



March 2008

BASHH position statement on £26.8 million sexual health funding

“BASHH welcomes the Government’s recent announcement to invest £26.8 million to improve access to contraception. However we would like the Government to give assurances that this funding will be allocated appropriately, as we are concerned that the £130 million already committed by the Government to achieve the sexual health aims in the Choosing Health White Paper has failed to reach its intended targets.

“GUM clinicians at the frontline of sexual health services continue to work under extreme pressure to meet their local population’s needs. In particular, although a substantial part of the Choosing Health funding should have gone into chlamydia screening programmes, clinicians have reported that their population coverage is very poor and screening targets will most likely be missed.

“BASHH has consistently stressed that improving sexual health services and tackling waiting times is an essential part of disease prevention as failure to treat infections promptly – or at all in some cases – means that untreated patients who remain sexually active, can further increase the transmission of STIs.”

“By poor prioritisation of government funding of these services, we are increasingly at risk of putting the sexual health of the nation in danger and continuing to fuel this public health crisis.”

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