

4^TS SEXUAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the December edition of 4 Thought Solutions Newsletter about what is going on in the field of sexual health and contraception.

Latics ditched blue for green ribbon OLDHAM Athletic players marked World Aids Day at their game with Walsall by encouraging people to get tested for HIV.



Oldham athletic have for a number of years encouraged their players to participate in basic sexual health training and have support out reach testing programmes at their matches.
<http://www.oldham-chronicle.co.uk/news-features/8/news/16876/latics-ditch-blue-for-green-ribbon>

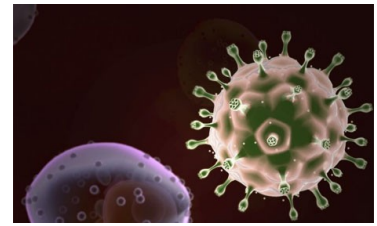
Body Positive North West (BPNW) is marking World Aids Day, which took place on Tuesday, by holding a year long Go4it campaign.
<http://bpnw.org.uk/>

World Aids Day has again raised the issues around blood donation. The National Blood Service (NBS) has had a blanket ban on blood donations from men who have sex with men (MSM) since the early 1980's and in April this year issued a position statement reiterating its position. It claims it wants to protect patients from HIV, but its indiscriminate ban on gay donors is flawed as statistics show that the heterosexual population is an ever increasing pool of HIV infection. If the NBS is seriously concerned about screening out HIV contaminated blood donations, why is it refusing to test donated blood for the HIV virus? What is its rationale for adopting the cheaper, less safe option of testing for HIV antibodies?

http://www.blood.co.uk/pdfdocs/position_statement_exclusion.pdf
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/dec/01/gay-blood-donors>

Apparently

research published on the 1st December by the Stanford University School of Medicine shows that HIV's ancestor millions of years older than previously believed.



<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2008/dec/02/hiv-aids-research>

Teenagers

targeted by the government in pre-Christmas safe sex campaign. The government is about to launch a hard-hitting TV campaign to encourage young people to use condoms. The aim of the campaign to try to stem the rise in teen pregnancies that occurs annually during the booze-fuelled Christmas party season.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/media/2008/dec/01/advertising-sexual-health>

As part of this campaign there have been some novel moves Check out this fun way of getting teenagers or anyone to take a bit more notice of STI's <http://www.gruntdoc.com/pics/12-STIS.SWF> it is linked to the NHS - www.playingsafely.co.uk - which in turn is linked to - <http://www.condomessentialwear.co.uk/>

Health Curriculum for Youth Workers – On Line Survey - The National Youth Agency (NYA) want to examine the training and development needs of youth workers. NYA would like to know the views of youth workers, trainers, employers and health colleagues on the need for a health curriculum as part of the professional training of youth workers. They are carrying out an **on-line survey** which takes 10-15 minutes to complete. If you would like to know more about the project or can offer further information contact **Louise Atkin** on 01746 764080.

<http://www.nya.org.uk/information/100135/healthlat estnews/>



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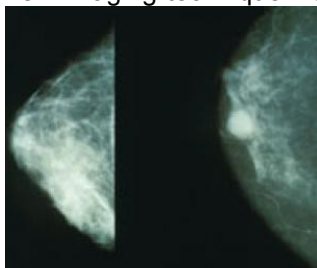
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Teenage-led sex education could be an innovative way forward - A Medical Research Council funded study has found that a teenage-led sex education programme was popular with pupils and may have led to fewer teenage pregnancies. But the programme did not affect the abortion rate.

<http://www.mrc.ac.uk/Newspublications/News/MRC005242>

Science News almost a year since it was originally announced that a new way of screening for breast cancer was being developed. Research scientists from the University of Bristol reported on the progress of the five year programme to revolutionise Breast Screening. Apparently the new imaging technique works by transmitting radio waves of a very low energy and detecting reflected signals, creating a 3D image of the breast. It is quicker and more comfortable to have done.



Normal (left) versus cancerous (right) mammography image. (Credit: Image courtesy of University of Bristol)

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/11/081111203503.htm>

Following the shameful incident of baby P teachers, GP's and community health workers are being encouraged and advised to report disturbed behaviour that may indicate a child suffering abuse. Experts apparently feel that 'fear of causing more harm than good is preventing reporting.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/society/2008/dec/03/child-protection-abuse>

A special joint area review was commissioned following the death of Baby P in Haringey and the subsequent findings of the serious case review, which examined the circumstances of the baby's death and the role of each of the services involved with the family, can be accessed at:

<http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/publications/haringeyreview/>

Britons may be 'saving money' with sex!

