

1.0 Executive Summary

This needs assessment has been drafted by the RBK Public Health team to better understand local sexual health need and shape workstreams until March 2024. It should be noted that although the majority of the data is pre COVID-19 pandemic, some data is following the pandemic and therefore caveats have been highlighted throughout the document.

A summary of findings from this needs assessment have been summarised below:

- Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) services in London have experienced a significant reduction in attendances during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Young people in Kingston have a high attendance rate at SRH service, compared to statistically similar (CIPFA) local authorities.
- Unplanned pregnancies in under 18's in Kingston continue to decline and are lower than both England and London rates.
- Abortion rates of under 18's in Kingston are also significantly lower than both London and England figures.
- Despite user dependent methods (UDM) being the most popular form of contraception used by Kingston residents, long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) use in Kingston is increasing within SRH services.
- Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnosis remains lower than London rates however reinfection rates amongst young people in Kingston were higher than the national average.
- Young people are the largest group diagnosed with new STIs
- HIV diagnosis rates remain one of the lowest in London
- HIV testing locally has decreased
- There has been a large increase in STI testing online, especially from high risk groups

Recommendations have been made based on these findings and are available in section 7 on page 46.