to base future commissioning decisions. National data from the HIV self-sampling service indicates the service has resulted in increased uptake of HIV testing by people at increased risk of HIV who may not have tested previously. Access to online chlamydia testing and HIV self-sampling through the site has indicated that these services are welcomed and being used by local residents, however the number and type of services on offer is likely to be confusing to navigate without a single consistent approach to commissioning and providing these services.

- **There is a need to continually review and improve the content, look and feel of the sexual health site to ensure it is meeting the needs of local people**
- **Wider access to online STI testing for residents should be considered**

Appendix 1: Additional charts

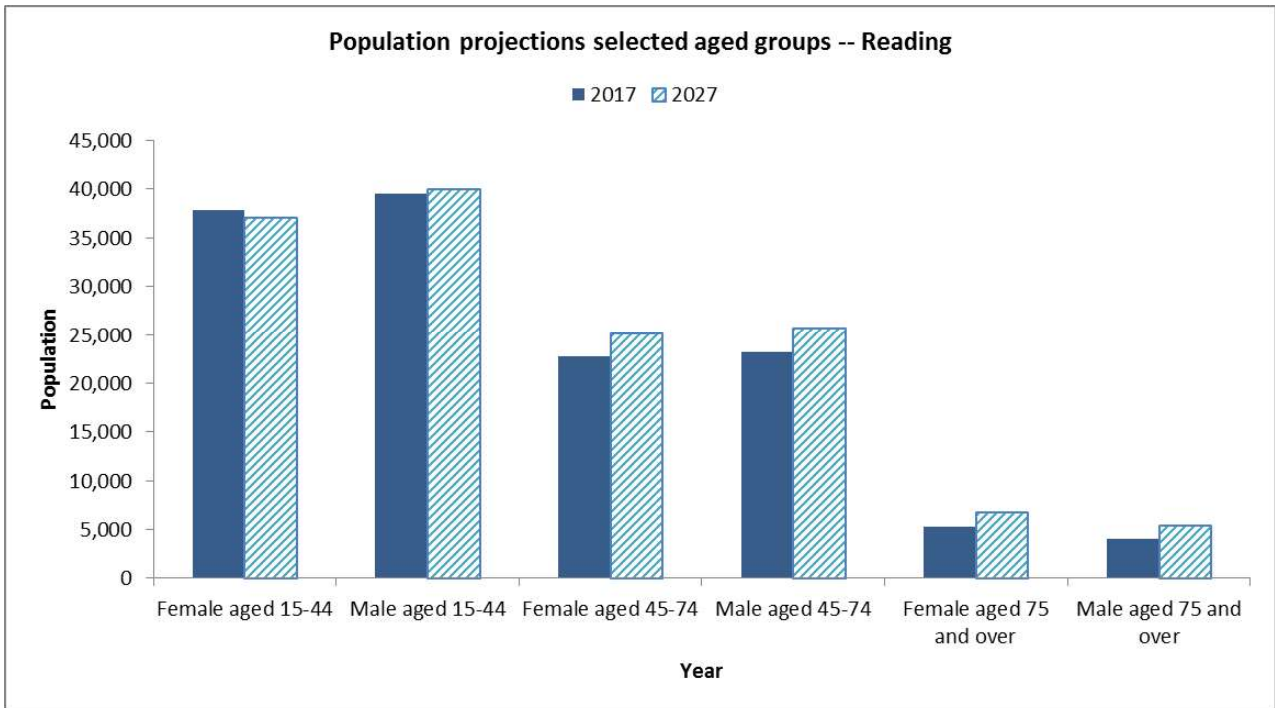
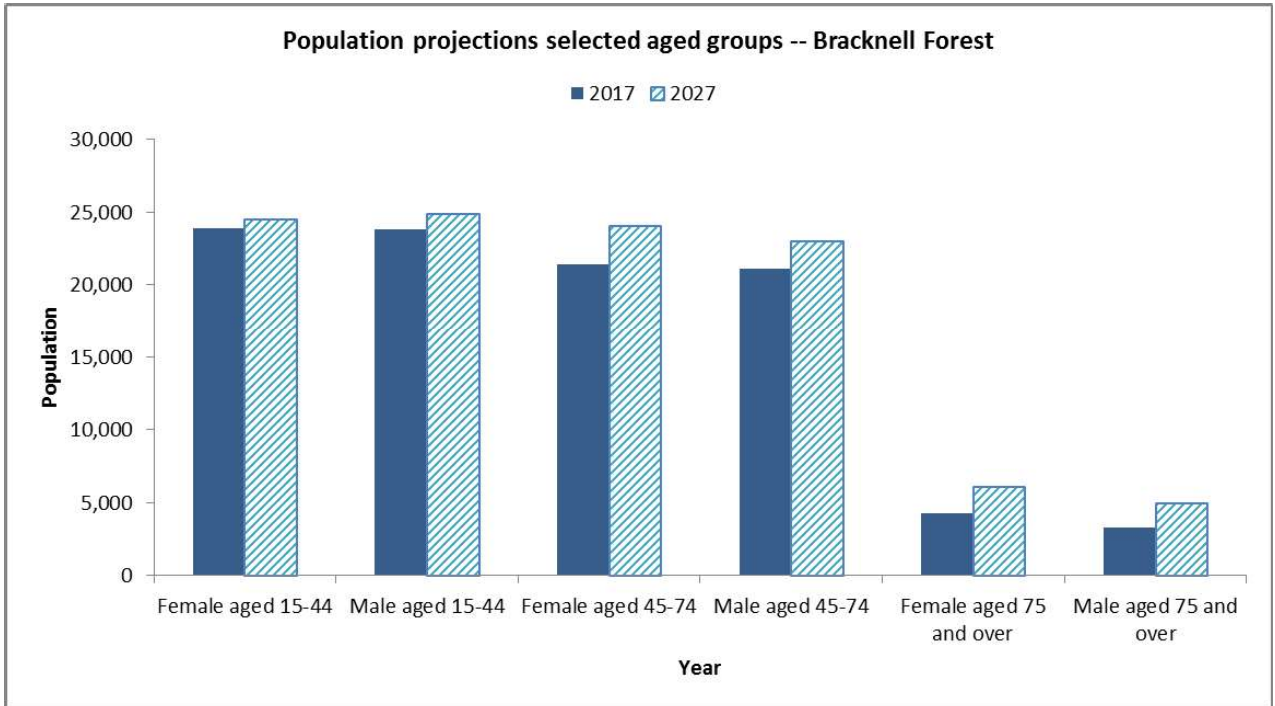


