



CHILDREN
ADULTS COMMUNITIES

Rapid Review Learning Briefing

Rapid Review No.10



Professionals from 13 teams/ organisations took part in the review

A rapid review learning event took place in February 2021



Late bookings/ unexpected pregnancy

A recent rapid review identified an increase in late bookings and unexpected pregnancy cases in Bristol during the COVID-19 lockdowns.



Late booking = when the first antenatal appointment is at 20 weeks or more gestation.



In the first month of 2021, there were four births of babies in the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire area where services had not been aware of the pregnancy. This is a significant increase and correlates to pregnancies begun during covid-19 restrictions. The births in Bristol where services were unaware of pregnancies were from mothers with a range of factors such as, learning difficulties and previous children having been removed from their care. This correlated to learning from other reviews around unexpected pregnancies however was exacerbated by a reduction in contact with services and professionals in the community through their normal interactions with communities.

Key Takeaway



Throughout the lockdowns, there has been a lot of uncertainty around which services are open. Professionals should ensure that they engage women in positive conversations around their sexual health. Pregnancy advice, contraception and sexual health services are still open during the pandemic and throughout the covid-19 recovery. For the latest updates, contact the service directly.

Rapid Review Findings

Access to Sexual Health and Pregnancy Services during the COVID-19 lockdowns

There was a significant reduction in young people accessing sexual health services during the lockdowns.

There were increased barriers to people seeking confidential pregnancy advice due to the lockdown restrictions and the level of family and community awareness of their movements.

There were less opportunities for informal discussions about health and pregnancy with people outside of their household i.e. friends and community sources of support.

Sexual health services continued to run but mainly from central clinics which required most people to travel. Given the limited reasons for being out in the community, there may have been concerns about being identified by others whilst accessing the services.

Health settings may have been seen as an area of increased risk in relation to COVID-19 which may reduce their confidence in accessing services.

Young people were less able to access services offered within education as the majority were not attending physical school settings.

Sexual Health and Pregnancy Services



Unity Sexual Health - Free and confidential sexual health advice for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, including discrete postal sexual health tests

Brook - help and advice on sexual health and wellbeing for young people

GPs can offer sexual health advice for adults, this includes pregnancy support, sexually transmitted infection testing, and contraception.

Many large pharmacies offer free emergency contraception, condoms, chlamydia screening and treatment to people who are under the age of 25.