

Summary Definition of Statutory Sexual Health Services

The Local Authorities Regulations 2013 require local authorities to arrange for the provision of certain services. The sexual health services we are required to provide are:

Open access sexual health services for everyone present in their area; covering

1. Free sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, and notification of sexual partners of infected persons; and
2. Free contraception and reasonable access to all methods of contraception.

The requirements are broadly the same as the requirements which the NHS previously had to fulfil. They do not cover preventive interventions such as information provision or education, marketing and advertising, or outreach, youth services and condom distribution schemes.

Department of Health (2013). Commissioning sexual Health services and interventions: Best practice guidance for local authorities.

Available online at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144184/Sexual_Health_best_practice_guidance_for_local_authorities_with_IRB.pdf