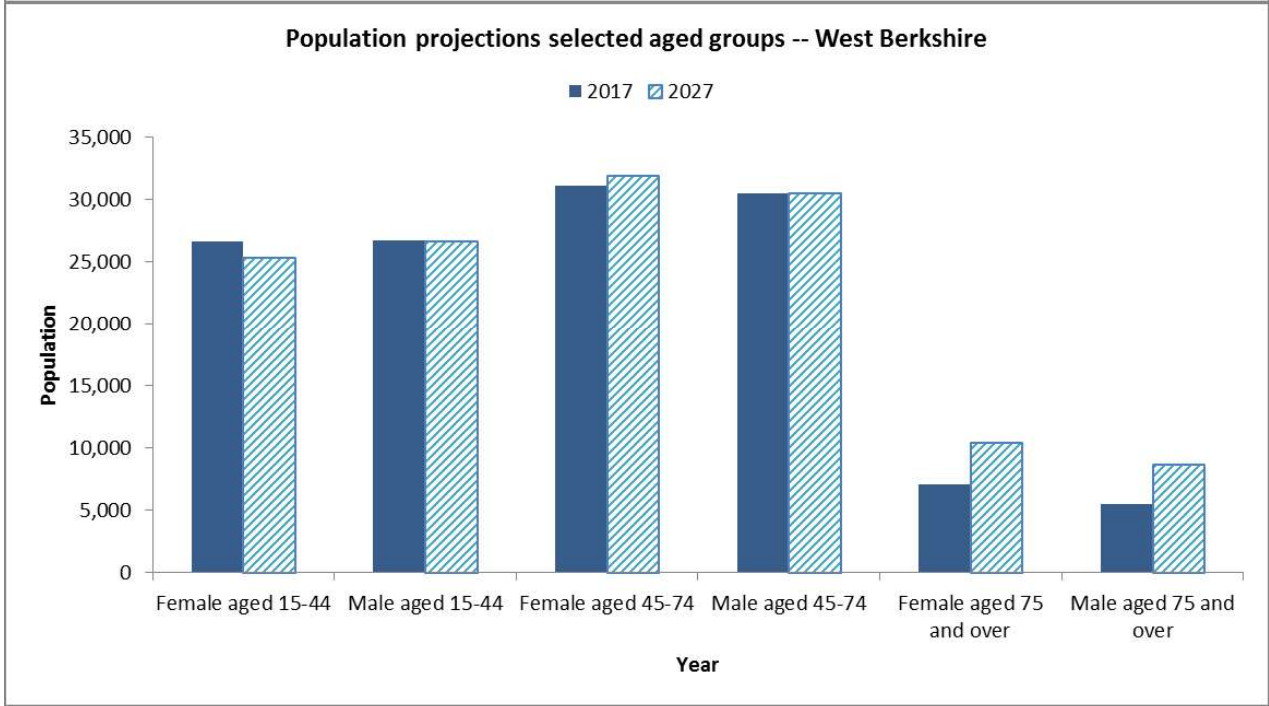
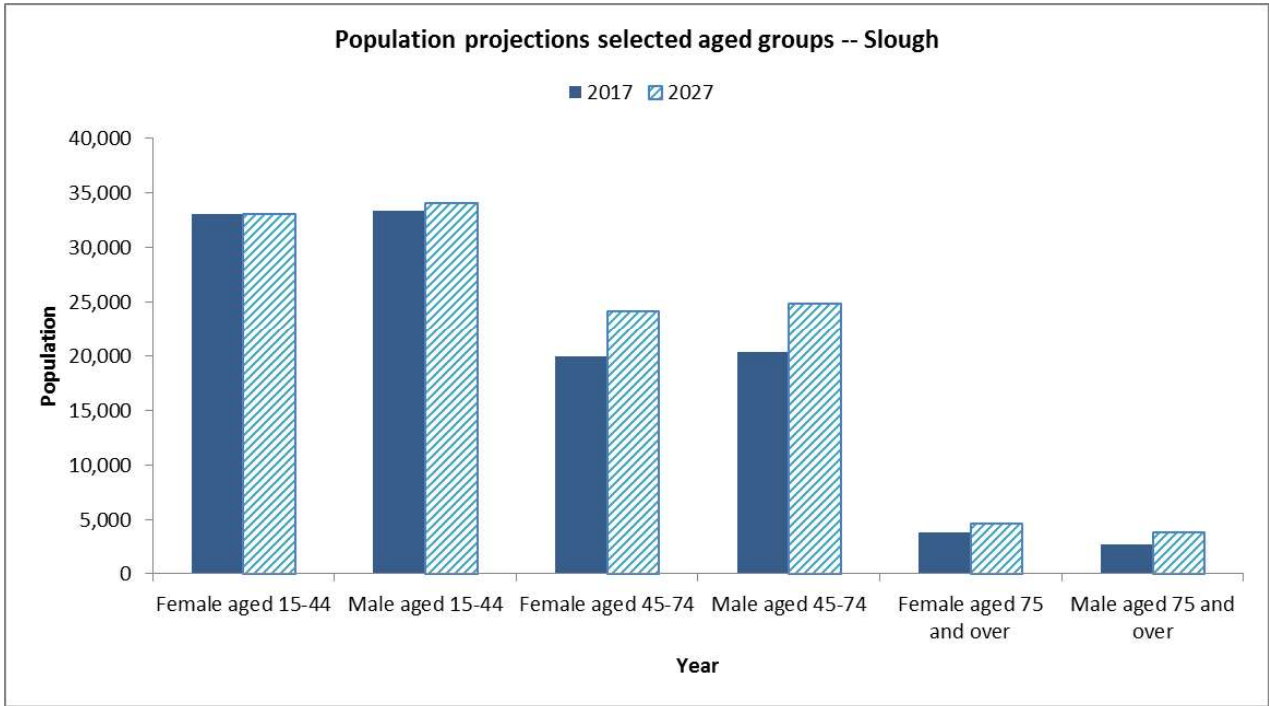


