



THOUGHT SOLUTIONS

A little bit of - 4 Thought Solutions - can go a long way



SEXUAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the November edition of the 4TS newsletter about what is going on in the field of sexual health and contraception.

World Aids day is nearly here. What are you planning to do this December the 1st?

Arrowe Park GUM is having an open day which 4 Thought Solutions has supported over a hundred people are expected to visit the unit.

Open air World AIDS Day in Bournemouth, Dorset. HIV and AIDS organisations will be present offering info via stalls, entertainment will be provided on stage, speakers will talk about HIV and AIDS, Competitions, Auctions etc. Also, if you would like to have a stall on the day please contact the organiser. www.hivghana.com

World Aid's Day Charity Music Gig
<http://www.imissedthetrain.com/west/?p=World-Aids-Charity-Music-Day>

Check out the following website for other events in December <http://www.worldaidsday.org/events.aspx>

<http://www.worldaidsday.org/> New awareness raising materials order for World AIDS Day 2009. <http://shop.nat.org.uk/>

The UK has a relatively small HIV & AID's epidemic in comparison with some parts of the world, with an estimated 77,400 people – or around 0.2% of the adult population – currently living with HIV.¹ While the number of people living with HIV in the UK is relatively low, it has increased dramatically since the 1990s, alongside a general rise in the prevalence of Sexually shared Infections

Although AIDS gets less attention from the media in the UK than it did during the early history of the UK HIV/AIDS epidemic, it's far from a problem of the past. In fact, the epidemic has expanded, with the annual rate of new HIV diagnoses more than doubling between 1999 and 2003, and peaking in 2005 at almost 8,000 diagnoses.² Annual diagnoses have slightly declined since then with 7300 people being

diagnosed HIV-positive in 2008. HIV prevalence in the UK is relatively low and estimated at 0.2% of the adult population³

Despite the rising numbers of new HIV infections in the UK, public knowledge of HIV and AIDS appears to have declined. While 91% of people in the UK knew that HIV was transmitted through unprotected heterosexual sex in 2000, by 2007 this figure had fallen to 79%⁷.

<http://www.avert.org/aids-uk.htm> Some more useful websites relating to HIV/AIDS

AIDSmap www.aidsmap.com

George House Trust www.ght.org.uk

National Aids Trust www.nat.org.uk

Terrence Higgins Trust www.tht.org.uk

New Synthetic Molecules Trigger Immune Response To HIV And Prostate Cancer Researchers at Yale University have developed synthetic molecules capable of enhancing the body's immune response to HIV and HIV-infected cells, as well as to prostate cancer cells. Their findings, published online in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, could lead to novel therapeutic approaches for these diseases.



Artist's rendering of viruses. Scientists have developed synthetic molecules capable of enhancing the body's immune response to HIV and HIV-infected cells, as well as to prostate cancer cells. (Credit: iStockphoto/Henrik Jonsson)

Because both HIV and cancer have methods for evading the body's immune system, treatments and vaccinations for the two diseases have proven difficult. Current treatment options for HIV and prostate cancer -- including antiviral drugs, radiation and chemotherapy -- involve severe side effects and are often ineffective against advanced cases.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2009/11/091105165527.htm>

The national audit office on the 12th November published a report on the National Chlamydia Screening Programme. The report examines



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targets set by the Department of Health for screening coverage and treatment and also the evidence-base and cost-effectiveness of the programme.

"To have a significant impact on chlamydia requires overall testing levels of 26 per cent or above. Only half of Primary Care Trusts reached this level in 2008-09, six years after the Programme's launch. Combined with the local inefficiencies and duplications, this shows that the delivery of the Programme to date has not demonstrated value for money." Amyas Morse, head of the National Audit Office, 12 November 2009

According to the report the delivery of the Government's programme to control chlamydia infection in young people to date has not demonstrated value for money. The devolved delivery, through Primary Care Trusts, has resulted in duplication and inefficiency. Other issues raised relate to the lack of advice or the level of advice being given to those who are taking the Chlamydia test about safer sex or the prevention of infection is a major concern as is the poor level of contact tracing and treating of sexual partners. The report states that Chlamydia testing must be linked to education and advice. For the full report go to: http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/0809/young_people_sexual_health.aspx On this page you will find a number of associated reports

