
Sexual health services during COVID 19

Ivan Browne
Director of Public Health
September 2021



Leicester
City Council

Mandate and what is commissioned

- Leicester City Council receives an annual Public Health grant that includes the requirement to commission :
 - Open access sexual health services
 - Pre Exposure Prophylaxis for Sexual;; Exposure



Leicester City Council Commissions

- An open access clinical service that provides contraception and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections – this is commissioned in collaboration with Leicestershire County and Rutland County Councils
- Provision of Intrauterine Devices and Systems (IUS/Ds)and Subdermal Implants (Sdls) by GPs- These are Long Acting forms of contraception(LARC)
- Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC): from community pharmacies for under 25s
- In addition there are services that are non clinical provided for different groups or ages :
 - Relationship and Sex education support for schools
 - Outreach work with Men who have sex with men, sex workers and young people under 25.
 - A project engaging with different BAME communities across Leicester

Who uses sexual health services ?

29,015 people were provided the clinical service between :April 2019 – March 2020

17,489 women and 11,629 men

- Mix of ethnicities: rates highest in those who define as of black or mixed ethnicity
- Nearly 24,000 are aged 15-34
- No typical user : women for contraception
- Men and women with new partner having a check up
- Some high risk individuals with multiple partners





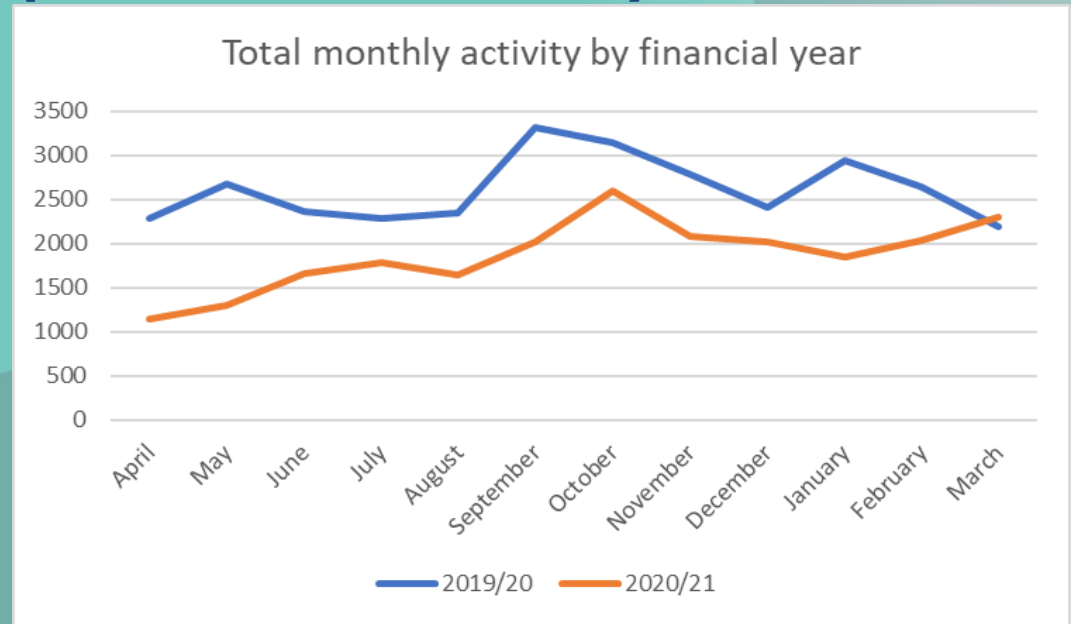
Changes required during the COVID pandemic

- Sexual Health and Contraceptive services still needed during the pandemic despite restrictions in social mixing and inability to provide all Face to face clinical services
- What was put in place :
 - Increase in provision on online services :
 - Ordering of STI testing kits – results texted to the individual
 - Ability to safely post treatment for simple STIs to patients
 - Online provision of oral contraception and EHC
 - Provision of telephone consultations
 - Maintenance of some face to face appointments for emergency care e.g. pelvic pain etc
 - National clinical adaptations followed e.g. extension in length coils can be retained , longer repeat prescriptions

What happened to activity

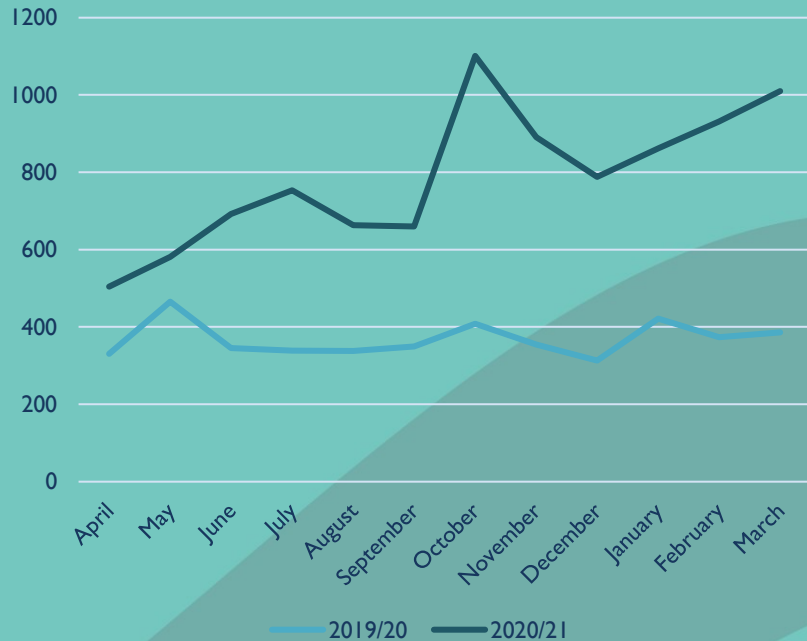
-28% overall fall in activity .