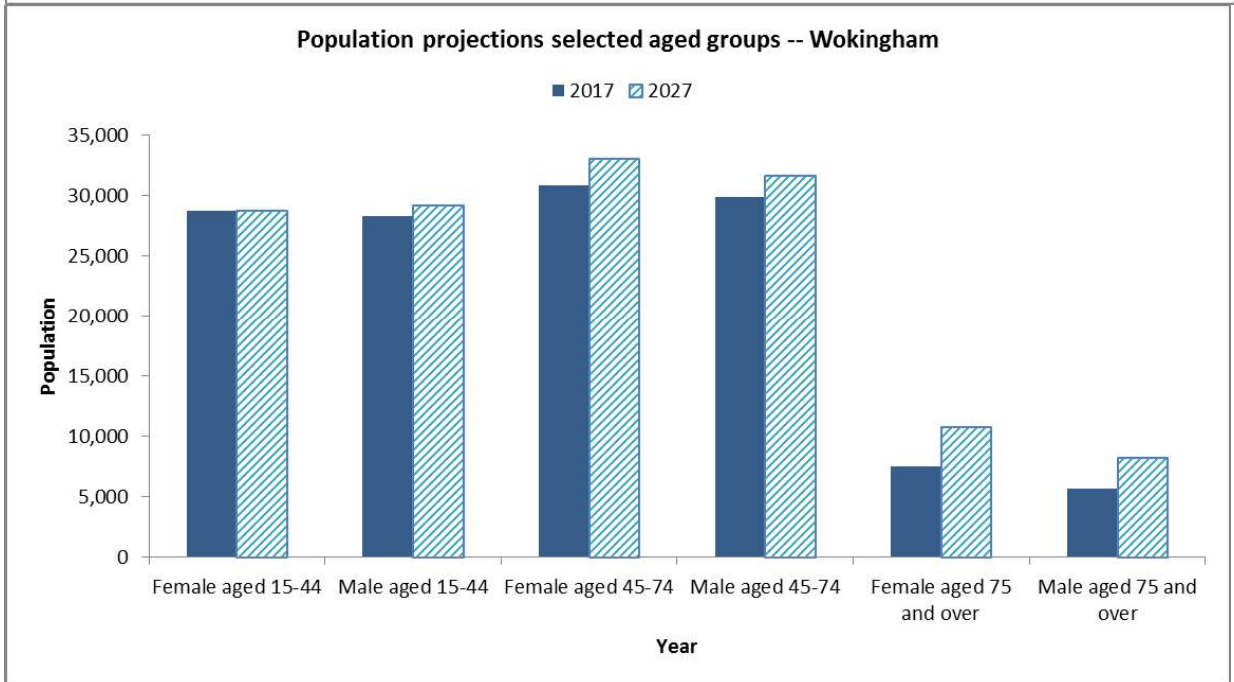
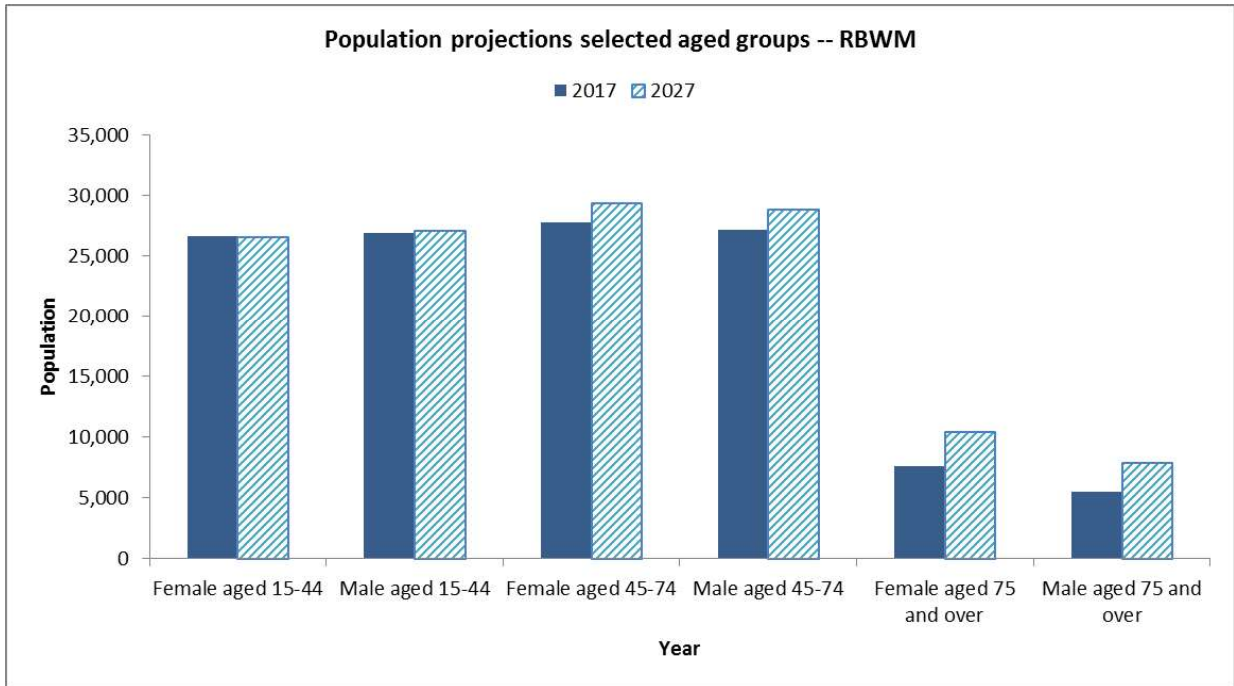


