

C-Card Distribution Scheme: Venue information pack

**Aims**

To provide young people aged 13-24 with access to free condoms and access to sign posting and information about local Sexual Health services

**Objectives**

To increase access to, and use of C-Card scheme throughout Gateshead and South Tyne, using a range of sites within the local community as distribution points.

To increase the numbers of marginalised and hard to reach individuals who access the C-Card scheme and potentially therefore other sexual health provision.

To raise young people’s awareness of the need for safer sex to protect against sexually transmitted infections (STI’s) including HIV, and to reduce rates of unintended pregnancy.

To support commitment to local safeguarding processes as paramount when providing any service or intervention to sexually active young people.

**Values & Principles**

Services provided will be accessible, non-judgmental and welcoming; valuing and respecting the diversity of the potential client group. Confidentiality will be offered and assessment under the Fraser Guidelines used in the context of good practice around supporting Children’s Safeguarding and reducing risk around Child Sexual Exploitation.

Young people do not need to be sexually active to use the scheme, and interest in a positive approach to sexual health can start by experimenting with and finding out about condom provision.

Choice will be promoted including access to a range of condom-related products.

The scheme will be responsive to the changing needs of service users and keep up to date with new sexual health developments.

Within the North East there is a current pilot of a C-Card app; <https://app-movement.com/xdw73> this application helps to locate local C-Card outlets and allows the user to rate experience at these venues. This C-Card scheme will aim to link in with this technology.

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Policy Background

The Sexual Health Improvement Framework (DoH, 2013) sets out specific aims that could be applied to C-Card provision; building knowledge and resilience in Young People around sexual health and improving choices based on good education, improving sexual health including the reduction of sexually transmitted infections, reduction of the onward transmission of HIV, reduction of unintended pregnancies and reduction of conceptions in the 16-18 years age category.

A Legal framework to provide necessary interventions to sexually active young people is contained within the Fraser Guidelines, local and national Children’s safeguarding strategies aim to support the delivery of a specifically tailored *Your Welcome* affiliated approach to working with young people that is confidential but also capable of identifying and acting on concerns around well-being and safeguarding risks in those under 18 populations.

Provision of free and accessible condoms can be aligned to other interventions such as screening for infections and provision of emergency hormonal contraception. This intervention can allow a trusted conversation to take place between a suitably trained adult, with knowledge and necessary support around managing the complex issues related to Young People and sexual activity, and a young person to support the reduction of health inequality and promote access to positive sexual health messages (PHE, 2015)

Process

Outlets will act as a distribution site for those already registered with C-Card, this will allow the provision of free condoms supplied by South Tyneside Sexual Health service.

Those who attend wanting to register will be sign-posted to an appropriate C-Card registration site based within South Tyne Sexual Health Hub or at an outreach Spoke clinic. Information will be made available at distribution sites about local registration points and what this will involve for the young person.

Distribution will involve

* An assessment of young person’s need when requesting access to C-Card, safety and implementation of appropriate safeguarding process is paramount when discussing sexual activity with young people.
* Use where possible of existing database to log activity and distribute condoms to young people.
* Use of an appropriate paper-based documentation process when access to the computer system is not available. This process will allow the worker to note C-Card number, self-declared date of last access of C-Card scheme, and the distributor will document any additional service offered including access to Emergency Contraception, Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea screening or sign posting to Sexual Health.
* Appropriate paper record forms will be supplied to collect this data.
* C-Card users will be given a pre-packed amount of condoms.
* Data will be returned and fed back to the Sexual Health service to help track activity of C-Card in the community.

Resupply of condoms and paraphernalia can be easily ordered by contacting South Tyneside Sexual Health Outreach team at 0191 2831580. Reporting and collection of activity data will be managed by the Outreach team.

Support for staff acting as distributors will be offered by providing bespoke training around sexual health and important professional issues related to sexual activity and young people.

This activity in Gateshead is about re-launching access to free condom provision and will be mapped to other community based Sexual Health initiatives such as the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception and Chlamydia and Gonorrhoea Screening.

C-card provision is a valuable activity aimed those who may find it hard to access Sexual Health services, or who may access risk-reduction contraception opportunistically at point of need.

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C-Card Distribution Scheme

Distribution Site Name……………………………………………………..

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date: | Assessment and Safeguarding | Age | C-card Number | \*\*Latex Allergy\*\*Y/N | Date of last access to C-Card | Pre-pack issuedY/NNote other supply | Additional Provision of: EHC,CSP, SH? |
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Checklist

* Complete annual training provided by South Tyneside sexual health around C-Card and QES system
* Complete in-house assessment of Young person’s need including acknowledgement of Local Safeguarding Board’s policies and procedures in relation to sexually active young people
* Complete and note any other specific health and social needs of Young Person accessing scheme.
* Record Date for audit purpose and to check last point of access.
* C-Card Number, check card is intact and document number clearly so can then be added to database at Hub site documenting C-Card activity.
* Latex Allergy: Please ask about this and if this is identified for ease sign post to Hub Service if alternative non-latex supply is not available on site.
* Date of last access; the idea is this is to promote easy access but to politely challenge any noted re-attender that may be over accessing C-Card or accessing C-Card to re-distribute to other people. This is supposed to be a friendly and supportive challenge aiming to support others to also access C-Card registration and to explain to the user that pre-pack supply is supposed to be fair and open for others to also access.
* Prepack issue; for convenience a pre-pack of condoms will be provided to help easy distribution. If an individual asks for particular types, sizes or designs there will be a collection of alternative products given to Pharmacy to supply, or a C-Card user could be sign posted to Hub sites for individual need.
* Signposting: Please continue to refer to Trinity Sexual Health if a C-Card users seems to require further intervention or help, noting this down or reporting other services provided is useful and abbreviations can be added as ‘EHC, CSP, SH’.
* For further advice or support contact Sexual Health Team, Trinity Square Tel 0191 2831580

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