-Trends of overall activity matched previous years



Massive increase in online activity and reduction in face to face activity

Monthly online services, SH24 & Prevent X by financial year

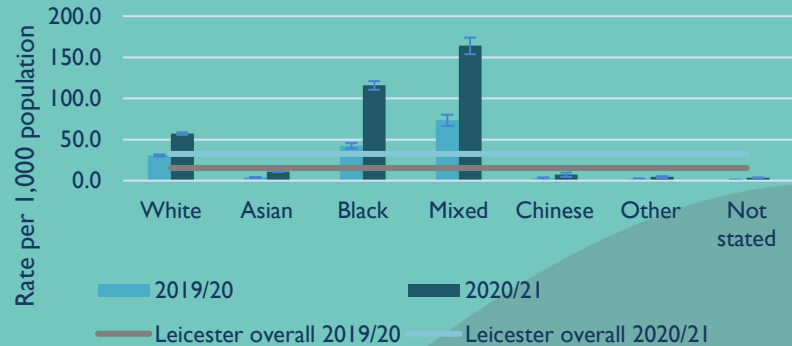


Monthly Telephone consultations by financial year

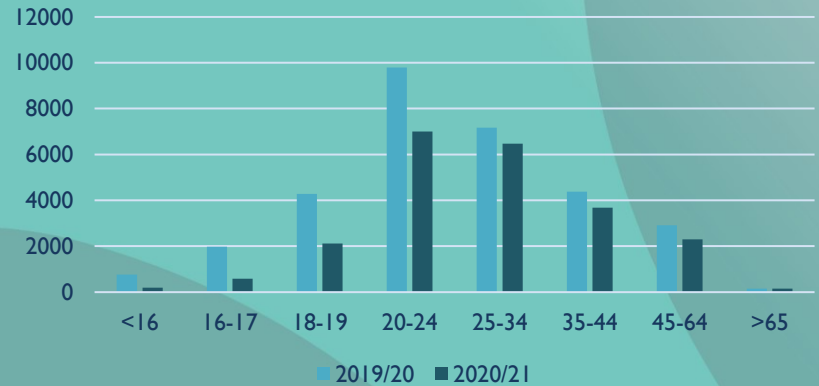


Differences across communities and age groups

Online services, SH24 and Prevent X per 1,000 population age 16-64 by broad ethnic group and financial year



Total activity by age group and financial year by age group



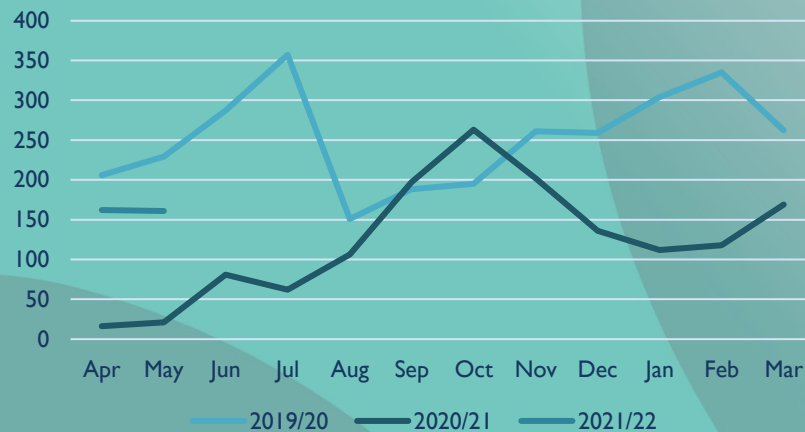
Of note is the reduction in activity in 2020/21 within the under 25's this may in part be explained by reduced social mixing and less students being in the city during lockdown.

GP and Pharmacy provided services

Summary of IUD/S						
Totals Year / quarter	The number of IUD fitted	The Number of IUS fitted	Number of IUD Removed and Fitted	Number of IUSs Removed and Fitted	Number of *Kyleena Fitted	Total Fitted
2019/20	328	347	14	17		706
2020/21	371	457	77	109	48	1062

LARC provided via GP practices had been showing some dramatic improvement in provision pre covid and this has continued over the COVID period.

EHC Activities - April 2019-May 2021



The graph clearly shows that the trend follows the social COVID 19 restrictions that were in place in Leicester

Lessons learnt and the future

- Online services and telephone consultations are well used and safe , it is proposed that they will continue
- Some communities and age groups still prefer face to face services – more investigation required about times and days of week BAME work being progressed
- Concerns about fall in young people accessing the service. It anticipated this will change when schools, colleges and unis return and communications put in place to promote the services .
- GP services have been successful and the model put in place will be expanded
- Clinicians have worked hard to maintain services and quality despite issues with workforce and restrictions to delivery