Source: Office for National Statistics (2017)

Figure 53: Population changes in key age groups between 2017 and 2027 Berkshire UAs







Source: Office for National Statistics (2015)

Appendix 2: National Sexual Health Service datasets

Data on attendances at GUM and SRH services are submitted, collated, and reported via two separate national systems and reported come from two separate data sources whether or not GUM and SRH services are integrated at a local level.

Data on attendance at SRH services is collected by NHS Digital as part of the [Sexual and Reproductive Health Activity Dataset \(SRHAD\)](#). The data collection covers activity taking place in the community at dedicated level 1, 2, and 3 SRH services including non-NHS providers where available and at integrated GUM/SRH services. GP Practice activity is excluded. Data is extracted by the service and submitted as a formatted CSV file to NHS Digital via a secure online system. Patient Software Systems may or may not have a SRHAD data extraction tool which automatically extracts and formats the data directly from the system.

Attendance at GUM and non-GUM STI services is collected by Public Health England as part of the [GUM Clinic Activity Dataset \(GUMCADv2\)](#). The collection includes data from all Level 3 (GUM) and Level 2 (non-GUM) SRH services *where the attendance involved an STI diagnosis and related care*. Level 3 services submit all of their patient activity. Level 2 services can only submit data related to STI diagnosis and related care (at least one STI code must be recorded for each first attendance). Most standard Patient Software Systems will have a GUMCADv2 data extraction tool as standard.

Integrated GUM and SRH services have to submit data to both data sets. Some demographic and administrative data items are shared between the two data sets. Integrated services are not expected to record this information twice and the data is automatically included in both the SRHAD and GUMCADv2 collection and reports.