As the credit crunch bites, Britons may be turning to sex as a cheap way to pass the time, a charity says. A YouGov survey of 2,000 adults found sex was the most popular **free** activity, ahead of window shopping and gossiping. Not necessarily free, as many will attest nine months later

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/health/7755315.stm>

The Brook Awards 2009



These awards recognise and celebrate the outstanding work young people and professionals are doing to improve the lives of young people all over the UK. Is there someone you work with who inspires you daily with their imagination, positive attitude & energy? Are you part of a project that is making a real difference to the lives of young people? Do you know a young person who is doing outstanding work in the sexual health sector?

Then please take 10 minutes to nominate a work colleague, a project and a young person for the Brook Sexual Health Awards 2009! It is open to all professionals. To nominate or for more information simply click on: www.brook.org.uk

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY 15th DECEMBER

Interesting web sites for teenagers – We have been updating some of our teaching material and found a number of websites geared towards teenagers rather than the 'professional'. We thought we would share a few of them with you. If you have any to add then let us know and we will include them in next month's newsletter.

<http://www.talk4teens.co.uk/default.asp>

<http://www.thesource.me.uk/>

<http://www.icebergsandbabies.org.uk/>

<http://www.likeitis.org.uk/>

<http://www.ship-shape.org.uk/youngpeople.php>

<http://www.avert.org/youngindex.htm>

<http://www.outzone.org/>

European Day against Females Genital Mutilations (FGM)

Within the framework of the Daphne Programme of the European Commission, the European Network for the Prevention of Female Genital Mutilation (Euronet-FGM) organised, on November 25, 2008, a European Day against female genital mutilation (FGM). Members of Euronet-FGM from 15 European countries organised events in their respective country in order to present their national action plan for the elimination of FGM. These action plans will also be presented at an international conference in April 2009 in the European Parliament. The FGM-National Action Plan for UK was presented by Dr Comfort Momoh, M.B.E FGM/ Public Health Specialist on 25th November 2008 (draft copy) at the amnesty International centre London



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Forthcoming Events

To book onto these events please use the contact details listed.



If you fancy a little trip away from home check out the following conferences at <http://www.contemporaryforums.com/m411109/bene.asp> the programme is really comprehensive.

Contraceptive Technology

March 18-21, 2009 - San Francisco

April 1-4, 2009 - Washington, DC

Closer to home

Capita's 7th National Conference

Delivering Safe Spaces for Young People
Sustainable and Accessible Youth Facilities
Wednesday 28th January 2009 – Central London
<http://www.capitaconferences.co.uk/OurConferences/LocalGovernment/Youth+Facilities.htm>

Developing Learning Disabilities Services

24 February 2009 London CBI Conference Centre
<http://www.hsj-learningdisabilities.com> Programme looks good, no specific mention of Sexual Health but if you go you can raise the issue.

Palm Training runs a number of course throughout the year check out their website for details <http://www.palmtraining.org.uk/>

- 22nd Jan Women's Health Update - Birmingham Medical Institute
- 28th Jan Update on Family Planning (Prof J Guillebaud) FSRH Approved 3 1/2hrs Wivenhoe House, Colchester
- 3rd March Update on Family Planning (Prof J Guillebaud) FSRH Approved 3 1/2hrs Nottingham Race Course

Previously Listed Events

January

National Conference on Health Care Associated Infections – Everybody's Role, everybody's responsibility! 3rd annual conference 14th January 2009 Majestic Hotel, Harrogate. Only £15 (book by 10th December) go to: www.rcn.org.uk/events

Job opportunity



Federation of Stadium Communities

Development Manager

Hours: Full time (37.5 hrs)

Salary: **£24,000**

Based - Stoke on Trent - 18-month initial contract, with the potential to make this a permanent post.

For an application pack please email: info@stadiumcommunities.org.uk or you can download it from the website at www.stadiumcommunities.org.uk **Closing Date** for applications: 5.00pm Friday **12th December 2008**

Interview Date: Tuesday 13th January 2009 (TBC)
Please circulate the details to anyone you think might be interested. It is a fabulous opportunity. Chris, Judy and the team are really keen to develop links between sport and health.

Coming soon – 4 Thought Solutions Ltd has developed a card game to introduce STI's to a range of professional and non-professional groups. This fun innovative and versatile resource is suitable for training workshops, educational settings and parental use. Check out the website for more information www.4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

This newsletter is for you if you have any questions, research or audits you would like assistance with or if you would like to contribute news items, event listings, vacant positions, items of interest then please email any contributions directly to the editor at info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

4 Thought Solutions takes no responsibility for the accuracy of news or information contained in this newsletter about what is happening in relation to sexual health matters especially when sourced from external organisations and news agencies. All opinions expressed are those of the original authors and do not necessarily represent the views of 4 Thought Solutions. The listing of the original sources, when available, will allow you to access the original information or full article.

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