



SSHA

SOCIETY OF SEXUAL
HEALTH ADVISERS
Individual and Public Health

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

Dear Colleagues

These are challenging times for us all and the SSHA OPC (Organising Professional Committee) is contacting you to ensure that Sexual Health Advisers and those that have Health Advising as part of their role feel that SSHA is a place where you can ask for advice and support. The current situation has affected us in various ways.

Redeployment. We know that every clinic is potentially making different arrangements for their staff and we hear that many sexual health advisers who are also nurses are being redeployed onto wards and are using their medical skill set. Some SHAs are still seeing patients in their usual clinic or have been amalgamated with other clinics.

Working practices, continuing sexual activity and complex cases. We know a lot of PN, PN FU and Provider Referral is now being carried out by SHAs by phone. We also know that people are continuing to have sex and are not necessarily doing it safely - COVID19 will not be a deterrent to some people and we will need to continue to offer help and support to patients over a variety of issues. We are likely to also see a rise in domestic abuse and potentially sexual assault - all areas that as SHAs we are used to dealing with face to face and may need to now manage via phone or email.

Your clinic. Please let us know how you are coping in your clinic and how your skill set is being used. If you are not nurse trained, talk to your managers about what you can offer your patients by phone, or in other areas. For example, in my Trust, we are talking about SHAs working with the psychology team to offer emotional/psychological support to other hospital staff via phone/zoom etc.

Contact tracing for Covid 19. We are also in discussion re Contact Tracing for COVID19 - although this looks likely to be done via an app as in other European countries, it seems there may be a role for SHAs within this. I'll keep you up to date as this evolves.

Support for SHAs. Please keep in contact to let us know what is happening for you locally - you can contact your regional rep at ssha.info or email me directly at ceri.evans@chelwest.nhs.uk. And for up to date advice on managing STIs in the current pandemic go to bashh.org. For further support for SHAs and nurses in sexual health, join the new Facebook page to share ideas, ask advice and generally feel part of a bigger group - particularly important in these fractured and isolating times - find us on Facebook at "U.K. sexual health adviser and nurse support".

We send you resilience, fortitude, positivity and a sense of humour. As SHAs, we are equipped to help people through this difficult time, and SSHA is here to support you. Keep in touch!

Ceri Evans, SSHA OPC President



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News

The Independent HIV Commission has now published its report for Public Health England (PHE) into eliminating HIV transmissions by 2030.

Although the UK continued to exceed the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets in 2018 (with 93% PWHIV diagnosed, 97% of people diagnosed receiving treatment and 97% of people receiving treatment virally suppressed), more still needs to be done.

The report recommends 5 strategies: increased HIV testing to identify new infections; improved treatment as prevention (through rapid treatment and retention of PWHIV by services); strengthening HIV Partner Notification; support for the routine commissioning PrEP in England (already available in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales); and the provision of accessible HIV prevention services for people who inject drugs.

The Commission believes HIV PN is so important because of the high positivity rate of contacts: 3.9% tested positive in all groups and 5% amongst Gay and Bisexual Men. This compares to just 0.2% testing positive through a general screen in Sexual Health Services. SSHA now anticipates working closely with PHE to help implement the HIV PN recommendation. To read the report in full go to <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

SSHA Organising Professional Committee (OPC)

SSHA OPC would like to welcome Becky Bailey as the new regional representative for Yorkshire and the North East. Becky is Lead Sexual Health Adviser and Safeguarding Supervisor at the Gateway clinic in Barnsley. She has 15 years' experience as an SHA and will be an asset to both the OPC and SHAs in the region.

The SSHA regional representative post for the East Midlands is currently vacant. If you work in a clinic in the area, including East Anglia, why not contact us? The role involves attending a quarterly meeting and keeping in touch with local membership. All your travel expenses are paid and time is given by your employer - and your work will benefit your clinic.

For more details email:

ceri.evans@chelwest.nhs.uk.





