

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

02 December 2014

Report of the Director of Public Health

**OUT OF AREA SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES
(Health and Communities)**

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval for the proposed approach to invoicing for out of area sexual health services from April 2015.

2. Information and analysis:

Local authorities are responsible for the payment of sexual health services for their residents regardless of where in England they choose to seek a service. The Council is therefore limited in the extent to which it can control either the volume or where the services are provided. It is also resource intensive for the Council to monitor and manage.

National guidance outlining key principles to charge for out of area sexual health activity is available to support local authorities and providers. The Council will pay in accordance with national guidance where it is reasonable to do so.

However, it is proposed that the Council will deviate from the national guidance where the charges being applied by an out of area provider are, in the view of the Council, unreasonably high or do not otherwise provide value for money. In such circumstances, it is proposed that the Council should implement its own terms and conditions for the payment of such services. Payment will only be made where a provider can demonstrate they have supplied an appropriate sexual health service to a Derbyshire resident and an invoice is received together with supporting backing data. It is proposed to publish the Council's payment terms on the Council website and confirm this approach to all sexual health service providers and commissioners in England.

The annual budget to pay for out of area sexual health activity delivered to Derbyshire residents is £1.6 million. It is proposed that a service level agreement is agreed wherever possible where the annual volume of out of area sexual health services delivered by a single provider is likely to exceed £20,000.

3. Legal Considerations:

The Department of Health's non-statutory national guidance outlining key principles to cross charge for out of area sexual health activity is available to support local authorities and service providers determine and negotiate price. The guidance will be followed by the Council except in cases where it is concluded after due consideration there is a good reason to depart from it.

4. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, financial, human rights, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

Department of Health - Sexual Health Services: Key Principles for Cross Charging
Public Health England - HIV, sexual and reproductive health: current issues bulletin

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?
No

8. Officer's recommendation:

To approve the proposed approach to out of area invoicing for sexual health activity from April 2015.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health