



# THOUGHT SOLUTIONS

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**Welcome** to the October edition of the 4TS newsletter about what is going on in the field of sexual health and contraception. During the last month there has been some excellent conferences (more details below). If you have a project or equipment needs, which require funding remember that now is the time to have bids ready for submission if any end of year funding becomes available.

**The** comments made by Michelle Hanson in the Guardian on the 7<sup>th</sup> October are questionable, to say that teachers who have sexual relationships with pupils over 16 should not be considered sex offenders has stirred heated responses. Mr Freeman, Director of Childrens Services, Dudley comments on the 9<sup>th</sup> October probably echo many other peoples sentiments. Teachers, are in a position of authority and power, and also of trust, and they all know the boundaries that must not be crossed. To suggest a trained teacher does not know where to draw the line is naive. Pupils may have crushes or may act provocatively for other reasons, but that is absolutely no excuse for teachers to misbehave in this way.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/theguardian/2008/oct/09/3>

**'Pregnancy pact'** school to allow contraceptives - School board votes unanimously to OK distribution at high school clinic (08.10.08) Associated Press - GLOUCESTER, Mass. USA - Schools in the Massachusetts city where girls reportedly made a "pregnancy pact" will allow contraceptives to be distributed — with parental consent. Time magazine reported that some of the 17 pregnant girls at the high school had agreed to have kids and raise them together. The mayor and some of the pregnant girls denied any pact existed.

**Dating** website for STI sufferers – original article published 12/10/2008 - This article highlights the problems encountered by those with a incurable sexually transmitted infection. It is difficult to advice people on how to approach the issue of dating immediately after diagnosis. Dating can be a fraught business for anyone but it is even more so for sufferers of incurable STI's they face ignorance, humiliation and rejection. The first

website for British people with STI's - [www.datepositive.net](http://www.datepositive.net) - was launched in 2006 they experienced a huge demand within hours of being launched they now have 3,000 members and it is growing all the time.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/main.jhtml?xml=/health/2008/10/12/st\\_STD.xml&page=1](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/health/main.jhtml?xml=/health/2008/10/12/st_STD.xml&page=1)

**The** issue of prosecuting people for deliberately infecting others with HIV is once again in the news. Three men have gone on trial in the Netherlands accused of deliberately infecting at least 14 men with HIV – by drugging them and then injecting them with infected blood.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7668444.stm>

**Playing** politics with sex workers – It appears that planned government legislation makes assumptions based on unreliable data that will make women less safe. This article explores issues relating to prostitution, human trafficking and the price people pay for their involvement in the 'oldest profession'. The article questions the research on which the government is basing their intentions to introduce further criminalisation, read the full article at:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/commentisfree/2008/oct/16/law-jacquismith>

**For** those of you working in outreach projects related to prostitution there are a number of PDF articles at:

[http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY\\_Project/Publications.php](http://www.eaves4women.co.uk/POPPY_Project/Publications.php)

**Government** announces statutory PSHE – The government response to the Review of the SRE in schools means that those as young as Five will receive a limited sex education. It is acknowledged that currently the PSHE programme is very hit and miss. While many believe that improving and expanding the the PSHE and in particular the SRE element therefore ensuring that the younger generation will have the knowledge, skills as well as the confidence to make informed decisions in regards to their health and well being. A number of

groups and family campaigners will continue to oppose the implementation of SRE in primary schools. Both the review report and the governments response are available at:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/> or National Children's Bureau web site  
[http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx\\_3246nj\\_22202755520489x26t\\_20081023388k](http://www.ncb.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_3246nj_22202755520489x26t_20081023388k)

**The** Boy Scouts Association is looking at ways to promote sexual health and safer sex, including condom distribution and organising visits to sexual health service.

[http://scouts.org.uk/news\\_view.php?news\\_id=119](http://scouts.org.uk/news_view.php?news_id=119)

### **New Resources On-line**

**Free** Online Access to Sage Publications - Earlier this year SAGE celebrated the launch of the 500th journal site on the SAGE Journals Online platform. SAGE Journals Online provides users access to one of the largest collections of social science, humanities, and science, technical, and medical content in the world. You can now register for free online access to over 500 SAGE journals with content available from 1999. Registration takes only a couple of minutes and then you can access all 500+ SAGE journals on their award-winning online platform. [www.sagepub.co.uk](http://www.sagepub.co.uk)

To take part in a current public survey by the greater Manchester sexual health network go to: <http://www.sexualhealthnetwork.co.uk/surveyshome.html>

[General Patient/ Public Survey regarding Sexual Health and Contraceptive Services](#)

<http://www.northwest.nhs.uk/> interested in getting involved check out the following web site and have your say:

[http://www.northwest.nhs.uk/consultations/Current\\_Consultations.html](http://www.northwest.nhs.uk/consultations/Current_Consultations.html)

**The** following guidelines are out for wider consultation for a period of 3 months from the time of posting. Please contact the CEG Guideline Lead if you have any comments.

