

## Media information

Date 1 April 2008

### Headline: Chlamydia – it's down to you! Young Person survey.

**Are you 16-25? Thinking about sex? Do you want to win a Wii? Read on!**

Devon PCT is launching a survey for young people aged 16-25 to get their views on how to develop the dedicated under 25's chlamydia screening service.

Chlamydia is a sexually transmitted infection (STI), which can be passed on during unprotected sex or intimate sexual contact with an infected partner. It is the most common STI in the UK and it is most common among men and women under 25.

It is important to get tested because most people don't know they have chlamydia as there are often no symptoms. Treatment is free but if left untreated it can have a number of serious health implications including infertility, kidney damage, arthritis and varying levels of pain and discomfort. The best way to get tested is to be screened which is very quick, easy, confidential and free is through the Devon under-25's dedicated screening service.

Beccy Lyons, Chlamydia screening co-ordinator at Devon PCT Says: "The service is for young people and their views and opinions hold the key to making it the best it can be. We want to make sure that the screening service is right for young people and to do this, we need to know what they think."

"We would like to hear the views of 16-25 years olds about Chlamydia, it only takes a few minutes and as a thank you all responses will be entered into a prize draw to win a Nintendo Wii."

Available online at: <http://www.devonpct.nhs.uk/chlamydiaform.asp> the closing date is 12th May 2008. All details are confidential and no name is necessary.

And just remember: Chlamydia, it's down to you.

#### Notes to editors:-

- Chlamydia is the most commonly reported STI in the UK

- The number of diagnoses in the UK including Devon has risen steadily since the mid-1990s
- The test and treatment for Chlamydia for under-25's is free, confidential and available at pharmacies and through contraception clinics across the county. Contact details available on [www.devonpct.nhs.uk](http://www.devonpct.nhs.uk)
- How the test works:-  
It is confidential; no names have to be give. Young people do not need to be examined:  
  
For young men it is a urine sample and for young girls a simple test.
- Results can be e-mailed, sent by letter, or texted as requested.
- Should any treatment be needed it's free and simple and usually consists of a short course of antibiotics.
- For more information on the national Chlamydia screening programme please go to the website at [www.chlamydia-screening.nhs.uk](http://www.chlamydia-screening.nhs.uk)
- For more information about Chlamydia or any other STI check out [www.ruthinking.co.uk](http://www.ruthinking.co.uk)

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