

Sexual health services policy for Swindon secondary schools

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that specific sexual health services are delivered by school nurses and accessible for young people within secondary school settings.

2. DEFINITIONS

'Specific sexual health services' refers to pregnancy testing, distribution of condoms via the 'Swindon Condom Scheme' and dispensing of emergency hormonal contraception (EHC) via a patient group directive (PGD).

'Young people' refers to students attending a secondary school setting. (Age 14-19 years)

3. PRINCIPLES

School nurses are required to make a formal agreement with individual schools regarding the specific sexual health services that the head teacher and governors will allow to be delivered on school premises.

School nurses will deliver responsive specific sexual health services to individual young people following the established procedures of risk assessment, consent, confidentiality, and of safeguarding.

SBC is committed to ensuring that:

- All national guidance is considered and incorporated into policy and practice where appropriate.
- School nurses deliver sexual health services and offer support in collaboration with the 'Swindon & Wiltshire Sexual Health Service' (SWISH) outreach nurses.
- School nurses maintain a robust process of assessing risks related to the ability to gain consent and safeguarding.

4. RESPONSIBILITIES

- All school nurses will adhere to agreed School Nursing Service Standard No. 14
- All school nurses are responsible for working with relevant school staff to agree and deliver appropriate services within their defined schools.

- All school nurses are responsible for delivering sexual health services using the current ratified 'Spotting the Signs assessment', condom scheme pathway and PGD for EHC.
- All school nurses are responsible for maintaining written evidence of assessment and services delivered to young people within client notes and using the Capita One record system.

5. RATIFICATION

- The Quality, Safety and Performance Unit in SEQOL, has been authorised by SBC to approve the policy framework for sexual health services provided by the school nursing service within secondary school settings.

6. TRAINING

- Training for SBC school nurses will be delivered annually by the SWISH nurses based at Great Western Hospital. Training will include information on risk assessment, consent, confidentiality, the PGD, distribution of condoms, pregnancy testing, sexually transmitted diseases and established care pathways.
- Annual training is essential for all school nurses who provide this service in secondary schools.
- There will be an initial assessment of staff competency by SWISH nurses. (before services can be delivered by practitioners)

7. MONITORING FRAMEWORK

- School nurses will use clinical audit to monitor standards and efficacy of current practice, this will be agreed as part of the clinical audit annual plan.
- User evaluations will be used routinely by the school nursing service to monitor user experience of the experience. Students will be offered the opportunity to independently complete a questionnaire – information will be collated by the professional lead, a report will be written and shared with QSPU and senior managers.

8. ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS

- SBC Patient Group Direction Levonorgestral
- Spotting the Sign sexual health needs assessment tool
- Referral pathway for Under-16s / Vulnerable under 18's following completion of sexual health needs assessment tool
- 'Action for pregnancy testing in school' flow chart (2014)
- 'Action for dispensing EHC in school' flow chart (2014)
- 'Action for distributing condoms in school' flow chart (2014)
- Swindon School Nursing Standard No.14
- 'I think I may be pregnant' Swindon Sexual Health Partnership & NHS Swindon.

(All documents are available electronically on the SBC school nurse shared 'N' drive)