What does the Health and Social Care Bill mean for sexual health services in England?
March 2012

The Health and Social Care Bill passed through its final legislative stages in March 2012.

Here is a summary of the key changes that the Bill makes to the health service:
- Creates the National Commissioning Board
- Establishes Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) which will commission the majority of NHS services
- Abolishes Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts
- Devolves commissioning for public health services to local authorities and Public Health England (a new national body)
- Sets up local Health and Wellbeing Boards which will be responsible for the integration of public health, social care and NHS services
- Creates Local and National Healthwatch to improve public and patient involvement in health services

Changes to commissioning of sexual health services

See below for where different sexual health services will be commissioned from April 2013 and changes to decision-making within commissioning.

Local authorities (as part of public health)

Local authorities will commission the following sexual health services (as part of public health) from April 2013:
- Contraception (outside of the GP contract)
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing and treatment
- Sexual health promotion
- HIV prevention

Local authorities will be mandated to provide appropriate access to sexual health services. The public health budget will also be ring-fenced.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)
JSNAs will be used by local authorities to assess the health and wellbeing of the local population. The JSNA will be used by the local Health and Wellbeing Board
to produce the local Health and Wellbeing Strategy which will inform commissioning decisions. For more information see *Joint Strategic Needs Assessments and joint health and wellbeing strategies explained* (Dec 2011).

**Health and Wellbeing Boards**
Each local authority will have a Health and Wellbeing Board established. The Director of Public Health and a representative from local CCGs will be members of the Board. Locally elected councillors will also be members of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

**Director of Public Health**
Each local authority will also have a Director of Public Health who will be responsible for exercising the public health functions of the local authority. The Director of Public Health will be a statutory member of the local Health and Wellbeing Board and report annually on the health of the local population. For further information see *The role of the Director of Public Health* (Dec 2011).

### Clinical Commissioning Groups (GPs)

Clinical commissioning Groups will commission the following sexual health services from April 2013:

- Abortion services (abortion services were originally planned to be commissioned by Local Authorities but were moved to CCGs in December 2011. A consultation on this move is expected “in due course.”)

For more information on CCGs read *Developing clinical commissioning groups: towards authorisation* (Sept 2011).

### National Commissioning Board

The National Commissioning Board will commission the following sexual health services from April 2013:

- HIV treatment and care
- Contraception through primary care (GPs) through the GP contract

### Further Reading

- [Health and Social Care Bill 2010-2012](#)
- [Healthy Lives, healthy people: Update and way forward](#) (July 2011)
- *Public Health in Local Government factsheets* (December 2011)