

**DIRECTION FROM THE SHETLAND ISLANDS INTEGRATION JOINT BOARD (“IJB”)**

**ISSUED UNDER SECTION 26(1) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (JOINT WORKING) (SCOTLAND) ACT 2014**

<b>Direction:</b> Sexual Health Services	<b>Direction to:</b> NHS Shetland (NHSS)	<b>Overall Budget allocated by IJB for Direction:</b> <b>£67,199</b>
<b>Reference Number:</b> 1.15	<b>Relevant Function(s):</b> Sexual Health service provision (Sexual Health and Bloodborne Virus Strategy sits within Public Health, services are aligned to this)	<b>Review Date:</b> March 2026
<b>IJB Report(s) Reference Number:</b> CC-24-25		
<b>Date Direction issued/authorised by IJB:</b> 29 May 2025	<b>Date Direction takes effect:</b> 1 April 2025	<b>Does the Direction supersede, amend or revoke an existing Direction? If yes, include reference number of existing Direction:</b>  Supersedes Direction 1.15 (IJB Report Ref. CC-53-24-F)
<b>Purpose of Direction</b>		
Delivery of sexual health services as delegated to the IJB.		
<b>Accountability and Governance</b>		
NHS Shetland is accountable for the delivery of the services within this Direction, which have been commissioned by the Integration Joint Board (IJB).		

<b>Overarching Directions to Function(s)</b>			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery of sexual health services</li> </ul>			
<b>Directions</b>	<b>Outcomes &amp; Key Actions</b>	<b>Performance Monitoring and Indicators</b>	<b>Challenges &amp; Opportunities – inc. Risks and Finance</b>
<p><b>Sexual Health</b></p> <p>The Sexual Health Service provided by the Acute &amp; Specialist Services Directorate</p> <p>The Sexual Health and Bloodborne Virus strategy sits in the Public Health portfolio</p> <p>Family planning services sit in the Community Health &amp; Social Care portfolio but are also provided by the Sexual Health Service (particularly Long-Acting Reversible Contraception LARC)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A service to support the prevention, detection and management of sexually transmitted infections, including Bloodborne Viruses – which includes a Sexual Health Clinic</li> <li>• Delivery of vaccination programmes (including Mpox, HPV and Hepatitis A&amp; B, and other new programmes) for specific groups, within the Sexual Health Clinic.</li> <li>• A pathway to support people who have experienced rape or sexual assault to access health screening and signposting to other relevant services</li> <li>• An abortion care pathway</li> <li>• Providing emergency contraception to people who would otherwise find it difficult to access family planning services</li> <li>• Provision of family planning services including LARC, for people who would otherwise find it difficult to access through primary care</li> </ul>	<p>That we meet the standards set by Healthcare Improvement Scotland published Sexual Health in 2022 aiming to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• harm is reduced through early intervention and improved access</li> <li>• people are treated with compassion and respect, with their rights upheld, and</li> <li>• people experience a service that is free from stigma.</li> </ul> <p>The standards cover the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• leadership and governance</li> <li>• shared and supported decision making</li> <li>• education and training</li> </ul>	<p><b>Risks:</b></p> <p>The Clinical Nurse Specialist is spends a significant proportion of their time on administrative tasks. This diverts their attention from clinical work and the wider development of the service.</p> <p>The work of the Sexual Health clinic has seen significant changes and additional work, adding additional pressure to tight resources.</p> <p>Decreased service scope, poorer patient outcomes which can be significant and life changing (including unintended pregnancy, blood borne viruses /HPV that can result in long term conditions and cancers and can shorten life, STIs that can affect quality of life and fertility), unable to meet national standards for</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health Improvement and Education provided by a wide range of professionals including: GPs, ANPs, Midwives; School Nurses, Public Health Professionals, often working with third sector partners</li> </ul> <p>We will provide appropriate access to sexual health services in Shetland with the right MDT structure to support. We will deliver as much care in Shetland as it is safe to do so, in line with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Government Sexual health and blood borne virus action plan: 2023 to 2026</li> <li>• HIS Sexual Health Standards 2022</li> </ul> <p>HIS Healthcare and forensic medical services for people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse: Children, young people and adults standards 2017</p> <p>Work with Public Health and other partners to support alignment of sexual health services to the local Sexual Health and Bloodborne Virus Strategy (currently being updated)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• access to sexual health care</li> <li>• sexual well-being</li> </ul> <p>Outcomes and key actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prevention, detection and management of sexually-transmitted infections</li> <li>• services for young people</li> <li>• reducing sexual health inequalities</li> <li>• preventing unintended pregnancy, and</li> <li>• abortion care.</li> <li>• That we meet the standards set by Healthcare Improvement Scotland for Healthcare and forensic medical services for people who have experienced rape, sexual assault or child sexual abuse: Children, young people and adults standards</li> </ul>	<p>service delivery. Increased inequalities and inequity of access to services.</p> <p>Service sustainability –</p> <p>Staffing: The Midwife who provides support for the service on a bank contract, has notified her intention to not revalidate in December. This puts the service at significant risk, particularly the ability to provide cover for leave. The support is currently unfunded and future provision needs to be reviewed.</p> <p>Infrastructure: There is a need for significant remedial work at Gilbert Bain Hospital, and this work will result in significant disruption over coming months. There may be an impact for services depending on levels of funding for capital and workforce requirements, and options for sustaining necessary service provision are currently in discussion with Scottish Government.</p>
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