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SSHA Annual Conference 2020

SSHA will review whether Conference will go ahead closer to the date. Go to: www.ssha.info

Date: Saturday 26nd September 9.30 — 4.30

Current venue: Diskus Room, Unite Building, 128 Theobald's Road, London, WC1X 8TN

Topics to include: Issues in the management of Transgender patients
CHOPS study (Challenges and Opportunities of PrEP).
Case Studies in PrEP
Chems use and sexual dysfunction
Vicarious Trauma
Mental Health/Stress in Sexual Health Advising

Would you like to give a Conference presentation? Email: martin.murchie@nhs.net

Cost: SSHA/Unite Member £75 Non Member £95

CPD: Motivational Interviewing (MI) and Partner Notification (PN) Study Days

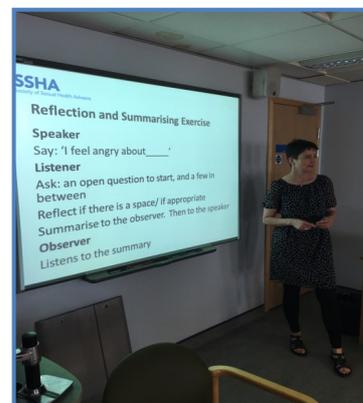
SSHA is planning 2 sets of study days in 2020

Talk Change-Change Talk

comprises 2 days on Motivational Interviewing for practitioners in Sexual Health. Day 1 covers advanced communication skills and day 2 explores using MI to support behaviour change in Sexual Health.

Introduction to Partner Notification

covers rationale and process, skills, audit, ethical guidance and innovation in PN.



The study days will prepare participants for the BASHH SSHA competencies in MI and PN.

More information will be available shortly at: www.ssha.info



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New SSHA Logo

In 2018, the SSHA OPC discussed development of a new logo to represent both what the profession *is*, and what it *does*.

In a survey of SHAs (The Picture of Sexual Health Advising, 2017), the majority of respondents saw themselves as working in the interests of both patients and public health. The OPC chose the image of Salus, the Roman goddess of wellbeing of the individual and the wider community, as one which reflects how SHAs see their work. The image was approved at Conference, and members asked for a brief accompanying statement to clarify the role.

The new logo reflects our clinical role (understanding, cohesion, and collaboration) and the interventions we deliver (health education, MI, PN and PR, PrEP, U=U) that influence sexual health at individual and community levels. The final logo shows the image of Salus with the words 'Individual and Public Health'.



The OPC took delivery of banners incorporating our new logo in January. We look forward to showing them at future study days and at Conference!

As a SSHA member you can receive the following benefits:

- Contingent Medical Malpractice Liability Insurance - cover for both Sexual and Reproductive Health Nursing & Sexual Health Advising roles
- Reduced cost at SSHA Annual Conference
- Reduced cost of Continuing Professional Development through SSHA Study Days
- Support via your Regional Representative
- Trade Union Membership



To join SSHA go to: www.ssha.info/about/join-ssha/



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What has BASHH ever done for Sexual Health Advisers?

Ceri Evans, Senior Health Adviser, Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Our everyday practice shows that Sexual Health benefits from collaboration between all the disciplines in the multi-disciplinary team. BASHH, too, has recognised the important contributions different professions can make at a national level and so has taken several initiatives to attract more SHA and nurse representatives.

These include:

- Reduced cost of membership (£34) and Conference for non-medics
- Scholarships for travel and accommodation for members who successfully submit abstracts
- A symposium of topics of interest to SHAs and Nurses at Conference (recent examples include criminalisation of STIs and sex between MSM under the influence of drugs)
- A change in constitution to accommodate a separate SHA representative on the board
- The launch of a new SHA/Nurse Special Interest Group (SIG) to improve non-medical input



SHAs now participate in National Guideline working parties (PN, PEPSE and HSV). There are SHA representatives on the BASHH board; the Education, Clinical Governance and STIF steering committees; and the HSV, Public Health and Adolescent SIGs. SHAs are now part of the working fabric of the organisation and as a member of both SSHA and BASHH, it's gratifying to see the development of a mutually rewarding relationship.

I would encourage SHAs to join BASHH and see where they can have an input. And BASHH can now badge itself as 'Sexual Health Adviser Friendly'. Try it and see...

Keep Informed with SSHA

Sign up for our e-bulletin at: www.ssha.info
to keep updated on the latest news in Sexual Health