'more talk = safer sex and better relationships' On the 30th November, DH, DCSF and the National Chlamydia Screening Programme is launching a new public information campaign. This follows an in-depth review of existing campaigns (Condom Essential Wear, RU Thinking and Want Respect). The new campaign has an expanded remit covering contraception, chlamydia and condom normalisation. At the heart of the strategy is the concept that normalising everyday conversations around sex and relationships will play an important role in tackling teenage pregnancy and poor sexual health. The campaign aims to create an open, positive and supportive environment in which people can have conversations about safer sex and better relationships. This will involve a broad audience: parents, young people, healthcare professionals, teachers and the wider youth workforce. <http://www.nhs.uk/sexualhealthprofessional/Pages/index.aspx>

Sex Education Forum welcomes government commitment to sex and relationships education The Sex Education Forum (SEF) welcomes the Government's continued commitment to statutory personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education which includes sex and relationships education (SRE) across primary and secondary school. This commitment was reiterated today as part of the Government's response to a comprehensive review of PSHE Education. Anna Martinez, coordinator of the Sex Education Forum, said 'We know there is still a large gap between the sex and relationships education that children and young people want and need, and what they actually get, so we are pleased that the Government remains committed to making PSHE a statutory subject'. Jane Lees, chair of the Sex Education Forum said, 'All children have the right to learn about their bodies, growing up, relationships and sex, at school and at home. Making PSHE statutory will be an excellent opportunity for schools to build their relationship with parents, ensuring that together they can help children and young people learn how to be healthy and stay safe.' <http://www.ncb.org.uk/sef/home.aspx>

Support for on-site sexual health services in schools and FE colleges The government has responded to the 5th Annual report of the Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group. In their response the government re-enforces their support for on-site sexual health services in schools and FE colleges (see recommendation 1) and explores opportunities for developing the skills of professionals working with young people around sex and relationships. <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/everychildmatters/healthandwellbeing/teenagepregnancy/teenagepregnancy/>

Government confirms that PSHE education will be statutory Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, also reinforced the Government's strong support for three principles underpinning sex and relationship education (SRE): Schools can continue to be able to tailor the curriculum in the ways they think best suit their pupils.

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0208





Public policy must understand men - The official launch yesterday of a report by the Coalition on Men and Boys backed by the Men's Health Forum. The report provides a unique in-depth picture of the current circumstances of men and boys in the UK, focusing on the key themes of work, fatherhood, health, education and violence. It concludes with a comprehensive range of recommendations for the development of policy and practice.

http://www.menshealthforum.org.uk/userpage1.cfm?item_id=2840

Forthcoming Events

To book onto these events please use the contact details listed



Capita's 4th National Supporting Teenage Parents Conference 3rd December 2009, London This conference focuses specifically on teen parent families and how to prevent child poverty, social exclusion and health inequalities. More information from [Capita's website](#)

Five Years On - What's Changed for Children and Young People? 8 December 2009, London, FREE One-day conference to review the changes that have taken place since the Children Act 2004. This is a unique opportunity to find out what works in participation and help you to meet the duty to listen to and involve children and young people and to champion their interests. To book a place, please visit www.participationworks.org.uk, email enquiries@participationworks.org.uk or telephone 0845 603 6725.

Public Policy Exchange symposium; Alcohol, Lifestyle and Teenage Pregnancy: Breaking the Cycle of Risky Behaviour 9 December 2009, London This special one-day symposium, hosted by the Centre for Parliamentary Studies, offers a timely opportunity for local practitioners, schools and stakeholders to discuss the latest indicators and consider the serious challenges posed by the cycle of risky sexual behaviour attributable directly to the consumption of alcohol and substance misuse. The symposium will also examine the impact of new risky behaviour phenomena such as 'sexting' and cyberbullying on the sexual health and wellbeing of children and young people. Details from the [Public Policy Exchange website](#)

Supported Youth Housing and Health Network Thursday 21st January 2010 This is a unique forum for practitioners and policy makers to share expertise and examples of good practice. This meeting will focus on the importance of positive relationships in promoting the emotional and mental health and well-being of young people in supported accommodation. Email Laura Smith for details: lsmith@ncb.org.uk

Previously Listed Events

21st Annual Sexual Health & HIV Conference . Friday 27th November 2009 Email: rebecca.mitchell@porthosp.nhs.uk or victoria.wingham@porthosp.nhs.uk

Training:

Remember 4 Thought Solutions Ltd provides training programmes ranging from, workshops, single days or tiered programmes. So please contact us to discuss your organisations sexual health training needs info@4thoughtsolutions.co.uk

This fun and versatile resource is suitable for training workshops, educational settings, with a range of professional and non-professional groups. Check out the website for more information



<http://www.4thoughtsolutions.co.uk/pr.html>

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

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