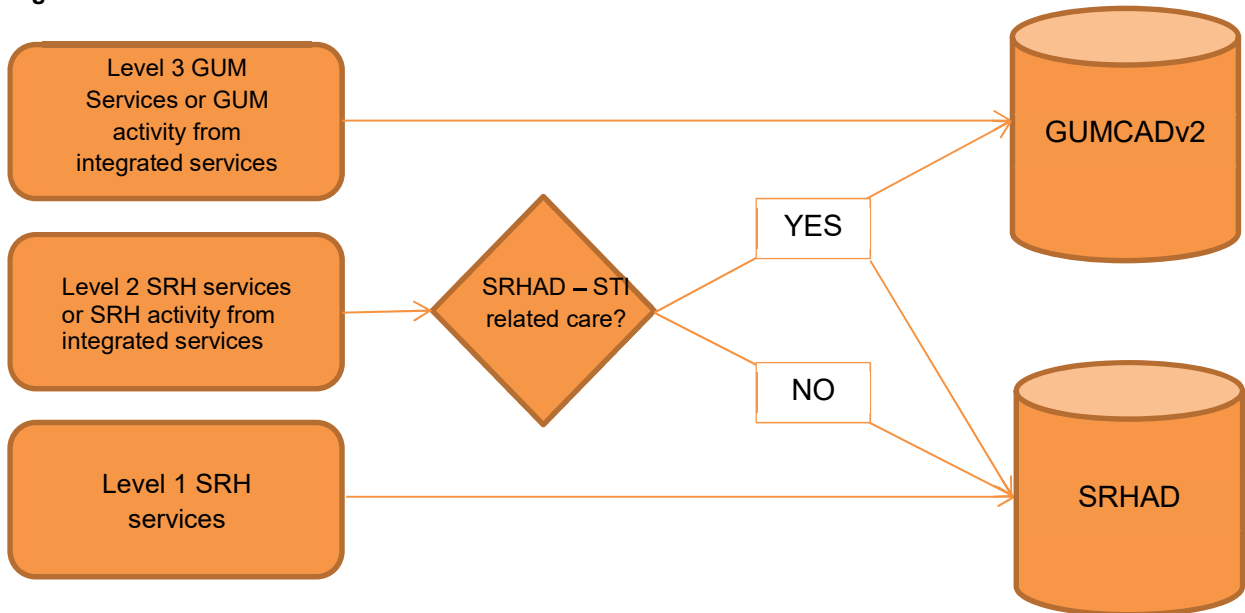
Some episode activity data collected in GUMCADv2 overlaps with care activity collected in SRHAD. These items are those in relation to sexual assault; contraception methods; cervical screening; and those that identify the activity as relating to only SRH or only STI care. Depending on the software used by the service, these items may need to be coded twice in order to appear in both the SRHAD and GUMCAD reports.

It is important to be mindful of this complexity in the submission of data to these two data sets when interpreting the resulting reports pertaining to these data items particularly when comparing one services data to another or when comparing against a benchmark. This is because there may be variation in which data sets services are submitting overlapping data sets to.

Additionally, in the resulting GUMCAD and SRHAD reports a patient will be counted multiple times across the data sets depending on numbers of diagnoses/services provided within one episode of care.

The diagram below shows the data flows to the two data collection systems.

Figure 54: Data flows to GUMCADv2 and SRHAD



A further data collection takes place through the Chlamydia Testing Activity Dataset (CTAD). This data of all chlamydia tests done in England is collected from NHS laboratories and Local Authority/NHS commissioned laboratories.

