



Camden



ISLINGTON

ENFIELD
Council



Haringey Council

Cross-Borough: Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) Contract Management

Sexual health commissioning became a new responsibility for local authorities in April 2013. One aspect of sexual health commissioning is Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) services. These are demand-led open-access services, and by their nature pose a challenge in terms of budget management. Demand for these services across the five boroughs involved (Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Haringey and Islington) had increased over the years.

The local authorities have worked together to negotiate and agree contracts with five local GUM providers:

- NHS Central and North West London Trust
- NHS Whittington Health Trust
- Barnet & Chase Farm Hospital NHS Trust
- Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust
- the Royal Free Hospital NHS Trust.

By working together, the boroughs have a better understanding of GUM service expectations for their residents and confidence in managing their sexual health budgets. All five GUM providers have agreed to keep the 2012/13 tariff, within either a block contract or 'cap and collar' contract.

By working collaboratively, the five boroughs have used their expertise and time efficiently. Each borough has led on one contract on behalf of all five boroughs. For example, Islington public health led on the contract with the NHS Central and North West London Trust. This provided a strong negotiating tool for the boroughs as commissioners and meant the providers did not have to meet with five separate commissioners.

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In April 2013, responsibility for public health was transferred to local authorities. This case study is part of a series highlighting the innovative work London local authorities have done to promote healthier lifestyles and reduce health inequalities since taking on this new role. For more information, email addicus.cort@londoncouncils.gov.uk