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**Bwrdd Iechyd Lleol**  
**Local Health Board**  
Caerphilly  
Caerffili



# Something for the Weekend: Expanding the access to free condoms and sexual health advice through the community pharmacist

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# The Rationale behind the Research Project

- Rising rate of teenage pregnancies across Wales
- Changing attitudes to sexual relations in young people
- Rising levels of sexually transmitted infection in Wales
- Providing services that are accessible and sensitive to needs of young people
- To support nurse-led clinics by expanding the Condom Card (C-Card) scheme by using expertise of other health care professionals across the borough

# Aims of the Project

- To improve the accessibility and availability of sexual health/contraceptive advice and to distribute free condoms to young people
- To reduce the financial barriers and embarrassment in accessing condoms
- To engage with young people to evaluate the appropriateness of using the community pharmacist with the view to rolling the scheme out

# The Condom-Card (C-Card) Scheme

- Originally started in Edinburgh and Lothians due to HIV outbreak in 1989
- Clients are given advice on sexually transmitted infections and on how to use condoms correctly and receive supply of free condoms
- Signed up - credit card type card
- Can request up to 10 supplies at any outlet operating the scheme
- In Caerphilly- sexual health clinics, GPs and youth centres

# Method

- Pharmacies already providing EHC free of charge were selected based their location, EHV activity, opening hours and willingness to participate
- Four pharmacies agreed to participate and were trained to provide advice on sexually transmitted infections, correct condom use and continuing supplies. (One withdrew after training)
- Pharmacies placed the 'no access' sticker in the window so clients new they were a C-card outlet
- Scheme was advertised around locality

# Pharmacy Window Sticker

- Like to thank the staff of:
- Superdrug Stores PLC,
- Angela Gough
- Sheppards, A & JM
- Boots the Chemist Ltd



# Evaluation of the Scheme

After 6 months	Town 1	Town 2	Village	Total
Number of staff trained	4	4	1	9
Number of New C-cards issued	5 Female	13 Male 2 Female	0	20
Number of condoms issued	30	286	0	316
No of clients who returned for further supplies	0	13	0	13

# Service User Questionnaire

- Number of interviews conducted: 18
- Number aware that condoms available free of charge: 18 (100%)
- Number aware of C-card scheme 10 (55%)
- Number aware that scheme operating through community pharmacy: 5 (28%)
- Users who thought community pharmacy was suitable: 18 (100%)
- Reasons - 'high street' accessibility (5) longer opening hours (2) confidentiality (2) pharmacist easy to talk to (2)
- Those who knew about the scheme said was from friends (7) or the youth centres (3)
- Thought scheme should be advertised in schools (11) youth centres (9) pubs and clubs (2) colleges (2)

# Service Provider Questionnaire

- 3 returned (2 pharmacists, 1 counter assistant)
- Community pharmacy is accessible, confidential and sensitive service provider
- Provided valuable service to young people
- Service should be rolled out and commissioned by PCO
- Thought training adequate but that visual aids would assist with clients

# Conclusions

- Community pharmacy is a suitable outlet for expanding the access to free condoms and sexual health advice because of its local access, opening hours and confidentiality
- Successful in reaching both male and female clients
- Can help relieve the pressure on nurse-led and GP-led sexual health clinics

Thank you for Listening

Any Questions?