Appendix 3: Berkshire sexual health service details

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Manichem Bullbrook Pharmacy	Bracknell Forest	Pharmacy providing: • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Garth Hill College Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
Bracknell & Wokingham College Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
The Lodge After School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing. For anyone under 20 years of age. A doctor is also present for this session.
Edgbarrow School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
The Spot After School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing. For anyone under 20 years of age.
Sandhurst School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
Easthampstead Park School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
The Garden Clinic - Bracknell	Bracknell Forest	Offers confidential sexual health services to people of all ages who need sexual health care and advice in the east of Berkshire. Provides pregnancy testing and all methods of contraception. Also provide screening, treatment and care for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
SpeakEasy - Bracknell	Bracknell Forest	Sexual health service for young people aged 18 or under. Contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and testing and treatment for sexual infections. Information about safer sex, infections, unwanted pregnancy, sexuality or relationships. Condoms and self tests for Chlamydia can be collected at anytime when the clinic is open.
Youthline - Bracknell Forest Counselling Service	Bracknell Forest	Youthline are a counselling service who provide support and advice for young people aged 11-24 years.
Ranelagh School Drop-in	Bracknell Forest	Drop in clinic for young people (pupils at the school only). Offers general health advice, contraceptive services and pregnancy testing.
Superdrug Pharmacy	Bracknell Forest	Pharmacy providing: • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Amersham Road Youth Centre	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Markland Pharmacy	Reading	Pharmacy providing: • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Healthpoint @ John Madejski Academy	Reading	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships. For school students only.
Coley Park Community Centre	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Manichem Grovelands	Reading	Pharmacy providing: • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Boots the Chemists, Broad St	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
South Reading Youth & Community Centre	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Healthpoint @ Whitley Clinic	Reading	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships.
Manichem, Tilehurst	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Manichem Triangle	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Superdrug	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Healthpoint @ Prospect Park School	Reading	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships. For school students only.
Newdays Pharmacy	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Southcote Pharmacy	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Adsa pharmacy	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Healthpoint @ Reading College	Reading	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships. For college students only.
Thames Valley Positive Support	Reading	HIV counselling and support/testing
Trust House Sexual abuse, rape and trauma counselling	Reading	sexual abuse, trauma and rape counselling all ages Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships.
Healthpoint @ ADVIZA, Reading Library	Reading	A drop-in clinic for patients under 25. Offers: Free contraceptive supplies; Pregnancy testing; Unplanned pregnancy and termination of pregnancy advice. Emergency contraception is available for women of all ages. Chlamydia screening available. (If you are over 25 and require other contraceptive services you should make an appointment with your GP. If he or she is unable to help you we have several specialist clinics that you can be referred to. These clinics are by appointment only).
Department of Sexual & Reproductive Health - Drop in clinic for young people	Reading	