[Management of Viral Hepatitides 2008](#) (consultation draft posted July 2008) contact Dr David Daniels: [daviddaniels@nhs.net](mailto:daviddaniels@nhs.net)

[Management of balanitis 2008](#) (consultation draft posted 15-08-08) contact BASHH secretariat or [Dr Gill McCarthy](#) for comments

To access these documents go to:

<http://www.bashh.org/guidelines>

**Based** in the north West and doing any research into HIV the check out

<http://www.sexualhealthnetwork.co.uk/links.htm> for the latest statistics for the area

**Researchers** have identified a novel type of antibody that potently inhibits HIV Infection - A small antibody fragment that is highly effective in neutralizing the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) by preventing the virus from entering cells has been identified by researchers at NCI. This finding may provide insight into the development of new treatments against HIV and other viruses, hopefully in the not too distant future.

<http://www.cancer.gov/newscenter/pressreleases/HIVDomainAbDimitrov> (Posted: 20/10/2008)

**Sexual** disease e-cards - these numerous e-cards are in use in the North American continent as a way to inform contacts, of those diagnosed with an STI. Is this an idea that could be developed here? To view the cards see the full article at:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/newstopping/aboutthat/3248717/Sexual-disease-e-cards-break-news-of-infection-with-humour.html>

**Equality** and Diversity - Meeting Everyone's Needs - Central and Eastern Cheshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) recognize that some people do not get an equal chance in life and that this can affect health in a number of ways. As a PCT our aim is to promote equality and diversity to help to close the gap in health inequalities particularly amongst people who are gay or lesbian. They have developed a holistic view in the form of the Single Equality Scheme, which will be monitored by an Equality Monitoring Group. The group is open to members of the public and they are currently looking for new members to join the group. To support the Scheme the PCT are also asking for 'case studies' of peoples experiences of local services. Have your experiences of healthcare services been of equitable services that are appropriate to your needs? If not why not? How could they have been improved? If you would like to share your experiences ( all information will be treated in confidence) please contact Stephanie Lawley, Equality and Diversity Manager at Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT on [Stephanie.lawley@cecpcpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Stephanie.lawley@cecpcpct.nhs.uk), telephone 07775 943574 or send your comments or case studies by post to Universal House, ERF way, off Pochin Way, Middlewich, Cheshire, CW10 0QJ.

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

**Learning Disability & Sex Education** - This is an interesting Canadian based website for those of you working with those affected by learning

disabilities.

<http://www.sexualityandu.ca/teachers/tools-10-1.aspx>

### **Sexual Assault Referral Centres 2008 Funding Round**

The Sexual Assault Referral Centres 2008 Funding Round has opened, £1.6 million of funding is available for new and existing Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) to bid for in the 2008/09 funding round. \*\*\* The deadline for applications is 7 November 2008. \*\*\* Applicants should know the outcome of their applications by December 2008. Please ensure that you use the correct application form.

<http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/sexual/sexual028.htm>

<http://freecharity.org.uk/pipermail/womeninlondontraining/2008-October/000799.html>

**The Sexual Health in the NW Conference** was an extremely well attended event, **Details of the presentations from this event are available at:**

[www.nwpho.org.uk/sexualhealthconf](http://www.nwpho.org.uk/sexualhealthconf)

**The Genito Urinary Nurses Association's (GUNA)** autumn clinical meeting was held in London on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October was extremely well attended event, were GUNA members were joined by a number of colleagues from NANCOSH. The programme offered a stimulating and educational experience and some of the presenters have made their presentations available at <http://guna.org.uk/Mostrecent.html> to access these

### **Forthcoming Events**

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



**University and College Union - Becoming or Unbecoming Friday 28th November 2008** – One-day conference for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) academics, researchers and activists ,plus heterosexuals conducting research on LGBT issues Lipman Building, Northumbria University, Newcastle upon Tyne. The organisers of the conference hope to negotiate the publication of a special journal issue based upon the conference proceedings. This conference is open to University and College Union (UCU) members as well as those who are not members of UCU. To register for the conference, please request a registration form from Dr Andy Mullen at [andrew.mullen@unn.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.mullen@unn.ac.uk) <http://www.schools-out.org.uk/conferences/contents.htm>

### **Previously Listed Events**



Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008, NANCOSH will be holding its annual Symposium and AGM at Birmingham City University, for further details access <http://www.nancsh.org.uk/agm.htm>

**Menopause - The Foundations:** a two-day course in Harrow, on 5th and 6th November 2008. Contact Kathy Abernethy Tel: 0208 869 2877 Email: [kathy.abernethy@btinternet.com](mailto:kathy.abernethy@btinternet.com) Kathy is also the contact for the 2008 **RCN National Menopause Conference** on the 13th November 2008 at Cowdray Hall, RCN HQ, London RCN members can access details of the programme through the RCN website

**RCN Nurse Practitioner Association** conference and exhibition 14<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 at Aintree Racecourse, Liverpool  
Mirka Ferdosian - Conference & Events Organiser  
Tel: 0207 647 3583  
Email: [mirka.ferdosian@rcn.org.uk](mailto:mirka.ferdosian@rcn.org.uk)

**National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP)** 5th Annual Conference 11<sup>th</sup> December 2008 [www.hpa-events.org.uk/NCSPconference](http://www.hpa-events.org.uk/NCSPconference)

**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](mailto:info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk)

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