

# PLAY SAFE. STAY SAFE.

Sexually transmitted infections in Huddersfield were found to be increasing, with reinfection rates for males at 10% (the national is 9.1%). The University Health Centre carried out an audit that revealed that males attending the in-house sexual health clinic were nearly two thirds lower than that of females. 'Play Safe, Stay Safe' was created to help try and improve the uptake of men accessing sexual health screening by providing a self-screening STI pack which was available to pick up from boxes in the student union of the university and the University Health Centre. The boxes were emptied each day and processed by the clinical staff at the health centre and sent to the local microbiology lab. Upon receipt of the individual's results they were either texted with a negative result message or invited into the clinic to be seen for follow up care and, where needed, treatment of any diagnosed infection.

**Project team:** Samantha McNeely, Practice Nurse Manager, Nicola Inglesfield, Kate Wadsworth, Laura Poston-Lord, Practice Nurses and Diane Scholefield, Senior Healthcare Assistant, The University Health Centre, Huddersfield

**Project aims:**

- Bespoke sexual health service targeting the male population (registered and non registered students)
- To increase the number of male patients accessing screening
- To offer evidence based health promotion and advice

**Outputs:**

- STI screening kits were created, one blue for men, one pink for women (these were pre-approved by the university's transgender population). Each kit contained: information sheet for patients details; instruction leaflet on how to do the test information about STIs; sign posting leaflet; 'Cover your Lover' token for a condom; pen and urine bottle/swabs.
- Pick up and drop off points (post boxes for the completed kits) were posted in male and female toilets, around the student union and in the University Health Centre foyer.
- Posters were created and placed in appropriate locations.

**Outcomes:**

- In 2016 only **255** male patients were screened for STIs within the Health Centre. Since the introduction of the packs, **668** male patients were screened.
- **967** kits were completed and returned (578 female and 389 male) with **149** of these patients being unregistered with the health centre.
- **109** cases of chlamydia and **4** cases of gonorrhoea were diagnosed
- The University Health Centre worked collaboratively with the university to promote and support the project.
- STI screening was normalised and made accessible for all students.
- Increased uptake from students who were not registered with the Health Centre and those who were previous deemed 'unreachable'
- The project team was nominated and consequently won an award for the **Sexual Health Team of the year** for the GP awards 2017
- Samantha McNeely, the project lead won the **Practice Nurse Innovator of the Year** 2018.



Above: the screening kits  
Right: some of the posters used to promote the project



“James was having a great time and believed he could not possibly catch a sexually transmitted infection as he and his friends were invincible!  
Project case study