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Healthpoint @ Florey Unit	Reading	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships.
Vantage Chemist	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Hamilton Centre Youth Provision	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Boots the Chemists, Oracle	Reading	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Fairview Youth & Community Centre	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Edge of Care service	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
ReachOut LGBTQ group	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Cranbury college	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Vision	Reading	Youth service providing sexual health advice and condoms (as part of the C-Card scheme)
Cookham Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Bridge Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Boots Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Kay's Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Hetpole Ltd Dispensing Chemist	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Park Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Boots the Chemists	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
R F Blackburn Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Wraysbury Village Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Friary Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
McParland Chemists	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
The Garden Clinic - Maidenhead	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Offers confidential sexual health services to people of all ages who need sexual health care and advice in the east of Berkshire. Provides pregnancy testing and all methods of contraception. Also provide screening, treatment and care for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
Don't Pass it On	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	online chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening for young people aged under 25 with no symptoms
Test HIV	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	
Datchet Village Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Woodlands Park Pharmacy	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
J's Chemist	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
McParland Chemists	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
McParland Chemists	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Colnbrook Pharmacy	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
K Pharmacy	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Harrisons Pharmacy	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Martin Pharmacy	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
McParland Chemists	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Willow Pharmacy	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Test HIV	Slough	The test.hiv service is the Nationally commissioned provider of HIV home-sampling screening, and offers free HIV tests in participating regions. Further STI screening such as chlamydia tests are available via sister site freetest.me.
Thames Valley Positive Support	Slough	HIV counselling and support/testing Sexual health service for young people aged 18 or under. Contraception, emergency contraception, pregnancy testing and testing and treatment for sexual infections. Information about safer sex, infections, unwanted pregnancy, sexuality or relationships. Condoms and self tests for Chlamydia can be collected at anytime when the clinic is open.
SpeakEasy - Slough	Slough	Offers confidential sexual health services to people of all ages who need sexual health care and advice in the east of Berkshire. Provides pregnancy testing and all methods of contraception. Also provide screening, treatment and care for sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
The Garden Clinic - Slough	Slough	Provides free emergency contraception. (LARC to registered and / or unregistered patients?)
Slough NHS Walk-in Centre	Slough	Solace Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) provide local communities with a safe, discreet and caring environment to support victims of rape and sexual assault. Services are available for women, men and children. They can provide help whether the police are involved or not.
Sexual Assault Referral Centre - Solace Centre Slough	Slough	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
BOOTS UK LTD	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Lloydspharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloydspharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Boots UK Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Overdown Pharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Eastfield House Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Downland Pharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Boots UK Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Thattham Health Centre	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Healthpoint @ Thattham Community Hospital	West Berkshire	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships. For school students only.
Lambourn Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Specialist Midwife For Teenagers	West Berkshire	Antenatal and Postnatal care and education for under 18s
Specialist Health Visitor for Teenage Pregnancy	West Berkshire	Postnatal care and education for under 18s
Downland Practice	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Downlands Pharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Sainsbury's Instore Pharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Graham Jones Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Wash Common Pharmacy	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Falkland Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Healthpoint @ Newbury College	West Berkshire	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships. For college students only.
Kintbury & Woolton Hill Practice	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Northcroft Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Time to Test - HIV self testing service (Thames Valley Positive Support)	West Berkshire	HIV testing online
Don't Pass it On	West Berkshire	online chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening for young people aged under 25 with no symptoms
Sainsbury 's Supermarkets Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Superdrug Stores Plc	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
St Mary's Road Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
14 - 21 Time to Talk Youth Counselling Service	West Berkshire	Youth (14-21) counselling service on a whole range of issues, including sexual health and pregnancy.
Text your school nurse in confidence	West Berkshire	Text NURSE +question to 88020
Day Lewis PLC	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Chapel Row Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Hungerford Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception.
Boots UK Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Lloyds Pharmacy Ltd	West Berkshire	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Healthpoint @ Waterside Youth Centre	West Berkshire	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
C Card West Berkshire Sexual & Reproductive Health Clinic (GUM & Contraception)	West Berkshire West Berkshire	Free condoms for 16-24 years old/pregnancy testing sexual health clinics and contraception
Burdwood Surgery	West Berkshire	GP Practice able to prescribe Emergency Hormonal Contraception. Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Rankin Chemist	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Newdays Pharmacy	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Fields Pharmacy	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Twyford Youth Centre	Wokingham	A Youth Club aimed at young people in school years 6 to 8. Youth clubs run throughout the year, including school holidays, with scheduled closures for staff training
Mannimoss Chemist	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
ARC Youth Counselling and Information Service	Wokingham	A free and confidential counselling service at Wokingham, Woodley, Lower Earley and Twyford.
Boots the Chemists	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.

Organisation	LA	Service Info
Healthpoint @ Wokingham Hospital	Wokingham	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships..
Wokingham Hospital	Wokingham	Contraception and sexual health check ups
Healthpoint @ Woodley Centre Surgery	Wokingham	Healthpoint offers free, confidential health advice and support from qualified nurses and youth workers to anyone under 19. Find out more about safe sex, friendships, smoking, drugs, body image, stress, alcohol, bullying, and relationships.
Boots the Chemists	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Test HIV	Wokingham	The test.hiv service is the Nationally commissioned provider of HIV home-sampling screening, and offers free HIV tests in participating regions. Further STI screening such as chlamydia tests are available via sister site freetest.me.
Pavilion Youth Club	Wokingham	A Youth Club for young people 11-17 years. Youth Club runs on a Friday night from 7-9.30pm but do check beforehand.
Your Local Boots Pharmacy	Wokingham	Pharmacy providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free Emergency Hormonal Contraception to girls aged 13 - 19. • Sexual health advice and information on other local services.
Don't Pass it On	Wokingham	online chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening for young people aged under 25 with no symptoms